

The Warren Conservator

Fall 2014



Warren Land Trust Board

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Warren Land Trust Mission Statement

The Warren Land Trust is an advocacy group 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.



From The President's Desk

The year 2014 has been a time of challenge, testing and arduous preparation for our attempt to receive accreditation by the National Land Trust Alliance. We submitted our formal application in April, which included a binder of 287 pages replete with documents, financial records, photographs, and evaluation of our properties and easements. We had a formal interview September 12 that required more preparation and the Board demonstrated clear understanding of our mission.

This past week, we received a set of six follow-up questions from the interview and we will respond in kind by December 12. Hopefully, we will gain formal accreditation early in March of 2015.

It should be stressed that the Board worked exceedingly hard to meet all deadlines and qualifications. We are delighted to return to normal events that the Warren Land Trust was constituted to do. With that in mind, we hope you will stop by at our booth at the Warren Fair in October and we are always on the lookout for new Board members. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Ted Morse

President, Warren Land Trust

Land Trust Advocacy Day

Preserving the land in the beautiful area of Warren is a passion for our Board. Having gone through the accreditation process, we have become very aware of some of the political ramifications that this entails.

The third annual Land Trust Advocacy Day brought 75 land trust leaders from key districts to Capital Hill for two remarkable days of hands-on training, briefing, a congressional reception and nearly 200 meetings with members of Congress and administration officials. In 2015, we will be exploring new approaches to give Advocacy Day participants an even more personalized experience. We hope you will make the Land Trust Alliance a first step and home base whenever you find yourself in Washington D.C.

We have received firm and personal support from Representative Elizabeth Esty who stays in constant contact with us and was in attendance at the Board picnic last fall.

An Update on White Nose Syndrome

By Linda Bowen

In 2006, several bats in a New York cave were seen with a white fluffy substance on their muzzles. Since that time, over 5 million bats have been found dead or dying, most exhibiting this white fungus. Biologists named it White Nose Syndrome (WNS) because of where it was seen on the bats. WNS has now affected bat populations in over 25 states and 5 Canadian provinces. Although fungi generally do not cause death in their hosts, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, a cold loving fungus, has been the causative agent in the deaths of these bats. Affected bats can be seen flying during the day while temperatures are still below freezing before flying insects are available. The bats come out of hibernation early and are both emaciated and dehydrated. All of the 'cave' species of bats in CT: big brown (*Eptesicus fuscus*), little brown (*Myotis lucifugus*), northern long eared (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and tri colored (*Perimyotis subflavus*) have been affected. It is believed that this fungus was brought to the US by a traveler from Europe where the fungus lives normally, however does not appear to bring harm to their bats. When bats begin their hibernation, the fat they have stored is very well

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Leave a Legacy

Land protection in perpetuity requires a long-term commitment and the financial means to carry it out. While we hope that future generations will value the land, just as much or more than we do, we have no way of knowing if they will be able to financially support that value proposition. The only way we can reach into the future to ensure that future stewards will have the resources they need, is to leave a significant endowment. Please consider the Warren Land Trust in your will. For additional information about leaving a legacy, go to www.leavealegacyct.org or talk to your financial advisor.

Warren Land Trust's Application For National Land Trust Accreditation

As you have read in this and previous newsletters, the Warren Land Trust has been in the process of seeking Accreditation from the national Land Trust Alliance. This land trust accreditation program was established to recognize land conservation organizations across the country that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs.

The Warren Land Trust is proud to announce that its Application for Accreditation was successfully filed on April 23, 2014. The submission of this Application was the result of the board's massive combined effort to compile all necessary information and documents to showcase the Warren Land Trust's practices, procedures, and accomplishments. In addition to the long hours and contributions by the board, the Warren Land Trust extends special thanks to Connie Manes of Manes Consulting LLC for her guidance, and the entire team at Baker Botts LLP for their pro bono support. Based upon this successful submission, the Warren Land Trust was invited to participate in a phone interview with the Accreditation Commission on September 12, 2014. We are pleased to report that nearly the entire board was able to join the call and provide valuable insight to the Accreditation Commission. The Warren Land Trust is now in the process of assembling information in response to follow-up requests by the Accreditation Commission, and expects a final decision of accreditation by early 2015.

As noted in our prior articles, the accreditation process is a rigorous independent analysis of Warren Land Trust's programs and practices. Accredited land trusts are able to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust, and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. The seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation. The Warren Land Trust looks forward to completing the process and to achieving this distinguished honor. The ultimate goal of the Warren Land Trust in seeking Accreditation is to ensure that the proper procedures and practices are in place to protect land in the town of Warren for future generations.

Joyce Young
Associate, Baker Botts L.L.P.



Chichi Chukwuogo, Joyce Young, Kelsey Dow, Dan Hulseberg

An Update on White Nose Syndrome, Cont.

calculated to last them only the amount of time that they will be hibernating including high energy expenditures of normal arousals which occur about every two weeks. The annoyance of the fungus seems to cause arousals more frequently and the repeated awakenings prematurely deplete the balance of their stored energy. If food is not readily available upon waking, death can occur. It is very critical that bats are NOT disturbed during this hibernating period.

These insectivorous bats are responsible for providing over \$50 billion per year in free pest control to our agricultural industry in the US according to the US Geological Survey, so the impact will be devastating. WNS is considered by many to be the worst natural disaster to befall mammals in recorded history. At this point in time, research is being conducted throughout the world to try and find a solution for this massive devastation. It continues to spread into states in middle America and north into additional Canadian provinces. Even though their numbers have been dramatically reduced, by providing bat houses and a



An eastern red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*) that was rehabilitated by Linda Bowen who is licensed by CT DEEP and US Fish & Wildlife to care for injured or orphaned wildlife. These bats are migratory bats and therefore have not been affected by WNS. Photo provided by Linda Bowen

water supply you can attract bats to your property. During the summer months, many of these female bats (particularly the big brown bats) will establish roosts in our attics or barns in order to give birth to their pups where they are kept very warm and protected. They generally give birth to only one pup per year, so rebuilding the population is going to take a very long time. Tolerating our only flying mammal can be critical to their survival and allowing them to hibernate in some of our structures can be one way to help them avoid the fungus in the hibernacula. For more information on bats and for additional links, go to: www.bats101.info

Accurate Record keeping is Essential

The Warren Land Trust recognizes that maintenance of complete, secure and authentic records is essential to the achievement of our conservation mission and to the preservation of our tax-exempt status. Therefore we follow a records policy that ensures that we are in compliance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, as well as the Land Trust Alliance's standards and practices.

We store originals of Irreplaceable Documents, as well as hard copies of most other documents, in the secure, fireproof vault at Warren Town Hall in a locked Warren Land Trust file cabinet. In addition, we store electronic copies of all documents in a secure Extranet database at Baker, Botts Law Firm, thanks to the generosity of Board member Dan Hulseberg. Soon the Land Trust will obtain storage space in a Cloud service and migrate to that.

Besides saving the usual types of records (minutes, policies, financial reports and filings, critical correspondence including e-mails, etc.), the Land Trust keeps extensive records related to its properties. For every land donation or easement, the Land Acquisition/Stewardship Committee maintains a file containing all documentation about a property -- in connection with its acquisition, management plans and inspection reports, etc.

The WLT currently holds over 650 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:

___ Family Membership \$25

___ Land Protector \$100

___ Land Caretaker \$300

___ Land Conservator \$500

___ Land Steward \$1,000

___ Land Grantor \$2,500

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.

Warren Land Trust participates in Town Clean Up and Trails Day

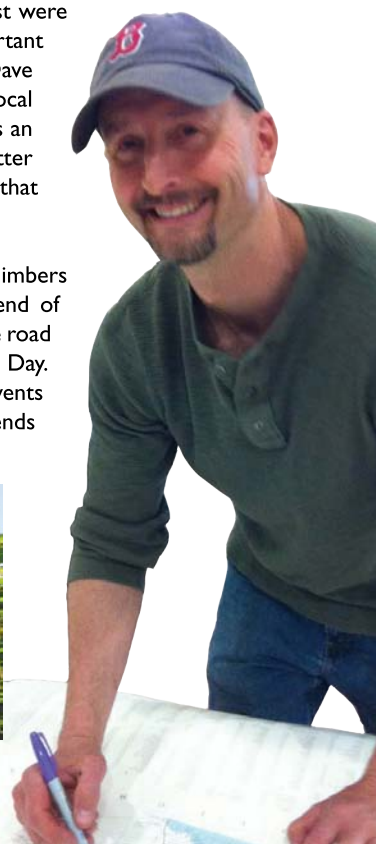
Under the leadership of Board member Dave Schneiderbeck, the Land Trust were active participants in two important community projects. In April, Dave directed large cleanup of all the local streets and roads in Warren. It was an ambitious undertaking for the better part of five hours. Dave reported that 70% of Warren's roads were clean.

In June, Dave led eleven intrepid climbers to the "Pinnacle" from the east end of Lake Waramaug on a trail from June road in celebration of Connecticut Trails Day. We hope to be involved in more events such as these and involve our friends in Warren.



Above: Intrepid Climbers
on top of the "Pinnacle"

Right: Dave Schneiderbeck
coordinating Town Cleanup routes



Seeking Volunteers and New Board Members

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:

- Trails and property maintenance; lead a nature walk
- Warren Fall Festival Booth
- Town Clean Up and Swap Meet
- Write for our newsletter
- Help with mailings
- Tech support
- Event planning

We are also looking for new volunteer Board Members who can bring experience to the board in areas such as working with nonprofits, fundraising, finance, law (particularly CT bar), land trust operations, surveying and property inspection.

To volunteer, please contact Rebecca Neary (rbneary@me.com), or Ted Morse (tedhistory@yahoo.com / 860-619-8031), and indicate how you would like to help.

If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact Ted Morse (tedhistory@yahoo.com / 860-619-8031), along with a copy of your resume or other description of your experience and interest. All board members are elected at the annual board meeting in November. However, we may add an interim board member during the course of the year.

Warren Land Trust Annual Meeting

**Saturday, November 15, 2014
9:00 a.m.**

The Warren Land Trust Board will hold our annual meeting for members at the Academy, Sackett Hill Road. There will be updates of the past year's activities together with comments from the President, Treasurer, Director of Accreditation and other members of the board of Directors. New board members may be proposed and elected. The Annual Meeting is an important opportunity for the Land Trust to enlist your support for our projects and gain constructive ideas for the future. Refreshments will be provided. Please don't hesitate to contact us at info@warrenlandtrust.org with any questions. We look forward to welcoming you.

SPOTLIGHT ON LAND TRUST HOLDINGS The Cashion Preserve

The Cashion Preserve is a parcel of nearly seven and a half acres located at the intersection of Cornwall Road (Route 45) and Windy Ridge Road. This quiet oasis just off of one of the town's busiest roads features hardwoods and wetlands, and is a functioning wildlife habitat.

This acreage was donated to the Warren Land Trust by Robert and Barbara Cashion in 1994. The family settled in Warren sometime after 1930, and in 1944 purchased property on either side of Melius Road from Robert Morgan, the widower of Ludlow Melius' second wife, Emily Swallow Melius.



Originally, the Cashions had approached the Nature Conservancy, which had held other conservation lands in the area, about their proposed donation. The Conservancy's leadership in turn referred them to the Warren Land Trust as an organization better suited in this case to receive the property. We at the Warren Land Trust are grateful to the Cashion family for their property donation, and to the Nature Conservancy for the referral which brought it to us. And any of us driving along Route 45 are also undoubtedly grateful that a little more open space has been preserved along the Warren stretch of that thoroughfare!

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

