

# The Warren Conservator

Fall 2010



**Winner  
Of Our  
Photo  
Contest**

**First Place**  
*Elliot Hall*



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We at the Land Trust are pleased to announce the winners of our photo contest – the first in what we intend to make an annual tradition. The winning photograph was taken by Elliott Hall, and is an evocative image of a pond on the Hall property on Woodville Road. *Continued on page 3*

## Warren Land Trust Votes To Pursue Accreditation

On May 15, 2010, the Warren Land Trust voted to pursue land trust accreditation. Accreditation of a land trust is a mark of distinction, which provides the public with confidence that the accredited organization meets certain high standards for excellence and has appropriate systems to protect important natural places and working lands. Accreditation is governed by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. As of August 4, 2010, only 105 land trusts nationwide have achieved accreditation, of which only two are located in Connecticut (these are the Kent and Salem land trusts).

The accreditation process will involve an extensive review of Warren Land Trust's policies and programs in its land conservation work. This process generally includes at least three phases. Phase I is a comparative assessment of current policies with a full set of "Standards and Practices" established by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, including compliance with the

laws, board accountability, conflicts of interest, and land stewardship. Phase II is a demonstration of compliance with these standards and practices as supported by detailed documentation. Phase III is completion of a comprehensive registration application and related interviews. A decision on accreditation will be made only after submission of the application, including all required documentation and an extensive review by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. It is anticipated accreditation will be a one to two year process.

In support of this commitment, the Warren Land Trust has established an accreditation team to oversee the accreditation process. In addition to achieving accreditation, this process will afford Warren Land Trust the opportunity to review and implement policies to help streamline operations and lead to more effective land conservation practices.

Stay tuned for future reports on our progress!

## THANK YOU!

The Land Trust would like to acknowledge the following local businesses for their support and assistance in recent months:

### The Stationer

8 Titus Road  
Washington Depot, CT

*Thanks to Matt Lynn.*

### The Rooster Tail Inn and Tavern

11 Cornwall Road  
Warren, CT

*Thanks to Maureen and Cliff Jones.*

### The Connecticut Community Foundation

43 Field Street  
Waterbury, CT

*Thanks to Peter Jacoby and Ingrid Manning.*

## Warren Land Trust Mission Statement

The Warren Land Trust is an advocacy group dedicated to the preservation of the rural character of Warren. Its mission is to preserve farmland, open space, natural and endangered resources such as wetlands, forests and wildlife habitats, to encourage outright gifting of land for permanent protection and the use of conservation easements to preserve open space.

## From The President's Desk

The first half of 2010 presented new objectives, old reminders, and future challenges for the Land Trust. Our fund-raising campaign confronted the recessionary economy and supporters of the Trust gave generously. Under

treasurer Barbara Page's leadership, the funds have been invested wisely and the financial stability of the Trust remains robust.

The first Newsletter of 2010 drew many positive comments. Perhaps most fascinating was the article on Charles Grandison Finney, the preacher-educator-revivalist largely given credit for the Second Great Awakening. It was pleasing to discover we had such an instrumental religious figure emanating from Warren.

The Land Trust's website has been upgraded, and under Tom Sarsfield's direction new material and most recent information has been added. We hope you will take advantage of viewing it at [www.warrenlandtrust.org](http://www.warrenlandtrust.org).

Ann Martindale performed yeoman labor in examining the past twenty years of Land Trust records. She has

ordered them, brought them up-to-date, and we are delighted that our records now sit safely in the new Town Hall.

We were honored to be awarded a significant donation from the Connecticut Community Foundation that resulted in our Fall Appreciation Party, which was held at the Rooster Tail Inn on September 18th. The event was a splendid opportunity to converse with citizens of Warren, listen to their ideas, and convey our plans for the future. The atmosphere was convivial and the staff of the Rooster Tail was obliging.

As I write, we are planning for the Warren Fall Festival, held on October 9 and 10. We hope that you came and met with the Board members. This year, we will have given out detailed maps showing the farmland, streams, and woods of Warren together with the holdings of the Trust. Additionally, we will have offered organic plants from the gardens of Henry and Carolyn Brau, as well a supply of birdhouses and

Land Trust clothing. We also have planned a surprise: by the time this newsletter reaches you, one of you will have been the lucky winner of a new kayak!

Finally, under the leadership of our legal experts Ann Martindale and Dan Hulseberg, we have endeavored to start the pilgrimage toward formal accreditation and acceptance by the National Land Trust. You can read more about our steps in this direction in this issue of the Newsletter.

I have been pleased to hear directly from so many people in Warren who value and support our mission. I encourage you all to contact any member of the Board as each one brings a unique talent that serves the Trust and the Community. Once again, please accept my sincere thanks for your thoughtfulness, generosity, and support.

*Ted Morse*  
President



## Land Trust Holds Donor Appreciation Party

On a sunny, temperate early fall Saturday, the Land Trust's Board of Directors and supporters met for our organization's Donor Appreciation Party. This gathering has become an annual tradition for the Land Trust – a way to recognize and thank financial supporters and land donors and to celebrate the work of the Land Trust.

This year's get-together was even more festive than usual: although the party customarily takes place at the home of a Land Trust Board member, the event this past September 18<sup>th</sup> was held at the Rooster Tail Inn in the center of town. Some fifty partygoers enjoyed the hospitality of Rooster Tail proprietors Maureen and Cliff Jones, with drinks and hors d'oeuvres served outside on the back patio area and in the charmingly rustic small barn that the Inn uses for events.

This change of venue was due to generous funding from the Connecticut Community Foundation. The Connecticut Community Foundation characterizes itself as "the region's center for

philanthropy," undertaking a broad mission to "engage the community to address its needs by connecting charitable resources to sustainable programs in human services, education, environment, health care and the arts." CCF President Peter Jacoby, MD and CEO Ingrid Manning commended the Land Trust for its efforts to preserve the rural and agricultural character of Warren, and said on behalf of CCF that they were happy to grant the Land Trust funds to encourage membership and raise the visibility of our organization and its land conservation mission. (For more information on the Connecticut Community Foundation and its work, see [www.conncf.org](http://www.conncf.org).)

In his remarks to the crowd, President Ted Morse expressed gratitude and appreciation to all of our financial supporters and land donors, and provided an update on the work of the Land Trust. He concluded by urging all present to continue to enjoy the celebration and the beautiful afternoon, and it seemed that the attendees were more than happy to comply!

  
**CONNECTICUT  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
*Connecting you to the causes you care about*



Land Trust Board members Jack Baker and Ted Morse  
with the check from the Connecticut Community Foundation

## Spotlight On Land Trust Holdings

### Eel Pond

One of the most picturesque holdings of The Warren Land Trust, Eel Pond, located on the north side of Route #341 (otherwise known as Kent Road), was donated to us by the McMurtrey family in 1996. The McMurtreys, who had the foresight to understand how such a donation would enhance all our lives, were long-time Warren residents who traveled on weekends from New York City to enjoy the tranquil pleasures of our lovely town.

The McMurtreys, who at the time of the gift owned property on both sides of the road, made a generous donation of 25 acres on the more scenic north side. Because of its location adjacent to the main East/West route between New York State and most of Litchfield County, Eel Pond is one of the Land Trust's most visible holdings and as such a prime example of the benefits of preservation.

Article and Photo Credit WFD



The property is a swamp and is thus a breeding ground for all manner of wildlife. Over the past 25 years I have been in Eel Pond a number of times and have been amazed by the number of species one can come across on even a brief visit. Like all swamps, Eel Pond will eventually convert itself to meadowland but for the foreseeable future it abounds with sunfish, brown trout, fresh water mussels, various species of turtle, snake and frog plus otter, raccoon, deer and other examples of

animal and avian life too numerous to mention.

The water from Eel Pond, which is principally spring fed, runs out the East side of the pond, north of the General Store complex and across Route #45 to become part of Sucker Brook whence it finds its way South to Lake Waramaug. A great addition to our protected accumulation, the Warren Land Trust thanks Mr. & Mrs. McMurtrey for their generous and significant

## Warren Land Trust Board

*President*  
Ted Morse

*Vice-President*  
Ann Martindale

*Treasurer*  
Barbara Page

*Secretary*  
Carolyn Brau

*Directors*  
Timothy Angevine  
Jack Baker  
Rebecca Connor  
William DeSeta  
May Brawley Hill  
Dan Hulseberg  
Dorothy S. Maier  
Rebecca Neary  
Thomas A. Paul  
Tom Sarsfield  
David C. Scofield

*HONORARY BOARD MEMBER*  
Jack Travers

## Leave a Legacy

Land protection in perpetuity requires a long-term commitment and the financial means to carry it out. While we hope that future generations will value the land, just as much or more than we do, we have no way of knowing if they will be able to financially support that value proposition. The only way we can reach into the future to ensure that future stewards will have the resources they need, is to leave a significant endowment. Please consider the Warren Land Trust in your will.



First Runner Up - Elliot Hall



Second Runner Up - Sue Beldock

## Winners Of Our Photo Contest, *continued from page 1*

The first runner-up photo, also taken by Mr. Hall, depicts a family of geese. Both were taken with a Nikon D5000 SLR digital camera. About these images, Mr. Hall says "There is a large, naturally occurring pond at the rear of our property which is an unspoiled sanctuary for flora and fauna... the mother goose comes every year and lays her eggs on a large rock in the pond, the couple is seen every spring leading their goslings about the pond...It is a unique and beautiful spot and truly representative of Warren and our support for our natural surroundings." Mr. Hall has been taking photographs for only a little over a year, but tells us that photography "is quickly becoming a passion of mine. I have established a fairly extensive amateur portfolio of photos...(and) am keenly interested in pursuing photography on a professional level...Thank you for recognizing my work."

The second runner-up photo also features Warren's wetlands and waterfowl. This image of a heron and its reflection in a pond on Kent Road was taken by Sue Beldock. The tranquil, bucolic setting is also a wonderful representation of the aspects of our town that the Land Trust seeks to protect. We thank our contest participants and look forward to next year's contest.

# THE WARREN LAND TRUST

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## November 2010

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**WLT Annual Meeting**  
**9:00 AM at the**  
**Academy in Warren.**  
**All members welcome**

**We're on the web: [www.warrenlandtrust.org](http://www.warrenlandtrust.org)**

## THE WARREN CONSERVATOR

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**The WLT currently holds over 542 acres under permanent protection**

**IF YOU AREN'T A MEMBER OF THE WARREN LAND TRUST,  
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN NOW!!**



Becoming a Member of The Warren Land Trust is easy. Simply cut off the bottom of this page and send it to our mailing address below, along with your check. We will send you a receipt along with our thanks for your generous, 100% tax deductible contribution. Please include your name and address and choose the type of membership you would like:

- Family Membership \$20
- Land Protector \$100
- Land Caretaker \$300
- Land Conservator \$500
- Land Steward \$1,000
- Land Grantor \$2,500

Please make checks payable to: The Warren Land Trust, Inc.  
**MAIL THIS FORM AND CHECK TO:**  
The Warren Land Trust, Inc. 140 Town Hill Road, Warren, CT 06754

