



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Welcome to the third issue of the Warren Land Conservation Trust Newsletter. The Land Trust board along with volunteers have accomplished a lot over the fall and winter and we thank all who have contributed. However, we have noted a bit of a mystery.

Data from FaceBook shows that the Warren Land Conservation Trust page (fb.com/wlct) has well over 250 "Likes" and equally impressive numbers for "Reach" and "Engagements". The actual membership of the organization (and a listing of persons who have made contributions over the last couple years) represents only a fraction of those totals.

We know that many of you really support our goals and will enjoy the trails at the Haile Fram Preserve when it opens this spring. So we need everyone to step forward and join this vital and growing land trust.

So if you "like" and appreciate our ongoing work to protect open space in Warren and to open up public walking trails, why not become a member today by going to our web site www.warrenlct.org and using the handy tools under the "Support Us" button to join our organization? It will be a great day when "Likes" equal membership.

Thanks in advance.
Mike Gerhardt, President WLCT

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Mike Gerhardt**, President
- Ed McAloon**, Vice President
- Martha Antaya**, Secretary
- Finn Brudevold**, Treasurer
- Marcia Goodrum, Jenny Flanagan,**
- Betty Lang, Rock Singewald**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for May 18 at 10 AM when the WLCT has scheduled the opening celebration of the Haile Farm Preserve trails. There will be a brief ceremony followed by trail tours. Please check the invitation elsewhere in this publication.

CONTACT THE WLCT



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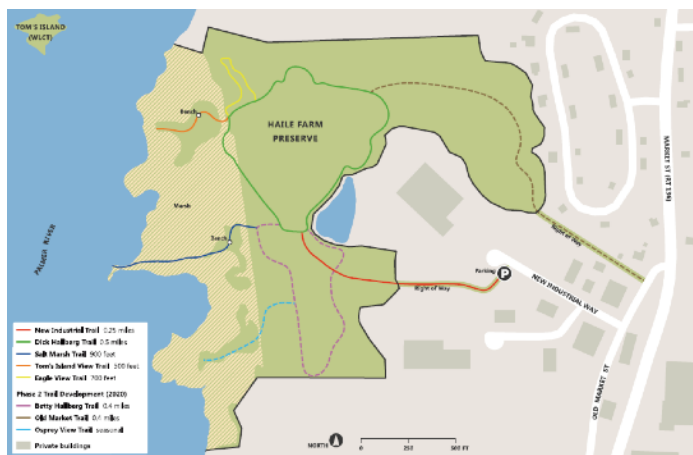
PO Box 565, Warren, RI 02885

HAILE FARM TRAIL UPDATE

By *JENNY FLANAGAN, Board Member*

The Land Trust is in the process of clearing trails in Haile Farm Preserve. A dedicated group of volunteers, and a hardy crew of Boy Scouts from local Troop 25 have been working through the winter on this project. With these yeomen efforts, we will have about a mile of walking trails open by mid-May.

We now have trails that lead to views of salt marshes and Tom's Island, go through woodland and along a small (manmade) pond. When you go out, expect to see osprey, eagles and deer. This is still a work in progress, and so the trails are quite wet after a rain. Also, since part of the trail is through the edge of the salt marsh, it may flood (by a couple of inches) with moon tides every month. Sturdy waterproof shoes/boots are recommended. We can also anticipate that the tick population will be in full bloom, so proper dress and repellent are essential.



Haile Farm Trail Map

HAILE FARM TRAIL UPDATE (CONTINUED)

You can park at the end of New Industrial Way. Walk toward the cell tower to your west and look for the temporary pink markers. At our grand opening in May, we will have our entrance sign up and formal trail markers throughout the preserve.

It should also be noted that 4 of the Troop 25 scouts assisting us are doing so as Eagle Scout projects. These tasks include clearing piles of debris from an abandoned camp, laying wood walkways over wet areas, making and placing trail signs as well as cutting a trail through a heavily grown area. We salute them all!

HAILE FARM HISTORY

The land that currently constitutes the preserve was within the homeland of the Wampanoag people until their defeat and exile after King Philip's War that started in Swansea in 1676.

Following the Wampanoag's forced departure, the land was divided into profitable farms for English settlers. First owned by Obadiah Bowen it was sold in 1708 to Richard Haile, whose wife, Ann Mason, was the granddaughter of Obadiah. From the first generation of English settlement along coastal New England, farmers supplemented crop farming with stock farming as it required less labor, served a ready local market, and because the bay environment of salt water marshes was suitable for raising salt hay for animal fodder.

In the mid-nineteenth century the land became known as the "Judge Haile Farm" in honor of Levi Haile, an 1821 graduate of Brown University, who as a justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, served on the court that tried Thomas Dorr, the leader of the Dorr Rebellion of 1842. After 170 years of occupancy by the extended

Haile family, the farm was sold. In 1911 it passed to Manuel Nunes who continued to farm it until 1988, thus completing a 300 year cycle of farming at this site.

In 2018 the Town of Warren transferred this property, now known as the Haile Farm Preserve, to the Warren Land Conservation Trust with the goal of providing public access.

For a more detailed history, go to www.warrenlct.org, under the **Protected Lands** pulldown select **Haile Farm Preserve** and click the link for **History**.

2018 CONCERT AND ANNUAL MEETING

By Mike Gerhardt, President



Atwater-Donnelly with the Vox Hunters

It was definitely a "dark and stormy night." But to the appreciative audience of about 120 or so attending the First Annual (?) concert sponsored by the Warren Land Conservation Trust it did no seem to matter. They listened and sang along to the music of local residents Atwater and Donnelly and their co-folk duo, The Vox Hunters, for well over an hour. The interaction of the audience and the performers was really remarkable, perhaps fostered by a play list that featured many songs relating to RI (or maybe by the pre concert cocktail hour). In any case, after the concert Aubrey Atwater said "Sometimes these things just click and this one did."

The WLCT Annual Meeting that followed was certainly less entertaining but none the less productive. The agenda included some business items necessary to the running of a quality organization, such as trust member approval of by-law changes and the election of board members and officers. A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of an award to Wenley Ferguson of Save the Bay which read in part "FOR HER ENERGETIC AND STATEWIDE ADVOCACY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND, IN PARTICULAR, FOR HER ASSISTANCE TO THE WLCT IN RESTORING JACOB'S POINT AND PROTECTING VALUABLE AND



Work continues on Haile Farm Trails

2018 CONCERT (CONTINUED)

THREATENED SHORE HABITAT IN WARREN". Also, a summary of plans for trail development at the newly acquired Haile Farm Preserve by WLCT was introduced by President Mike Gerhardt.

The extension of the wine and beer event following the adjournment of the Annual Meeting capped an enjoyable evening. Plan to join us for future events.



A summer day at Jacob's Point

HONORING THE HISTORY OF THE LANDS WE PROTECT

By Rock Singewald, Board Member

From the time of the last glacial retreat approximately 12,000 years ago, the lands and waters in Warren and surrounding towns have proven to be a bountiful resource for those making this area their home. The land came to be known as Sowams or 'south country'. The original Algonquian people came to be known as the Pokanoket which refers to the "place of the cleared land" or "land at the clearing" and as the Wampanoag, "people of the first light".

In the 17th century) the Pauquunaukit (anglixized as Pokanoket) held the leadership of the tribal groups that now make up the modern-day Wampanoag Nation. However, ethnically Pokanoket groups and their neighbors did not begin to refer to themselves as Wampanoag until after King Philip's War, when Pokanoket identity was suppressed in Rhode Island and Massachusetts through a concerted effort to remove the war's survivors from the land by selling them into slavery or execution. Thus, while all Pokanoket are Wampanoag (being one tribe among several), not all Wampanoag are by lineage Pokanoket. The Pokanoket are the indigenous group in the first Thanksgiving story, and their leader, Massasoit Ousamequin, signed a treaty with the Plymouth colonists pledging peace and mutual assistance that lasted for just over 50 years, ending with

the defeat of the Pokanoket and their allies in King Philip's War in 1675-1676.

Sowams, an area of East Bay Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts was the main settlement of the Pokanoket when the Pilgrims arrived. Governor William Bradford of Plymouth had been told that the land of the Pokanoket had "the richest soil, and much open ground fit for English grain, etc.," giving a hint of the conflicts over land that would soon develop.



A Pokanoket village at Jacob's Point may have appeared as in this rendering

The WLCT recognizes the rich traditions of the native people who lived as one with the land. We are honored to be acting as stewards of these historic properties, maintaining them as much as possible in their natural state.

WLCT WEBSITE UPDATE

As announced in our last newsletter, our website www.warrenlct.org is live and up to date with everything about the WLCT. Memberships and donations can now be processed online through PayPal. Many thanks to our webmaster, Board Member Marcia Goodrum, for her efforts.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESSES LEND SUPPORT

For purposes of financing the operating budget of the Warren Land Conservation Trust, we depend almost entirely on a membership campaign which we run in the fall of each year. (Although last year we did do a special fund raising appeal mid year to help us with the costs, primarily legal expenses, of acquiring the Haile Farm Preserve from the Town of Warren.)

Our supporters can anticipate receiving a letter soon describing this years fund raising appeal. Our hope is that everyone will be as generous as possible. Thanks to everyone who has supported the WLCT.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CONTINUED)

As an all volunteer organization we do not have staff to really pursue many grant opportunities but when they present themselves we do act. In the past year we are pleased to announce the following support has been received:

- BankNewport \$1,000
- Walmart \$500
- Legislative Grant of \$1,500 sponsored by Senator Walter Felag presented at the April Board of Trustees Meeting.



UP IN THE SKY

The WLCT is in discussion with a licensed drone operator to do an aerial survey of some of our properties. The preference is perform this when foliage has leafed out later in May. Stayed tuned for future updates.

THE ONLY SHOW IN TOWN

This is the title of an art exhibition at the David Winton Bell Gallery, Brown University, through July 7. It consists of works by the artists Bryndis Snæbjörnsdóttir from Iceland and Mark Wilson from the UK. The artists have collaborated for 25 years and have created artworks that address topics such as California condors, polar bears taxidermied in the UK, seals in Iceland, gulls in Sweden, and now the saltmarsh sparrow at our own Jacobs Point. Their works intersect with issues in animal studies, as well as broader studies of colonialism, ecology, and climate change.

The Saltmarsh Sparrow Research Initiative has been studying this endangered bird with the



cooperation of the WLCT at Jacob's Point. For more information on this project, visit <https://www.salsri.org/>.

In the exhibition, the artists have presented photographs that depict the release of the sparrows after capture for examination and banding. These photos are presented in unnatural coloration which give them an ominous look to suggest the bird's exit not only from their grasp but from our world. Other photos of the marsh grass allow viewers to search for the hidden sparrow nests.

To demonstrate the importance of plant species in the marsh, a 172 inch tall photograph of a piece of glasswort or pickle weed was created using advanced scanning technology. Another work consists of hand made ceramic tiles arranged on platforms which each have a name impressed in it of a different animal, plant, or insect that live in or frequent the marsh. This is to demonstrate the complexity of the saltmarsh.

Bookending the exhibition are 2 video installations. At the far end, a wooden bird blind contains a life size animated three dimensional image of a sparrow ruffling her feathers and looking about. The artists are representing a reversal of roles, is the bird observing us or are we attempting to look through her eyes.



At the beginning of the exhibit is a video loop of the reflection of a full moon on the water. This represents moon tides whose increasing heights due to climate change will ultimately doom the salt marsh sparrow.

This publication compiled and edited by Ed McAloon, VP WLCT