

# The Warren Conservator

Spring 2016



## Warren Land Trust Board

### *President*

Rebecca Neary

### *Vice-President*

Tim Angevine

### *Treasurer*

Barbara Page

### *Secretary*

Nancy Adams Morse

### *Directors*

Jack Baker

Jamie Browne

Laura Moore Brown

Elizabeth Chandler

Timothy Clew

Ashley Dietrich

Bill Mansfield

Ted Morse

Dave Schneiderbeck

Waltraud Tammen

### *EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBER*

Craig Nelson

## 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

Dear WLT Friends and Supporters,

As I write, it is 75 degrees outside and feels more like mid-June than early March. But technically it is still winter...and late November, when we held our annual meeting, wasn't that long ago. As always, at that event we summarized 2015's accomplishments and activities, and went over our goals and plans for the year to come. For those of you who were unable to attend, here's a brief resumé of what transpired.

It was a busy year for the Land Acquisition and Stewardship Committee. We were fortunate to obtain both the Strong Preserve on Above All Road, and the Bates easement on Tanner Hill Road. We continued to fulfill stewardship responsibilities on our existing properties with the help of a consultant. Goals for 2016 include effecting a leadership transition, as Jack Baker is stepping down after many years as chair. We will continue to carefully inspect our properties, determining which are best managed by a consultant, and which could be undertaken easily by volunteers or board members.

In the financial realm, our Treasurer, Barbara Page, was pleased to report a successful annual fundraising appeal. In addition, we participated for the first time in the CT Community Foundation's online "Give Local" campaign, which also proved productive. We had two unusual expenditures this year – the Strong Preserve purchase and our contribution to the purchase of the East Kent Hamlet Preserve. Thanks to our supporters' ongoing generosity and to continuous careful management, our finances remain in robust condition. In order to maintain this state of affairs, the Finance Committee will work with land stewardship and development representatives to establish a fundraising plan in alignment with our budget. Also a priority is a review of our investment policies.

You may have noticed enhanced outreach last year in the form of e-mail blasts and a more frequently updated website. In 2016, we will overhaul the website more thoroughly, making it more interactive. We have also set up a Facebook page – we hope you'll "like" us! Last June's CT Trail Days hike was our best-attended yet; see this newsletter for information about the 2016 event. We are adding a September Heritage Hike, carried out in conjunction with the Warren Historical Society, to our events calendar – see details on our website.

Finally, in the aftermath of accreditation (and with an eye to its renewal), we continue to pay close attention to governance, as well as to the nominating process. We are working with a consultant to make our recordkeeping more streamlined yet thorough. We are also thrilled to have three new board members – see page 2 to better acquaint yourself with them.

If you have questions about our past activities and/or future plans, please don't hesitate to contact us at [info@warrenlandtrust.org](mailto:info@warrenlandtrust.org).



All the best,

*Rebecca*

## Enhanced Tax Incentive for Conservation Easement Donations Is Made Permanent

Conservation-minded landowners will be happy to hear that the enhanced tax incentive for conservation easement donations has been made permanent. In strong bipartisan action, the House voted 318-109 and the Senate voted 65-33 to pass the bills that included the incentive, and the president signed it into law on December 18, 2015. All members of our local congressional delegation voted in favor of the legislation. The law applies retroactively to January 1, 2015. An earlier version of the incentive expired on December 31, 2014. The incentive, considered by many to be the most important conservation legislation in twenty years, encourages landowners to place conservation easements on their land to protect important natural, scenic, and historic resources. First enacted in 2006, the incentive is directly responsible for conserving over two million acres of America's natural outdoor heritage. Land placed into conservation easements may continue to be farmed, grazed, hunted, or used for outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation, and these lands remain on local tax rolls, strengthening the local economy. Please contact us with any question about conservation easements: [info@warrenlandtrust.org](mailto:info@warrenlandtrust.org).

## New Board Members



### Elizabeth Chandler:

New board member Elizabeth Chandler's first home in Litchfield County came with an existing conservation easement so she was immediately introduced to the important work of the local land trusts in preserving the natural and rural character of the area. Since then, she and her husband Jay and two daughters, Isabelle and Grace, moved to Warren and have become deeply grateful for the work being done by the Warren Land Trust for the benefit of the community now, and for many generations to come. She brings to the WLT an extensive background in finance and non-profit board service as well as a love for the outdoors. An avid runner, triathlete, hiker and winter sports enthusiast, Elizabeth says it would be difficult to find a better place to enjoy these endeavors than beautiful Lake Waramaug and the roads, trails and hills of Warren, CT.



### Ashley Dietrich:

Ashley is a graduate of Green Mountain College, where she studied environmental education. After college she spent a year in the Italian Alps making wine and cooking local Austrian cuisine. Warren became her home three years ago, when she and her husband John started Sugar Water Farm, growing hydroponic lettuce year round. Their goal is to return current fallow farmland to productive use. Ashley is a member of our Outreach & Development committee, currently helping with a much-needed update of our website.



### Waltraud Tammen:

Waltraud Tammen moved to Warren 8 years ago with her husband Hermann, after living in New York City and coming to the area on weekends for over 20 years. A former banker and director of an educational non-profit organization, she still works part-time in the city as a school librarian. Waltraud enjoys the beautiful surroundings of the Litchfield Hills, takes advantage of social and cultural happenings and is actively involved in the community, organizing classical music concerts as a Board Member of Washington Friends of Music. She looks forward to contributing her experience in networking, communication and fundraising on the committees for Outreach & Development and Governance & Nominating of the Board of the Warren Land Trust.

## Join Us for CT Trails Day Hike 2016

The Connecticut Forest and Parks Association will be celebrating Trails Days with hikes throughout the state during the first weekend in June. Join us in this early-summer celebration of the great outdoors!

**What:** WLT CT Trails Day Hike 2016

**When:** Saturday, June 4, 10am (rain date Sunday, June 5th, 10am)

**Where:** Fiddlers Pond Loop, Warren Woods (parking available)

**Who:** Led by board member and Outdoor Wilderness School instructor Dave Schneiderbeck

- Details:**
- 3-mile loop over moderate terrain with some elevation and stream crossings
  - dress for the weather, with appropriate footwear
  - bring the kids (recommended for ages 5 and up)
  - dogs permitted on leash
  - you supply the water bottle, we'll supply the trail mix cookies
  - bring a blanket and lunch, and enjoy a post-hike picnic at Warren Woods!

## In Memoriam: Dorothy Maier

As many of our supporters and friends may be aware, one of the Warren Land Trust's founding members and its first president, Dorothy Maier, passed away this past November. Dorothy was in many ways a private person, and not one to seek acclaim, but we cannot let her passing go unobserved.

Dorothy and her husband Sandy moved to Warren in 1978, and quickly became involved in their new community. Both participated in the Prime Timers and served as EMTs for the volunteer fire department. Sandy was for many years the town Treasurer. In the late '80's, Dorothy and a number of others organized a group to oppose a natural gas pipeline proposed to run through Warren and other Litchfield County towns. When the pipeline plan was abandoned, Dorothy and other "Fight the Pipe" leaders perceived a need to form a more permanent group advocating for Warren's rural character. That group, formed in 1989, became the Warren Land Trust.

According to WLT lore, Dorothy was elected president in absentia: she was called away on EMT duty in the middle of an organizational meeting, and returned to find herself elected! She led the land trust until 2004, when one of her efforts to hand over the reins was at last accepted. Dorothy remained a key member of the land trust board until the very last months of her life. She was a regular attendee at board meetings; her institutional knowledge and nuanced grasp of Warren's history, properties, and community were invaluable. Dorothy kept her fellow board members on our toes, and kept our organization grounded and true to its original mission.

Dorothy Maier cared deeply for Warren – its landscapes and its townspeople – and for the land conservation organization she helped create. We on the board of the land trust were fortunate to benefit from her acuity, her wit, and her passionate advocacy in preserving our town's forests, fields, and rural character. We will miss her dearly.

For more information about Dorothy and the early days of the Warren Land Trust, see the article on our website: [www.warrenlandtrust.org](http://www.warrenlandtrust.org).



Dorothy during the WLT's early years

## Warren Celebrates Earth Day! Town Clean-up: April 23rd

Warren Parks & Recreation is once again holding the annual Town Clean-Up, and we are urging all of our friends and supporters to pitch in! Whether you have a little time or a lot, what better way to commemorate Earth Day than by keeping our corner of the earth litter-free? The clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd, with a rain date of Sunday, April 24th. Come to the Community Center starting at 10am, pick up garbage bags and rubber gloves, and choose your route from the town map. Wear something comfortable, that can stand to get dirty! Refreshments will be available, so you can fuel up before heading out. Bring the (older) kids – the clean-up is a great way to get them involved in hands-on community service. Questions? Email us at [info@warrenlandtrust.org](mailto:info@warrenlandtrust.org).



# The WLT currently holds over 718 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 Caretaker \$300

\_\_\_\_ Land Steward \$1,000

\_\_\_\_ Land Protector \$100

\_\_\_\_ Land Conservator \$500

\_\_\_\_ 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](http://www.warrenlandtrust.org)

Please make any necessary corrections to your name and address  
on the mailing panel and submit to the WLT.

## 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.

If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact Rebecca Neary at [info@warrenlandtrust.org](mailto:info@warrenlandtrust.org) or call 860-868-7939 and indicate how you would like to help. Please include 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.



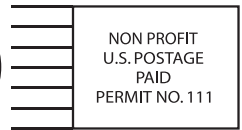
## Thank You to Susan Bates

The Warren Land Trust would like to thank Susan Bates for granting us a 9-acre conservation easement along Tanner Hill Road, an area that is an important part of the Lake Waramaug view shed.

For up to date information please visit  
[www.warrenlandtrust.org](http://www.warrenlandtrust.org)

## 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](http://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](mailto:timothyangevine@hotmail.com)



## Mark Your Calendar!

- **April 23 - Town Clean-Up**  
(See page 2)
- **June 4 - CT Trails Day Hike**  
(See page 2)
- **Sept. 24 - Heritage Walk  
in the Coords Preserve  
with Warren Historical Society**  
(details forthcoming on our website)

Would you like to receive occasional news and updates from the Warren Land Trust? Just send your name and email address to us at [info@warrenlandtrust.org](mailto:info@warrenlandtrust.org).

## SPOTLIGHT ON LAND TRUST HOLDINGS

### The Strong Preserve

We are very excited to announce our newest acquisition: The Strong Preserve! This 53-acre parcel off of Above All Road was purchased in the fall by the WLT with the generous assistance of a consortium of conservation-minded neighbors. Just a half-mile from the center of town, the wooded preserve features streams that discharge into Lake Waramaug, as well as a knoll that is one of the highest elevations in Warren. The property contains second growth forest, numerous stone walls, and an impressive stand of mature oak trees. It provides habitat for black bear and bobcat, as well as sensitive forest-interior birds such as wood thrush, scarlet tanager, and ovenbird. We are working to establish a hiking trail on the Strong Preserve with the pro bono assistance of Bill Pollack of Arbor Services of Connecticut, along with a small parking area. We will keep you updated on progress, and hope to see you out on the trail sometime this summer!



Strong Preserve stream course



Strong Preserve chimney ruin

## WLT Participates in Local Conservation Celebration

On February 13, the Warren Land Trust joined the Weantinog Heritage Land Trust, along with numerous other local land trusts and regional and statewide conservation organizations, in a "conservation celebration" in Kent. There was much to celebrate! Above all, we commemorated the recently enacted permanent conservation easement tax incentive – but also applauded increased funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Highlands Conservation Act. Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, and Representative Elizabeth Esty, were in attendance. They participated in a panel with representatives from the CT Land Conservation Council and others, discussing their support for these land conservation programs, as well as topics ranging from pollinators to turf fields.



Rebecca Neary and  
Waltraud Tammen at  
Conservation Celebration

## Thank you, Dan Hulseberg!

The WLT would like to extend its gratitude to Dan Hulseberg, who recently left our board, as he has moved to the CT coast. A thoughtful and attentive presence on the board of directors, Dan also served as chair of the Accreditation Committee. Without his guidance and assistance, gentle cajoling, and last-minute email reminders, we could not have achieved that milestone. Best wishes, Dan!