

Wareham Land Trust



NEWS

Volume 15 No. 1 Summer 2018



GREY FOX RELEASE ON WLT PROPERTY



Last fall, the Wareham Land Trust received a call from Garry Buckminster, Director of Wareham's Department of Natural Resources, who asked if we had a property that would offer a secluded environment to release three orphaned Grey Foxes. The foxes had been taken to the Cape Wildlife Center after their mother was struck by a car in Scituate. They needed to be released off-Cape as there are no Grey Foxes on Cape Cod. A site was agreed upon, and plans were made for the release.

In June, a farmer in Scituate had called the Cape Wildlife center after finding the pups along with their mother, who was unfortunately dead by the side of the road. Rehabilitation included time in the Center's enclosure. This allowed the pups to remain wild and practice skills they would need such as hunting once

released. When the time came to find them a new home, Center officials turned to the Wareham Department of Natural Resources who in turn came to us.

Driving down a bumpy, sandy road, Garry transported the foxes in the back of a pick-up truck with Cape Wildlife and WLT officials in tow. The foxes were released and immediately made a run for freedom.

The Wareham Land Trust was happy to recommend the release site located on one of our properties. The Grey Fox release was an excellent example of cooperation among several different local groups.

We hope they are enjoying their new home!

—Susan McCombe

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

WLT would like to thank Troy and Adam from *Professional Edge Landscaping* for their hard work helping to clear land trust properties of fallen trees and branches after the March storms. We couldn't have done it without you!!

THE BENEFITS OF BATS

This past June, WLT's Board of Advisors member Tom Kinsky led a bat house building workshop for our members. Tom is a science teacher and we asked him to provide some more information about why these creatures are so important—and why the conservation and preservation work we do helps protect their habitat.

Swooping and soaring through the summer night, bats are a welcome sight signaling the change of seasons. These flying mammals can eat several thousand insects every evening on their nightly feeding flights, thereby serving as important biological controllers of such pesky critters as crop-destroying moths, cucumber beetles, flies and gnats, as well as disease-bearing mosquitoes. Additionally, they are important pollinators and seed dispersers, and thus play a significant role in maintaining biodiversity.



But unfortunately there has been a significant die-off in their population over the past decade, as the White Nose Syndrome infection has spread through the population of various species of bats. Up to 95% mortality has been recorded for some cave-hibernating populations of bat, such as the Little Brown Bat – once the most common summer evening acrobat, whose aerial gyrations used to delight many observers of all ages. This disease, coupled with habitat loss and bats' low breeding rate of one pup per year, has led to a severe decline in bat numbers across the Northeast and, increasingly, southern and western states, as diseased bats spread the sickness on their migration routes. Population decline has seemed to stabilize though, and now the task of helping them rebuild their numbers is at hand.

So what can the average homeowner concerned about the environment do? Building a bat house is an easy solution and plans are all over the internet. One good source is Bat Conservation International (BCI). This is a fun, kid-friendly weekend project which does not require any significant carpentry skills. BCI also has good advice on placement of the houses, which is just as important as their correct construction.

Find them online at batcon.org.

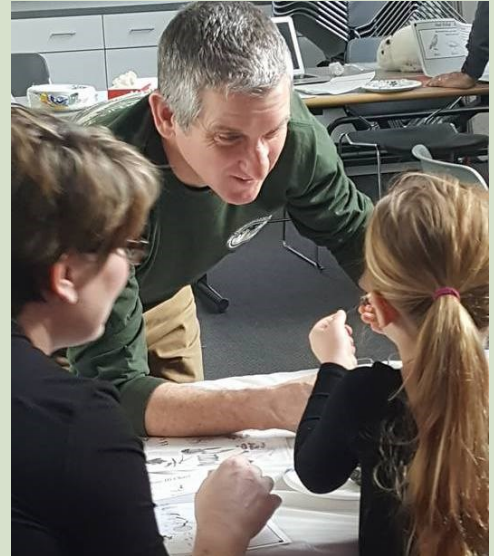


Other steps that can be taken are even easier: leaving dead trees in place (if they are not a safety issue), as their loose bark can provide important nesting sites for bats as well as other helpful creatures; having bats safely removed from attics, etc. by qualified wildlife control experts, and planting a wide variety of pollinator-

friendly plants to encourage the ecological diversity that bats thrive on. And if you find a bat flying around in a room instead of outdoors? Just close the door to the room, open a window and the bat will find its own way out. If it roosts on a curtain or something similar, just cover it with a towel and release it outside.

We hope your yard will be visited by many of these nocturnal creatures this year – they are fun to watch and extremely important to our local biodiversity!

—Tom Kinsky



"I work for children, for human beings. Earth will be fine no matter what happens. Planets are survivors. Our main concern should be the ability of our descendants to thrive here."

—Gina McCarthy EPA Administrator 2013-2017

POLLINATOR EXPO Something to Buzz About

A great educational experience was had by all who packed the Hammond School auditorium to view the "Pollinator's Expo", a co-sponsored event hosted by the Wareham Land Trust, the Wareham Garden Club, and the Boys and Girls Club, on Saturday, April 21, 2018. Many booths offering displays, educational ideas were set up around the perimeter of the auditorium, and there was a featured talk by Blake

Dinius, Plymouth County's new entomologist. Lots of great tips to attract pollinators into yards and gardens were discussed. Visitors to this event could talk to Wareham Land Trust volunteers about the many properties and trails in Wareham that are available for public use. They could also learn more about beekeeping, butterflies, and go home with free violas,

courtesy of the Wareham Garden Club.

—Peter LaBouliere



Nature Exploration in Your Own Community Backyard!

Our town sports a diverse collection of natural beauty from its bays and estuaries to forests and woodlands. You don't have to go very far to enjoy nature and serenity and appreciate the local wildlife with which we share our town.

Many of the Wareham Land Trust properties have trail systems to explore on foot (easily access the trail maps on our website using your phones or at home before embarking on your hike). Properties like the Agawam River Trail or Whitlocks Landing make excellent places to explore the local waters with a kayak. Explore the intertidal wonders and watch the sunset from the North Water Street beach property in Onset.



More detailed information about WLT properties, trail maps and activities can be found at warehamlandtrust.org/properties

SUPERHEROES

COMING TO A VERNAL POOL NEAR YOU

SUPERFROG

aka: the Wood frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*)

WINTER



22 DEGREES - FROZEN
SOLID FOR MONTHS ;
NO MOVEMENT, NO
HEARTBEAT, CELLS ARE
LIKE ICE - IS HE
DEAD????



SPRING



NO!! -- HE CAN HOP FROM LILY
PAD TO LILY PAD WITH A SINGLE
BOUND - CATCH BUGS WITH ONE
LICK - QUACK LIKE A DUCK

QUICK CHANGE ARTIST

aka: Dragonfly (Anisoptera)

SOMETIME THIS SUMMER



FROM DULL BROWN
CRAWLING ON THE POOL
FLOOR

ONE
HOUR
LATER
➡



INTO

A BEAUTIFUL FLYING JEWEL

How can I support the WLT?

Let me count the ways:

Become a member!

Assist in trail cleanup days;

Participate in town meeting votes;

Join one of our committees – Outreach and/or Stewardship;

Become a property steward;

Write an article about one of our properties;

Join one of our boards – directors or advisors;

Inform us of your expertise and what you enjoy doing;

Donate land or a conservation restriction;

Tell your neighbors about us;

Come to our public presentations;

Use the trails;

Donate generously.



How the WLT supports you!

Purchases land for recreation;

Creates public walking trails;

Assists landowners conserving their lands;

Provides public education programs for all ages;

Conserves land to protect water – for drinking & recreation;

Conserves land for habitat protection;

Conserves land for improved air quality.

—Kathleen Pappalardo

LAND PROTECTION UPDATE

As the pace of development in Wareham seems to be picking up, the Wareham Land Trust has also been making strides in land protection. Since our last issue went to press, the WLT has been able to protect in perpetuity—either by purchase or Conservation Restriction—another 75 acres of natural undeveloped land in our town. Further, we have initiated, encouraged and assisted the Buzzards Bay Coalition's negotiations to protect over 50 acres in Wareham (in addition to their well-publicized Onset Bay/Wickets Island project).

The WLT projects include ownership of 13.4 acres "Stoney Run Scout" (a donation by the BSA Narragansett Council) and the purchase of the 7 acre property at 600 Main Street. Both of these properties straddle and protect Stoney Run—a natural stream running from near Wareham Crossing all the way to Broad Marsh and thence to Buzzards Bay. We also procured a Conservation Restriction on 55 acres in East Wareham adjacent to both our already owned Gregory Preserve as well as the Trustees of Reservation's Lyman Preserve.

The newest Buzzards Bay Coalition projects in town include ownership of 45 acres along Great Neck Road and a Conservation Restriction for Town-owned 7 acres along the Weweantic River with a walking path connection to the Westgate Preserve.

None of the above acquisitions could have been accomplished without the active support of our involved membership at Town Meetings and numerous Town Commission hearings. The Community Preservation Committee's funding has been critically vital to most of the purchases and the Conservation Commission has been consistently very supportive.
—John Browning

Throughout the past year, the Wareham Land Trust has had the pleasure of hosting three Americorps service members, in partnership with the Buzzards Bay Coalition, who each have a deep-rooted passion for local conservation. As part of the TerraCorps program, under Americorps, these service members focus their work on environmental communications, education, and stewardship. This year-long commitment to not only the Wareham Land Trust but the greater Wareham community has allowed these service members to give back while developing crucial skills for their professional futures.

Amy Pettigrew is the 2017 - 2018 Wareham Land Trust Youth Education Coordinator. A native of Wareham, Amy has a special place in her heart for educating the youth within her own community.

During her time with WLT, Amy has implemented some great youth education programs that she hopes will continue on past her time. One program Amy developed was the Walking Through Winter Series, a series of walks that not only showcased conservation areas within Wareham but also engaged community members during the winter months, encouraging them to continue to get outdoors. Amy also led family-oriented programs within and outside of Wareham schools, such as partnering with the after school CARE programs and Onset Story Times.

With all of these programs Amy happily reports that she has been able to develop new lessons and create new resources that will continually benefit the WLT even after her service year comes to an end. One thing she is hoping to see sprout from her time with WLT is a connection between local high school students and the Land Trust.

Coming from Detroit, Michigan, **Michelle Krauser** is currently serving as the 2017 - 2018 WLT Land Stewardship Coordinator. Despite not originally being a member of the Wareham community, Michelle has tackled every project head-on with a passion for this community like it was her own.

Throughout the past year, Michelle has been a part of some major projects for the WLT, ranging from maintaining local conservation areas to being a crucial component in obtaining new space for the community to enjoy.

One project that Michelle has been excited about is the process of creating a new loop trail system that will connect the Douglas S. Westgate Conservation area and Fearing Hill Preserve. Together, these properties make up 114 acres of conservation land for the Wareham community to explore. Michelle has been working closely with high school students in the area to get this project done. Looking forward, Michelle is excited to see the future of the Anderson (DeJesus) property and the Stoney Run Scout property. With Anderson, the hopes are to eventually create a continuous green corridor along the Weweantic River to protect wildlife and for nature lovers to enjoy. With Land Stewardship, sustainable projects that continue on past one person is what it is all about.

Also a Wareham native, **Lizz Malloy** has always been excited by the prospect of making science communication more accessible to others and connecting people to nature. Being able to do that in her own community, well, isn't that a dream come true? Serving as the 2017 - 2018 Community Engagement Coordinator, Lizz has been excited to engage others with the natural spaces that made her fall in love with nature.

Through different forms of media and communications, Lizz has spent the year striving to reach out to community members to help make them realize that getting outdoors and loving it is easy! Lizz has spent much of her time writing press releases, blog posts, running the WLT Instagram, and collecting photos and video footage to help better advertise what great things the WLT does.

One project that she completed within her service year was an active outreach binder. The goals of this binder were to 1) engage community members at events by having a succinct and tangible way for people to look at and learn about WLT properties. And, 2) to be a living project, something that can be continuously added to and changed as time progresses.

—JC Weber

THANK YOU AMY, MICHELLE, AND LIZZ!! Wishing all of you the best in your future endeavors. We appreciate all the hard work you did for our community over the past year.



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):

WAREHAM LAND TRUST
P O BOX 718
WAREHAM MA 02571-0718
508.295.0211

warehamlandtrust.org
info@warehamlandtrust.org

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 _____



"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

—Robert Shaw, Environmentalist

The Wareham Land Trust extends a special thank you to the Wareham Cultural Council! Our public presentations – "Tick Talk", "Snowy Owl" and "Great Auk" – were supported in part by a grant from the Wareham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. This support allowed these presentations to be offered free-of-charge to the public.

