

# Jazz

at the Lake



Featuring Berkshire Jazz Orchestra  
Tranquillity Farm, Lake Quassapaug, Middlebury

Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition Annual Benefit

# SPONSORS

Thank you to all of the sponsors that support PRWC's programs which preserve and protect the quality and quantity of our water resources and foster environmental stewardship. Our efforts would not be possible without your continued generosity!

Listed below and inside the back cover are business and foundation sponsors who support our programs throughout the entire year:



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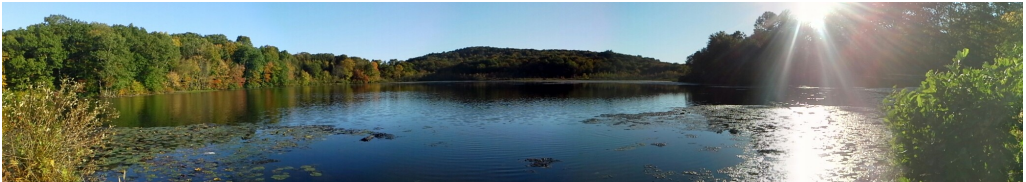
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# WELCOME TO JAZZ AT THE LAKE

## Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition's Annual Benefit

We are happy that you are joining us today to celebrate our region's water resources. Please enjoy all that *Jazz at the Lake* has to offer including the wonderful sounds of the Berkshire Jazz Orchestra, tempting hors d'oeuvres and libations, and a selection of captivating auction items. Please stroll the grounds of the beautiful Tranquillity Farm, generously offered to us by our hosts, Scott and Jean Peterson. Be prepared for more than a few laughs along the way with old and new friends who share the common bond of environmental stewardship.



It is our pleasure to welcome back WNPR's Faith Middleton as our Honorary Chair for the eighth consecutive year. Faith, a two-time winner of the Peabody Award and other distinguished honors for her excellence in journalism, has been an outstanding supporter of PRWC and passionately shares our commitment to the environment.

Today, we also proudly present The Dr. Marc J. Taylor Environmental Stewardship Award. As many of you know, Marc is remembered as a man of great compassion, who as co-founder of PRWC, used his keen intellect and calm demeanor to foster coalition-based solutions to benefit the environment. The award is being presented to Dick Leavenworth of Woodbury. Those who know Dick clearly understand the commonalities he shares with Marc in the love and respect for, and conservation of, our natural resources.

Additionally, we honor Marc by celebrating our youth programs, including the Dr. Marc J. Taylor Internship and our new Youth Conservation Corps. With funding support provided by Marc's wife, Jan, the Connecticut Community Foundation, together with our business sponsors and our many supporters, we have collectively helped cultivate the next generation of environmental stewards.

*Jazz at the Lake* provides for the opportunity to further support our science and research, community outreach, and youth programs by purchasing a silent auction gift. As the day closes, be prepared for more fun during the live auction and the chance to walk away with spectacular treasures. The event closes with a generous challenge grant provided to us by the Connecticut Community Foundation.

Have a wonderful time and thanks again for joining us and for your support!

*Vincent C. McDermott, Board Chairman*

# HONORARY CHAIR: FAITH MIDDLETON

We are thrilled to welcome back Faith as Honorary Chair of our annual benefit for the eighth year! Faith is host of the *Faith Middleton Food Schmooze*®, and can be heard in prime time six days a week in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York on WNPR.

Known for her engaging and thought-provoking interviews, Faith has been voted the "Best Radio Talk Show Host" in Connecticut for more than a dozen years by readers and editors of Connecticut Magazine. She has twice received the Peabody Award, the "Pulitzer" of broadcast journalism, and a few years ago was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame "for her extraordinary work as host of *The Faith Middleton Show*." Faith has also received the Distinguished Public Service Award of the Connecticut Bar Association, the Mark Twain Award from the Connecticut Press Association, and the Humanitarian Award from The Children's Community Programs of Connecticut. She has hosted and produced several popular television series for Connecticut Public Television, and has been a regular contributor to NPR's All Things Considered, Morning Edition and Weekend Edition.



For years, Faith has been an outstanding supporter of PRWC and passionately shares its dedication to the environment. In an interview with Litchfield County Times, she said that "PRWC is among the best watershed protection organizations in the United States." We can't thank her enough for her support of our work and her love of our beautiful watershed!

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## PRWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Frank Sherer  
Dan Slywka  
Christopher Wood

# **PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES**

**3:30 PM**

**Silent Auction Opens**

**4:00 - 5:30 PM**

**Entertainment by Berkshire Jazz Orchestra**

**5:30 PM**

**Close of Silent Auction**

**Special Remarks**

Vincent McDermott – PRWC Board of Directors

Faith Middleton – Honorary Event Chair

**Dr. Marc J. Taylor Environmental Stewardship Award Presentation**

*Read more about the Award Recipient—Dick Leavenworth—on page 11.*

**6:00 PM**

**Live Auction with Rick Richardson**

*Complete details about these items are listed on page 6.*

*Learn more about the Challenge Grant portion of the auction on page 7.*

**6:30 PM**

**Auction Checkout**



# LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

## Private Sunset Cruise for 12 people

Jay Gatsby's partying friends have nothing on you as you enjoy the peace and beauty of a sunset cruise on beautiful Lake Quassapaug. With your party of friends and a picnic basket of wines and treats, enjoy a leisurely cruise around the 300-acre glacially formed lake on your private charter of the Quassy Queen. Leave the driving to the Captain and enjoy the ride and tour of the beautiful lake!

## Private Baking Lesson for Two at Ovens of France with Denis Niez

The two of you will have a GRAND time during your four hour baking lesson with Denis Niez, owner & pastry chef of Ovens of France. Immerse yourself in the sensory pleasures of epicurean baking. Enjoy a couple glasses of wine wearing your snazzy PRWC aprons while experiencing the finer points and trade secrets of extraordinary baking under the guidance of acclaimed master pastry chef, baker and croissant maker Denis Niez. From start to finish, you will learn how to make French pastries or breads, taught by a graduate of the famous Escole de la Boulangerie in France. This unique opportunity to learn at the hands of a master is truly a priceless experience that will be treasured forever.

## Craft Beer & Artisan Cheese In-Home Private Tasting for Ten

A private tasting event in your home featuring craft beers from Black Hog Brewery and artisan cheeses from Caseus Fromagerie & Bistro for an evening rich in history and the zealous pursuit of pleasure through eating artisan, local, sustainable and organic foods and beverages. Jason Sobocinsky, owner of Caseus and partner in Black Hog Brewery, is the gastronomic guide serving up fabulous cheeses and beer tastings such as Black Hog's Coffee Milk Stout, Ginga' Ninja, Easy Rye'Da and Granola Brown. This tasting serves up to 10 guests.

## An Evening in the Tea House of the Eclipsing Moon

Dinner for eight hosted by PRWC board members Attorney Gail McTaggart and Dr. Marianne Bette. Treat yourself and seven others to a fabulous Spring evening in the charming Tea House at Highfield Club in Middlebury. Your feast will be prepared by Highfield's talented chefs and paired with wines selected by your hosts. An exclusive opportunity to be shared with family, close friends, or special business associates.

## Rare Opportunity for Eight to Dine at Carole Peck's Personal Table

Seize this rare opportunity to visit with Carole Peck in her own home as she prepares your exclusive, gourmet dinner for eight! Take in the eclectic, fanciful artwork and collections in her one of a kind home while you feast on Carole's handcrafted, seasonal, local & organic culinary delights. Zagat called Carole Peck's Good News Café one of the "Top Restaurants in the U.S." Carole, the first female graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, has made appearances on the Food Network, Martha Stewart Living Television and PBS. She has been a cornerstone of fine dining in Litchfield County for almost 30 years.

## Dance at Bougival By Pierre Auguste Renoir Signed Limited Edition Lithograph 641/950

The open-air cafés of suburban Bougival, on the Seine outside Paris, were popular recreation spots for city dwellers, including the Impressionist painters. Renoir, who was primarily a figure painter, uses intense color and lush brushwork to heighten the sense of pleasure conveyed by the whirling couple who dominate the composition. The woman's face, framed by her red bonnet, is the focus of attention, both ours and her companion's. This custom framed, limited edition, 24" x 35 1/4" hand pulled lithograph was created at La Maison Murlot in Paris, France under the guidance and direction of, and signed by, Paul Renoir, grandson and sole heir to the artistic legacy of Pierre Auguste Renoir. Authenticity documents included.

# CHALLENGE GRANT

PRWC is proud to provide high school and college students opportunities to deepen their knowledge and experience needed to become future stewards of the environment, but we cannot do it without your financial support. Thanks to the generosity of the Connecticut Community Foundation (CCF), we are eligible to receive up to \$1000 for every dollar you are willing to give during a special matching grant challenge to support our Student Internship and Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) programs during the live auction.

## **Why pledge your support?**

Our Internship and Youth Conservation Corps programs foster and cultivate the students' passion for natural resources, sense of personal stewardship, and an overall connection to nature empowering them to become environmental professionals and advocates of the future.

***We need your  
support today  
to match a \$1000  
grant challenge  
presented by***



PRWC's interns engage in activities that support our work to protect water resources through scientific research, education, and advocacy to make sure that the people who depend on this water understand the resource and take appropriate actions to preserve and protect it.



YCC crew members come together to work as a team help promote the preservation of water quality through hands-on restoration and pollution prevention activities in the community including trail maintenance, rain gardens, riparian habitat, removing invasive species and more.

These programs collectively foster a sense of responsibility for natural resources and make a direct impact on pollution prevention and environmental education in the community.

## **How to pledge your support?**

We have matching grant pledge cards in values of \$100 and \$50. Live Auction Spotters will hand out these cards to bidders as they raise their hands. CCF will match up to the first \$1000 raised. But, let's not stop there! Please dig deep and give generously to support these important programs. At the end of the evening, please bring your pledge card to the auction check-out to fulfill your pledge.

# SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

*Value*

PREMIER	101	A Night For Two at Winvian Relais & Chateaux	\$750
	102	GONE Ballooning ... An experience you will never forget	\$500
	103	Weise Choice Tree Services \$500 Gift Certificate and Consultation	\$600
	104	New Morning Catering's Festive Holiday Spread	\$300
	105	Rain Barrel Whimsically Painted by the PRWC Youth Conservation Corps	\$300
	106	Lab Certified Drinking Water Testing and Martini Madness Gift Basket	\$550
	107	Tropical Getaway - Three Nights / Four Days in a Beachfront Suite Cottage at Kamalame Cay, a Private Island in The Bahamas	\$2,900
ART LOVERS	201	Clapp & Tuttle Custom Framing Gift Certificate	\$50
	202	"Mergansers" by Local Naturalist and Photographer Chris Wood	\$100
	203	Custom Pet Portrait by local artist Kate Gorham	\$150
	204	"The Christmas Tea Shoppe" Limited Edition Framed Print by Local Folk Artist Linda Nelson Stocks	\$300
	205	"To The Paddock" by Victor Spahn, Serigraph in Color (220/350)	\$750
	206	"Heron in Flight" Framed Photograph	\$200
FOODIES	301	Chocolate Lover's Delight - Ion Bank Chocolates Basket	\$50
	302	50 Cupcakes Made to Order by Flour Garden Bakery	\$120
	303	Flour Garden Bakery Gift Cards	\$60
	304	Daffodil Hill Growers \$75 Gift Certificate, Heirloom Tomato Delights and Shopping Tote	\$135
	305	Dottie's Diner \$75 Gift Certificate	\$75
	306	Villarina's Pasta & Fine Foods Gift Basket	\$125
	307	Farm Fresh Eggs and Majolica Egg Dish	\$100
	308	Woodbury Deli Gift Basket of Delectable Foods and Sundries	\$100
	309	Gourmet Cooking Class Including A Full, Sit-Down Dinner for Two at Middlebury Crossing	\$180
	310	"Meet Me Here" Restaurant & Bar Dinner for Two	\$50
SPIRITS	401	Craft Beer Basket featuring Connecticut and New England Microbrews	\$110
	402	PRWC Board of Director's Wine Basket	\$175
	403	Private wine tasting for six at Walker Road Vineyards local farm winery and a basket of Savor Cookies	\$140
	404	Litchfield Distillery Batchers' Series Package	\$175



# SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

*Value*

HOME & GARDEN	501	Terranova Bakery Package, Krups Panini Griddle and the Best Bread Knife Ever!!	\$380
	502	Beatrice Ball Salad Bowl Set with Serving Pieces	\$200
	503	Rain Garden In A Box by Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery	\$55
	504	Handmade Autumn Wreath	\$50
	505	Backpacker's Hammock	\$70
	506	Abrash Galleries Rugs and Antiquities Rug Washing Certificate	\$100
	507	Petal Perfections and Confections - \$75 Gift Certificate	\$75
	508	Pine Meadow Gardens' Assorted Perennials Package	\$300
ENTHUSIASTS	601	Watertown Golf Club Foursome of Golf Including Carts and Greens Fees	\$350
	602	Litchfield Country Club - Golf for Four with Carts	\$300
	603	Heritage Village Country Club Golf for Four with Carts	\$175
	604	Springtime guided bird walk and lunch for four with local naturalist and photographer Chris Wood	\$250
	605	Jonathan Edwards and Friends at Hartford's Infinity Music Hall & Bistro	\$103
	606	The Subdudes at Hartford's Infinity Music Hall & Bistro	\$103
	607	Catamount Ski Area Lift Tickets and Hand-Knit Accessories	\$190
	608	Mount Snow Lift Tickets and Hand-Knit Accessories	\$180
	609	Overnight Stay and Breakfast at Heritage Hotel Southbury, CT	\$150
	610	Largay Travel \$250 Gift Certificate	\$250
	611	Southbury Land Trust Hiking Backpack Essentials Package	\$125
	612	Flanders Nature Center Family Membership plus One Week of Flanders Summer Series	\$120
	613	Quassy Amusement Park Family Four Pack	\$110
	614	CT Science Center Tickets	\$96
	615	Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History Family Pass	\$50
SHOP LOCAL	700	Vineyard Vines Signature Whale Tie	\$85
	701	TIMEX Men's Watch	\$110
	702	You & Me Necklace by Alison Designs	\$45
	702	Goatboy Soaps Gift Set	\$25
	704	Soulbury Local Artisan Package	\$70
	705	Averill Farm Package and Fire Cider Gift Set	\$100

# BERKSHIRE JAZZ ORCHESTRA

The Berkshire Jazz Orchestra (BJO) is a 17-piece ensemble that enjoys performing in a concert format which can connect audiences to the sonic power of a true, live BIG band. Focusing upon jazz/swing literature invigorated by contemporary arrangers, the BJO showcases many creative and accomplished soloists in all instrumental sections. These spirited, one-of-a-kind improvisations bring new life, anticipation and energy to each concert performance.



The BJO is composed of exceptional musicians who represent professionals, music educators, college music students and area musicians. This talented membership includes:

***Saxophone :*** Jon Saxon - Alto I  
Sean McNamara - Alto II  
Michael Herman - Tenor I  
Victoria Munoz - Tenor II  
Anthony Pellegrini - Baritone

***Trombone :*** Joseph Letizia - Bone I  
Jim Johnstone - Bone II  
Ted Adams - Bone III  
Jim Marbury - Bass Bone

***Trumpet :*** Frank Gawle  
Chip Zellner  
Larry Nissman  
Drew Willmott

***Percussion :*** Chris Johnson  
***Piano :*** Will Fownes  
***Bass :*** Stu Woods

***Vocals :*** Miss Jan Maki

***Director :*** Chip Zellner

With recent performances at Richter Art Association concerts, Woodbury Summer Concerts, Merryall Arts Center concert series, Cobbs Mill Inn, and the Wilton Jazz Symposium, BJO has been sought throughout Fairfield and Litchfield County for many private functions, civic groups and arts organizations. We hope you enjoy their performance tonight along the river!

# DR. MARC J. TAYLOR

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

*We are pleased to announce that Frederick “Dick” Leavenworth, of Woodbury, Connecticut, is this year’s recipient of the Dr. Marc J. Taylor Environmental Stewardship Award.*



**Dick Leavenworth  
Award Recipient**

This evening, Dick, is being recognized as a tireless leader and advocate for protecting and enhancing the natural systems that make this corner of the world a special place. He has provided the Town of Woodbury and the entire State of Connecticut with decades of conservation leadership that has effected real protections and real progress in the preservation of the natural systems. Through service on multiple boards including the Northwest Conservation District, Woodbury Conservation Commission, Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition, Dick has ensured a balance in protecting land, water, flora, and fauna while allowing for continued development of the human landscape. He is a true champion for preserving open space and promoting low impact development practices.

Dick’s most notable achievement is his leadership in the open space acquisition of the Woodbury Reservoir. More than 50 years ago, Dick was instrumental in identifying the two parcels surrounding the former drinking water supply as high priority conservation land. Over the years, he brought together elected officials, town commissions, environmental partners, and government agencies to outline the key environmental and cultural attributes of the property including the water supply, the historic trolley bed, development potential of the site, cause for preservation, and future recreational opportunities. Dick was a leader in prompting the significance of the property to his community. With great patience, perseverance, and tireless coalition-building, Dick’s vision for this acquisition became a reality in 2016 when the Town of Woodbury purchased more than 200 acres of land around the former water supply.

PRWC’s Board of Directors established the Dr. Marc J. Taylor Environmental Stewardship Award in 2015 to honor Dr. Taylor and his exceptional vision and long term exemplary commitment to environmental stewardship, and to recognize similar efforts by dedicated Connecticut conservationists. Dr. Taylor, who passed away in June of 2012, is remembered as a highly respected and compassionate physician, educator, and environmental leader. In 1999, Dr. Taylor and a group of his peers—including award recipient Dick Leavenworth—founded the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition to study the quality and quantity of water in the Pomperaug Watershed, a 90-square mile area that touches eight towns in western Connecticut. PRWC works with watershed towns, regulatory agencies, environmental organizations and community volunteers to continue Dr. Taylor’s legacy in stewarding the local water resources.



**Dr. Marc J. Taylor**

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF TRANQUILLITY FARM



Tranquillity Farm, spanning the rolling hills around Lake Quassapaug in Middlebury Connecticut, was originally a 303-acre “model farm” developed by John Howard (J.H.) Whittemore, a successful industrial-era businessman in Naugatuck, and his wife Julia Spencer Whittemore. The sweeping landscape, featuring miles of distinctive stone walls lining the roads and criss-crossing the fields, was designed by Charles Eliot and completed by Warren H. Manning – both protégée of the Olmsted Bothers, a landscape design firm in New York City renowned for their design of Central Park.

After nearly two decades in the extremely successful business of producing malleable iron, Whittemore (age 48 in 1885) mostly withdrew from active business and devoted himself to extensive philanthropic projects in Naugatuck. He became well known in his efforts that transformed downtown Naugatuck from a scraggly industrial town to an urbane city. Yet, he is less well known for establishing Tranquillity Farm, which began as an idea to create a large managed preserve for a summer home in Middlebury that would connect to his home in Naugatuck by a landscaped parkway.

Over the years, Whittemore had purchased several large farms overlooking Lake Quassapaug and gradually added more and more of the viewshed. In 1893, Whittemore wrote to Charles Eliot, soon to be partner in the Olmsted firm, requesting a plan for the property. At the same time, he commissioned McKim, Mead and White (MMW), the pre-eminent architects of the Gilded Age who he had previously employed in Naugatuck projects, to design an expansive Colonial Revival house with a commanding view of Lake Quassapaug as well as a farmhouse, large barns, carriage houses, and several outbuildings.

***“Tranquillity Farm is one of the most magical places Jean and I could ever imagine living, and we are very pleased to share it with all of you.”***

*~Scott Peterson*



While MMW designed the main house, Eliot focused on the placement of the buildings, roads, gardens, fields for crops for grazing and woods to be managed for timbering. The landscape and buildings were regarded as a single design unit, with human-made features designed to harmonize with the existing landscape. Buildings were carefully sited and roads followed the contour of the land in order to preserve important vantage points to the surrounding hills and the lake. The result is a harmonious, peaceful setting of extraordinary beauty.



The house was completed in 1894 and sat on a rise overlooking the lake to the west. The flower garden at the base of the massive cobblestone wall, which includes the bird basin and millstone sundial you see today, was laid out in 1897 with care to not interrupt the panoramic view.



The estate was equally designed for pleasure and usefulness. It had golf, rowing, riding, as well as a working farm, mostly dairy and poultry, and tracts designated as forest preserves. Around the turn of the century, Manning expanded on the original model farm concept, specifying broad meadows defined by hedgerows and stands of trees, which sloped down to the lakeshore. He also urged the Whittemores to acquire more property to protect viewsheds, to create new roads and walking trails, and to enlarge the woodlands. Near the lake, he created a long flight of rustic stone steps to connect an upland meadow to a boathouse at the shore, planting it with a mix of native and imported species. In 1923, the Whittemore's daughter, Gertrude, commissioned Ellen Biddle Shipman to design a rose garden at the south end of the formal garden.

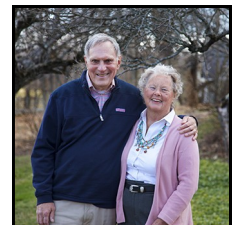
Whittemore also funded and oversaw a number of improvements in Middlebury, as he had done in Naugatuck, including the Green, Shepardson School, and Westover which opened in 1909. The 8 miles or so of road connecting Naugatuck and Middlebury were landscaped as a parkway, with planted islands periodically along its length. Most of the landscaped property along the sides of the road has long since been sold off, but Whittemore Glen remains as a Connecticut State Park.



Over the years, Tranquillity Farm continued to evolve, and each succeeding generation left its mark. In 1927, Harris, the Whittemore's son, subdivided the estate into several large parcels according to a plan developed by Manning, who had been commissioned for the job. Over the years, many of the large outer tracts were sold off while the pieces of the core estate remained under the meticulous care of Whittemore's descendants until the 1980s. Robert Whittemore, a great-grandson of J. H., worked diligently to place agricultural and conservation

easements on the entirety of land, which have successfully protected it from inappropriate development. The main house was removed in about 1985 but the carriage house remains.

Today, Scott Peterson, a Middlebury- based ophthalmologist, and his wife, Jean own the property and reside in the renovated carriage house. The Petersons maintain the meadows according to their original layout on the plan created by Eliot and Manning. They lease out a portion of the property to a local farmer, who grows hay for livestock feed.



**Photo Credits:** Carol Betsch, commissioned by Library of American Landscape History.  
**Sources:** <http://lalh.org/tranquillity-farm-middlebury-connecticut/> and <http://lalh.org/jean-and-w-scott-peterson-middlebury/>



# EVENT DONORS

Pomperaug Watershed businesses and friends have donated essential goods and services for this event. We are most grateful for their support and participation.

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 and Land Trust  
 Flour Garden Bakery  
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 Gone Ballooning  
 Good News Café  
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*(continued from inside front cover)*



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at Woodside Farm**



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## **POMPERAUG RIVER WATERSHED COALITION**

39 Sherman Hill Road, Suite C-103

Woodbury, CT 06798

203-263-0076 | [info@pomperaug.org](mailto:info@pomperaug.org)

**[www.pomperaug.org](http://www.pomperaug.org)**

