



The Warren Conservator

Fall 2020

**WARREN
LAND TRUST**



Warren Land Trust Trails:

Coords Preserve:

Angevine Road

Part of old City Hill Road. Connects to Wyantenock State Forest trails and blue-blazed Mattatuck Trail. Wild grape arbor, beaver ponds, abundant trailside wildflowers in season. 18th- and 19th-century homesites off the trails. Some areas can be wet.

Dorothy Maier Preserve:

Sackett Hill Road

1.5-mile loop. Moderate terrain with seasonal streams and vernal pools. Mountain laurel stand at the summit. Look for the old saw embedded in the tree on the way down!

Eel Pond Preserve:

Kent Road/Rte. 341

Wheelchair-accessible viewing platform - see waterfowl and other wildlife at this scenic wetland preserve. Perfect spot for a quiet coffee break (please take your trash out with you).

Strong Preserve:

Above All Road

Easy-to-moderate 1-mile loop on land donated by one of Warren's oldest families. Winding stone walls throughout; chimney ruin off the trail. Nearby is Above All State Park - the (not maintained) site of a Cold War military radar installation.

President's Letter



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It's a beautiful Saturday in mid-October – sun shining, trees decked in autumn hues, clear blue sky and crisp Fall air. Am I out in the woods hiking? Running along Lake Waramaug? Biking in the Warren hills? Nope, nope, and nope. I am sitting in my kitchen at my computer, participating in the **2020 Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) conference** which is, of course, on Zoom. Do I mind? Not at all, actually!

CLCC's annual conference is always interesting, informative, and inspiring in equal measure. Aside from bringing together CT's substantial and vibrant land conservation community, conference panels and workshops provide useful how-to information on topics of interest to those organizations. But this year's conference was different, and not just because we couldn't gather in person. The 2020 conference theme was "**Connecting the Dots: The Pandemic, Health, Justice, and Climate Change.**" Clearly, CLCC was thinking more broadly and deeply this year, and was inviting participants to come along for the ride.

A few days later (which will have become many more by the time you read this), I'm still mulling and processing. CLCC is a statewide organization, and some important aspects of the conference's themes – such as equitable access to a healthy environment and outdoor recreation, and the importance of increasing green spaces in urban areas – are less immediately applicable to or practicable by the Warren Land Trust. Warren may lack certain conveniences, but we have never lacked for easy access to the great outdoors. And WLT's preserves and trails have always been open to all.

My conference takeaways this year are impressionistic, but thought-provoking. I was interested to hear a scholar discuss how conserving **open space mitigates climate change and enhances biodiversity**, which then helps curb pandemics by fostering the survival of predators who keep in check species harboring pandemic pathogens. I was prompted to consider which Native American tribe(s) might have lived on land WLT now owns, and how they used that land (stay tuned for a **future program with the Institute for American Indian Studies**, a great local resource, on that topic). More fundamentally, I was led to question my mental image of an outdoorsperson - why that figure looks as it does in my mind's eye. Why might some of us feel more welcome or comfortable in a state park or on a land trust trail than others? Why does that matter, and how can that state of affairs be changed? If these questions or concerns resonate with you, I'd urge you to check out CLCC's website (www.ctconservation.org) for the program and more information (presenters were uniformly fantastic – Rue Mapp of Outdoor Afro was particularly impressive).

In the meantime, I hope you will get out and enjoy our preserves and trails – there's no better place to do some serious thinking!

Sincerely,

Rebecca
Rebecca

WLT Pop-up Shop at Warren General Store!

Just because we weren't able to see you at Fall Festival or the Cider Run this year doesn't mean you can't pick up your WLT logo gear. **The Warren General Store is hosting a Warren Land Trust Pop-up Shop!** Our always-popular hats, t-shirts, and tote bags are available, as well as our new cozy sweatshirts and water bottles. Trail maps are free, as always. What's more, we are looking into some new items to have available in time for the holidays, as well as the possibility of an online shop - stay tuned and check our website and Facebook page for updates.



Angevine Farm Trail Race Highlights Warren's Rustic Beauty

The Angevine Farm Half-Marathon and 50K Trail Race was held – live! – on September 27. Hosted by **Angevine Farm, organized by Steep Endurance, and co-sponsored by the Warren Land Trust**, the race is run in part on WLT's Coords Preserve.

Twenty-six 50K-runners and 115 half-marathoners tackled the course, which was as challenging as it was scenic. Runners began and ended the race in the same way: down and then back up the hill from Angevine's upper tree fields to the lower Christmas Barn area. In between start and finish was a rugged stretch of wood road and technical single-track, winding up and downhill through autumn forest and by woodland ponds and watercourses. The combination of historic farmland and unspoiled fields and forests highlights what makes Warren such a special place.

Warren Land Trust President (and novice trail racer) Rebecca Neary, who ran the half-marathon along with fellow WLT Board members Elizabeth Chandler and Bill Mansfield, remarked "The course was beautiful, but tough! I was happy to finish in one piece, and couldn't believe the speed and agility of the lead runners. They flew over the rocks and tree roots – not to mention the hills - as if they were nothing!"

In addition to the attractions of the setting and post-race refreshments, runners were eager to participate in a live event. Race organizers mandated mask-wearing in the start/finish area, social distancing in the starting corrals and a staggered start. WLT is grateful to Steep Endurance for their excellent organizational skills, the Angevine Family for providing such a picture-perfect venue, and the runners, whose enthusiasm and grit made the event such an enjoyable and inspiring one.



Left: WLT board members Rebecca Neary and Elizabeth Chandler catching their breath before masking up post-race
Right: Hand-crafted race medals by Stefan Rodriguez of Ragged Cuts, which has also produced some Christmas ornaments for Angevine Farm.

National Land Trust Alliance Renews WLT Accreditation

We are pleased to announce that the Warren Land Trust was awarded its accreditation renewal from the Land Trust Alliance's rigorous Accreditation Commission in late August.

By granting their seal of approval, the Land Trust Accreditation Commission confirmed that the Warren Land Trust has proven to be true to its mission of preserving the rural character, farmland, open space, woodlands and scenic beauty of Warren forever. The Commission scrutinizes an applicant's policies, procedures, and practices in land acquisition and stewardship, finance, and governance to ensure that they conform to best practices in the field. **The Warren Land Trust came through the process with flying colors, with special commendation from the Commission for our Eel Pond Preserve viewing platform.**



Accreditation renewal assures our land donors and supporters that we take our commitment to conservation seriously and that your contributions are used responsibly according to our mission. We look forward with gratitude to maintaining the public's trust and our conservation work in the community.

Visit www.warrenlandtrust.org for up to date information.

We Want You! (Yes, you!)

Do you love spending time in the great outdoors?

Are you passionate about preserving open space, forests, fields, and farmland?

If so, why not get more involved with WLT? We welcome all new members (family memberships begin at \$25), and are always looking for volunteers and future leaders. Learn more by attending our annual meeting (see notice in this newsletter), checking out our website, or by emailing us at info@warrenlandtrust.org. We would love to have you join us!

Warren Land Trust Board Members

President

Rebecca Neary

Vice-President

Elizabeth Chandler

Treasurer

Barbara Page

Secretary

Nancy Adams Morse

Directors

John Barrett III

Laura Moore Brown

Timothy Clew

Bill Mansfield

Mickey Morris

Ted Morse

Craig Nelson

Dave Schneiderbeck

Roberta Stafford

Waltraud Tammen

Ex Officio Board Member

Tim Angevine

Warren Land Trust Mission Statement

The Warren Land Trust is a conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the rural character of Warren. Its mission is to preserve farmland, open space, natural and endangered resources such as wetlands, forests and wildlife habitats, to encourage outright gifting of land for permanent protection and the use of conservation easements to preserve open space.

Trail Update: The Strong Preserve

Mother Nature has presented us with more than the usual share of challenges this year, including some whopper storms which snapped branches, downed trees, and more. The Strong Preserve suffered more than its share, with large branches and tree trunks obstructing the trail. But good news: **thanks to Scott Perssonatti and his crew from Greenwoods Land Management, the trail is cleared!** This was no easy task; the trail was a mess, and the equipment the team might otherwise have used for clearing doesn't fit on a woodland hiking trail, so the work had to be done by hand. We are truly grateful!

Look for further improvements to the trail in the near future. Home-site of one of Warren's oldest families, the Strongs, the preserve is threaded with beautiful stone walls, which future clearing work will highlight. Information about the preserve's history will be available at the trailhead kiosk, and we will seek to feature some other significant aspects of the property. Stay tuned for updates on our website and in email blasts.



Left: a break in one of the many stone walls. Middle: WLT Board members Rebecca Neary and Elizabeth Chandler (and Holly)...and a huge double-trunked evergreen. Above: WLT board members Roberta (BK) Stafford (L) and Elizabeth Chandler (R) (and Holly!) are so glad the trail is clear again - thanks Scott Perssonatti!

Trail Head Kiosks are IN!

Thanks to the generosity of our **2020 Give Local donors and the Connecticut Community Foundation**, which organizes this online giving campaign), beautiful brand-new **information kiosks** are located at the head of our trails. The kiosks not only clearly mark our trail heads, they are also furnished with trail maps...soon to be joined by other interesting facts about each preserve. **We are grateful to Tom Reighard of Newcastle Homes** for helping us realize this project, and hope hikers enjoy them!

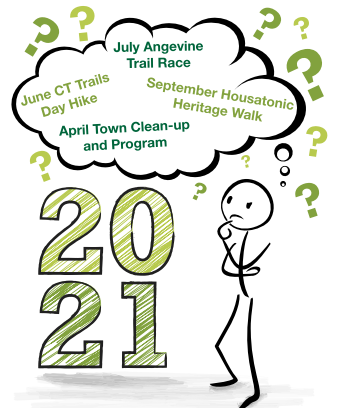


What's on WLT's 2021 Calendar of Events? Good Question!

If we have a way to reach you, we can let you know!

Typically, our Fall newsletter contains the calendar of next year's events. But if 2020 has been full of uncertainty, at this point 2021 isn't looking a whole lot clearer! So while we'd like to think that our usual round of activities (April Town Clean-up and Program, June CT Trails Day Hike, July Angevine Trail Race, September Housatonic Heritage Walk...) will resume, we can't be sure.

We will post information on our website as it becomes available and will send out email blasts with details and updates. And it looks like this year, we may have more late-breaking information to share. **If you'd like to stay in-the-know about Warren Land Trust events, please consider adding yourself to our email list. Just send a quick message to info@warrenlandtrust.org letting us know that you'd like to receive news and updates,** and you'll be all set. We send email blasts only when we have information to share. And it looks like this year, we may have more late-breaking information to share. Just send a quick message to info@warrenlandtrust.org letting us know that you'd like to receive news and updates, and you'll be all set. And we are hoping to have good news to share with you about events in 2021!



The WLT currently holds nearly 800 acres under permanent protection.

IF YOU AREN'T A MEMBER OF THE WARREN LAND TRUST, WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN NOW!!

Becoming a Member of The Warren Land Trust is easy. Simply cut off this page and send it to our mailing address below, along with your check. We will send you a receipt along with our thanks for your generous, 100% tax deductible contribution. Please include your name, address and email so that we may include you in our email updates. Choose the type of membership you would like:

- | | | | |
|---|---------|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Guardian | \$5,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Caretaker | \$ 300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Grantor | \$2,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Protector | \$ 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Steward | \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership | \$ 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Conservator | \$ 500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | \$ _____ |

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to: The Warren Land Trust, Inc.
 MAIL THIS FORM AND CHECK TO: The Warren Land Trust, Inc.
 50 Cemetery Road, Warren, CT 06754

To join or donate online, visit www.warrenlandtrust.org

Please make any necessary corrections to your name and address on the mailing panel and submit to the WLT.



50 Cemetery Road
Warren, CT 06754

Email: info@warrenlandtrust.org

www.warrenlandtrust.org

NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING

The Warren Land Trust's 2020 Annual Meeting will take place on **Saturday, November 21, at 10am via Zoom**. The Zoom invitation is available on our website and will also be sent out by email blast prior to the meeting. We encourage all members to attend, as well as anyone interested in what we've been up to over the course of the past year, and what our plans for 2021 include.

The business meeting will be followed by a brief program discussing native plantings and their role in mitigating invasive plants. Weather permitting, a hike on one of our preserves will follow the meeting. Details forthcoming on our website and in email blasts.

We hope to "see" you there!

As events approach, check our website for the most up-to-date information and be sure you're signed up to receive our email blasts.

www.warrenlandtrust.org

Black Bear Do's and Don't's

(Courtesy of the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection)

Black bears are increasingly common in Connecticut as the population continues to grow and expand. Reports of bear sightings, even in heavily populated residential areas, are on the rise – as are reported problems with black bears. The primary contributing factor to these problems is the presence of easily-accessible food sources near homes and businesses. Fed bears can become habituated and lose their fear of humans. Bears should NEVER be fed, either intentionally or accidentally. Connecticut residents should take the following simple steps to avoid conflicts and problems with black bears:

BEARS NEAR YOUR HOME

Bears are attracted to garbage, pet food, compost piles, fruit trees, and birdfeeders.

- **DO** remove birdfeeders and bird food from late March through November.
- **DO** eliminate food attractants by placing garbage cans inside a garage or shed. Add ammonia to trash to make it unpalatable.
- **DO** clean and store grills in a garage or shed after use. (Propane cylinders should be stored outside.)
- **DON'T** feed bears. Bears that become accustomed to finding food near your home may become "problem" bears.
- **DON'T** approach or try to get closer to a bear to get a photo or video.
- **DON'T** leave pet food outside overnight.
- **DON'T** add meat or sweets to a compost pile.
- **DON'T** store leftover bird seed or recyclables in a porch or screened sunroom as bears can smell these items and will rip screens to get at them.

BEARS SEEN WHEN HIKING

Bears in natural settings normally leave an area once they have sensed a human. If you see a bear, enjoy it from a distance. Aggression by bears towards humans is exceptionally rare.

- **DO** make your presence known by making noise while hiking. Hike in groups. If you see a bear, make noise and wave your arms so the bear is aware of your presence.
- **DO** keep dogs on a short leash and under control. A roaming dog might be perceived as a threat to a bear or its cubs.
- **DO** back away slowly if you surprise a bear nearby.
- **DON'T** approach or try to get close to a bear to get a photo or video.
- **DON'T** run or climb a tree. If possible, wait in a vehicle or building until the bear leaves the area.
- **DO** be offensive if the bear approaches you. Make more noise, wave your arms, and throw objects at the bear. Black bears rarely attack humans. If you are attacked, do not play dead. Fight back with anything available.



Above: A common Black Bear.
Below: Scan this QR code with your phone's camera, or with a QR reader app to access more info about Black Bears

