

The WLT 2021 Photo Contest

—Kyla Isakson
Outreach Committee Member

The Solitude and Serenity of Nature
An Osprey in Flight with a Fish
Photographed by Bob Scully
May 10, 2021 at the Agawam Herring Run

In the category “The Solitude and Serenity of Nature,” our winning photo was taken by Bob Scully. The photo features an osprey in flight with a fish. Bob frequently visits the Agawam Herring Run when the osprey arrive in the spring. He said that “it’s a great place to get pictures. These types of pictures are like the pinnacle of osprey pics.” Bob said that osprey are his favorite migratory birds, and he has been a member of Osprey Watch in Wareham, monitoring the Narrows Crossing nest for the past two years.



People Enjoying the Land
Little Fish in a Big Pond
Photographed by Miranda Davis
June 30, 2020 at Parkwood Beach

In the category “People Enjoying the Land,” our winning photo was taken by Miranda Davis. The photo features Wareham resident Max Santi (age 2). When asked what her inspiration was for taking this photo, Miranda said that she wanted to highlight “playful moments in everyday life.” She took this photo while looking after Max, and she captured the moment to “look back at small moments of play to remind yourself of how important these

brief moments truly are.” Parkwood Beach is a special place for Miranda because she has many fond memories there, including beach days with children and kayaking with friends. She looks forward to the many more adventures at Parkwood Beach.



A Few of Nancy’s Favorite Things

Asking me “What was your favorite WLT project over the last 20 years?” is like asking a parent to pick a favorite child. I simply can’t do it. Each of the 682 acres that was unprotected in 2001 and is protected now is special! While the projects all have three things in common (a willing seller/donor, a willing buyer/grantee and a committed team who brought the two together), they are all very different. Some, like the 68 acre Agawam Pine Barrens, are difficult to access and serve primarily to provide habitat protection. Others, like the 4 acre Agawam River Trail, are in neighborhoods and are easily accessible for walking and kayaking (in addition to being a turtle nesting site.)

Because I have had the honor of being Treasurer for most of the 20 years, I have been involved to varying degrees in every transaction. Each of the 17 properties owned by the WLT and the 18 Conservation Restriction properties have their own stories. There are stories of families that are fiercely loyal to memories of wonderful childhoods spent playing in the woods or on the beaches, and stories of newcomers who want desperately to protect the jewel they have discovered here in Wareham. Some of the projects took years, multiple partners and millions of dollars to complete, such as the CRs surrounding the Great Neck Wildlife Sanctuary. Other properties took only the stroke of a pen and the recording of a deed, thanks to a donor’s generosity.

I look back very fondly at the 35 projects and remember the friends I made. Each one has enriched my life in ways too numerous to count. Together, we have worked to ensure that the environment we dearly love is protected for future generations. Thank you for allowing me to go on this amazing journey with you.

Go forth and explore the properties!

—Nancy McHale
WLT Treasurer



A kayaker’s view from Agawam River in 2020.



Nancy greeting people at the Oyster Festival booth in 2019.

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.

Not already a member?

Join our efforts to preserve Wareham’s open space!

Individual:	\$15.
Family:	\$25.
Friend:	\$50.
Sustaining:	\$100.
Sponsor:	\$250.
Benefactor:	\$500.
Lifetime:	\$1000.
Other Contribution:	\$_____

Name _____

Street Address _____

Town/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

Contributions may also be made online via our website.

For land donations or corporate membership opportunities, please contact us for information!

Call or email us if you’d like to volunteer as a land steward, for a clean up day, or for an event!

warehamlandtrust.org • 508.295.0211 • info@warehamlandtrust.org



It’s easy to check out our website!
Just aim your phone’s camera at the code.

“Perhaps nature is our best assurance of immortality.”
—Eleanor Roosevelt

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20th Anniversary Edition



NEWS

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The Wareham Land Trust—Then and Now

Twenty years ago, Wareham’s Town Planner, Chuck Gricus, said Wareham should have a land trust, like many other South Coast towns. Development pressures were growing, and it was time for Upper Cape towns to protect their valuable conservation land.

Gricus called a public meeting and invited Mark Rasmussen from the Buzzards Bay Coalition to discuss the need for a land trust. About 20 people attended. Impressed with the presentation and the need to act, I told Mark afterwards that I’d like to get involved. However, despite my past service on the town’s Conservation Commission, I was unfamiliar with land trusts. Mark loaned me a book entitled *How to Start a Land Trust*. I followed it chapter by chapter, setting up a Board of Directors (some of whom are still actively involved), filing articles of organization and bylaws, applying for non-profit status, and officially establishing the Wareham Land Trust.

It was fortuitous timing, since months earlier the state passed legislation allowing towns to adopt the Community Preservation Act to provide funds for open space, historic preservation, affordable housing and recreation. Although some said the CPA would never pass

in Wareham, with the help of many volunteers, voters at Town Meeting put it on the ballot, and it passed by an astonishing 75%—the largest margin of any town in the Commonwealth.

The first opportunity to conserve land came right away. A 66-acre parcel along the Weweantic River was for sale. Two WLT board members went to New York and negotiated a price with the owner. With both private and state funding, the Town acquired the Fearing Hill Conservation Area, now permanently protected by a conservation restriction held by the WLT.

The WLT, working with private and public partners, has permanently protected over 680 acres. Today, over 17% of Wareham’s land is permanently protected, compared with about 3% when WLT started.

While that sounds good, there is much more work to be done! The Wildlands and Woodlands initiative advises keeping at least 70% of land as forests and at least another 7% in agriculture to ensure a healthy future.

Last year, the Land Trust Accreditation Commission renewed WLT’s national accreditation for another five years. This is a noteworthy accomplishment for an

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all-volunteer board.

With our growing responsibilities, the WLT plans to hire its first executive director to increase the pace of this important work.

We are grateful for WLT’s hardworking Board, our supportive members, our conservation partners, and the Town of Wareham for investing in saving land for future generations.

—Mary McFadden
WLT Clerk
WLT First President

20 Years of Celebration

Open Space Summit 2009



Mary McFadden & Larry Stifler attending a workshop.

Accreditation Awards Ceremony 2014



Bob Scott, Dale Scott, Nancy McHale, Kathy Pappalardo, Carleen Loper, Kevin Bartsch, John Willisowski, Mary McFadden & Sue McCombe share a big day for the WLT!

Swan Festival 2001



Edie du Moulin, Mary McFadden, Ted du Moulin, Kathy Pappalardo, Martha Maguire & Nancy McHale.

Harvest Moon Festival 2001



Pres. Mary McFadden & Larry Stifler. The following year, Mary is named the Standard Times Women of the Year!

Viking Cruise Annual Meeting 2003



Checking in members for the first annual cruise!

Cranberry Festival 2006



Mack Phinney explaining the benefits of open space.

Oyster Festival 2017



Carleen Loper & Dale Scott attending the booth.

Chalk Full-O-Fun 2017



Cathy & Mack Phinney chatting with a potential member.

MassLand Trust Coalition Rally 2018



Mary McFadden, Kathy Pappalardo, Nancy McHale, Mack Phinney & JC Weber representing the WLT.

Sharing One Big Beautiful Backyard

I consider myself extremely fortunate to live in a community with such diverse natural beauty. As an Onset resident, I frequently enjoy hopping in the kayak and exploring the numerous coves. When I joined the WLT in 2016, I was pleasantly surprised to discover that we also have many opportunities to hike in the woods too! Exploring the many trails found on WLT protected lands brought back a flood of childhood memories, as we were out on trails almost every day growing up in western PA. Some of these WLT properties also have water access to paddle on the local rivers, giving us a whole new experience beyond the many small coves we've come to love in town.

Since joining the WLT, I've been active on their Board and Outreach Committee in an effort to help spread awareness of this amazing access to nature, and to help protect what makes our town so special. Being all-volunteer, the WLT members are the heart of the organization.

I'd encourage everyone to take a break from the bustle of our lives and enjoy the natural beauty around us. And please consider taking a more active role in the WLT organization. You can volunteer to help with land stewardship, trail maintenance and outreach (contributing with events, writing material for social media/web blogs and more.)

Check out warehamlandtrust.org/volunteer to learn more!

-JC Weber
WLT Assistant Clerk/Outreach



Go to warehamlandtrust.org/properties for directions to your next favorite spot!

20 Years of Preservation

	2000	
	2001	
	2002	Fearing Hill Conservation Area (CR, open to public)
	2003	Baldwin/Eden Property (CR, private)
	2004	North Water St. Beach (Fee property, open to public)
	2005	Bryant Farm Preserve (CR, open to public) Hammond Bay Point (Fee property, open to public) Choate Preserve (Fee property, open to public) The Meadow on Great Neck Rd (Fee property, open to public) Murphy Freedom (Fee property, open to public)
	2006	
	2007	Whitlock's Landing (Fee property, open to public) Tweedy & Barnes (Fee property, open to public) Eldridge Preserve (Fee property, open to public)
	2008	Agawam River Pine Barrens (Fee property, open to public) Gleason Preserve (CR, private) Woods at Great Neck (CR, open to public)
	2009	Gleason Marks Cove (Fee property, open to public) Barker Property (CR, open to public)
	2010	Agawam River Trail I (Fee property, open to public) Agawam River Trail II (Fee property, open to public) Columbia St., Mark's Cove (Fee property, open to public) Phinney Property (CR, private) Zine Property (CR, private) Cheever Lot 1B (CR, private)
	2011	Fearing Hill Swamp (Fee property, open to public) Cheever Stasiowski (CR, private) Kiernan Heron Point (CR, open to public)
	2012	Gregory Preserve (Fee property, open to public)
	2013	The Lyman Property (CR, private)
	2014	Holly Cheever (CR, private) Westgate Conservation Area (CR, open to public)
	2015	
	2016	Tweedy & Barnes Extension (Fee property, open to public) Cromesett Neck (CR, open to public)
	2017	
	2018	Stoney Run Scout (Fee property, open to public) Onset Water District (CR, private)
	2019	Stoney Run 600 Main (Fee property, open to public) Broad Marsh (CR, open to public)
	2020	
	2021	

-Kyla Isakson
Outreach Committee Member