



The Warren Conservator

Spring 2019

**WARREN
LAND TRUST**



Save the date for our 30th Anniversary Community Picnic September 15th — 1-3pm at Hopkins Vineyard.

BBQ, live music, festive libations, fun for the whole family. Sponsored in part by a generous grant from the CT Community Foundation. Don't miss it! More details coming soon.

Save the Date! UPCOMING 2019 WLT Events

CT Community Foundation's 36-Hour Online Giving Campaign
Tuesday and Wednesday
April 23 & 24, 2019

Magic Show & Town Clean Up:
Saturday, April 27, 2019

Trails Day Hike:
Saturday, June 1, 2019

30th Anniversary Picnic at Hopkins Vineyard:
Sunday, September 15, 2019

Housatonic Heritage Walk w/ Warren Historical Society:
Saturday, September 21, 2019

Cider Run 5K with Warren Parks & Rec:
TBD - likely 10/19/19

WLT Booth at Fall Festival:
Saturday and Sunday,
October 12 & 13, 2019

Annual Meeting and 30th Anniversary Program:
Saturday, November 16, 2019

As events approach, check our website for the most up-to-date information
www.warrenlandtrust.org

Helping to Plan for "Warren's Farming Future"

The Warren Land Trust will be working with the Town of Warren, Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust, the Lake Waramaug Task Force and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments to plan for and help implement "Warren's Farming Future." The project, which builds upon the town's long tradition of agriculture, is funded by a \$22,800 grant from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture through the Community Investment Act. The grant leverages an additional \$18,885 of in-kind support from WLT and other partner organizations.



This grant will allow for development of a long-term, actionable plan to support farm viability, sustainable farming practices and farmland preservation, and will help implement key agricultural strategies from the Town's 2019-2029 Plan of Conservation and Development.

Thriving farms and farmland conservation are integral to Warren's history, rural character, scenic beauty and environmental health, and achieving successful outcomes in agriculture will contribute significantly to addressing top economic and social priorities for the Town. Sustainable farming practices also protect the town's three important watersheds: Lake Waramaug, the Shepaug Reservoir, and the Housatonic River.

Warren has historically been an agricultural community. Even as the industrial revolution and other economic events transformed areas around the nation, Warren remained largely agrarian – from harvesting woodlands for charcoal during the Revolutionary War, to the long tradition of dairy farming, to the cultivation of grapes for wine production. Warren's farming heritage and rural beauty are part of what makes the town what it is today, and Warren's Farming Future is an opportunity to continue a legacy that is valued by the community and fundamental to its prosperity.



New Conservation Easement Protects Lake Waramaug Views

The Warren Land Trust is very grateful to Robert and Tal Copen for their donation of a 15-acre conservation easement in late 2018. The wooded parcel which, as is the case with all conservation easements, remains private property, is an essential part of the Lake Waramaug watershed. Protecting this piece of land in its natural state allows lake area residents and visitors alike to continue to enjoy the views of surrounding wooded hillsides for which the area has long been well known and cherished. A sincere thank you to the Copens!

Are you WLT's neighbor?

Do you live near one of the Warren Land Trust's fee properties or easements? Check out the interactive map on our website, www.warrenlandtrust.org, and see. If you are, we'd like to make a "conservation connection!" Our aim is to maintain these properties in a largely natural state, and we could use your help. If you're interested in helping us oversee or otherwise steward a Warren Land Trust property near you, please let us know: contact Tim Angevine at timothyangevine@hotmail.com

Warren Land Trust Board Members

President

Rebecca Neary

Vice-President

Ted Morse

Treasurer

Barbara Page

Secretary

Nancy Adams Morse

Directors

Tim Angevine

Laura Moore Brown

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Ex Officio Board Member

Craig Nelson

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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Lace up those hiking boots and hit the (Mattatuck) trail with WLT!



This year's CT Trails Day hike is a challenging 2-mile out-and-back on a recently opened section of the Mattatuck/Blue Blazed Trail. Join us on Saturday, June 1 from 10 AM to 12:30 PM. The route features beautiful woods and watercourses, and also some steep and rocky sections; appropriate footwear recommended. Bring your water bottle; we'll provide the trail mix cookies! Park on Flat Rocks Road, just east of Melius Road - parking is limited, so carpool if you can. WLT members will be there to greet you. Older children welcome with parental supervision. Registration recommended; contact info@warrenlandtrust.org. If the weather seems iffy, check our website www.warrenlandtrust.org for updates.

CT trails day is sponsored by Connecticut Forest and Parks Association, which also stewards the blue-blazed trail network on which we will be hiking. Want to learn more? Check out their website: www.ctwoodlands.org.



Town Clean Up April 27th...But First A Little Magic!

The annual town cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 27 from 10 AM to 2 PM. This event is always a great way to celebrate Earth Day, and a perfect community service opportunity for the entire family. This year, though, we have something new in store! For one thing, the cleanup will kick off from the Community Hub in the Warren Town Center. Stop by to choose your route and pick up your trash and recycling bags.

But before you head out, **come and enjoy some Earth Day Magic for all ages!** In "Recycling is Magic!" Cyril the Sorcerer will show your kids (and you!) how recycling is important "enviromagic" we can all do to help protect our planet (check out cyrilmay.wordpress.com for more information on our magician, who also happens to be in charge of recycling for Yale University and the City of Waterbury).



Warren librarians will be on hand with Earth Day-themed books for curious kids to check out, too! The show will take place in the Community Hub from 10 to 10:45. Information will also be on hand describing changes to the local recycling program, and coffee and refreshments will be served. Thank you to the Warren Public Library for their help, and to Warren Parks & Rec for their cosponsorship of this event.

WARREN COMMUNITY HUB

Warren Community Hub Opened Its Doors Saturday, March 23rd at Warren Town Center

Along with other town organizations, we are participating in this 3-month pop-up resource for Warren residents and visitors, created with the NW Hills Council of Governments and sponsored by the Berkshire-Taconic Community Foundation. The Hub will serve as an events and program space, a community gathering place, and a central source of information about the town organizations, businesses, and other resources. Come on by to learn more about what we do, pick up a trail map, enter a drawing for some WLT-logo merchandise, and grab a trail cookie for the road while supplies last!

Seeking New Volunteers

Volunteers are very important to the Warren Land Trust (WLT). There are numerous opportunities throughout the year to help WLT. Whether you have a few hours or a full day to volunteer; whether you could attend a meeting or event, or would prefer to do something from home; whether you have a special skill or just enthusiasm, please consider donating your time to help protect Warren's unique resources and open space.

Here are some ways in which we could use your help:

- **Maintain trails, lead a nature walk**
- **Join a shift at the Warren Fall Festival booth**
- **Participate in the Town Clean up**
- **Write for our newsletter**
- **Help with mailings**
- **Provide tech support**
- **Plan events**

We are also looking for new volunteers who can bring experience to Warren Land Trust in areas such as working with nonprofits, fundraising, finance, law (particularly CT bar), land trust operations, surveying and property inspection.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Rebecca Neary at (info@warrenlandtrust.org / 860-868-7939).

WARREN LAND TRUST

The WLT currently holds over 750 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.

Give Local 2019... and Support a Special Public Access Project

This year the CT Community Foundation's 36-hour online giving campaign will take place on April 23 and 24th... and this year we are raising funds for a special project that will benefit the entire community.

As part of our 30th anniversary theme - "public access, public benefit" - we plan to build a viewing platform at our Eel Pond preserve. This scenic waterbody hosts wood ducks and other waterfowl and wildlife, as well as water lilies and other wetland plants.

We have long considered it an excellent candidate for a viewing platform and now we are seeking to raise funds to realize those plans. We envision a ramp and platform detailing what is to be seen there.



Eel Pond

The area would be easy-access and family-friendly, as well as an excellent venue for wetlands-related programming.

Will you help us? Supporting the Warren Land Trust is as easy as a few clicks on your computer or taps on your phone. Look for the donation link in an email blast closer to the campaign date, or on our website. Thank you in advance for your support!

Meet Ted Morse: Historian, Hockey Coach, and Former WLT President

As we look back on 30 years of land conservation, we will be asking some of our organization's leaders to reflect on their work with WLT.



Ted Morse served as our most recent board president, from 2009-2014. At first glance, his resume might not suggest a post-retirement career leading a land trust. A Fulbright scholar with a focus on China, a hockey player and coach, and a prep school History teacher and administrator (including a stint as headmaster at The Antilles School in St. Thomas, USVI), Ted is the first to admit that when he first joined the land trust board, he could hardly tell a conservation easement from a fee property! But as a civic-minded gentleman and a quick study, he was willing to be persuaded by then-vice president Ann Martindale, who didn't waste any time: she recruited Ted while she was helping him and his wife Nancy (who now also serves as WLT board Secretary) close on their home in Warren.

The Morses' roots in the area go back some time. Nancy's mother long resided by the lake, near the Hopkins Inn. And Ted was a beloved teacher, department chair, and hockey coach at The Kent School, where he was recently honored for his contributions to that institution.

As President, Ted was an effective administrator who ran a tight ship and a focused board meeting. He was also an encouraging leader who was willing to serve as WLT "head cheerleader" when the occasion demanded. As it turned out, the occasion often did demand just that, because Ted oversaw our accreditation by the national Land Trust Alliance - a process that indisputably strengthened our land trust, but was a strenuous one, particularly for a small, all volunteer organization. Ted considers leading the WLT through accreditation to be his most significant accomplishment as president, and justifiably so. Challenges aside, Ted also found much to enjoy about his involvement with WLT. In particular, he fondly recalls meeting then-board members Jack Baker and Tom Sarsfield to go over the details of land transactions just before 5 PM, and then enjoying a celebratory libation once business was done. Although no longer serving as president, Ted remains on the board, which continues to benefit from his seasoned perspective and encouragement. When not attending WLT board meetings, he can be found on the golf course, cheering on his beloved New England sports teams, or enjoying his favorite outdoor place in Warren: the peaceful yard surrounding his colonial-era home.



50 Cemetery Road
Warren, CT 06754

Email: info@warrenlandtrust.org

www.warrenlandtrust.org



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Coming Soon.... Mark Your Calendars

- **4/23 - 4/24: CT Community Foundation's 36-hour online giving campaign**
- **4/27: Magic Show for All Ages:**
BEFORE the Town Clean-up
10am - 10:45am at the Community Hub in the Warren Town Center
- **4/27: Town Clean-Up:**
10am - 2pm at Community Hub in the Warren Town Center
- **6/1: CT Trails Day Hike:**
10am - 12:30pm - Mattatuck/Blue Blazed Trail Flat Rocks Road, just east of Melius Road
- **9/15: 30th Anniversary Picnic:**
1pm - 3pm at Hopkins Vineyard

For up to date information:
www.warrenlandtrust.org

President's Letter Spring 2019



Dear friends and neighbors,

In springtime a young man's fancy may turn to thoughts of love (or so says Tennyson), but in that season, this not-quite-so-young woman's thoughts turn to...hitting the trail and the road! Skiing and snowshoeing are great, but the green of Warren's spring and summer hills and forests, seen on the run, from a bike, or on the trail, are so beautiful and restorative.

I am happy to report that, as part of our 30th anniversary theme – “public access, public benefit” - WLT's trails will be looking better than ever over the course of the coming months. Not only will we be conducting seasonal trail maintenance and clearing (with help from interns funded by a grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation in partnership with other local land trusts), but we also have special anniversary plans to extend and upgrade some of our trails and trail maps. In addition, we plan to construct a viewing platform at our Eel Pond preserve; read more about it in this issue! We invite you to join us on one of our group walks or just see our website for parcels with public access.

And as to the public benefit of land conservation and trails, that extends beyond the health and mental well-being benefits of outdoor activity. Some recent regional studies show that there are economic benefits to be had as well. In Vermont, for example, the Gund Institute reported that the economic value of recreation accounts for \$2.5 billion in consumer spending in that state, with forest-based recreation accounting for \$1.9 billion of that total. And a 2016 VT Trails and Greenways study of 4 trail organizations showed that over \$30 million in economic activity was supported by the use of these trail networks annually. Similarly, a 25-year study of 1500 New England towns led by scientists at Harvard Forest, Amherst College and others showed that when land is conserved, a modest growth in employment follows.

In a recent interview on New England public radio, Katharine Sims of Amherst College observed that data on New England's most rural towns showed “the strongest employment gains...Land protection provides jobs through sustainable resource use, tourism and recreation, and creates amenity values that attract new residents or new businesses.” Certainly, economic vitality in our region depends on a number of complicated and interwoven factors. But we believe that conserved land and open space, and the recreational opportunities they afford, can be among them.

Sincerely,

Rebecca