



Fall 2013

Annual Meeting of the Warren Land Trust

Saturday, November 16, at 9am, 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 will be proposed and elected. The Annual Meeting is an important opportunity for the Land Trust board to enlist your support for our projects and to 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 Graham Brush Preserve

This relatively remote 40-acre parcel is located off of Wintergreen Lane, on land previously owned by former land trust board member Jed Strukus. The Warren Land Trust purchased the property from Mr. Strukus in 2002 with partial funding from the State of Connecticut's Open Space & Watershed Acquisition Grant Program, and then provided a conservation easement on the parcel to the State of Connecticut as part of the grant requirements. This acquisition marked the first time that the land trust had availed itself of a state grant to obtain a parcel of land, and successful navigation of the complicated grant process demonstrated our organization's growing sophistication and capacity.



The land is at one of the highest points in the state and is mostly heavy hardwood forest intercut with white pine. The Graham Brush Preserve is not to be confused with the Graham Brush Parcels – four smaller conservation easements located near Lake Waramaug donated by Mr. Brush. The Graham Brush Preserve was named after this key land trust supporter, who was among the organization's original directors. Shortly after purchase of the land, land trust founder Dorothy Maier contacted Kay Brush, Mr. Brush's widow, and suggested that the Warren Land Trust name the parcel after him, to honor his contributions "of time, ideas, money and easements."

Warren Land Trust at the Fall Festival

The weather was perfect for the Warren Fall Festival this year, and the Land Trust had a booth in our usual location. The booth was graced with maps, photos and descriptions of Land Trust fee properties and easements; FAQ sheets; a brochure describing our properties; and laminated maps showing those properties in the context of Warren and surrounding towns. We sold Land Trust hats and t-shirts which feature a map of our properties on the back. A new event this year was a free drawing for three great prizes donated by local merchants: a Christmas Tree from Angevine Farm, won by Robert Peck of Warren; a gift certificate to the Rooster Tail Inn, won by Mary Milman of Norwalk; and a gift certificate to The Smithy, won by Cindy Shook of Warren. Thank you to Pastor Don of the Warren Congregational Church for doing the drawing!



Pastor Don pulling the winning names, with Jack Baker and Craig Nelson



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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 Board of the Warren Land Trust salutes the many people who have supported our work during the past year.

Certainly, I must begin by acknowledging my fellow board members. We are thrilled to have successfully registered in the 2014 first application round for accreditation by the national Land Trust Alliance. At the same time, we are occasionally daunted by the amount of work required, and the time constraints involved in first-round application. The capacity of our all-volunteer board has been truly stretched as we seek to provide records, research on easements, and documentation of our history, financial records, personal biographies and future prospects. Our preliminary work must be submitted by January 2014, and our final application must be presented in April. Therefore, in addition to regularly scheduled meetings and our usual activities, we have used recent months for small committee meetings to facilitate the writing and record keeping needed for this winter.

We are equally appreciative of you – our membership – and the "moral support" and financial assistance you provide to the Warren Land Trust. We enjoyed seeing many of you at several events during the Fall. First, we hope you joined us at the mid-September community picnic we held at the Angevine Tree Farm. It was an outdoor event with buffet supper, live music, and a festive opportunity to (re)introduce members of the board and supporters.

We also hope you stopped by our booth at the Warren Fall Festival in October, which included a drawing for an Angevine Christmas tree and provided opportunity for questions or comments about land preservation.

Upcoming is our annual meeting, which will be held on Saturday, November 16 at the Academy in Warren, at 9:00am. Come by for a cup of coffee and to hear what we've been up to!

Finally, we are well aware that clear and regular communication with the Town of Warren and its citizens is critical. We hope to engage your active participation and address any questions you may have about the Land Trust in a timely and transparent fashion. You are important stakeholders in our work and whenever possible, we will find ways to keep you informed and in the loop, creating a bond that will continue to thrive. On behalf of my colleagues, thank you for your support.

Ted Morse
Ted Morse, President

Town Clean-Up and Trails Day

On April 20th the people of Warren again came together to clean up the roadsides around town. The Cleanup was organized by Warren Parks and Recreation. WLT supported and participated in the event, along with the Warren Volunteer Fire Company, and other townspeople. There was almost a festive atmosphere as volunteers young and old met at the Fire House, chose an area of town to cover, picked up a trash bag, and spread out around town. By the end of four hours, Warren's roads were noticeably cleaner! Refreshments were provided by Land Trust board member Jack Baker and his wife Pam, and fresh baked goods and coffee were donated by the Rooster Tail Inn. Thanks to all who participated – look for the Town Cleanup announcement next spring!



Ted Morse & Bob Chernak on Town Hill Road



The Brown Family helping out

Picnic

The Warren Land Trust celebrated years of success by holding a picnic on the Angevine Farm's magnificent tree fields on a splendid Sunday afternoon. Over 125 townspeople and members of the Trust were treated to magnificent views, warm early fall weather, and a wonderful buffet prepared by the staff of the Rooster Tail Inn. Many thanks to Tim and Carla Angevine, and the entire Angevine family, for sharing their beautiful farm with us. We were also gratified that Representative Elizabeth Esty was present and spoke about the importance of preservation of this landscape and the future of conservation in western Connecticut. Land Trust officers brought the audience up to date with information about our activities and invited them to attend the November 16th annual meeting. We warmly thanked our sponsors, including the Connecticut Community Foundation for a generous grant, the Arethusa Farm for donations of artisanal cheese and ice cream, the Cambridge House Brewery for three varieties of refreshing beer, and Masterbrands Wine for a sampling of fine wines. Crystal Rock LLC, supplied bottled water, and the Tanner Farm donated delicious corn, which board members' children had eagerly husked that morning! Live music was provided by a local group, Switch Factory. With lovely lighting inside the large tent, many conversations continued on into the evening, while children played in the field and enjoyed a small campfire. It was a special moment for the WLT, and we were delighted to be able to share it with our supporters.



President Ted Morse and Representative Elizabeth Esty

Warren Land Trust Board Profile — Tim Angevine- A Man for All Seasons

In Tim Angevine, the Warren Land Trust is fortunate to have a board member with all the credentials to be a vital force in perpetuating our land conservation mission. A graduate of the University of Maine with a double major in Geology and Geography, Tim has become an integral contributor to our stewardship committee dealing with the wise management of fee properties and easements. With his background in surveying, managing his family's large farm, and overseeing an extensive pumpkin crop and thousands of Christmas trees, Tim brings a wealth of experience in wise use of the land to our Board.

In an interview, Tim offered many salient points about the Land Trust's mission. He pointed out that we can be an important voice in terms of Warren's development, and can help enable the town to make informed land use decisions. Tim remarked that "we have had the opportunity in Warren to grow responsibly while learning from surrounding towns' experiences." He also noted that the northwest corner of Connecticut has had the benefit of modest growth during the past thirty years, a pace that has allowed for balanced development.

Together with his wife Carla, Tim helps support a family farm that stresses planning and land conservation. He observed, "With the threat of family farms phasing out, we need to offer farmers an alternative to simply selling their land." Tim has been instrumental in helping the Land Trust remain mindful of such big-picture land-use issues. To this end, Tim has been a supporter of the Connecticut Farmland Trust. He also serves as the Warren Land Trust's liaison with the Lake Waramaug Task Force, with whom we share mutual interests. In short, Tim Angevine is an ideal advocate for the preservation of the environment and open spaces—a man for all seasons!



Tim & Carla Angevine

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

Friends of the WLT Raise a Glass (or Two) at Wine-Tasting Fundraiser

Late last April, wine-loving Land Trust supporters gathered at the home of WLT board member Barbara Page and her husband John Liu for a wine-tasting fundraiser. Fellow board member Tim Clew led the tasting with assistance from his wife, Jaime Bachrach Clew. Tim poured a series of rare wines from the world's most esteemed producers, beloved wine regions, and greatest vintages. The wines selected were all in their peak drinking window, after years of maturation in climate-controlled storage. As a managing partner in The Wine Trust-TWT Investment Partners, a fund that trades in investment-grade wines, Tim was well qualified to discuss in detail the bottles at hand. The evening's program was enjoyable, educational, and delicious, with a variety of foods chosen to complement the wine. In addition to the tasting, the 30-some attendees had an opportunity to purchase many of these hard-to-find wines. Response to the wine-tasting was such that we hope to hold another fundraiser of this type in the future. If you would be interested in attending, please contact us at info@warrenlandtrust.org.



John & Barbara, hosts of the Wine Tasting



Tim Clew introducing a wine

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, and those are increasing as we pursue accreditation by the national Land Trust Alliance. 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; Cider Run
- 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.