



WARREN LAND TRUST FALL & WINTER 2023

Nature constantly reminds us that change is the one sure thing in life. The seasons keep rolling along, shifting and evolving one into the next. We have wet seasons and dry seasons, cool seasons and hot, but the change from one to the next stays the same. The Warren Land Trust is the same in many ways. We work on new projects, try new directions, build new relationships, but the rhythm of our stewardship of the properties we are committed to protect remains the same as the seasons roll by. The land looks different

from month to month, but the importance of the mission of conserving open space doesn't change, it just adjusts to new challenges and circumstances as they occur.

President's Message

The Board and I developed a set of goals a couple of years ago that we use to guide our decisions. Sometimes things work out, sometimes they don't. We tried a new approach this past year with a paid director that just didn't work out, but we gained some insights about our operation. So, we will move on like the seasons and continue to do our best to provide the leadership and stewardship necessary to provide access and protection for open space for everyone in Warren.

That's where you come in. We need our members to step up and help us as we review our options for how we should run the Land Trust in the future. We need people to join the Board, to volunteer and manage volunteers, to help us fundraise and write grants, and to help us get our story out so that we can build our support in the community. Please think of what you know how to do that could help us get things done, and call me or Jenny or any of the Board members to talk over the best way for you to contribute. Your financial support has been invaluable in the past and will continue to be, but we really need some of your time right now as well. I know we can count on you.

- Rock Singewa

Warren Land Trust Board:

Rock Singewald, President / E. Jenny K. Flanagan, VP/Treasurer
Martha Antaya, Secretary / Johanna Barthmaier-Payne
Max Bliss / Micahel Gerhardt / Katelyn Pisano / David Weed

Fall at Haile Farm

The trails are good, and waiting for you to come and enjoy the change of season. Last summer's rain yielded a bumper crop of nuts and berries, which is good news for our resident wildlife.

We have new anchor systems for the boardwalks to protect against the high tides.

This fall, we collaborated with George Hail Library on a wonderful story walk installation. Families followed a storybook posted along the trail. We are excited to continue this collaboration with the library.



Many thanks to wild plant specialist Doug McGrady for identifying multiple rare native plants at Haile Farm. Doug highlighted the rare coastal sandplain grassland, a hotspot for biodiversity. Some of the threatened plants identified include the Whip Nutsedge (*Scleria triglomerata*), Purple Screwstem (*Bartonia iodandra*), and Knotroot Foxtail (*Setaria parviflora*).

Sowams Meadow

Restoration efforts continue at Sowams Meadow Preserve. Staton's Landscaping, our project contractor, has done extraordinary work to remove invasive plants along the field borders.

Pollinator-friendly wildflower seeds and native grasses are being planted to complement a variety of existing native plants, such as Ironweed, Joe Pye Weed, Goldenrod, Asters, Yellow Thistle.

In the salt marsh, Wenley Ferguson and Ben Gaspar of Save the Bay continue working to restore the natural flow of salt-water through the marsh. This will eliminate areas of standing fresh-water that degrades the peat. They have also been removing invasive Phragmites on the marsh edge to help expansion of the high marsh.

So far the results in both fields and marsh are very dramatic. Now finally, you can clearly view the Palmer River from Market Street. Much more needs to be done.

Jacob's Point



Out at Jacob's Point, volunteers and Purple Martin enthusiasts Ray Marr and Ginger Brown along with Finn Brudevold engage in the annual Fall ritual of removing and cleaning the Purple Martin array. In the summer, you can see the white gourd housing structures that support the birds' nesting colonies. Most Purple Martins will spend the winter in Brazil, and return to Rhode Island around April.

Recently, we noticed that tides and rain had made certain areas of Marilyn's Trail at Jacobs Point so wet and muddy that walking was difficult. The answer? Installation of a stone base along sections of the trail. The substrate was carefully selected to improve the trail condition and resist erosion.

Everyone enjoyed a spectacular evening on August 1st for our 3rd annual Moonlight Cruise! Nearly 100 supporters joined us on the Prudence Ferry for a beautiful evening of music and food as we watched the supermoon rise over the Mount Hope Bridge. It was a

glorious night on the bay. The annual event is a wonderful fundraiser for WLT and an amazing way to get to know your neighbors!

Special thanks to our lead organizer, Martha Antaya, and to designer Karen Dionne for her fab event poster. A tremendous shout out to Otis Read and Dave Hanssen for the fantastic music.



Moonlight Cruise 2023

Become a Board Member

Connect your love of nature with your personal and professional skills and join the Warren Land Trust Board! As a board member, you can make real change in our local environment and build a deeper connection with the Warren community. We welcome board members of all experiences and backgrounds!

Most importantly, we're looking for volunteers who are committed to WLT's mission and goals. We would love to have you share a few hours of your time each month. As a board member, you'll drive the mission of our committees.

Serve on a Board Committee

Not ready to commit as a full board member? Volunteers are also invited to serve on a committee.

- The **Stewardship** committee works to protect our properties
- The **Communications** committee plans events and connect with our community
- The **Development** committee grows our donor base and enables our goals.



Donation Drive Update

It is that time of year when our mailboxes are full of requests from many worthy organizations asking for year-end contributions. We hope you will include us in your generosity by protecting open space in Warren and fostering its use by the public. Thank you in advance for your support!

A special shout out to Blount Fine Foods for their continued generous support of the WLT.



Colleen Pinski

Darkness in the Daytime

WLT Annual Meeting

Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 7pm

Warren Historic Armory, 11 Jefferson St., Warren

Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Doug Arion, PhD with MountainsOfStars.org.

This illustrated talk will inform and inspire us on the recent September '23 annular eclipse and the upcoming April '24 eclipse.

Register for this free event at *EVENTBRITE*



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

PO Box 565, Warren RI 02885