



2023 Spring & Summer

Executive Director's Message

Happy Spring Everyone! Although this past winter was unusually mild, it is still a joy to have warmer temperatures, welcome the migrant birds back, see the wildflowers bloom, and experience the trees putting out their leaves and changing the landscape.

Warren Land Conservation Trust has not been idle since the last newsletter, and we have some fun events coming up this season, so stay tuned to our website, Instagram, and Facebook. We will also continue to reach out via email, but our goal is to limit those to one regular 'eNews' per month, and one or two additional emails for special events or volunteer opportunities as needed.

For this ED Message I'd like to offer some perspective for you, our supporters, to consider. The Warren Land Conservation Trust is an incorporated non-profit entity, and is in a large part all volunteer. That changed in part recently when I was hired as the part-time Executive Director, but the fact remains that the effort required to maintain the organization, protect land, and keep trails open is still in a large way all volunteer.

The fact that WLCT has been around since 1987 is a testament to the dedication of its volunteers and supporters.

Times change. So does the landscape. There are more people out using trails. The climate is changing, leading to increased spread of invasive plants that impact habitat. The sea is rising, causing our marshes to change and shift. These and other effects translate into management needs that increase our Stewardship efforts on the lands that YOU protect.

And here's the main point: I emphasized YOU in that last sentence because it is only all of you, Warren Land Conservation Trust volunteers and supporters, that collectively put all of the effort in to protect the lands and provide public access. YOU effect the change through membership fees and other monetary donations, volunteering your invaluable time on work projects, committees (and the Board!), and special events, and also by spreading the word to get more supporters and volunteers as we move forward into the future.

I want to acknowledge and thank all of you, WLCT supporters past, present, (and future), for making this organization so important to the Warren Community. Thank You!

Paul

Earth Day *Thank You's*

Thank you to all who volunteered in the Saturday April 22 Earth Day event. And a big thank you to the Warren Conservation Commission for organizing the Earth Day clean up!

The Value of Biodiversity

One of the important reasons to protect land is to conserve native biodiversity.

Biodiversity is the term we use to describe the amount of native species that occur in an area. The higher the biodiversity, the more species there are. The more we explore an area, the more biodiversity we may encounter. This is what's happening at Haile Farm Preserve.

Over the last year or so some plant surveys were conducted at Haile Farm.

The RI Wild Plant Society has been looking for native plant species in support of their ReSeeding Rhode Island initiative. Seeds of select species are being collected, in order to make available native plant seeds that are adapted specifically to RI. With a special permit from WLCT, the RI Wild Plant Society surveyed Haile Farm Preserve and identified a few species for this project. You can learn more about this project here: [ReSeeding RI](#)

Also at Haile Farm Preserve, the New England Botanical Society (NE Botanical Society) conducted a survey last summer but did not look for seeds. They were more interested in documenting the diversity of plants, and they had some interesting results: Forty-nine species were documented and were scientifically collected and deposited for future reference in Harvard Herbarium. Of these, 22 had never been documented in Bristol County, and an additional 13 had not even been seen in the last century!

These efforts are valuable to the knowledge of the status of native plants in our area, and are a true testament to the value of protecting native habitats!



Summer Cruise ~ Save the Date!

Warren Land Conservation Trust's
ANNUAL MOONLIGHT CRUISE ON THE PRUDENCE ISLAND FERRY
TUESDAY, AUG.1st, 2023, 7:30-10:30 PM

(Rain date Wednesday August 2)

Pack a picnic and beverages for a summer sunset/full moon voyage with music by Otis Read and friends. Picnic, dance and celebrate summer's celestial glory!



Special Thanks

The WLCT would like to gratefully thank Yankee Fiber Control, Jim Hutzler, Ron Gagnon and their work crew for their recent work at Toweset Landing. On April 3, a crew of clean-up specialists came out to the end of Maple Road and sand-blasted away the graffiti that had been marring the boulder there for decades. We are thrilled now to clearly see the makeup of the pudding-stone boulder and to have a fresh, natural view of this area.

Protected Lands Update

The Warren Land Conservation Trust collectively protects about 200 acres of environmentally sensitive lands, with our premier properties now or soon to be open to the public. Here's a brief summary of recent activity on our properties.

At **HAILE FARM PRESERVE**, the trails are continuously monitored and kept cleared for hikers. Also, over the past few months some meadows were cleared by a local contractor and invasive plants removed.

A large rock at **TOWESET LANDING** that had been vandalized with graffiti was recently cleaned. And thanks to Ed Cabral and a team of volunteers, the kayak rack is now up. Contact the Warren Harbor Master at townofwarren-ri.gov.

Finally, at **SOWAMS MEADOW PRESERVE**, you probably have seen the work here as you drive on Market Street. Through funding from our partner, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, clearing of invasive species has really opened up the view. Native tree species have been planted along the road, and the meadows will be planted with native wildflowers to support pollinators.

Save The Bay has been very busy in the preserve's salt marsh, to help drain the marsh to reverse the effects of sea level rise.

Email Paul Miller at warrenlctri@gmail.com if you have any questions about our stewardship projects.

Warren Land Trust Volunteer Spotlight

My name is **Emily Fournier**, and I am a recent URI graduate. I am passionate about community empowerment and environmental justice, and I recently joined the WLCT communications team.



I grew up along Rhode Island's beautiful coasts. I have a deep appreciation for our ecological diversity and am acutely aware of its fragility. I believe that often we lack a connection to the land,

or forget that we are part of a wider earth community. Yet, being out in nature makes us feel better, because it is our biological home – our only home.

The natural world needs our help to cultivate it, restore it, conserve it, and tend to it. We too need to sink our hands into it. We are losing more and more opportunities to connect with the earth. When we lose this connection, "use" of earth's natural resources becomes exploitation, degradation, pollution, extinction. And then we hurt ourselves: our health, our safety and security, our relationships with each other, and our spirits. And we fail to create a sustainable future.

Fortunately, we can change course. The Land Trust is part of that. We come together to preserve the land in its natural state, protecting these ecosystems for the generations to come. And we engage a sense of wonder, of curiosity, and of caring for all living things.



*To volunteer for the Warren Land Trust, Sign up at our website - warrenlct.org
or email us at warrenlctri@gmail.com.*

On the land we “own”

Humans are a territorial species. We become vested in the areas we inhabit, defining and defined by our home, our community, our people.

Most of us like to consider ourselves rooted to a particular place. We vest our emotions - pride, protectiveness, joy - in the four walls and the land below that we call home, in the blocks that define our neighborhoods, in the regions that shape us as a people.

But what of the lands that we don't own, but that we have responsibility for? As a volunteer for the Warren Land Conservation Trust, I have mapped boundaries - identifying the edges of what we “own.” I have flown kites and lead walks - hosting others on these lands. I have cleaned up dump sites, cleared trails, picked trash and removed invasive plants - sprucing up these places to better enjoy them.

At the end of several hours of bushwhacking and boardwalk building, I feel a sense of pride in the work. And I also feel a sense of ownership.

Which is a conflicting emotion for me. Because I know that the lands the WLCT “owns” it really only holds in trust, as a steward of the lands.

These lands are dedicated to both to the people of Warren and also to the plants and animals that live there. We protect and conserve these lands for future generations and for the future of the habitat.

I get deep satisfaction from working in the woods and the fields, stewarding these places for myself and for those who come after. I am grounded by these efforts, more rooted.

We find meaning through connections - to our communities, to our lands, to our ideals. The Land Trust makes meaningful connections tangible, in the lands we tend to for our community. Come join me on the lands we steward, and see the places - Haile Farm Preserve, Jacobs Point and Toweset Landing - that we become attached to.



Volunteer opportunities: Help effect change in the Warren Community!

We're all on this journey of land protection together. Taking care of the land & trails is how YOU, members, supporters, and friends, effect change and contribute to conservation as a Land Trust. YOU are invited to be part of this change by volunteering your invaluable time to help meet the ongoing Stewardship needs that keep the trails open and the habitats protected.

Over the next several months we are planning to offer opportunities to help with:

- BOARDWALKS & BIRD BOXES AT HAILE FARM
- WILDLIFE STRUCTURES AT HAILE FARM
- CLEANUP EFFORTS ALONG ROADS, WITHIN MARSHES, AND AT SOWAMS MEADOW
- GENERAL TRAIL WORK
- INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL

The list isn't inclusive, but it represents a lot of work needed on the lands protected by the Trust. Stay tuned for these (and other) opportunities as we announce them via email, Facebook, and Instagram!

*To become a member and support our mission financially, visit our website - warrenlct.org
or email us at warrenlctri@gmail.com.*