

# STROLL

## Hill, Pond, and Preserve

### **Daniel Abrashoff Leads the Charming Weekapaug Inn**

#### ***Focus on Service and Sustainability at This Top Rated Local Resort Gem***

Nestled here in our own backyard is Weekapaug Inn, an award-winning, Forbes Five-Star historic inn, named one of the "Best Hotels in the World" by *Travel + Leisure* and one of the "Most Charming Hotels" by *Reader's Digest*.

Weekapaug Inn is a natural gem, located on the Quonochontaug Pond. It is known as a top culinary destination, based on its farm to fork cuisine under the direction of Chef Andrew Brooks. The property's dedicated on-staff Naturalist, Teddy Beahm, helps guests discover their surroundings, with guided beach walks, boating excursions, biking, bird watching, stargazing, special events and more.

As Weekapaug Inn celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of reopening this year, Daniel Abrashoff takes the top leadership role of this treasured and historic inn, with the position of General Manager.

Abrashoff has more than 30 years in the hospitality industry, including experience with Relais & Chateaux, Forbes and luxury destinations across the U.S.

Prior to being at Weekapaug Inn, he served four years as General Manager of Devils Thumb Ranch Resort & Spa, an award-winning, Orvis-endorsed property in Colorado. Prior to that he was Managing Director of The Lodge at Glendorn in Bradford, Pennsylvania, a Relais & Chateaux property that received recognition as the #1 Resort Hotel in the US, by *Travel + Leisure Magazine* during his tenure. Abrashoff's other leadership experience includes his role as General Manager of Lake Kora in New York; Vice President of Services for Hugo Real Property, a private real estate and hospitality company; General Manager of Ashton Hotel in Texas; and Rooms Division Manager at Keswick Hall in Virginia. He began his hospitality career with Hilton Hotels in New York. He received his bachelor's degree from Penn State University and completed post graduate studies at New York University.

As illustrated by his work experience, Abrashoff has a passion for the outdoors and luxury properties – a perfect fit for Weekapaug Inn. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking and fly fishing. Abrashoff is the proud father of three sons, two that attend the University of Colorado and another who is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He is joined in Westerly by his wife Audrey and 14-year-old rescue border collie, Minnie.

The opportunity to manage Weekapaug Inn, another multi-starred, historically significant property, in a panoramic and pristine location arrived at the right moment.

“We’ve always had a connection to water,” says Abrashoff. “Leading the team at Weekapaug Inn is a wonderful opportunity with the world-renowned reputation of the Ocean House Collection a beautiful historic property, and a truly unparalleled location on the Atlantic shore.

Abrashoff’s own commitment to sustainable practice in hospitality aligns perfectly with the dedication of the Inn’s owners and staff to maintain the pristine quality of Weekapaug’s unique environment.

### **Sustainability Takes On A New Meaning at Weekapaug**

The Inn’s location on Quonochontaug Pond affords incredible views and access to beloved water and outdoor recreation, but includes a responsibility to the local environment which our team is deeply devoted to upholding. To that end, the Weekapaug Inn team has implemented several initiatives that not only meet but exceed environmental standards while maintaining a Five-Star experience for guests.

Among several projects, the Inn recently installed a state-of-the-art, geothermal heating and cooling system that will significantly reduce its carbon footprint. Where the previous system actively exchanged seawater, the new Rygan HPGX technology operates on a closed loop, meaning it has no impact on the aquifer or sensitive coastal features surrounding the Inn.

The team is also proud to continuously improve our sustainability and remain mindful of the surrounding environment and wildlife. Here are other ways in which the Inn prioritizes sustainability and environment in our day-to-day operations:

- Weekapaug Inn has installed several landscape features including vegetated buffers surrounding the Inn, which contain native grasses and shrubs that slow water run-off and allow it to infiltrate more naturally into the salt pond.
- Additional river-stone borders were constructed to combat erosion.
- To combat run-off of nitrogen and phosphorus into the pond which could harm marine life and lead to algae growth, the grounds crew has limited their use of lawn care products.
- The inn’s White-Water system recycles wastewater by channeling it for irrigation
- Plants that draw mosquito-eating birds have been planted as a replacement to pesticides.
- To reduce emissions and electricity consumption, the grounds crew has replaced its full-time lawnmower with two battery-operated robotic lawnmowers.
- The Inn is in the process of eliminating single use plastics at all levels of hotel operation.
- The Inn has installed filtered water dispensers and provides guests with reusable drinking bottles that they can use across the property, carry with them during their local excursions, and integrate into their daily lives at home.
- In all guestrooms and suites, travel-size plastic containers for shampoo, conditioner and body soap have been replaced with refillable dispensers.
- The Inn is proudly a zero-waste culinary destination. Through a new partnership with Earth Care Farms – Rhode Island’s oldest operating compost farm – the property composts all food scraps, which are then repurposed into soil for use by local farmers. In addition to helping farmers support more sustainable farming cycles, this process aids the planet by supporting the circle of life.
- The Inn incorporates the composted soil into its own agricultural practices, using it at the on-site herb garden and greenhouse.

- Weekapaug Inn's staff helps maintain the health of the beach. The property hosts monthly beach cleanups throughout the summer, which also raise funds for environmental organizations such as The Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island.

For information about Weekapaug Inn, visit [www.WeekapaugInn.com](http://www.WeekapaugInn.com) and [www.WeekapaugInnEvents.com](http://www.WeekapaugInnEvents.com). For dining and event experiences, local residents can call 855.887.3075.