

# Weir Farm Heritage Trust

Discover the benefits of membership...

visiting artists

art workshops

exhibitions

publications

lecture series



W. L. Loring - 1877  
à Alden Weir  
Paris

## The Legacy Continues



Imagine trading a still life painting valued at \$560 for a 153-acre farm in Branchville, Connecticut. That's precisely what American painter J. Alden Weir did in 1882. For nearly four decades, the Farm's rocky pastures and dense woods were a source of inspiration for some of Weir's best work and that of his friends. Childe Hassam, John Twachtman and Albert Pinkham Ryder were among his wide circle who were captured by the intimacy of the Farm and often joined Weir to experiment in landscape painting. It has been that way ever since with artists pursuing the quiet secrets of this very special place.

Having survived with remarkably few alterations, Weir Farm is the only historic site in the nation to offer the home, studio and grounds of an important 19th century American artist whose home and land were integral to his artistic vision. Of course, it might not have turned out that way. Recognizing the importance of preserving this rich artistic legacy, the Weir Farm Heritage Trust, a non-profit organization, grew out of the grassroots efforts in the seventies to save Weir Farm from encroaching suburban development. This coalition of determined individuals, community activists, artists, art historians and legislative leaders, in collaboration with the State of Connecticut, the Trust for Public Land and the National Park Service, was successful in securing the Farm's designation in 1990 as a National Historic Site. Weir Farm is Connecticut's only national park and the only one in the country devoted to American painting.

Working with the National Park Service, the Weir Farm Heritage Trust is the Park's private partner. Through its programs and activities, the Trust seeks to build community and financial support to help ensure Weir Farm's success as a national park and as a creative center.

## Programs of the Trust



**Visiting Artists Program:** Using Weir Farm as an "open air" studio, three to five artists are selected to spend up to a year creating a cohesive body of work based on their personal interpretations of the landscape. The cornerstone of the Trust's programs and a central facet of the Park's long-range plan is the development of an artists-in-residence program with artists living and working at the Farm in the near future.

**Lecture Series:** Nationally prominent artists, art historians and leading figures in the contemporary museum world discuss their work and that of late 19th and early 20th century American artists and trends.

**Art Workshops and Educational Programs:** Children and adults participate in a wide range of hands-on experiences, school programs and cultural offerings.

**Exhibitions:** Historical and contemporary perspectives are the focus of exhibitions related to the Farm.

**Publications:** Interpretive brochures such as the Painting Sites Trail Guide and other relevant materials are produced to enhance understanding of the Farm and the artists who have worked there.

**Collecting Art for the Site:** One of the Trust's major goals is to build an art collection of works by Weir, his contemporaries, and those artists who have followed. As envisioned in the Park's master plan, the art will be displayed in a new visitor center and gallery to be built near the Farm, making it possible for visitors to experience both the historic landscape and the art it inspired.



## Become a Member

Your participation at Weir Farm may include taking part in one of the many programs, joining the Park's active volunteer group, bringing your family for a tour of the historic studios or taking an afternoon hike to the pond. Perhaps you want to make an early morning visit to work on a drawing of your favorite corner of the landscape or photograph the familiar stone walls that outline the fields. Your visit might also include a self-guided walk to twelve historic painting sites, special places where past and present merge.

However you spend your time at the Farm, we invite you to become a member of the Trust and be a part of an ambitious plan for an exciting future. Your membership will support programs that not only inspire the creative spirit, but also preserve Weir Farm as one of our nation's most treasured cultural resources for your enjoyment and that of generations to come.

### Annual Membership Opportunities and Benefits

#### Associate Member \$35 (Seniors 65 and over \$25)

- Weir Farm Heritage Trust newsletter
- Invitations to special events and activities
- 10% discount on gift shop purchases
- Discounts on fees for lectures, workshops and other programs

#### Family Membership \$50

A family membership entitles family members (two adults and children up to 12 years old) to all of the previous benefits.

#### Contributing Member \$100

- All of the previous benefits, plus:
- Weir Farm Historic Painting Sites Trail Guide
- Free admission to special programs for one guest

#### Sponsoring Member \$250

- All of the previous benefits, plus:
- Invitations to openings as honored guests
- Free admission to special programs for two guests
- Weir Farm lapel pin

#### Patron \$500

- All of the previous benefits, plus:
- Special Patron and Benefactor reception for visiting artists
- Invitation to annual Patron's tour of Weir Farm with reception following
- Free admission to lectures and other programs

#### Benefactor \$1,000

- All of the previous benefits, plus:
- Private tour of Weir Farm for up to 8 guests of each benefactor with reception following
- Hardbound copy of *J. Alden Weir, An American Impressionist*, Doreen Bolger Burke's definitive book on Weir

#### Special Opportunities for Corporate Memberships

Please call our membership office at (203) 761-9945.



# Membership Form

For information regarding membership, programs, special events and other activities, please contact Weir Farm Heritage Trust at (203) 761-9945.

Please print your name and address as you wish to be listed in our membership directory.

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Name

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Address

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Telephone

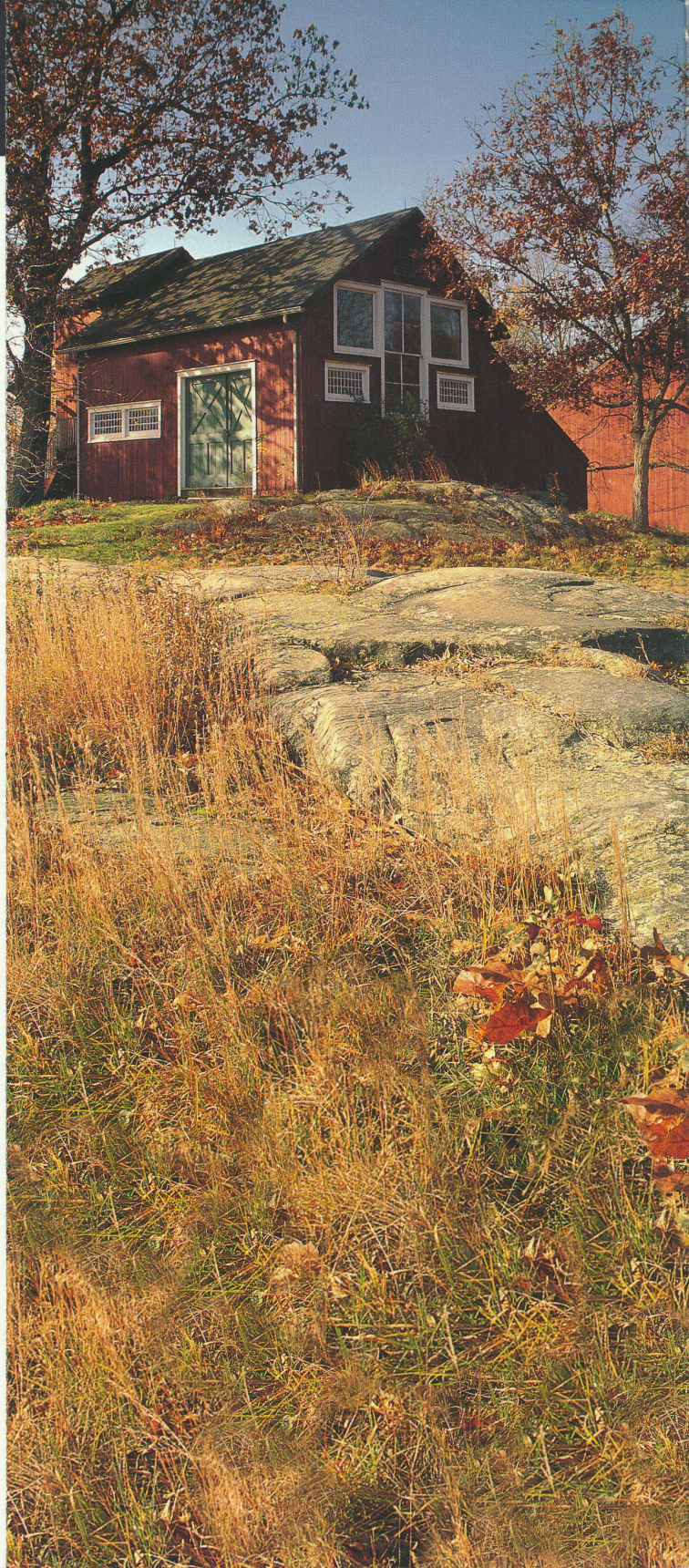
- New Membership
- Renewal
- I/We would like to volunteer

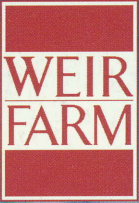
Your membership may be eligible for a corporate matching gift. Please check with your employer.

Please make checks payable to: Weir Farm Heritage Trust (Contributions are tax-deductible.)

Detach and mail to:

**WFHT**  
**735 Nod Hill Road**  
**Wilton, CT 06897**  
**(203) 761-9945**





Weir Farm Heritage Trust  
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