



WARREN LAND TRUST

2025 Newsletter



President's Message

As winter settles over Warren, our landscapes take on a quiet, breathtaking beauty. Frosted fields glisten in the morning light, bare branches etch delicate patterns against pale skies, and a peaceful stillness blankets the places we love. It is a season that invites reflection, reminding us of the resilience of the land we work so hard to protect.

For Warren Land Trust, winter brings both gratitude and renewed commitment. Our conservation efforts continue through the cold months, ensuring that Warren's natural spaces remain healthy and protected. It is also a time for connection—whether through brisk walks, volunteer projects, or community events, we come together to appreciate the quiet magic of nature in winter.

I encourage you to take a moment this season to connect with the land. Wander the serene trails at Haile Farm Preserve, watch winter birds glide over Jacob's Point, or enjoy the calm waters at Toweset Landing on a crisp day. Your support keeps these treasured places thriving, safeguarding their beauty for generations to come.

Thank you for being a steward of the land. Let's embrace the clarity and calm of winter with gratitude and purpose.

Kate Pisano
Warren Land Trust President

Warren Land Trust Board: Kate Pisano, President
E. Jenny K. Flanagan, Treasurer
Martha Antaya, Secretary
Max Bliss | Kara Johnston | Thomas Luthie | Anat Sagi | Dave Weed



Haile Farm | Sowams Meadow

Strategic plan update

In May, the board, volunteers and friends of the Warren Land Trust met to update our strategic plan. We last updated this in 2022, and as part of this review, we examined what are our challenges and opportunities to meet our mission to protect and steward Warren's open spaces. With the help of facilitator, Tom Flanagan, this plan came up with concrete steps for improving our communications and engaging more with the community. We are also looking to help stewardship work in Warren, including along the upper Kickemuit River. Key to our plan is broadening our membership and volunteer base via social media and local communication.

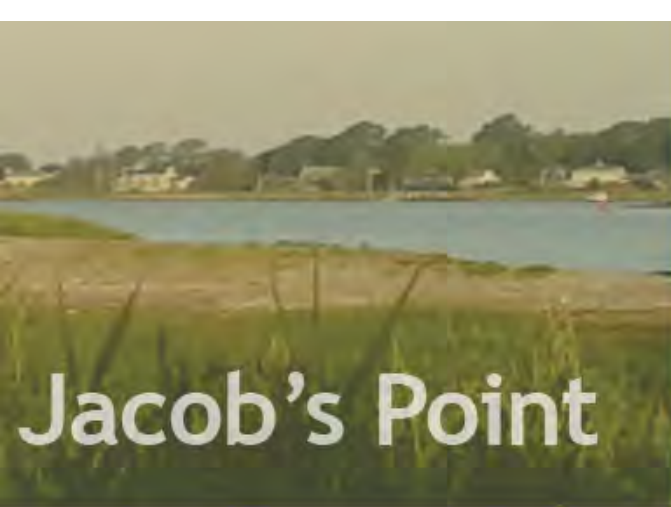
If TikTok or Instagram are your go-to places to be and you can help out, email us at warrenlctri@gmail.com.

SMP update Last year we received an amazing grant from 11th Hour Racing to create trails at **Sowams Meadows Preserve**, for public access to this a beautiful property. We are working with a local landscape architect to map where to have the trails, to both highlight natural features and avoid sensitive habitat areas. This plan also includes native plantings to support the pollinators here. The next step will be to obtain sign-offs from the agencies who help us steward and protect this property: CRMC and NRCS. With luck, we expect to begin trail work in the spring of 2026, with the first trails open in the spring/summer of 2026.

A special thank you to Todd Blount and the wonderful folks at Blount Fine Foods for donating parking at their new offices on Market Street for the preserve. This has created a significant savings in the budget, and allowed us to incorporate an outdoor classroom and other features in the plan.



Members gather at our strategic planning session in February 2025



Jacob's Point

JP update In 2026, the Warren Land Trust will collaborate with Save the Bay and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island for a marsh restoration project at **Jacob's Point**. Work will include improving tidal flow, and removing phragmites in the marsh and other woody invasives along Marilyn's Trail. Shout-out to Wenley Ferguson for all of her tireless leadership supporting our saltmarshes!

RI Energy Update

This winter, RI Energy will replace the towers supporting high tension wires through Haile Farm and Sowams Meadow Preserves. Warren Land Trust, as well as Save The Bay and other partners, continue to stay in conversation with RI Energy staff to ensure the project is managed with respect for our critical and sensitive habitats.

While the work is underway, trails will need to be closed temporarily. We will post signs on-site, and notifications via email, social media, and our website. Please email us if you have any questions, and thank you for your patience!



Michael Gerhardt Remembrance

Last winter, we lost Michael Gerhardt; an ardent advocate for the environment and for community, and a great friend. Michael loved the marine environment and especially sailing. He was on his boat every week and would walk Jacob's Point every

day. He reinvigorated our organization when he was president and strengthened our connections to the community. "He had a real vision about what we could do beyond what we had already accomplished," former President Rock Singewald said. Jenny Flanagan, another former President, said, "Michael really set the standard to me for what public engagement is."

Michael's efforts were key to securing Sowams Meadow Preserve for the land trust. Save the Bay Director of Restoration, Wenley Ferguson, noted his work with the former owner made the project happen. "Michael's vision, the way he worked, still guides us all," Singewald said.



Volunteer (indoors or out!)

Connect your love of nature with your personal and professional skills and join the Warren Land Trust. You can make real change in our local environment and build a deeper connection with the Warren community.

We're looking for people who love being out in nature, and want to help protect Warren's open spaces.

We're also looking for people who love the outdoors and can help us share our passion online.

Look for our e-blasts about events and opportunities to help. Trail work, kite-flying, bird-watching, and nature walks are just a few ways to engage with your community and get outside.

Renew your membership

We are excited to announce new WLT gear for 2025!
Renew or begin your Warren Land Trust membership and show off your WLT pride.

Individual \$15 - WLT decals

Family \$25 -WLT decals and bumper stickers

Supporter \$50 -all of the above plus a hat

Patron \$100 -all of the above plus a tote



BETWEEN MOON TIDES

directed by Jason Jaacks

WLT ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 14, 6:30-8:30

AT IMAGO FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

Join us for a discussion with Jason Jaacks, maker of the documentary **BETWEEN MOON TIDES**, a film about the Saltmarsh Sparrow at Jacob's Point.

Jaacks has produced television for National Geographic, an award-winning web series for PBS Digital Studios, and video shorts for The New York Times. He will share his approach to documentary filmmaking, emphasizing the powerful role that storytelling plays in fostering a deeper connection between communities and the environment.

*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.

WARREN LAND TRUST
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