



The Warren Conservator

Spring/Summer 2021

**WARREN
LAND TRUST**



Warren Land Trust Trails:

Coords Preserve:

Angevine Road

IMPORTANT UPDATE - The trail is flooded 1/3 mile in from Angevine Road - it is impassible with no viable work-around. You can access the far side of the trail and its connection to the blue-blazed Mattatuck Trail from the Wyantenock State Forest parking area on Rte. 341.

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, Spring 2021



If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

- Anne Bradstreet *

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Well, it's been a long winter all right (metaphorically speaking, anyway), and we've tasted our share of adversity. But Spring is coming, and it feels even more pleasant than usual this year!

As I write, we are looking ahead with cautious excitement to resuming some of our programming – check out the events calendar and details about some of our plans in this Newsletter. More than anything, we have missed the opportunity to connect in person with our friends and supporters. It was wonderful to see some of your faces on Zoom screens at our Annual Meeting last November, and DEEP wildlife biologist Peter Picone provided an interesting and informative virtual presentation on wildlife habitat and invasive species. But it just wasn't the same – no opportunity to shake a friend's hand, catch up with neighbors over coffee and treats, or head out for an impromptu group hike afterwards.

That said, the last year and that long winter have still left us with much to be grateful for. With a quieter calendar, we've been able to work on enhancing the recreational potential of our preserves – continuing to focus on "public access, public benefit." Read about that effort on the Skidmore Preserve inside, and stay tuned for exciting news about some of our other preserves. New partnerships within the regional conservation community were formed, which help us work more effectively to be strategic about and effective in our land conservation mission. And in the absence of in-person programming, we have enjoyed staying in touch and benefit from the generosity of longtime supporters and newcomers like yourselves - silver linings to be sure!

Wishing you all that the new season is one of good health and fresh beginnings for you and yours...and we hope to see you at a WLT event soon!

Sincerely,

Rebecca
Rebecca Neary

* Anne Bradstreet (1612-1672) was "the most prominent of early North American English poets and first writer in the colonies to be published." She also lived, wrote, and died in North Andover, MA, my hometown...so as you can imagine, we studied her early and often in school!

We Want YOU...To Help Us Clear Trails!

WLT Volunteer Trail-Clearing Day: Saturday, 4/17 at 11am

Missing getting together in person? Here is your chance for a fun group activity – and doing (something) good at the same time! Our trails need spring cleaning to clear away winter debris and litter, and highlight their special features. Join us at the entrance to the Dorothy Maier Preserve Trail on Sackett Hill Road (just across the road and down a bit from the Warren School) for a volunteer trail-clearing session. We'll provide instruction and trail steward tips; you bring sturdy shoes and clothing, gloves, tick spray, and your water bottle and of course your mask. Bonus points if you bring loppers and/or a (foldable) pruning saw (we will have a few extra for folks to use!) Further details forthcoming on our website and in email blasts. Questions? **Contact us at info@warrenlandtrust.org**



Land Acquisition & Stewardship co-chair BK Stafford clears a trail



Americorps volunteers clearing the Strong Preserve trail, December 2020.



GIVE LOCAL 2021 to Benefit Skidmore Preserve Hiking Access

WLT will participate in GIVE LOCAL again this year, and will use your donations to underwrite our exciting and ambitious plans for expanding hiking opportunities on our preserves...starting with the Skidmore Preserve.

In case you were wondering:

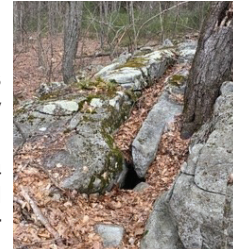
What is GIVE LOCAL? Give Local is an online giving campaign sponsored by the CT Community Foundation benefiting many regional non-profits.

When is GIVE LOCAL? Give Local starts at 7am on Tuesday, April 20 and ends at 7pm on Wednesday, April 21.

How do I GIVE LOCAL? It's easy! Just a few clicks on your computer or taps on your phone, and you can make a secure contribution to our Give Local project via www.GiveLocalCCF.org. We will send out a live link in our email blasts before and during the campaign, or you'll be able to find it front and center on our website.

Why GIVE LOCAL? For so many reasons! For example...

1. It feels great to support local non-profits working to benefit the community.
2. You get more bang for your donation buck when you Give Local: your donation is boosted by bonus funds from a donor pool provided by the Connecticut Community Foundation and generous Give Local sponsors, which gives all contributions more impact.
3. Your dollars will blaze a beautiful hiking trail on the Skidmore Preserve, create a small parking area off the main road, and build an information kiosk with trail and preserve information...and fund the creation and expansion of trails on our other preserves!



*Rock Formations in
Skidmore Preserve.*



*Enjoying the beauty of
Skidmore Preserve*

Wait – the SKIDMORE PRESERVE? Where's that??

Good question! We think of our town as Litchfield County's hidden gem, but the Skidmore Preserve flies under the radar even by Warren standards! Tucked away on Blue Swamp Road on the Litchfield border, the Skidmore Preserve comprises 64 acres that have been in our portfolio since 1999. The property backs up to the Upper Shepaug Reservoir and is bordered on one side by State Forest. It features shady pine groves, a stream running between mossy banks, and fascinating (and substantial!) rock formations. Its quiet seclusion is perfect for wildlife habitat. It has fantastic potential as a contemplative retreat for hikers, and we are excited to realize that potential. We hope you will help!

What IS a Land Trust?

"Land trusts are nonprofit community-based organizations dedicated to the permanent protection and stewardship of land for public benefit." (Connecticut Land Conservation Council; ctconservation.org)

Maybe you've hiked our trails, attended our events and have read our mission statement (see the green box on this page), but are wondering - what exactly does the **Warren Land Trust** do?

The Warren Land Trust accepts donations of land, conservation easements (which remain private property, with restricted development rights), and may purchase land, with the assistance of grant funding and private donations, according to our mission to preserve open space and farmland. As land stewards we have an ongoing responsibility to ensure that easements and preserves are well managed.

Is the Warren Land Trust an environmental organization? Our mission inherently includes protection of natural resources. The growing understanding of land conservation's impact on air and water quality, habitat and environmental health, and climate change resilience enhances those connections.

Is the Warren Land Trust connected to Town government? The WLT is an independent non-profit charitable organization. We actively support projects like the Town's Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) adopted by the community of Warren.

What else does the Warren Land Trust do? The WLT creates and maintains hiking trails on our properties. We also offer community programs – group hikes, lectures, etc. in partnership with the Town's Parks & Rec, the Warren Historical Society and others.

Connecticut's land trusts are mostly town-based, reflecting the strong historical identity and independence of its 169 towns. **The Warren Land Trust** is proud to be in the company of neighboring land trusts like the Steep Rock Association in Washington, the Kent Land Trust, and Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (formerly Weantinoge).

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.

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Meet Our New Directors!



John Barrett

John A. Barrett III grew up in Warren where his mother still lives. Growing up surrounded by open farmland introduced him to the importance of land conservation and protecting the town’s rural character. John is a graduate of Fordham University and holds a Master’s Degree in Sports Management from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is the Senior Associate Athletic Director/CFO at Fordham University and has expertise in financial and strategic planning, personnel management and fundraising. He, his wife Lara, son John IV and daughter Dayton all greatly appreciate the town’s natural landscapes. John looks forward to supporting and building awareness around the Warren Land Trust mission and serves on WLT’s Land Acquisition & Stewardship and Outreach & Development Committees.



Mickey Morris

Having spent weekends and summers on Candlewood Lake as children, **Mickey Morris** and his wife Laura moved to Roxbury in 1996 after purchasing Buck’s Rock Performing and Creative Arts Camp in New Milford. They owned and directed the program for two decades, selling it in 2016 and moving to Warren with their three children. Mickey’s extensive experience managing a commercial business situated on 130 acres has afforded him the opportunity to work with New Milford’s business and land departments. He also has a background in outdoor education and child development. Mickey is an avid outdoorsman, enjoying Litchfield County’s many biking, hiking, and kayaking opportunities. He helps support WLT’s land conservation mission as a member of the Land Acquisition & Stewardship and Outreach & Development Committees.

Going Native: Native Plantings Maintain a Healthy Habitat

If you tuned in to our 2020 Annual Meeting this past November, you had an opportunity to hear not only what we’d accomplished in 2020 (a lot, especially under the circumstances!) but also to learn about the benefits of native plantings. CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Wildlife Biologist Peter Picone described in detail how choosing plants native to our surroundings when landscaping your property creates a better environment for beneficial insects, songbirds, and wildlife, while also helping to control invasive species. (If you missed the meeting but are interested in the presentation, there is a link to the recording on our website.)

A plant species is considered native if it was present in a state or region before the arrival of European settlers. Native plant species are well adapted to our climate and are accustomed to the type of soil and the amount of rainfall that we have here in New England. Once established, these plants require little maintenance. Ask your local landscaping or garden supply source about native plants. You can also learn more at the Native Plant Trust at nativeplanttrust.org or the CT Botanical Society (ct-botanical-society.org/Gardens/view).

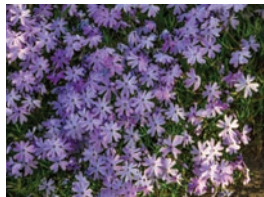
The following are just a few favorites:



New England Aster



Christmas Fern



Creeping phlox



Lowbush blueberry



Mountain Laurel

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. To join or donate online, visit www.warrenlandtrust.org or cut off this page and send it to our mailing address below, along with your check. We will send you a receipt 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 your check payable to: The Warren Land Trust
 MAIL THIS FORM AND CHECK TO: The Warren Land Trust
 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.

And we couldn’t forget Mountain Laurel – it’s the Connecticut state flower, designated by the General Assembly in 1907. According to the CT State Register and Manual:

...the Mountain Laurel is perhaps the most beautiful of native American shrubs. Its fragrance and the massed richness of its white and pink blossoms so vividly contrast with the darker colors of the forests and the fields that they have continually attracted the attention of travelers since the earliest days of our colonization. First mentioned in John Smith’s “General History” in 1624, specimens were sent to Linnaeus, the famous botanist, by the Swedish explorer Peter Kalm in 1750. Linnaeus gave it the name of *Kalmia latifolia*, honoring the name his correspondent and at the same time describing the “wide-leaved” characteristic of the plant. In addition to being called the “Mountain Laurel,” the plant has also been spoken of as “Calico Bush” and “Spoonwood.”

A number of Warren Land Trust preserves feature stands of mountain laurel – keep an eye (and a nose!) out for them when hiking in May and June.

The Warren Conservator



50 Cemetery Road
Warren, CT 06754

Email: info@warrenlandtrust.org

www.warrenlandtrust.org

Follow us

on Facebook and Instagram!



Do you have a great photo of Warren's fields, forests, or other scenic natural beauty?

Send us your photo at info@warrenlandtrust.org and we will post it!"

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

www.warrenlandtrust.org

2021 Calendar of Events

We can't wait to see you in person in 2021! That said, we recognize the importance of safety precautions. We will keep you up-to-date through our website and email blasts. In the meantime, mark your calendars!

- **April 20-21: Give Local 2021** – Help fund the Skidmore Preserve Trail
- **April 24: Town Clean-Up in Celebration of Earth Day** - 10am - 1pm
- **June 5: CT Trails Day Hike** - 10am – Stay tuned for our plans!
- **July 10-11: Angevine Farm Trail Race Series** – Half Marathon and More (or less...shorter distances!)
- **Fall 2021: Date TBD: Cider Run 5K**
- **September 11: Housatonic Heritage Walk** - 10am
History Mystery: a Homestead in Warren
- **October 9-10: Warren Fall Festival** (WLT "Booth-Raising" October 8)
- **October 20: Harvest Moon Walk** at Willis Tanner Preserve
- **December 4: Holiday on the Hill**

Want all the details? Make sure we have your **email address** so you can receive our email blasts – we will only contact you when we have news to report! Just reach out to us at info@warrenlandtrust.org

For up to date information: www.warrenlandtrust.org

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 Celebrates Earth Day! Town Clean-up: April 24th

Spring has come to Warren! The forsythia are blooming, the snow has melted...and a winter's worth of trash is now visible along our roadsides!! In response, we are teaming up with **Warren Parks & Recreation** to celebrate Spring and commemorate Earth Day with our annual Town Clean-Up.

Stop by the Warren Town Center on April 24th between 10am and 1pm - we will be handing out trash bags and gloves, and you can mark off your chosen route on our Town Clean Up Map. This is a perfect family-friendly, hands-on community service opportunity, and a great way to get out and enjoy the warmer weather.

There will be a dumpster placed at the Town Garage for your trash bags. And if you come across an item too large to take with you, just get in touch with us at info@warrenlandtrust.org and we will take care of it!

Not available on the 24th, but still want to help out? No problem: every day is Earth Day for the Warren Land Trust! Whether you choose a particular thoroughfare or just bring a trash bag along on your regular walking route, you are helping to protect our town's environment and water resources, and keep our roadsides naturally beautiful! Just let us know where you went using the email address above, and we will mark it off on the map.