



# The Warren Conservator

Fall 2022



## President's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

In our Spring 2022 newsletter, I spent a little time telling you about our strategic planning process and why it is so important. We are moving forward, slowly but surely. Recently, for example, our Outreach & Development Committee took a close look at the events and programs we offer. In so doing, we were reminded that in a small town like Warren, where organizations and program audiences are small, it's helpful to form partnerships with other like-minded groups. We have been very fortunate to have great partners in town! For example, the annual Housatonic

Heritage Walk, which you can read more about below, is organized jointly with the Warren Historical Society. And the Cider Run 5k, which will likely have just wrapped up as you read this, is run (no pun intended!) with Warren Parks & Rec. We are more effective working together!

We will be leaning into this interconnected approach in upcoming programs as well. Our **Annual Meeting on November 12** will wrap up with a presentation on trails and trail connectivity in Warren – Warren Land Trust trails, Town trails, State Forest trails and more. We will follow the meeting with a preview of the series of short trails leading to lovely late autumn water views on our Sunset Ponds Preserve. And in 2023, we are pleased to work closely with the Warren Historical Society (WHS) as their annual programming theme will be the history of land usage in Warren. Look for news of school, family, and adult programming from WHS and WLT! One of our town's more important resources is its classic New England mix of forests, farmlands, fields, wetlands, and waterbodies, and the land trust is not alone in promoting their enjoyment. We hope to see you at one of our events soon – as a participant or a volunteer! You can always find out more information about what's going on at [www.warrenlandtrust.org](http://www.warrenlandtrust.org), by emailing us at [info@warrenlandtrust.org](mailto:info@warrenlandtrust.org) and adding your name to our email news list, or by following us on Facebook and/or Instagram.

Sincerely,

*Rebecca*

Rebecca Neary  
President, The Warren Land Trust

## Land Conservation 101: What (exactly) is a Land Trust? (In case you've ever wondered)

*(adapted from "What Is a Land Trust?"  
[www.ctconservation.org](http://www.ctconservation.org))*

**Land trusts are nonprofit, community-based organizations dedicated to the permanent protection and stewardship of land for public benefit.** They work closely with landowners and communities to conserve land through acquisition or donation, or through [conservation easements](#), and are responsible for caring for that land in perpetuity – forever. Land trusts are supported through charitable donations and grant funding. There are currently over 130 land trusts in CT, from small, all-volunteer organizations to those with multiple staff. Some cover one or two towns; others are regional. Land trusts serve the conservation needs of their community by:

- **Conserving land and water.** Land trusts protect natural habitats and water quality and help their communities slow and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- **Connecting people to the land, via trails and outdoor recreational programming.**
- **Enhancing urban green spaces/developing community gardens.**
- **Preserving farms and supporting rural economies.**
- **Protecting scenic views.**
- **Connecting communities to the land, history, and each other.**

Want to learn more? Visit [www.ctconservation.org](http://www.ctconservation.org), or email us at [info@warrenlandtrust.org](mailto:info@warrenlandtrust.org)

## Warren on the Lake: Housatonic Heritage Walk 2022 Draws a Crowd

September 24th was a picture-perfect Autumn day at the Warren Town Beach, where a large group from Warren and beyond gathered to learn about the natural and historical features of the Warren side of Lake Waramaug. Co-sponsored by the Warren Land Trust and the Warren Historical Society, the walk took attendees up Strawberry Ridge Road, with its sweeping views of hills and vineyards, along historically significant Curtiss Road, and down Hopkins Road, where some chose to stay on and enjoy a glass of wine at Hopkins Vineyard or lunch at the Hopkins Inn. Craig Nelson, board member of both the land trust and historical society, as well as of the Institute for American Indian Studies and a skilled amateur archaeologist, kicked the morning off by describing the evolution of the lakefront's geography and its earliest inhabitants, and sharing his fascinating collection of artifacts gathered from the field next to the beach. Heather Forstmann, Historical Society Curator, then took the reins as the group walked, recounting the broad strokes of the area's history, as well as anecdotes – some humorous, some poignant – that brought the past to life. All in all, a perfect way to spend a September morning!





**WLT Annual Meeting Program Features Trail Talk and Sunset Ponds Walk**  
**Saturday, November 12, 10am**  
**Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room**

Come learn what your local land trust accomplished in 2022, and what we have planned for next year! Coffee and seasonal refreshments will be available. The meeting will be followed by a brief presentation about Warren trails - land trust trails, Town trails, state forest trails, and more! Board members will then lead a short walk at WLT's Sunset Ponds Preserve. This 17-acre parcel was acquired by the land trust in 1991, but trails have only recently been blazed. It features wooded wetlands, a beaver dam, large waterside rocky overlooks, and an imposing stone wall, among other interesting and attractive natural features. We hope you will come enjoy it with us! The trail is largely level, with some damp spots in season. Waterside overlooks are rocky/bouldered; some minor-to-moderate scrambling may be involved to get the best views. The walk is less than a mile. For more information, contact us at [info@warrenlandtrust.org](mailto:info@warrenlandtrust.org).



*Left - Board Member Dave Schneiderbeck and President Rebecca Neary check out the Sunset Ponds Preserve.*

*Right - Board Member BK Stafford scales a boulder to take in the view*

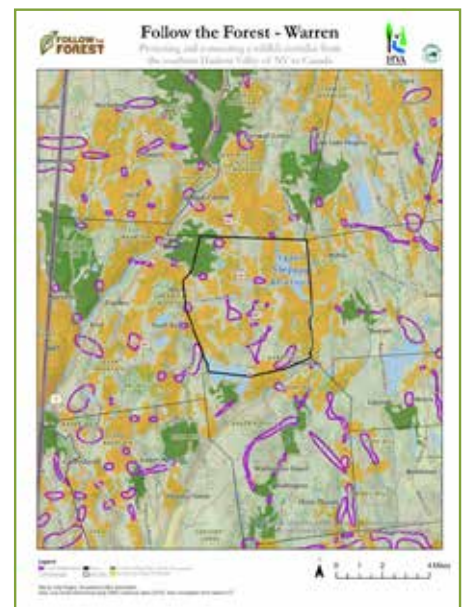
**The Link between Land Conservation and Animal Migration**

Were you lucky enough to see a bald eagle or black bear this summer? Perhaps a bobcat or beaver? Part of Warren's particular beauty is the wildlife that enjoys the sanctuary of its forests. To protect these habitats, an important factor WLT assesses when considering whether an available parcel of land is consistent with our mission is whether the conservation of that land might help facilitate the migration of animals through our area.



To expand WLT's understanding of this important aspect of land conservation, the Board recently met with advisors from Follow the Forest, an organization whose mission is "to protect and connect forests and promote the safe passage of wildlife from the Hudson Valley to Canada." The map shown here illustrates the important place our town holds in knitting together the fabric of that forest corridor. Green portions reflect core forest land that is at least 50% protected while orange lands are under that threshold. More information about collective efforts to protect migration habitats can be found at [www.followtheforest.org](http://www.followtheforest.org).

While other factors come into play as conservation opportunities present themselves, our role in linking forested areas to support the Housatonic Valley wildlife corridor grows in importance with the effects of climate change. So when you see your next bald eagle in flight or hear the howls of a coyote at night, know that you have played a part in their safe passage and sustainability.



**Warren Land Trust Board Members**

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**Treasurer**  
 Barbara Page

**Secretary**  
 Nancy Adams Morse

**Directors**  
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 Bill Mansfield  
 Deirdre McDonald  
 Mickey Morris  
 Ted Morse  
 Craig Nelson  
 Dave Schneiderbeck  
 Roberta Stafford  
 Waltraud Tammen

**Ex Officio Board Member**  
 Greg LaCava

**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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### WLT Participates in Environmental Programs

The Warren Land Trust will participate in two upcoming programs focusing on the environment.

On October 30th at 3pm, Washington’s Conversations on the Green will present “Can This Planet (Still) Be Saved,” an episode of “Common Ground with Jane Whitney” which will take place in person at Wamogo Regional High School at 98 Wamogo Road in Litchfield (the program will also be available online). “Common Ground with Jane Whitney” is a nationally syndicated PBS public affairs program that brings together recognized experts and artists in town-hall style conversations about the country’s most critical issues and ideas (for more information, see [cgjw.org](http://cgjw.org)). Panelists include journalists Bill Weir and David Wallace-Wells, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture Cindy McCain, and marine biologist, activist, and conservation photographer Cristina Mittermeier. The Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative, of which WLT is a member, will be on hand with land conservation information.

For more information or to register, see [cgjw.org/climate](http://cgjw.org/climate).



On November 19th at 3pm at the Kent School’s Mattison Auditorium, WLT will join a number of other local conservation organizations in co-sponsoring a book talk and signing by Douglas Brinkley for “Silent Spring Revolution: John F. Kennedy, Rachael Carson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, and the Great Environmental Awakening”. Brinkley is a presidential biographer and the Katherine Tsanoff Brown Chair of Humanities at Rice University, where he is a professor of History. He is Presidential Historian at the New York Historical Society, history commentator for CNN, and a contributor to Vanity Fair. Entry is free and open to the public; registration is required at <https://www.kentmemoriallibrary.org/book-talk-and-signing-with-douglas-brinkley/>.

### Warren Community Garden

As the harvest season winds down, the Warren Community Garden (“WCG”) wrapped up its first planting season at the town-owned Wasley Farm. In support of the many benefits that a shared garden brings to a community, the Warren Land Trust committed to act as legal and fiscal sponsor for the garden.

Located at 224 Cornwall Road, the 100-acre Wasley Farm was purchased by the Town of Warren in 2011 from longtime residents Irving and Barbara Wasley. In March, the WCG re-established the vegetable and flower garden in the same location nurtured by the Wasleys for so many years. The garden design includes 26 double plots for rent, each plot measuring 4 feet by 20 feet, and 10 plots for growing fresh produce and flower for the food pantry. 20 gardeners rented plots this summer and over 40 volunteers contributed to its success.



Beginning in March, many volunteers - led by the indefatigable and ever inventive Brad Johnson - turned out to build the garden and prepare the soil for planting: stripping sod, testing and tilling soil, spreading 4 inches of compost and building a tall fence. Thanks to the in-kind donation of Arbor Tree Services, the orchard was pruned for the first time in nearly 10 years and a fruit tree pruning workshop was held by Bill Pollack and his team for the education of Warren residents.

Over Memorial Day weekend, seeds and seedlings were planted and the WCG’s inaugural growing season officially began. Thankfully, Judea Community Garden in Washington lent WCG two large cisterns for irrigation and the Warren Fire Department provided the invaluable service of refilling the cisterns which was so vital during the very sunny and dry days of August.

Plans are already in motion for next year and interested gardeners can rent a plot for the upcoming season now; if you would like to sign up for WCG emails and get involved, please email Kathy Newton at [newt198@optonline.net](mailto:newt198@optonline.net).



**Over 900 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](http://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	<b>\$5,000</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Caretaker	<b>\$ 300</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Grantor	<b>\$2,500</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Protector	<b>\$ 100</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Steward	<b>\$1,000</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership	<b>\$ 25</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Conservator	<b>\$ 500</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<b>\$ _____</b>

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](http://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](mailto:info@warrenlandtrust.org)

[www.warrenlandtrust.org](http://www.warrenlandtrust.org)

## NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING

The Warren Land Trust's 2022 Annual Meeting will take place on **Saturday, November 12, at 10am in the Warren Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room**. 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 2023 include (hint: a lot!). The business meeting will be followed by a brief program and, weather permitting, a hike on one of our preserves. Details forthcoming on our website and in email blasts. Refreshments provided. **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.**

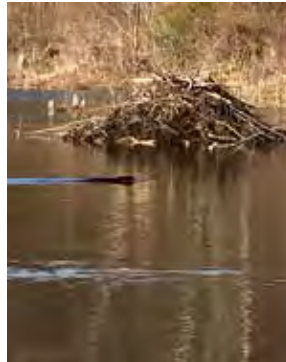
[www.warrenlandtrust.org](http://www.warrenlandtrust.org)



**Celebrate  
Holiday on the Hill  
with WLT!**

The festivities will take place on December 3rd, and we hope to see you and yours in the Community Center Dining Hall again this year! We will have our savory treats, cider, and sparkling water (to complement offerings from Litchfield Distillery and Hopkins Vineyard), and you can count on us to provide a holiday-cheerful atmosphere! New this year, the Warren Historical Society will set up shop near us next to their museum space, with sweets and Victorian-era libations (wassail or smoking bishop, anyone??) A family-friendly good time is sure to be had by all!

## Beavers Make Themselves at Home on Coords Preserve



Busy beavers? Eager beavers? Looks like we have both at the Coords Preserve! This wooded parcel is loaded with natural interest (wildflowers, avian life, a grape arbor) and historical significance (as the former City Hill Road, it is the location of 18th and 19th-century homesites). But it is currently inaccessible from the trailhead on Angevine Road due to beaver activity, which has flooded the trail.

Once nearly extinct in New England thanks to the demand for their thick, water-resistant pelts, the beaver, *Castor canadensis*, has made quite a comeback. And as many landowners or farmers who have beaver activity on their property can attest, they can create quite a nuisance. In order to build their dams and maintain the water level required to make those dams viable, they cut trees, block culverts, flood fields (and trails) and more. The State of

Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) suggests various ways to coexist with beavers on one's property, as well as means of removal. For more information, see <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Fact-Sheets/Beaver>.

But beaver ponds and the wetlands they foster also have their benefits. As CT DEEP points out, they provide habitat for a wide variety of insects, fish, amphibians, birds (ducks, bitterns, flycatchers, owls) and wildlife such as mink and otter. Standing trees killed by flooding provide nesting habitat for great blue herons and cavity-nesting birds, such as wood duck and hooded merganser. They also filter and trap sediment and excess nutrients and serve as water storage and recharge areas.

We aren't sure when Angevine Road access to the Coords Preserve will be restored. As long as the food supply is sufficient, beavers – territorial and monogamous animals which are active year round – can occupy their colony for many years. For the time being, then, we will appreciate the benefits they can provide to the ecosystem and wait...one of the benefits of protecting land in perpetuity!

