



WARREN
LAND
TRUST
SPRING &
SUMMER
2024

WILD BLUEBERRY BLOSSOMS AT HAILE FARM

"Change is the very nature of Nature. If there's one thing that doesn't change, it is the fact that everything changes."

~ Ilchi Lee

In January, the Warren Land Trust honored outgoing President, Rock Singewald, at our Annual Meeting. Rock has been an incredible force within Warren's land conservation space for many years and will continue to serve not only as the Haile Farm Preserve land steward, but as a fountain of knowledge and wisdom. Rock joins the ranks of 'former WLT Presidents on speed-dial'.

Presidents' Message

As the new Co-Presidents, we are excited to continue the amazing work of the WLT! Warren is a special community filled with inspirational people and incredible natural resources, ranging

from salt marsh to woodlands to open pastures. The connection between the land and people is close - a bond that the WLT continually seeks to enhance through our stewardship of just a few of the town's outdoor places. Our board is a small but mighty cohort, and we are so grateful to have a growing network of committed volunteers supporting us!

Exciting work is on the horizon. The team at Sowams Meadow Preserve has been doing extensive site restoration and we are planning for public access on this stunningly diverse property. Haile Farm and Jacob's Point continue to be havens for people and wildlife alike. Events director Martha Antaya has been planning more events than ever, like the fantastic birding presentation by Butch Lombardi in March.

We could not accomplish all of our goals without your continued support. Your donations of time and funds give us the ability to achieve our current objectives while having the capacity to build and plan for the future. Please don't hesitate to reach out directly as we slowly connect with all our partners and stakeholders. We look forward to chatting with you at our Annual Moonlight Cruise in August!

Sincerely,

Max Bliss and Kate Pisano, WLT Co-Presidents

**WARREN LAND TRUST BOARD: Max Bliss and Kate Pisano, Co-Presidents
E. Jenny K. Flanagan, VP/Treasurer, Martha Antaya, Secretary
Johanna Barthmaier-Payne, Michael Gerhardt, David Weed**

Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Jo Dwyer!

Jo has been volunteering as the steward for our Sowams Meadow property, we are so grateful for her time and support. Hear more from Jo about her connection to land conservation and why she volunteers.

"As a land steward, I get to spend time at the Sowams Meadow property, checking on conditions after storms, watching for animal signs, and getting familiar with this unique meadow habitat. I've always been happiest outside, and the marshes and meadows bring me the most joy. I worked for years as a nature educator and park ranger in marshlands, woods, and beaches, and I loved working with scientists to conserve, learn, and educate about natural places. When I learned I could work just a few hours a month with the Warren Land Trust, I thought it would be the perfect symbiosis!"



Preserve Updates

Throughout the beginning of 2024, the Warren Land Trust has been engaged in restoration and enhancement projects across our preserves. At the center of each is our core mission - to preserve and steward the natural resources of Warren to the benefit of both people and wildlife.

The WLT is proud to be a part of Warren's community fabric. We look forward to seeing you out on the trails - whether taking a walk, listening to the birds, or simply watching the sky.

photo © Jason Jaacks



(above) chicks on the marsh
(right) elevated Salt Marsh Sparrow nest



At **Haile Farm**, trail restoration is always ongoing among record storms and tides. Volunteers, led by the preserve's land steward, Rock Singewald, have been instrumental in replacing boardwalks and removing debris from trails. Brush trimming and woodchip replacement has also been underway, supported by local Staton's Landscaping.

Jacob's Point

Jacob's Point continues to be an important habitat and outdoor space in the East Bay. In late 2023, crushed stone was installed in places along Marilyn's Trail to mitigate damage to the path during high tides. After the large storms and heavy rains in the past months, the stone has appeared to hold up well, preserving this coastal access point for the community.

We plan to keep a close eye on the effects of increasingly high tides here. In addition, in late March, a Purple Martin array was erected by volunteers, providing an additional nesting area within the salt marsh habitat. The **Salt Marsh Sparrow Research Initiative** will also continue its work at Jacob's Point this year, extending an important partnership with the WLT to monitor this rare species.



Sowams Meadows

In partnership with Save the Bay, the NRCS, and Staton's Landscaping, Sowams Meadows has continued to undergo extensive restoration work that began a few years prior.

In the last few months, Save the Bay has been actively digging runnels by hand and with light equipment in the salt marsh to promote water runoff after storms. The open fields have been cleared of invasives and carefully seeded with local native plants to, over time, build an extensive pollinator habitat. Bird boxes and bat houses have been installed in a few locations around the property - you might even catch sight of them, or a few grazing deer, from Rt. 136!

Public access planning remains in the early stages - we have started design for a trail that meanders throughout the property, complete with interpretive and educational signage, sometime soon. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, Joanna Dwyer has volunteered to act as steward on the WLT's newest preserve.

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.

Volunteer!

Not ready to commit as a full board member? Volunteers are 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 helps us reach our goals.



2024 Member Drive

Please renew your membership with Warren Land Trust. Our members are central our mission for protecting and stewarding Warren's open spaces, and making them. Go to warrenlct.org/support-us/membership to renew today.

And to our corporate partners, look for our invitation to be a sponsor for our annual Moonlight Bay Cruise for 2024.

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



4th annual MOONLIGHT BAY CRUISE



PICNIC AND DANCE UNDER THE STARS
PRUDENCE FERRY | MONDAY | AUG. 19
FOR THE WARREN LAND TRUST

Save the Date!



WARREN LAND TRUST

PO Box 565, Warren RI 02885