

## **Appreciation for a Refined Lady**

For years the Warren Land Trust Board took for granted the quiet, dignified, competent contributions of our Board Secretary, Carolyn Brau. Her pleasant disposition, meticulous attention to detail, and sense of order were hallmarks of her five years on the Executive Committee.

For 20 years, Carolyn and Henry Brau traveled to Warren for summer vacations and days off while Henry was serving as Pastor of churches in Elmsford and Syosset, New York, and she was a teacher. They were smitten by the natural surroundings. Their children worked at the Inn on Lake Waramaug when they became teenagers. Carolyn and Henry retired in 1991 and became full-time residents of Warren.

Over the years, their passion for gardening became obvious to anyone traveling on Curtiss Road. Henry and Carolyn are Master Gardeners, and it is pleasurable to pause and consider the growth of their flowers, shrubs, ornamental grasses and vegetables.

Without question, their work blends harmoniously with the environment and emerges as a natural depiction of the surrounding area. Carolyn discussed the fact that the time commitment to this project was ongoing, and the gardens are always a “work on progress.”

As with many members of the Land Trust, Carolyn was compassionately recruited by Anne Martindale, who was so instrumental in our leadership, land acquisition, and legal work for the past decade. Carolyn firmly believed that Warren should remain rural and after a time she succeeded May Brawley Hill as Secretary.

Coincidentally, Carolyn also served as Secretary of the Lake Waramaug Task Force, a position she has held for the past ten years. Carolyn noted that both organizations have complimentary roles, one dedicated to the clarity and preservation of the lake, and the other devoted to retaining the natural surroundings of this unique town.

Ms. Brau discussed at length some of the changes she has witnessed over a forty-year period. She pointed out that the community must develop “to some extent”, but hopefully will do so with regard for the natural surroundings. At the same time, Carolyn felt that we are fortunate to have people who support the perception that Warren is and should remain a special repository for the early values of rural New England. She lauded the “public spirited people who are thoughtfully helping to preserve what we have.”

When we concluded our discussion, Carolyn took the opportunity to regard the future.

She stressed the necessity for the Land Trust to continue to educate residents in order that this generation and those to follow understand that we have a very special area here in Warren. They will be the conservators of what she and her colleagues have established.

The Land Trust and the Town of Warren thank you, Carolyn Brau, for helping to foster a commitment to nurture the land, and retain an environment that makes this lovely town admirable.