

The Warren Conservator

Fall 2016



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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.



From The President's Desk

Dear WLT Friends and Supporters,

Mark Twain once said, "If you don't like the weather in New England now, wait a few minutes." Well, if he'd wanted to apply his maxim to a more extended time frame, he'd have been well served by attending the Warren Fall Festival from year to year. Over time, our sturdily built Warren Land Trust booth and the board members working at it have seen temperatures from sultry to freezing, conditions from balmy to blustery, and precipitation in all its forms including, one memorable Columbus Day weekend, snow. At this year's event, a pleasant Saturday was followed by a raw and rainy Sunday. Even in the rain and cold, however, a steady trickle of folks (no pun intended) stopped by to learn more about our work, buy a WLT hat, sample a trail cookie, and enter our prize drawing. Speaking to them, I was reminded of the valuable work

land trusts do that doesn't involve land acquisition or stewardship. Another part of our mission is providing community outreach to explain why land conservation is important, and providing programming that helps people appreciate the great outdoors. You will read about that outreach and programming in this issue of The Conservator.

You may note that in many of the events in question, we haven't been going it alone: we've partnered with the Historical Society and Warren Parks & Rec on some of our programming. In a small town like Warren, combining forces makes practical and logistical sense. But it's also an example of one of the key trends in our field: community conservation. The Land Trust Alliance calls community conservation "an approach to land conservation that includes more people. Community conservation begins by listening to many different voices in the community — then responding. [It] uses the strengths of the land trust to meet needs expressed by people in the community." More than a buzzword, community conservation can be an important way to make common cause and share common concerns or priorities. A couple of recent examples include a group of hikers learning how our town's history is bound up in and has left its mark on our natural environment; or a group of runners and walkers enjoying 3.1 miles paced in fresh, clean air along a road through the woods...in both cases having a good time with friends and neighbors!

Rebecca

WLT Receives Community Outreach Grant

We are thrilled to announce that the Ellen Knowles Harcourt Foundation has awarded us a \$7000 grant to fund a communications enhancement and community outreach project. The Foundation was established in 1982 primarily to support charitable organizations in New Milford and the greater Litchfield county area.

WLT intends to use the Harcourt grant to create a clear, highly recognizable and easy-to-access portal to the resources of our organization — online and on the ground. See the article on communications outreach projects in this newsletter for a description of logo and website updates that will benefit from this award. On a more tangible level, the grant will fund new property signage and trail markers, as well as brochures and maps highlighting WLT's resources and how we serve the community.

We are so grateful to the Ellen Knowles Harcourt Foundation for recognizing the importance of this initiative and providing their generous support to the project.

Notice of Annual Meeting

WLT Annual Meeting Features Presentation and Nature Walk

The Annual Meeting of the Warren Land Trust will be held on Saturday, November 19th, 2016 at 9AM at the Warren Community Center, 1-11 Sackett Hill Road (enter in back of building). All Land Trust members are encouraged to attend and participate. Non-members are also welcome to attend — this is an excellent opportunity to learn about our conservation work! The business portion of the meeting should last approximately one hour. We will summarize the year's undertakings and our plans for 2017.

This year's annual meeting will provide added attractions. Following the business meeting, we will enjoy refreshments as Town Historian Ellen Paul presents interesting information about the history of our newest parcel — the Strong Preserve — and the family after whom it is named. We will then host a nature walk on the preserve, celebrating this scenic acquisition and inaugurating a trail recently blazed on the property. The walk will take place very near the Community Center, on Above All Road. Questions? Contact us at info@warrenlandtrust.org.

Heritage Hike Draws a Crowd

Outdoor enthusiasts and history buffs from Warren and beyond gathered on September 24th for a walk on the WLT's Coords Preserve co-sponsored by the land trust and the Warren Historical Society as part of the Housatonic Heritage Walks series. Participants enjoyed a cool and sunny morning as they investigated the remains of a series of mostly 19th-century homesites on old City Road, which was abandoned around 1910. Town Historian Ellen Paul and former WLT board member Jed Struckus provided fascinating commentary on the families who inhabited these properties, Warren's history in that era, and the mechanics and logistics of colonial and post-colonial home-building and farming. WLT board member Dave Schneiderbeck was also on hand to point out some of the natural features of the area, including two beaver ponds.



Heritage Hike Group 2016



Attendees walking along one of the beaver ponds on the preserve.



Former WLT board member Jed Struckus amid the remains of a former homesite.



Town Historian Ellen Paul and WLT Board Member Dave Schneiderbeck

Do you have pictures of Warren's natural beauty?

We would love to post YOUR photos of Warren's fields and forests, flora and fauna on our updated website and our Facebook page. If you capture a beautiful sunset, bears or turkeys cavorting in your back yard, snowflakes on autumn leaves, or the like, send the image to info@warrenlandtrust.org, and we will post it and attribute it to you.

Cider Run 5K 2016

Turnout was robust in spite of threatening skies for the 8th annual Cider Run 5K, co-sponsored by the WLT and Warren Parks & Rec. The rain held off, and the cool and cloudy conditions were in fact ideal for a brisk run under the fall foliage lining Brick School Road and Warren Woods. A kids' fun run preceded the race itself, which was as always a fun and low-key family affair, with more than one parent-child pair among the pack of runners. Hot cider and cider doughnuts were available at the finish, and prizes were awarded to overall and age group finishers (including WLT Vice President Tim Angevine, who won his division, as did his wife, race director Carla Angevine!). The last age group winner, for men 70-99, came to claim his prize in the attire in which he'd run: sneakers, a tutu, and pair of fairy wings. Clearly, there is more than one way to enjoy the great outdoors!



Board Member Profile: Barbara Page



WLT Treasurer Barbara Page and her family.

The WLT may be a relatively small, almost completely volunteer organization, but our financial affairs are remarkably healthy and extremely well-ordered. For this state of affairs, we can credit our long-time Treasurer, Barbara Page. Since 2008, Barbara has worked with diligence and quiet competence, using her education and professional experience in finance to ensure that our supporters' contributions are carefully safeguarded and have maximum impact. Along with members of our finance committee, she prepared an entire suite of financial policies and procedures for accreditation, and ensures that they are carefully followed.

Barbara and her husband John came to Warren in 1999. They looked for a home throughout Litchfield County, but says "we found the rural nature of Warren to be particularly special....we knew it was the place for us, even as we did our final walk-around our prospective property in two feet of fresh snow in April of 2000!" Although they live in New York City during the week throughout the school year, Barbara and John's connection... *Continued on page 4*

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

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.

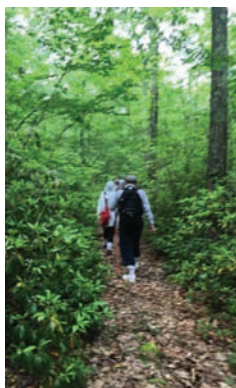
MAIL THIS FORM AND CHECK TO: The Warren Land Trust, Inc. 50 Cemetery Road, Warren, CT 06754

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.

CT Trails Day Hike at Fiddlers Pond

The WLT kicked off this past summer fittingly: with a walk in the woods. Board member and Outdoor Wilderness School instructor Dave Schneiderbeck led attendees on a 3-mile picturesque loop around Fiddlers Pond in early June. It was a beautiful, sunny day, and the group enjoyed the shade of the forest trail, and the views of the pond and surrounding woodlands. It was a great way to celebrate CT Trails Day and the beginning of summer.



For up to date information please visit
www.warrenlandtrust.org

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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:

- 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 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.

To volunteer, please contact **Rebecca Neary**
(info@warrenlandtrust.org / 860-868-7939)
and indicate how you would like to help.

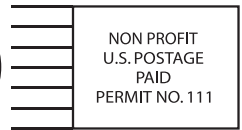
If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Rebecca Neary at (info@warrenlandtrust.org / 860-868-7939), along with a copy of your resume or other description of your experience and interest.

The Warren Conservator

50 Cemetery Road
Warren, CT 06754

Email: info@warrenlandtrust.org

www.warrenlandtrust.org



Everyone Welcome!

**Come to the WLT Annual Meeting
and Strong Preserve presentation
and walk. November 19th.
Details inside.**

The Warren Conservator

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WLT Undertakes Communications Outreach Projects



A sample of our smart phone
friendly new website

The Warren Land Trust's mission focuses on land conservation and preservation...but that doesn't mean we don't understand the importance of staying abreast of new practices and technologies that serve that mission – whether those be smart-phone GPS mapping applications, or ways of connecting with our community. We have educated ourselves about and are working to implement the former; and we are embarking upon the latter in a number of ways. First, as you may have noticed if you have provided us with your email address, we are sending out news and updates via email blast. We use this mode of communication judiciously and sporadically: we don't want to flood your inbox, but rather seek to inform you when we have news to relate. We have also set up a Facebook page – we encourage you to check it out and “like” us! We post twice a month – more frequently if we have more to share. Content sometimes replicates

items contained in our email blasts, but may also consist of links to articles about land conservation-related matters, events of interest in the local conservation community, and photos. We have also been working to update our website, and have nearly completed this long-gestating project. The new site will “read” better on smart phones, and will be easier to navigate, more intuitive and user-friendly. Finally, we will be adopting a new logo. Our original logo – the yellow tree on the green square-shaped background – dates from the land trust's early years and has served us well as an identifying symbol. Among other concerns, however, it does not reproduce well electronically – a real issue in this day and age! As a result, we've engaged a consultant to help us find a new logo that resonates with the old one yet reflects where we are now in terms of our mission, our community, and who we are as an organization. We are honored to have received a grant to cover the cost of the logo redesign project and its consequences (see elsewhere in this issue). You will be sure to know when the change has been adopted! These updates and changes are on one level a simple effort to keep up with the times, technologically speaking. But at their core, they are part of our ongoing endeavor to connect with and engage our supporters and the broader community in our mission and conservation work. We hope you find them helpful.

Board Member Profile: Barbara Page, Cont.

to Warren was such that they preferred to be married at the Warren Congregational Church. Of her desire to become involved in land conservation in town, Barbara says, “Once we had our home here, I really wanted to work to keep the rural feeling, yet to understand that towns must change, but to think about change responsibly and to respect the needs of the people who live here...When I left my full time job, I knew I would be able to devote some time, so I asked the Land Trust if I could join the board. I also worked to bring other people to the board who really cared about Warren, (and) would work to keep Warren the very special town that it is.”

Barbara's family includes her husband, John Liu, and her children Audrey, Claudia, and Nelson. She enjoys hiking, snowshoeing, music, gardening, swimming in Lake Waramaug, and time with family and friends on their secluded property. The children are very involved in ski racing at Mohawk Mountain and play in local soccer leagues.

The Warren Land Trust is grateful for Barbara's time and energy - her efforts help ensure that Warren's rural character remains as special as it was when she and John first arrived here.