

The Warren Conservator

Spring 2010



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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.

Ruins of Colonial Homestead in Warren Forest?

As snow fell on a Saturday in early December, the State Archaeologist of Connecticut, Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, met with Land Trust then-President Tom Paul, Town Historian Ellen Paul, board member Rebecca Neary and former board member Jed Struckus to investigate what seems to have been the site of an 18th or early 19th century homestead in the woods near Melius Road.

The homestead is on private property along a section of what was once Turnpike #15, a road which was abandoned after the City of Waterbury dammed the Shepaug River in the early decades of the 20th century, creating a large reservoir not far from the turnpike. The ruins of this homestead seem to have been undisturbed by trespassers – an unusual situation

for a site dating back so far, and probably a by-product of the turnpike falling into disuse.

Visitors to the site found a system of stone walls surrounding a solid foundation, as well as what appear to have been outbuildings. Also visible were the remains of at least one well. (see inset) The relatively extensive nature of the ruins suggest that the homestead was one of some wealth and importance, although further investigation will be required to verify the site's age and character.

This information was provided by Ms. Paul. Information regarding the homesite, and about Warren's history in general, can be found on the town's history website: www.warrencthistory.org.



Warren Commemorates Earth Day 2010



The town of Warren will be joining other communities across the United States and around the globe in celebrating Earth Day 2010. Earth Day was first observed forty years ago as a way to promote appreciation and protection of our planet's natural environment. At that time - in the spring of 1970 - government representatives and concerned

citizens organized a series of "environmental teach-ins" to raise awareness of urgent environmental issues plaguing the country: rivers that caught fire, cities obscured by clouds of smog. The official proclamation of an annual Earth Day and the formation of the US Environmental Protection Agency were among the results of this public campaign. Earth Day is now a global phenomenon promoted by the United Nations and by governments and non-governmental organizations worldwide.

Here in Warren, Earth Day will be marked by a Town Clean-Up Day and a Swap Meet. Both are sponsored by the town's Department of Parks and Recreation, and will be held on Saturday, April 24th, with a clean-

up day rain date of Sunday, April 25th. The Town Clean-Up will be similar to that held in recent years: trash bags will be distributed, and areas for clean-up will be assigned (or can be chosen by the cleaner). Make sure to wear gloves, and sturdy clothes and shoes that can get dirty! The Swap Meet will be held at the Town Hall. Participants will be able to sign up for a table and can display any items that she/he would like to give away or swap with another participant. This is an ideal opportunity to recycle items that are in good condition – too good to throw out – and which might be of use to someone else.

Further details will be posted on the Warren town website: <http://warrenct.org/Departments/ParksRecreation/tabid/233/Default.aspx>.

WLT Facilitates Conservation Restriction on North Shore Road

As one of its last orders of business for 2009, the Land Trust was pleased to assist in placing a conservation restriction on a 5-acre parcel of land on North Shore Road. The land, owned by Mr. David Robinson, has views of Lake Waramaug. It is adjacent to another parcel which Mr. Robinson placed under conservation easement with the Land Trust's help in 2007. We at the Land Trust are appreciative of Mr. Robinson's efforts, which help retain the natural beauty of Warren's lakeside.

Meeting Charles Finney

During a recent weekend in Warren, when Winter was still fighting with Spring, I was outdoors enjoying the natural beauty of our town and happened across a solitary set of cross-country ski tracks leading into the woods. I followed the fresh trail for nearly a mile, which led me to a stout fieldstone obelisk atop a ridge. A plaque in a face of the obelisk announced that this was the birthplace of Rev. Charles G. Finney. When I returned home, I was curious to learn more about our Warren native, and through the wonders of the internet and Wikipedia, I did.

Charles Grandison Finney was born in Warren, Connecticut, on August 29, 1792. He was a descendant of the New England Puritans and the youngest of fifteen children. At the age of two, Finney moved with his family to Henderson, New York, but reportedly returned to Warren for a number of years as an adult. During his relatively long life of 82 years, Finney married three times – his first in 1824. Finney

had six children with his first wife, Lydia Root Andrews, who passed in 1847. He then married Elizabeth Ford Atkinson in 1848, who passed in 1863, and later remarried in 1865 to Rebecca Allen Rayl. Finney had limited access to education, and never attended formal college; yet he became a teacher, a lawyer, a minister and indeed one of the most influential leaders of his time. In 1808, Finney started teaching high school and became proficient in several languages and other college studies. In 1818 he commenced the study of law in Adams, New York, and was admitted to the bar in 1820. On October 21, 1821, however, Finney experienced a dramatic spiritual conversion and was baptized into the Holy Spirit. He gave up his law practice to study for the ministry, and was ordained as an evangelist by the Oneida Presbytery in July, 1824. In 1832, Finney moved to New York City where he founded and pastored the Broadway Tabernacle - now known as Broadway United Church of Christ. Finney moved to Ohio in

1835 and became a professor, and later president of Oberlin College from 1851 to 1866.

Through his unique theology and controversial style, including having women pray in public meetings of mixed gender, Finney became widely recognized as an important figure of the "Second Great Awakening," i.e., the period of great religious revival of the early nineteenth century, and has been called "The Father of Modern Revivalism." In addition to being a popular Christian evangelist, Finney was also involved with the abolitionist movement and frequently denounced slavery from the pulpit. Under his tenure as president, Oberlin College led an early movement to end slavery and was among the first American colleges to co-educate blacks and women with white men. While Rev. Charles Finney has been known by many titles, in Warren, Connecticut, he is simply known as one of our own.



Warren Land Trust Fetes its Supporters

On September 12th 2009, a rainy and cold Saturday afternoon, some 30 guests attended the 4th annual Land Trust Donor Appreciation Party, graciously hosted by Tom and Ellen Paul at their Melius Road home. This event is held to honor contributing members of the Land Trust: land donors, easement contributors, and top financial donors. The party is hosted each year by a member of the Land Trust board.

This year's party was, as always, both social and informative. As Tom Paul pointed out in his welcome, "the purpose of these events is to ensure that we maintain a continuous dialog with those in the community who have donated land or easements and contribute to ensure that the Land Trust is able to complete its mission." In 2009, Mr. Paul remarked, the Land Trust was fortunate to acquire a critical lot on Melius Road overlooking the entire town hub. He was also able to report on several other ongoing projects.

The Land Trust is grateful for its members' generosity. The results of that generosity can be difficult to measure, but they certainly include our quality of life and the satisfaction we receive from knowing that our community is taking its future into its own hands, in part by supporting the Land Trust and its mission to preserve the rural character of Warren.

Warren Fall Festival Draws Attention to Land Trust Mission

Among the attractions at the annual Warren Fall Festival, held this past year on October 10th and 11th, was the Warren Land Trust booth. On their way to view entries in the Lego® contest or cheer on participants in the tractor pull, many festival attendees stopped by the booth to learn more about the Land Trust and its work. The booth was staffed over the course of the festival by board members, who were available to answer questions, hand out informational material, and visit with neighbors and friends.

The booth's sturdy engineering and construction at the hands of board member Jack Baker withstood a windy day that threatened to upend vendor tables at the festival. The structure also housed a number of bird and bathhouses that were for sale (also built by Mr. Baker) and found many takers, as did the Land Trust t-shirts and baseball hats on offer. All in all, the Land Trust was happy to report a high level of interest from among festival-goers and impressive proceeds from sale items.

WLT Photo Contest

Shutterbugs take note: the Warren Land Trust is sponsoring a photo contest! We are looking for photo-graphs taken in Warren that reflect the mission of the Land Trust by depicting our town's natural beauty and/or its rural, agricultural heritage.



The winning photo and two runners-up will be featured in the Fall 2010 issue of the Warren Land Trust Newsletter; all submissions will be posted on our website www.warrenlandtrust.org. The contest winner will also receive a gift certificate from the newly re-opened Warren General Store! The photographs will be judged by Kathy Root, photography consultant and owner of the KMR Arts Gallery in Washington Depot.

Photos may be sent as an attachment to Land Trust board member Rebecca Neary at rbneary@me.com, or they may be mailed to the Warren Land Trust, c/o Neary, 15 Melius Road, Warren CT 06754. All submissions must be received by July 15, 2010. Mailed photos may not be returned. We are looking forward to seeing Warren through your eyes!

Land Trust Elects New Officers



At the November 21st monthly meeting, the Board of Directors of the Warren Land Trust elected its new officers for the

coming year. Prior to the election, Tom Paul, outgoing President was honored for his spirited and dedicated leadership for the past four years. Under Tom's direction, the Trust has acquired significant donations of land and easements and has played an important role in conservation and retention of the rural character of Warren. Happily, Tom will continue to serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

Ted Morse was elected the new President. Ted and his wife Nancy recently moved to Warren. Ted has a long career in education. He

is the former Headmaster of the Antilles School in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands and was the former secondary school Chief Reader of the Advanced Placement Exam in American History. Nancy's mother has been a long time resident of Warren. Ann Martindale was re-elected Vice President. Ann is a partner at the law firm of Moots Pelligrini, P.C. where she practices in the areas of real estate, corporate and business law, environmental law, land use, and zoning law. She is chairman of the Warren Zoning Board of Appeals and serves on the Board of Directors for the Lake Waramaug Task Force and the Pratt Nature Center, New Milford. Ann recently served as chair of the committee that prepared the 2010 Plan of Conservation and Development for Warren. She is married to Stephen D. Jacobs.

Barbara Page was re-elected Treasurer. Barbara has had a home in Warren for ten years, has skillfully

managed donations, investments and tax issues for the past two years. She has been active in many conservation groups in the area and spends her time raising her children and serving as a part-time consultant.

Carolyn Brau was re-elected as Secretary of the Trust. She has ably kept the records, reports, agendas and minutes for both the Land Trust and the Lake Waramaug Task Force. Carolyn and husband Henry care for the land by gardening organically using their compost and by using geothermal energy to heat and cool their house.

The officers are extremely grateful for the inspiration, hard work and unselfish dedication and suggestions of Tim Angevine, Jack Baker, Rebecca Connor, Bill DeSeta, May Brawley Hill, Dan Hulseberg, Dorothy Maier, Rebecca Neary, Tom Paul, Tom Sarsfield, and David Scofield who each make major contributions to the Land Trust.

WLT's Annual Meeting Held In November 2009

The Land Trust held its annual meeting on November 21st, 2009. In attendance was a majority of the Board of Directors and approximately 8 members attending as visitors. As usual, the meeting began with a review of the Mission Statement. Board President Tom Paul commented that there had been no change to the mission statement and asked if anyone wished to comment on it. Those in attendance agreed there was no need for any modification at this time.

Secondly, the slate of Directors up for re-election for a three year term were put into nomination. The directors were: Thomas Paul, Ann Martindale, Jack Baker, Tim Angevine, and Rebecca Neary. Ted Morse also nominated Dan Hulseberg as a new Director. Dan has been a resident of Warren for

5 years and has a history of land conservation. All nominations were accepted and approved.

Next was the election of officers. Tom Paul indicated that after serving for 4 years, he felt someone else should take a turn at leadership of the Trust. Ted Morse indicated a desire and interest and was put into nomination for President. Ann Martindale, was again nominated for Vice-President and Carolyn Brau as Secretary. All nominations were voted on and approved with no objections.

At this point, Mr. Paul gave those in attendance a recap of the Land Trust's activities for 2009. Highlights of those activities included fund raising, which netted donations of approximately \$13,000. This sum is in line with

previous years' donation levels and is especially gratifying in light of the recession. In addition, Mr. Paul described recent land conservation activity undertaken by the Land Trust. These included the 21-acre parcel on Melius Road adjacent to the Douglas Preserve, which we were able to purchase through the generosity of anonymous donors. Also of note was a conservation easement accepted on a 5-acre parcel on North Shore Road (see article on page 1).

Annual meetings are typically held in November. All Land Trust members are invited to attend. To become a member of the Warren Land Trust, visit our website www.warrenlandtrust.org and click on the Membership link. Membership fees are as low as \$20.

We've Updated our Website!

If you haven't had a chance to check out the Warren Land Trust's website lately, have a look at www.warrenlandtrust.org. The website is a great way to better understand what we do and how we can help the members of our community. Included on the site is a list and map of properties that we are helping to preserve, as well as parcels in Warren whose conservation is stewarded by other, like-minded organizations. You can get answers to the most frequently asked questions about how to donate land, how to obtain a conservation easement, and what the benefits of land donation and easement are. Our membership and donation form is accessible on the site, as is an order form for Warren Land Trust hats and t-shirts, and our ever-popular birdhouses. Links to other organizations with a major interest in land conservation and preservation are provided. Finally, the website is a great place to see photos of our town's natural beauty, agricultural heritage, and wildlife in all seasons of the year.

Warren Land Trust Board

President
Ted Morse

Vice-President
Ann Martindale

Treasurer
Barbara Page

Secretary
Carolyn Brau

Directors
Timothy Angevine
Jack Baker
Rebecca Connor
William De Seta
May Brawley Hill
Dan Hulseberg
Dorothy S. Maier
Rebecca Neary
Thomas A. Paul
Tom Sarsfield
David C. Scofield

HONORARY BOARD MEMBER
JACK TRAVERS

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.

THE WARREN LAND TRUST

140 Town Hill Road
Warren, CT 06754

Email: tedhistory@yahoo.com



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We're on the web: www.warrenlandtrust.org

THE WARREN CONSERVATOR

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The WLT currently holds over 542 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 the bottom of 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 and address and choose the type of membership you would like:

____ Family Membership \$20	____ Land Protector \$100
____ Land Caretaker \$300	____ Land Conservator \$500
____ Land Steward \$1,000	____ Land Grantor \$2,500

Please make checks payable to: The Warren Land Trust, Inc.
MAIL THIS FORM AND CHECK TO:
The Warren Land Trust, Inc. 140 Town Hill Road, Warren, CT 06754

