

Wareham Land Trust



NEWS

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PROPERTY NEWS!

Tweedy and Barnes Central Corridor Extension Project

The Wareham Land Trust is pleased to announce that we are closing on another conservation project. This new 7+ acre addition expands the current Tweedy and Barnes conservation area and creates permanent river and wetland resources for wildlife. This new addition will be owned by the WLT and a Conservation Restriction will be held by the Town of Wareham. After the closing, the WLT will expand access to the site with additional trails, improved parking, and a new sign. This project was made possible with an \$80,500 grant from the Community Preservation Act fund, a \$72,500 Conservation Partnership grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and the support from our members.



WLT Vice-President John Browning (right) receiving the \$72,500 grant check from MA Energy & Environmental Affairs officers.
Photo Credit: Chris Shott, *Wareham Courier*.

News from the President

In April I completed a 3-day Training Workshop for the Keystone Project, held at the Harvard Forest in Petersham, MA. This training prepared me to be a Keystone Cooperator and a more capable volunteer for the Wareham Land Trust.

In ecology, a keystone species is one whose impacts on its environment are greater than would be expected from an individual species. The Keystone Project invests education in keystone people making a significant impact at their local level. The training covers subjects such as forest ecology, ecosystem management, wildlife management, land protection, and community outreach. In exchange for the training and take-home resources, participants of the program, known as Keystone Cooperators, return to their communities and volunteer their time towards projects that promote forest and wildlife conservation.

The Keystone Project is organized by the University of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Conservation and UMass Extension, with support from MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Harvard Forest, MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and The Nature Conservancy.

The Keystone Project is only one way that the Wareham Land Trust Board stays abreast of current conservation methods and issues. Last September we had NINE board members, at their own expense, attend the 3-day Land Trust Alliance Rally in Providence. Also, several board members attended workshops in Bourne and Worcester this year. All this training is important to us in order to provide the best conservation options to serve the Town of Wareham and to find the best alternatives for our generous land and conservation donors.

— Kevin Bartsch, Wareham Land Trust President and Keystone Cooperator

I hoped to bring stories from some of our Board members to the entire membership as a way to tell a broader story of who we are as an organization. And when I thought about telling that story, I immediately thought of Dale and Bob Scott. Dale is the reason I got involved with the Wareham Land Trust. My husband and I saw their booth at a Swan Festival a few years ago and it was right around the time we were thinking of finding some way to get more actively involved in the community. The Land Trust seemed perfect because we were both very interested in the outdoors as well as conservation. But being two somewhat shy individuals, we weren't entirely comfortable doing much more than picking up a trail guide, peering over the display materials, and hoping someone might notice us and make something, somehow, happen. That's where Dale comes in. I saw her lovely, kind face and smile and I probably murmured too quietly "we would be interested in joining" and she immediately beamed and drew us in and brought someone else to talk with us and just like that...we'd found ourselves a new cause. Sometimes a smile can do more than scientific studies or literature or...newsletters.

I went to visit Bob and Dale for this article at their home in East Wareham. Like them, it is full of light and warmth. Wide windows bring the outdoors in on every side of the house. Outside, the gardens border conservation land and Dale gets to know the box turtles that roam through the area. Bob's studio faces northeast on the third floor, spilling morning sun over his work surface. In this relationship, you might say Bob is the artist (a lifelong commercial artist by trade, as well as a talented watercolorist) and Dale is the scientist (no surprise that her creative streak comes through in the geometry of quilting). They became active with the Land Trust right around the time she retired from Springborn Laboratories.

"It was a very good time to get involved," Dale said. "The land trust was working collaboratively with the schools through a program called Youth for Environmental Philanthropy. This community service learning program promoted student empowerment...a unique concept at the time." When Dale originally met with the founders of the Land Trust, she chose education as her primary focus of involvement so these connections with the students were a perfect fit. "I remember being a guest speaker and meeting with 4th graders and discussing our rivers," she said.

They both agree a canoe trip they took that had been arranged with members of the Open Space Committee a number of years before the Bryant Farm property purchase really opened their eyes to the other aspects of land trust work: specifically the acquisition and stewardship arms of our organization.



Bob, a self-proclaimed city boy, says he approaches this activism from a more aesthetic place: "I see the landscape and I'm paying attention to color and composition. I think about how it will create a mood in a painting. Dale is the naturalist. She cares about (he makes a fluttering motion with his fingers) what kind of butterfly just flew by and how can we protect it."

Dale recently continued her involvement with children by volunteering to help Sarah Gossett with the "Itty Bitty Bay Explorers" program: a 4-week group of events with toddlers and their caregivers that brought them outside to discover the forest, the marsh, and the bay.

If you have recently become a member, please be sure to find Bob and Dale at any of our programs and say hello. I promise you will receive a warm reply in return and an appreciation of why the Wareham Land Trust is such a special organization.

—Carleen M. Loper

Wareham Land Trust

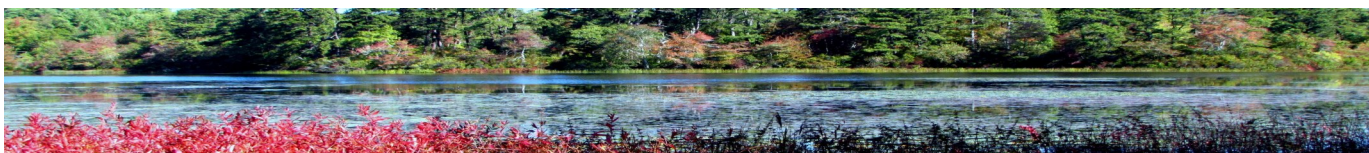
Looking Back...

It's important for us to occasionally look back to share a little bit of our history with new members who may not be aware of how the WLT began. Mary McFadden and her husband Larry Stifler are our founding members. Mary had been coming to Onset with her family for her entire life, and after starting her family, bought a house in Wareham and carried on the tradition with her own children. Over time, they began to notice an increase in real estate development and there was a realization that the Wareham we all know and love could change in ways that would forever impact the landscape. Fifteen years ago, only 3% of the land was permanently protected. With encouragement from then Town Planner, Chuck Gricus and Mark Rasmussen at the Buzzards Bay Coalition, Mary and Larry stepped up to form the Wareham Land Trust in 2001.

At the same time, Massachusetts passed the Community Preservation Act and they decided to try to pass it in Wareham as a way of providing a revenue stream for important community needs, including land conservation. "Everyone told us it would never happen in Wareham," Mary said, "but Wareham passed the CPA by 75%, which at that time was the highest percent of any city or town in the Commonwealth. Imagine! Because of the CPA and the efforts of the all-volunteer Land Trust and our conservation partners, Wareham has more than quadrupled the percent of protected land in Wareham." And we continue to do so with our members' help!

Looking Forward...

Our website has a new look! Please check us out at warehamlandtrust.org. It was time to update our look as well as our ability to interact with our members. Donations can now be made online via PayPal. If anyone is interested in becoming more involved as an active volunteer, there is an online form to complete and submit to us indicating your interests. We will be updating Blog posts and our Events page so please bookmark our site and visit us regularly.



Sarah Gossett, MassLift Community Engagement Coordinator

Coming from the Texas coast, I wasn't sure what to expect when I accepted the position as the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Wareham Land Trust and Buzzards Bay Coalition. It has been an educational and enjoyable experience. From leading outdoor exploration programs, to exploring the beauty of this area's natural space and meeting people from many different walks of life, I have had the opportunity to grow. I have learned much from every experience, but it is teaching children that has taught me the most. I have learned that wonder can be found in the simplest things and that children have some truly unique outlooks on life. Patience and excitement are the most powerful tools for education. I have learned that you don't have to go far to be awed by the natural world.



While I can look back fondly at all I have learned, it is even more exciting to look forward to the remaining time in my service year. With the warmer months approaching, I will be leading paddle trips and beach explorations; I will be hosting shellfishing programs and salt marsh explorations. Most importantly, I will continue to interact with Wareham's children. I will be leading educational programs with Wareham's third and fourth graders, will continue facilitating outdoor exploration through the after school program CARE, and once summer officially arrives I will be leading summer camp programs as well.

Wareham is a town with immense connection to the land and shore, and I hope to continue to foster that connection in my remaining time here. What better way to safeguard our remaining natural space than through ensuring our future decision makers feel connected to it today? And in the process I am learning a thing or two from the people I teach—what an added bonus!

Editor's Note: Thank you, Sarah for all you have done this year!

Wareham Land Trust

In 2014, the Wareham Land Trust welcomed its newest Board member, John Wiliszowski. John is an avid photographer and photography teacher and we are looking forward to more nature photography workshops with him in the near future. Here are some photos we took on an early spring walk around the town's Westgate Conservation Area, where John also acts as steward. The WLT co-holds the Conservation Restriction on this property with the Buzzards Bay Coalition.



We trust that wild land will remain
For plants and animals who call it home.
In woods and fields, we humans roam,
to ease our minds of sorrow and pain.

We hope that wild land will remain
Though housing and businesses grow and spread.
In woods and fields, we humans tread
And find ourselves renewed again.

We work so wild land will remain
We strive together to keep it there
A place that Nature and humans share
A place we nurture and sustain.

— Rose Hickey

NATURE POETRY

Invasion

Slowly, almost unnoticed
It begins, the taking over

At first just one, then another
Gathering forces against the other

Stronger being, stronger roots
Unleashed on meeker milder shoots

The force with which the deed is done
Diminished as purple beauty overcomes

Invasion befitting the strongest kings
Of war among the living things

Obliterating indigenous life
Lythrum salicaria, Purple Loosestrife

—Susan McCombe

The Damselfly

Tell me about the damselfly.
The damselfly has names that sing,
Aurora Damsel, Azure Bluet,
an old-fashioned creature
more at home in a time of castles and kings.
Elegant and shimmering,
She keeps her wings, like her secrets, close by.
Unlike her showier cousin,
The dragonfly –
The Citrine Forktail, the Sedge Sprite,
who holds his wings out true and proud
to catch the sun as if his delicately veined wings
were not as frail as hers.
It is all for show! But it is brilliant light.
If you touched them, it would be like touching a whisper.

Tell me about the damselfly.
She knows she will never see the spring,
a child of summer,
born of the union of a lopsided heart.
She lives her life from lily pad to shore to trembling limb
and then settles down to rest in the pond
near the castle
where a fair maiden waits for a wedding gown
made of shimmering, delicate, silvery wings.

— Carleen M. Loper

The geometry of water

The cove freezes
overnight and each
morning the tide tugs loose
great rafts of ice
that break off in rectangles,
sharp triangles,
and the rare rhombus.
They float under the bridge
and out to sea,
a slow train of shape-shifters.

— Susan T. Landry

The Wareham Land Trust is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to protecting and conserving Wareham's open space and natural resources. All gifts and bequests to the WLT are tax-deductible within IRS guidelines. With 54 miles of shoreline, Wareham claims some of the most breathtaking landscapes in the Commonwealth. From bogs to barrier beaches, forests to farmlands, we are surrounded by a diversity of lands and natural resources.

Membership

Join our efforts to preserve Wareham's open space and natural resources today!

Membership Categories

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Individual: | \$15 | \$ _____ |
| Family: | \$25 | \$ _____ |
| Friend: | \$50 | \$ _____ |
| Sustaining: | \$100 | \$ _____ |
| Sponsor: | \$250 | \$ _____ |
| Benefactor: | \$500 | \$ _____ |
| Lifetime: | \$1,000 | \$ _____ |

(or land donation):

Other Contribution: \$ _____

Note: Donations may be made online at our website via PayPal.

Corporate Membership Opportunities: Please contact us for more information.

Name _____

Address _____

Town/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please send contributions to:
The Wareham Land Trust Inc.
P O Box 718
Wareham MA 02571-0718

508.295.0211

warehamlandtrust.org email: info@warehamlandtrust.org

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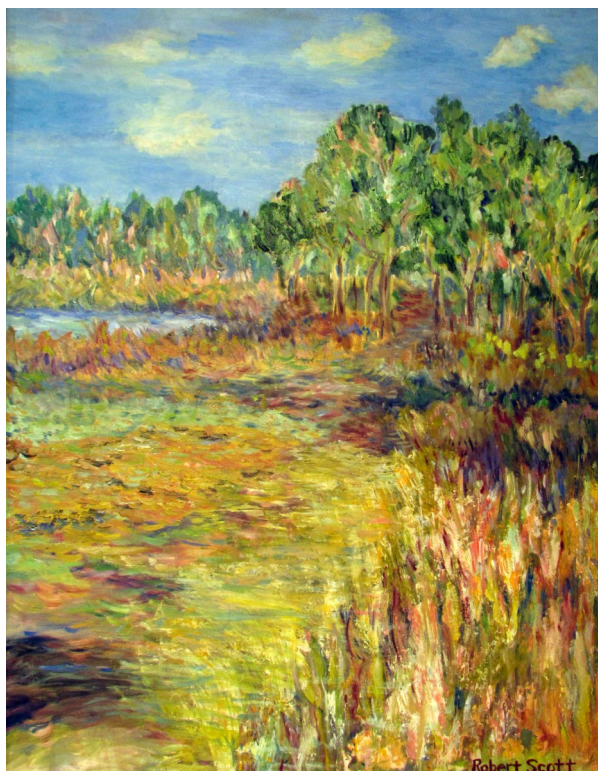
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Newsletter edited by:
Carleen M. Loper



2015 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Thanks to a generous donation from the Stifler Family Foundation, all new memberships from May through November, 2015 will be **MATCHED** dollar-for-dollar. Existing members can help us with this program as well. Any amount donated above your current membership level will **ALSO** be matched! Tell your friends and neighbors, spread the word, help us grow, and thank you for your support!

Artwork by Robert Scott.
Part of a triptych on display at the
Wareham Free Library.