



**WARREN
LAND TRUST**



Spring 2024

President's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Spring is springing here in Warren, a season bright with new possibilities and new projects. It's the perfect moment for WLT to begin implementing the Strategic Plan adopted at the November 2023 Annual Meeting.



Before you stifle a yawn at the words "strategic plan," let me assure you, this is thrilling news! If ever an organization found itself in need of a road map (which, after all, is what a strategic plan is), it is the Warren Land Trust right now. We have grown in exciting ways over the course of the last decade, and we owe it to our supporters and our community to think deeply - and, yes, strategically - about how to continue the great progress we've made toward fulfilling our land conservation mission.

Working with consultant Connie Manes, who has known WLT well for many years, we arrived at five central goals:

Goal 1: Protect Land : In keeping with global, federal, and state "30x30" land conservation goals*, preserve land that protects open space and natural resources, supports a resilient natural environment adaptable to climate change, provides passive and scenic public outdoor recreational opportunities, and contributes to a vital local community. **Protect 30% of the planet's land and water resources by 2030.*

Goal 2: Steward WLT's Protected Properties : Implement best practices in land stewardship on WLT preserves and easements to support the natural environment. Where feasible, provide passive outdoor recreational opportunities accessible to the public. Support healthy working farms and farmland. Support healthy water resources including Lake Waramaug and its watershed.

Goal 3: Connect the community to nature : Create opportunities for people to enjoy, learn about and care for land and the environment. Connect an informed and engaged community that supports WLT's work, enjoys its preserves, and values environmental protection and land conservation.

Goal 4: Build organizational capacity : Fulfill our mission and realize our vision with a fully engaged board, collaborative partnerships, a robust volunteer corps and dedicated donor base, now and into the future.

Goal 5: Build financial capacity : Ensure a sound financial footing and practices to ensure the present security and future growth of WLT and its preserves and easements.

These are an excellent set of guideposts. But, more concretely, how will we be working toward these goals in 2024? Here are just a few of this year's priorities:

Goal 1: Protect Land - Continue progress on high-conservation-value projects already underway.

Goal 2: Steward WLT's Protected Properties – Develop Cunningham Nature Preserve trail network, use Give Local funds to enhance visitor experience on WLT Preserves (see more information on this initiative below).

Goal 3: Connect the Community to Nature – Reassess our community communications (social media, email blasts) and enhance or update them to increase effectiveness. (If you follow us on Instagram, you know that this process is already underway!)

Goal 4: Build Organizational Capacity – Put our new board members to work! (See their profiles below.) Take a more systematic approach to enlisting volunteers – if you'd like to join us, just reach out: info@warrenlandtrust.org.

Goal 5: Build Financial Capacity – Formulate a fundraising plan that incorporates Strategic Plan goals.

These are just first steps down the path laid out by our new Strategic Plan. But we can't wait to get started, and to let you know what we accomplish!

Sincerely,

Rebecca

Earth Day Town Clean-Up: Saturday 4/20, 10am-1pm

It's that time of year again: Spring Cleaning for Warren's roadsides! Let's get out there and get rid of a winter's worth of litter - our roadsides should be sprinkled with grass, trees, and wildflowers...not nip bottles and coffee cups! Stop by the Warren Land Trust table in front of the Warren General Store to select your route, and pick up trash bags and gloves. A dumpster will be available at the Town Garage for refuse drop-off. And again this year, WLT, Warren Parks & Rec, and the Warren General Store are collaborating to offer every trash pick-up party a \$5 voucher for the general store - it's our way to say thank you for cleaning Warren's roadsides in commemoration of Earth Day. Can't make it on the 20th? No problem! Choose your route and do a DIY roadside cleanup on your schedule. Just tell us your plans by emailing us at info@warrenlandtrust.org and we'll make note of it - and thank you!



Upcoming Talk: Climate Change, Old Forests, Big Trees!



Join us on Sunday, June 2 at 3:30pm at Warren Town Hall for a timely talk with expert forester Bob Leverett. Educated as an engineer, Leverett is co-author of the Sierra Club Guide to Ancient Forests of the Northeast, and is co-founder of the Native Tree Society, co-founder and president of Friends of Mohawk Trail State Forest, and chair of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Forest Reserves Science Advisory Committee. Currently, he is working with climate scientists to measure carbon sequestration in individual trees.

Bob Leverett is also credited with rediscovering what was until recently thought to be virtually nonexistent: old growth forests in New England. Thanks to his work, not only have many such forests been found in our midst, but along with a network of world-class scientists and forest experts, Leverett has shown that older forests are far more valuable than previously thought in mitigating climate change.

According to Smithsonian Magazine, Leverett is a highly engaging lecturer who “comes across like something between an old Southern senator and an itinerant preacher, ready to filibuster or sermonize at a moment’s notice...[about] the importance of old-growth forest, not only for its serene effect on the human soul or for its biodiversity, but for its vital role in mitigating climate change.”

Join us for a fascinating lecture sponsored by The Warren Land Trust, the Wamogo Regional High School Forests to Furniture Program, and Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative partners. Further details will be available on our website.



Mystery Hikes on the Horizon for YOU and WLT!

We have two great group hikes on the horizon:

CT Trails Day Hike, Saturday June 2, 10am
Housatonic Heritage Walk, Saturday September 21, 10am

Where will we walk?? Your guess is as good as ours!! We have so much exciting trail expansion and improvement work going on that we aren't sure where to take you next. So stay tuned! Hike details will be announced on our website, by email

blast, and on our social media (Facebook and Instagram). If you'd like to receive occasional news and information from us by email, contact us at info@warrenlandtrust.org and let us know.

We'll see you on the trail...it's just a question of which one!

Warren Land Trust Board Members

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Rebecca Neary

Vice-President

Elizabeth Chandler

Treasurer

Barbara Page

Co-Secretary

Bill Mansfield
Mickey Morris

Directors

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John Barrett III
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Nina Rutsch Stoller
Waltraud Tammen
William Walker

Emeritus Board Members

Nancy Adams Morse
Ted Morse

Ex Officio Board Member

Greg LaCava

Warren Trust Mission Statement

The Warren Land Trust is a nationally-accredited conservation organization dedicated to the preservation and responsible stewardship of open space, watershed and natural resources in and around Warren, Connecticut for the benefit of current and future generations. These protected resources include meadows, forests, lakes, ponds, streams, wetlands, wildlife habitats and corridors, farmland and scenic vistas. Committed to connecting the community to nature, the Warren Land Trust creates opportunities to enjoy, learn about and care for land and the environment.

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WLT SNAPSHOTS



Left and Center: WLT and Warren Parks & Rec took advantage of a snowy spell this winter to explore the Cunningham Nature Preserve on snowshoes. Thanks to longtime WLT Board Member (and Selectman) Dave Schneiderbeck for leading us on the trail!

Right: Members of the WLT Board of Directors feeling festive at Holiday on the Hill.



WLT Welcomes Three New Board Members

WLT was pleased to elect three new members - Deborah Dickstein, Nina Rutsch Stoller, and Will Walker - to our Board of Directors at the November 2023 Annual Meeting. Welcome, Deb, Nina, and Will!



Deborah Dickstein has been a part-time resident of Warren since 2002. Born and raised in NYC, she received her medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed her residency in Psychiatry at Columbia University/New York State Psychiatric Institute. She maintained a private practice in NYC while spending weekends and school breaks in Warren, along with her husband and three children. Currently, she is retired from her practice and devotes her time to jewelry design and metal smithing, family and friends, and enjoying the natural beauty of Warren. Grateful for the land and community that give Warren its special character and history, she is honored to have the opportunity to support the mission of the WLT while serving on the Outreach & Development and Governance & Nominating Committees.

Growing up in a family of artists in Pelham NY, **Nina Rutsch Stoller** loved building lifelong connections within a small community. Having recently found a home in Warren with her husband Chad, they love to hike, run, explore and take photo walks in Warren's peaceful and picturesque surroundings. Upon graduating from American Academy of Dramatic Arts New York, Nina followed many career paths: acting, fashion retail, boutique fitness, and personal styling. A true interdisciplinary creative, community building has been the passion across all of these chapters. Attention to detail and making people feel their best is where her artistic mind flourishes. She loves sharing her styling tips while working at WKND boutique and now becoming active in preserving this area in the beautiful "backyard" of Litchfield County. Nina serves on the Outreach & Development and Governance & Nominating Committees.



Will Walker and his wife Amy Walsh came to Warren in 2018, after living and raising their two boys in Brooklyn over the prior 25 years. Will has enjoyed a wide variety of professions and pastimes over the years. He holds a BA from Amherst College, majoring in physics and English, and worked in a laser research lab near Boston before pursuing his JD at Michigan Law School. He has since worked as a law clerk to a federal judge, an associate at a large NY firm, an environmental attorney for the City of New York, a solo practitioner in Brooklyn, and finally as a strategic projects manager at an investment management firm. Will spent far too much time doing triathlons in the 2010's and now simply enjoys hiking, gardening, rowing, and has begun to expand his skills as a woodworker, using timbers he mills from the woods on their property. Will serves on the Finance and Land Acquisition & Stewardship Committees.



Instagram

Have You Noticed??

Warren Land Trust is using Instagram posts and stories more regularly as a way to keep you in the know about what's going on at WLT and in the broader conservation community. Follow us to learn more!



WLT Board Member Will Walker (center) with Warren Housing Steering Committee members Jack Travers and Victoria Sahadevan Fosslund at a meeting jointly organized by the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity and the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative. This grant-funded initiative brings together housing and conservation organizations to create a shared purpose/policy statement. The project will also create regional maps showing priority areas for conservation and housing, and features impacting the feasibility of each.

Over 1,130 acres are permanently protected by the WLT.

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.

The Green Leaf



50 Cemetery Road
Warren, CT 06754

Email: info@warrenlandtrust.org

www.warrenlandtrust.org

Mark your Calendar

Details at www.warrenlandtrust.org

4/20 - 10am-1pm: Town Clean-Up

Come to Warren General Store
to choose your route.

4/25 - 4/26: Give Local

Support visitor enhancements
on our Preserves!

6/1: CT Trails Day

Stay tuned for details!

6/2 - 3:30pm: Lecture

"Climate Change, Old Forests, Big Trees"
with Scholar and Expert Forester Bob Leverett
Warren Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room

Con't on back panel

It's Almost Time to GIVE LOCAL!

GIVE LOCAL, the annual online giving event hosted by the Connecticut Community Foundation to benefit regional charitable organizations, is almost here! This year's event takes place from **Wednesday, April 24 at 7am to Thursday, April 25 at 7pm**. It's a great time to give: your donation is boosted by bonus funds from CT Community Foundation GIVE LOCAL sponsors, so it has even greater impact!

This year we will be raising funds to enhance your visitor experience to our Preserves and trails! We have a wish list: wooden benches at key vantage points on the Dorothy Maier, Sunset Ponds, and Cunningham Nature Preserves, updated trail mapping (including printed brochures to match the online versions), enhanced signage, and improved parking.

To give, just go to <https://www.givelocalccf.org/> and search for "Warren Land Trust." We'll have a link to donate on our website, and will send it out by email blast too. We appreciate your support, and look forward to making your visits to our Preserves even more enjoyable!



Calendar *con't*

9/21 - 10am: Housatonic Heritage Walk

Stay tuned for details!

10/19 - 10am: Cider Run 5k

Warren Woods

11/16 - 10am: Annual Meeting and Program/Hike

Meeting at Warren Town Hall.

12/7 - 5pm: Holiday on the Hill

Join us for festive fun!



Keep Up To Date

Check out WLT's
handy new QR code

A quick way to get all the latest info!
How do I use a QR code, you ask?

It's easy:

1. Open your phone's camera app.
2. Point the camera at the QR code, center it on your screen, and hold the phone steady for a couple of seconds.
3. Tap the notification that pops up to open the link to the WLT landing page.

(You'll need an Internet connection to do this.)