



The Warren Conservator

Spring 2014

Important Dates:

- **April 26 - 11:00 - 2:00**
Town Clean-up
(Rain date Sunday, April 27)
- **June 1 - comments due for Accreditation**
- **June 7 - 10:00 a.m**
Hike to the Pinnacle

SPOTLIGHT ON LAND TRUST HOLDINGS

The Podlaseck-Bryant Preserve

The Podlaseck-Bryant Preserve is a scenic 58.2-acre parcel that has been under the purview of the Warren Land Trust since 2007. This conservation easement on Brick School Road received from Mark Podlaseck and Stephen Bryant complements natural resources important to our town. The Preserve abuts some 1100 acres of previously protected land, including Wyantenock State Forest, Kent Falls State Park and Weantinoge Heritage holdings. Together, these lands comprise an area of "Scenic Vistas and Land of Potential Conservation Interest" singled out in town and state plans dating back to 1989.

The Preserve is comprised of two habitat groupings: stream and riparian (streamside) forest, and upland hardwood forest. The riparian area is of particular significance as part of the Kent Falls Brook watershed; its 2800 linear feet of brooks contain side channels, pools and chutes that harbor wild brook trout. Turtles and mink are among the fauna inhabiting this area and at least one Cooper's hawk, a State Threatened Species, has been spotted there. The upland hardwood forest is characterized by oak, maple, ash, hickory and tulip poplar, and provides a protected habitat for such woodland animals as deer, squirrels, coyote and cottontail rabbits. This forest also features one of the more scenic parts of the Preserve: a glade containing an exceptional old stand of paper birch and groundstory of lowbush blueberry. Game trails, old wood roads and crumbling stone walls wind through the forest. The Warren Land Trust is pleased to have the opportunity to protect this diverse, attractive and ecologically significant parcel.



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



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EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBER
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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

As was undoubtedly the case for many of you, it has been a long and cold winter, but a busy one, for us at the Warren Land Trust.

Since our last communication in the Fall, we were delighted with the attendance and interest at our annual meeting in November. It was gratifying to have an opportunity to tell our supporters what we've been up to and relate our plans for the coming months.

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, the Board has spent many hours in small group meetings to prepare a voluminous report in connection with our application for accreditation by the national Land Trust Alliance. It is satisfying to see this three and one half year project heading toward fruition.

We are grateful to Bill Arnold and Connie Manes of the Kent Land Trust for offering support and encouragement through this process. In a separate project, we also collaborated with the Kent Land Trust in their successful endeavor to purchase the former Girl Scout camp property, Camp Francis, which borders Kent and Warren.

The Board looks forward to the Town Cleanup on April 26, 11:00 to 2:00 at the Community Center, rain date the 27th. We hope you will join us for a feel-good investment of time and energy, as we work together to keep Warren naturally beautiful.

Sincerely,

Ted Morse

President, Warren Land Trust

Teamwork Underscores Our Submission of Accreditation

Three and one half years ago, the Warren Land Trust embarked on the very ambitious challenge of seeking accreditation by the National Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Typically, a task of this magnitude requires a multi-faceted Board of Directors, deep financial reserves, and the extensive support of contractors, consultants and volunteers.

The Warren Land Trust is blessed to have an active Board of fourteen volunteer members with diverse talents of legal expertise, clear understanding of the town's natural surroundings, fund-raising acumen, and conservative financial management.

Under board member Dan Hulseberg's organization and coordination, the Board as a whole has contributed generously toward accomplishing our goal. We successfully completed all Pre-Application requirements in January 2014, and are now quickly approaching the April deadline for submission of our formal application -- which includes a massive binder full of documentation, as well as supplemental attachments and appendices responding to questions on all aspects of our standards, practices and procedures. This binder, once completed, will be replete with governance policies, financial records, documentation of all properties under the aegis of the Warren Land Trust. The Board will then be interviewed by the Commission, with a range of questions about our past history, our management of fee properties and easements, our relationship with the town, and our projections for the next few years.

Without question, this exercise has been challenging, at times tedious, but unequivocally worthwhile. It has been a wonderful opportunity to memorialize our accomplishments and contributions to the community, as well as to clarify our vision and mission. We recognize that we have been entrusted with a tremendous responsibility, and we are honored to be able to render a gift to be enjoyed by future generations of Warren residents and visitors alike.

Join Hike to the Pinnacle for CT Trails Day!

The Land Trust will be collaborating with Parks & Recreation for a hike up to the Pinnacle to celebrate CT Trails Day in June. Dave Schneiderbeck of the WLT Board will lead the hike, which will take about 90 minutes total. The difficulty of the hike is appropriate for elementary age children through adult. The event will take place on Saturday, June 7, 10:00 a.m. Meet at the parking area on Shore Road, which is off of East Shore Drive along Lake Waramaug. For more information, e-mail Dave at schneiderbeck@sbcglobal.net.



Profile on Nancy Adams Morse



Every board of directors requires a person of uncommon attention to detail, organization, record-keeping and prescient reminders to colleagues to put their work in order and to address issues that might otherwise fall through the cracks. In the past three years Nancy Adams Morse has served as a major coordinator of our records. She has done a splendid job, as the demanding documentation requirements of the accreditation application process have made abundantly clear.

Nancy comes by her administrative expertise as a former programmer for IBM, computer consultant in the Virgin Islands, and computing teacher in Ridgefield, Connecticut. In addition, her passion for music has led her into many choral societies, most recently as a major contributor to the Kent Singers.

Nancy is married to Ted Morse, Board President, and together they have four children, Tim, Alex, Sarah and Su. They are the proud grandparents of Hunter Williamson, Grady Morse, and Nathan McGlone. In her spare time Nancy is an avid mistress of her garden in Warren, golfer, skier, mountain climber and yogi. We are blessed to have Nancy as Board Secretary!

Join the Annual Town Clean-Up!



As we did last year, the Warren Land Trust will work with Parks & Recreation and the Volunteer Fire Department this spring to sponsor a Town Clean-up and Swap Meet in commemoration of Earth Day. The event will take place on Saturday, April 26, 11:00-2:00, starting in the Community Center parking lot (next to the Fire Station). Rain date Sunday, April 27.

Warren Land Trust Applies For National Land Trust Accreditation

As you have read in this and previous newsletters, the Warren Land Trust is pleased to announce that it is in the process of seeking Accreditation from the National Land Trust. The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations 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's Application for Accreditation will be filed on April 23, 2014.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. A public comment period is now open. Comments must relate to how Warren Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices. To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on the Warren Land Trust's application will be most useful by June 1.

The accreditation process is a rigorous independent analysis of the 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.

(Con't. on page 3)

WLT Receives Grant

The WLT recently received a \$2,000 grant from the CT Land Conservation Council. This grant has enabled WLT to work with the Brawly Consulting Group to establish effective management plans that will guide the WLT to fulfill its stewardship responsibilities.

Management plans include:

- A description of the conservation values of each parcel
- A summary of any restrictions that came with the property or were placed on the property after the WLT took ownership
- A description of the potential threats to the conservation values or areas of special concern (i.e. invasive species, neighbor encroachment, unauthorized access)
- Overall management goals and key actions
- A timeline for planned activities and for regular inspections of the property

Strong stewardship practices will insure the protection of the conservation values of WLT lands forever.

New Board Member Jamie Browne

The Warren Land Trust is very happy to introduce our supporters to the newest member of our Board of Directors. Jamie Browne is an attorney by education and runs a global commodity trading group - experience which he has already put to good use as a valued member of our Finance committee. He lives in Warren full time with his wife and two children. He is an avid outdoorsman and conservationist, as the adjacent photo suggests!



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.

2013 Annual Meeting

The Warren Land Trust's 2013 Annual Meeting was held on November 16, 2013 at the Academy. We had a record turnout of Warren residents attend the meeting which was very exciting.

The WLT had a very busy year seeking National Accreditation along with participating in numerous community events: the Warren Fall Festival, Trails Day, Town Clean-up. The WLT also hosted two new events, WLT Wine-Tasting Dinner and the WLT Fall Picnic at Angevine Farm. The WLT announced that it was cooperating with the Kent Land Trust to help them purchase a 253-acre former Girl Scout property, known as Camp Francis, 70 acres of which are in Warren.

We also reported on our activities in land management and fundraising as well as providing a financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. Dorothy Maier and Laura Moore Brown were re-elected as Directors for a three year term, and Jamie Browne was elected as a new Board Member. Craig Nelson, after being elected as Warren's Town Selectman, was designated as an Ex-Officio Board Member.

Warren Land Trust Applies For National Land Trust Accreditation (Con't. from page 2)

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.

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 coming up on April 27th
- 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.