

# Wareham Land Trust



## NEWS

Volume 14 No. 1 Summer 2017



### MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER:



#### JC WEBER

As an Onset resident and the newest board member of the Wareham Land Trust, I am quite enthusiastic to be part of such a dedicated group working to

conserve and protect the natural resources that make the town of Wareham such a unique and special place to call home. A couple years ago, I worked with fellow board member Lori Benson coordinating with town officials and local businesses to help the displaced Onset osprey by the Stonebridge get their new nesting platform. Encouraged to join the WLT, I was deeply moved by the members' passion for conservation and the pride that they held for our town. I was honored at the invitation to join the WLT board. At the WLT annual meeting that made the appointment official, as we set sail aboard the Viking cruise departing from Onset Harbor, it was truly uplifting to see and meet so many of my fellow residents sharing a desire to protect our town's forests and wetlands.

Over the last couple of decades, I have worked as a researcher at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Marine Biological Laboratory. Throughout my career, I have considered myself fortunate to see and appreciate the natural beauty of the field sites that our research has taken me ranging from the open ocean of the equatorial Atlantic and Sargasso Sea to the beautiful landscapes of the arctic tundra and lush northern Amazonian rainforest. The drive and sense of pride that I have felt being part of a team striving to understand and ultimately protect those larger ecosystems is at the very root of the same sentiment that I have being part of the Wareham Land Trust working

alongside its members to protect the natural resources and local ecosystems here around my home.

Serving as a co-Chair of the non-profit Woods Hole Science & Technology Education Partnership (WHSTEP), a partnership between the area science institutions with the regional K-12 school districts, I also have a zeal for education and outreach activities. It seemed like a natural fit for me to become part of the WLT's Outreach Committee. I look forward to contributing to the Land Trust's continued efforts to offer educational programs highlighting the wonders of our local wildlife habitat as well as promoting the environmental and economic benefits of protecting our open space in our community.

I am proud to be an active member of the Wareham Land Trust and honored to be a board member. The Land Trust's commitment to preserving our open space as well as promoting public access to enjoy the benefits of our local nature is inspiring. I encourage you all to visit the WLT website to identify the growing, diverse array of WLT protected properties with their many opportunities for hiking and enjoying the nature all around our town. The ever growing membership of the WLT is a true testament to the pride that we collectively possess as a town in our beautiful shorelines and peaceful forests.

—JC Weber



## YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN WELCOME ANN BRYANT—WLT'S NEWEST ADVISOR AND STEWARD OF THE BRYANT FARM PROPERTY

I feel so fortunate to have recently spent a couple of hours with Ann Bryant to talk about her family's history with the Wareham's Bryant Farm Preserve. The best part of the conversation was learning that Ann's mother, June, who was raised in Onset, still lives in the family farmhouse and will be celebrating her 100th birthday there this summer. Ann recently joined us as an advisor and steward and sent along a letter to all the Board members shortly after joining. "I am honored to be the new land steward for Bryant Farm Preserve. My great-great-grandfather, Ebenezer Bryant, purchased the land and farmhouse around 1850. In addition to cows and chickens, my grandfather, Charles "Herb" Bryant, started the little vegetable stand (which is quite a bit bigger today!). My father, Willard "Bill" Bryant was born in the upstairs bedroom of the farmhouse."

Eventually, Ann's father made the decision to sell off most of the farm land, but he made a "gentleman's agreement" with the purchaser, John Decas, that the

use of Community Preservation Funds for the majority of the purchase was passed by Town Meeting. The Wareham Land Trust is responsible for stewardship of the property. Seeing the Bryant name had been given to the Preserve was something that touched Ann personally when she joined the WLT as a member.

Speaking of loving care, Ann couldn't say enough about the passionate care this preserve has been receiving under the past stewardship of Bob and Dale Scott. "When I walked the property with them it was very evident that they cared deeply about their work and were honoring and respecting the land. It was very moving to spend time with them during my training." Ann looks forward to continuing their work with the same sense of purpose and to help with other volunteer and fundraising efforts to improve the property for future generations to enjoy. Thank you, Ann, for sharing your love for Wareham and this unique and beautiful part of it with the Wareham Land Trust.

—Carleen M Loper



June and Ann Bryant and the view from the family homestead.

*Photos: courtesy of the Bryant family*

property would never be developed. Bill Bryant did not live to witness Mr. Decas honor that promise, but Ann says "there is no doubt he would be pleased his family property is under the loving care of the Land Trust." The property was sold to the Town of Wareham in 2004 through a collaborative effort between the town, the Wareham Land Trust, the Buzzards Bay Coalition, and the Decas Cranberry Co. The



Want to learn more about stewardship volunteer opportunities? Please contact us! 508-295-0211







## A YEAR OF SERVICE

Dedicating a year of service to the Wareham Land Trust and the Buzzards Bay Coalition wasn't an easy decision to make, but I'm glad I jumped into it. Looking back, I realize how much I've learned, how many friends I've made, and, most importantly, how much nature I explored.

As a Community Engagement Coordinator, my role was focused on engaging people in Wareham's conservation efforts through social media, publicity, and face-to-face interactions at free outdoor exploration events.

If you're an Instagram user, be sure to follow

@Warehamlandtrust to take a look at the daily posts I shared throughout the year. The photos feature folks enjoying conservation properties in Wareham, informational tidbits about unique plants and animals in the area, and beautiful scenery made possible by conserving our natural spaces. You might have noticed that the Wareham Land Trust appeared in local newspapers quite a bit this year. After this creative English major learned about public relations, I was able to notify the local media outlets about events through press releases and share stories by writing articles about

troublesome littering, fun walks, and the educational series that we led on properties.

One project that best represents my service is the historical trail signage you can find along the Tweedy & Barnes preserve. The signage was funded by a Wareham Cultural Council grant that last year's Coordinator applied for and received. Since she didn't have quite enough time to finish the project, this year's Youth Education Coordinator (YEC), Ben Hyland, and I teamed up to complete and install the signs.

I used my writing and design skills to lay out the six signs and create concise but informative text that tells the story of how Wareham's natural resources

affected our history. To fund the fabrication of the signs, we used the grant money. To pay for the mounting supplies, we respectfully asked for and received generous donations from local businesses Wareham Aubuchon, Morse Lumber, and the Wareham Home Depot. (Thank you to these businesses!)

Working with local media outlets like WCTV and the Wareham Week, the installation of the signs was publicized for the community. Finally, during a historical walk led by the YEC in March, we led a group on a tour of the property, stopping at the signs to discuss the glacial, industrial, and natural history of Wareham. One participant, who visits the property regularly, was excited to learn that service members created the interpretive signage and was thankful for the engaging and accessible information.

Another wonderful experience has been simply getting to know the volunteers, board members, and WLT members that dedicate their time and talents to conserving open space in Wareham. Their dedication to conservation has been incredibly inspiring and will propel me into the next chapter of my life with a solidified faith in the power of community.

—Michaela Sheridan

## AN AMERICORPS YEAR

What an adventure it is to drop yourself into a community of active residents who care about where they live and the natural beauty that surrounds them. As an AmeriCorps member, I expected to become involved into a close-knit community, but never did I imagine to witness the changes that I, myself was supposed to be implementing.

A majority of my service is meeting 4<sup>th</sup> grade students across our large watershed in the south-coast region of Massachusetts, however I have spent a majority of my time at the Wareham Public Schools. It is exciting to think about: we see children who may not know how to enjoy the outdoors and we show them safe ways to explore. We bring the possibility of exploration in a safe way to every class. Whether the students have only a park that is a few blocks away with only concrete between, or the students have an expansive schoolyard, but have never been encouraged to look around it- we can teach youngsters how to safely explore the outdoors.

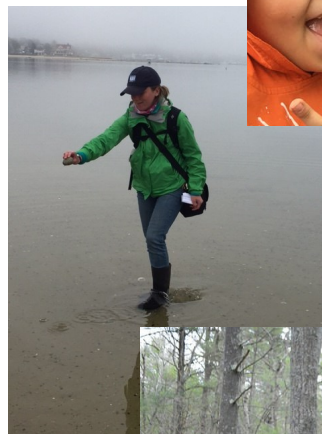
In one Wareham school we met students from 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades for a series of three, one-hour long programs after the school day, I remember meeting one girl that had some disabilities. She was not afraid to explore when we took the students onto the wooded trail behind their school,

but she was not keen on sharing her excitement- she was outside and walking around, but uninterested. By the third and final program in the series, this young girl could not contain her excitement, bringing me handful after handful of lichen, moss, salamanders, and aphid nests on oak leaves.

In the same Wareham school, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade class was taking measurements of abiotic (non-living) factors in their schoolyard; temperature, moisture, wind speed, and light. We move the groups around so they can observe apparent differences around their schoolyard- so one group may start in a sunny field, and end their observations in the forest nearby. One boy was extremely nervous about walking into the woods and held close to his teacher. Once we made our way to a clearing where the wind had died down, and the sun was poking through, the boy moved farther and farther away from his teacher to join his group. When we were leaving, he definitely was still not thrilled to be in the forest, but he was no longer holding tight to his teacher's side.

It is exciting to have the chance to impact the lives of kids and possibly change their opinions of the outdoors. Students walking away from our programs may forever hold a different perspective of nature—that began by exploring their own beautiful 'backyard' in Wareham.

—Ben Hyland



# Wareham Land Trust



**In April,** service members for the Wareham Land Trust and the Buzzards Bay Coalition helped local children satisfy their curiosity about nature by leading outdoor exploration programs on conservation properties in and around Wareham.

The weekly series, called Itty Bitty Bay Explorers, is a staple in our joint seasonal adventures. Geared toward families with children ages 5 and under, they are perfect for introducing kids to nature or simply reinforcing their sense of adventure in a safe way. Through educational games, storytelling,

and guided exploration, over 130 explorers discovered crabs and periwinkles at the



Lyman Reserve, migrating fish at Horseshoe Mill, forest blooms at Minot Forest, and tadpoles and salamanders at the Douglas S. Westgate Conservation Area. Trails were walked, fairy houses were built, and many logs overturned in the search of new slimy friends. Wareham's woods, beaches, and even retired bogs are full of fun for observant and adventurous families. Go explore them!

## COFFEE CHATS

Wareham Land Trust members were invited to share "Coffee with the President" at several local coffee shops. We met for four Fridays in April at Cup 2 Café, Onset Bay Café, and Dog Days Coffee shops. We enjoyed great coffee and lively conversations. I brought attendees up to date about some current projects and initiatives.

It was a great opportunity to meet new people and to get to know some WLT members. I was pleased to get their ideas and opinions about conservation issues in Wareham. It was fun and I look forward to continuing the tradition. Thank you to all who participated.

Kevin Bartsch

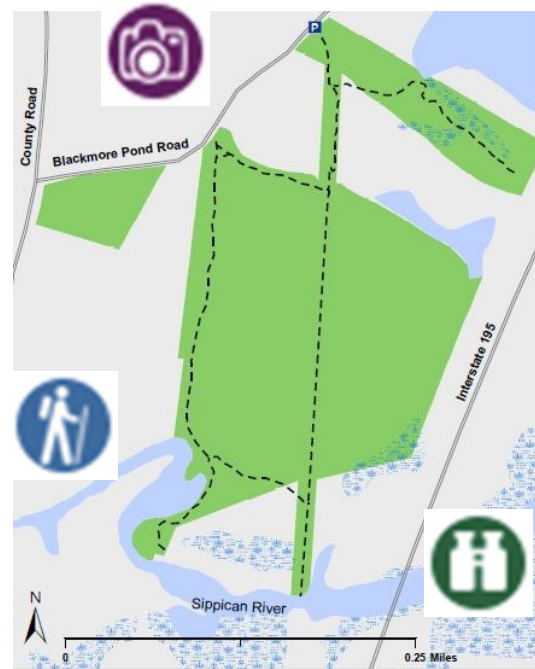






canal gate and channels. This year's trail clearing and brush removal was done with the enthusiastic help of Wareham's Boy Scout Troop #39.

For information and trail maps of other WLT locations, look under the PROPERTIES tab of our website ([warehamlandtrust.org](http://warehamlandtrust.org)). A downloadable PDF of trail guides is also located under the RESOURCES tab of the website.



A truly enjoyable benefit that I have found being a member of the WLT has been the discovery of so many diverse protected properties and hiking trails all across our town. My partner Roger and I frequently use the WLT website as the "go to" resource for identifying places to explore when we want to get outside and enjoy the natural beauty all within a few minutes of our home.

One such property is the Tweedy and Barnes location. Explore the uplands, bogs, and wetlands on this 25 acre preserve and perhaps catch a glimpse of a fox or deer! Several trails offer spectacular views of the Sippican River. The river view is a great spot to see local waterfowl. This land was once owned by the Tweedy and Barnes Cranberry Company, who generously donated it to the WLT. Careful exploration will reveal remnants of their operation such as the old



***"This year's trail clearing and brush removal was done with the enthusiastic help of Wareham Boy Scout Troop #39."***

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

<b>Individual:</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$</b> _____
<b>Family:</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>\$</b> _____
<b>Friend:</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$</b> _____
<b>Sustaining:</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$</b> _____
<b>Sponsor:</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$</b> _____
<b>Benefactor:</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$</b> _____
<b>Lifetime:</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$</b> _____

(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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## UPCOMING EVENTS

*As of the newsletter deadline date some events and programs may not be scheduled due to staffing. Please check the website, Facebook page, or membership emails for exact scheduling information.*

*July: Bird Walk with MA Audubon and the Wareham Swan Festival*

*August: Onset Bay Association Sandcastle Day and Chalk-Full-of-Fun Onset Street Painting Festival*

*August: Annual Meeting Cruise aboard the Viking*

*September: Tick Talk with Larry Dapsis — co-sponsor Wareham Garden Club*

