



# THE BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

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## IN MEMORY OF DOUG RAYNER

From youth Doug loved the outdoors – trapping, hunting and fishing. Later in life he left us a legacy of his love of nature in stunning photographs of her small wonders. But, Doug was an environmental maverick. A man who fought long and hard for deeply held convictions about how we should treat the earth, and the animals and plants it engenders.

What does it take to be a maverick like Doug? It takes standing up to pressures of long-held but environmentally destructive practices, and documenting evidence to convince naysayers and obstructionists – until finally changing those practices that damage and destroy the natural environment. It takes keeping on keeping on:

- working to change laws in order to promote environmentally-sound practices;
- applying pressure to curb corporate despoilers;
- joining with countless agencies to stop pollution in our estuaries;
- taking children into the fields and woods, out to the estuaries, showing them how nature works, and what destroys it, helping to create a new generation of earth caretakers;
- becoming one of the founders of our Land Trust in Barrington.

What makes such a maverick as Doug Rayner keep on? Conviction in the rightness of his efforts, a thick skin, curmudgeonry, a good hat, and love for the natural cycle of life – plants, animals, and children. These seem like simple things. But Doug kept on – changing, instilling and (as Steve Reinert, former long time Land Trust Board member, said in his tribute to Doug) making sure “of the restoration of the natural order in his town.”

That's the legacy Doug left us. He was one. We are many.

### THE HOPI PRAYER

**Do not stand at my grave and weep.**

**I am not there, I do not sleep.**

**I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow.**

**I am the sunlight on the ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn's rain.**

**When you awaken in the morning hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.**

**Do not stand at my grave and cry:  
I am not there, I did not die.**



(To read Doug's complete obituary go to [www.watsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.watsonfuneralhome.com). )

## **STEWARDSHIP – TAKING CARE OF OUR PROPERTIES**

As the Land Trust enters its thirty-second year our focus is shifting from acquisition of undeveloped properties to stewarding those already under our care. Although we will still from time to time acquire land, much of our focus will be redirected toward stewardship.

The word, steward comes from the Old English *Stigweard* – ‘keeper.’ We are keepers of the natural state of the land. But there are many agents, both human and environmental, that keep this condition in a state of flux. Some of these agents are historical – invasive interlopers like bittersweet, Russian olive and loosestrife introduced by both man and animals that often overtake and crowd out native plants. Some are weather born – storm damaged trees, flooding, drought, windblown seeds. Others are human induced – incursions of non-native growth from nearby yards, leaf and brush piles, dumped large trash, and the ubiquitous bottles, cans and plastic.

Stewarding not only attends to cleaning out and clearing up, it is also restoration: planting native

shrubs and trees to replace damaged plants and fill in areas cleared of invasives. It is managing walking paths and signage on our accessible properties, monitoring and delineating boundaries, tilling and replanting fields with native warm season grasses, checking blue bird and purple martin houses for damage or interlopers, and helping with the Diamondback terrapin study at the Doug Rayner Refuge.

Stewarding is study – being out in the field, learning to identify plants, birds and other animals – getting outdoors and seeing what is there. It is learning life cycles of the living things on our properties and how best to take care of their habitat.

Equally important, stewarding is keeping track of properties, stewards and records. It is supporting the twenty-four stewards who regularly inspect and report on properties under their watch. It is applying for and administering grants to help fund often costly projects, and enlisting and tracking the volunteers needed to do the work in the field. But, as William Least Heat Moon describes in *Roads to Quaz*, “...the struggle also yield(s) many fine sunrises and sunsets...fishing rod and camera at hand. Being a guardian and advocate and documenter does not exclude joys.”

### **... A STEWARD AT WORK**

Recent past president, Helen Tjader, has conducted twelve stewarding projects over the fall and winter at six of our properties – Sowams Woods, Gibbs Marsh, Deep Meadow Extension, Rumstick Point/Papazian Marsh and Little Mussachuck Creek. Many of them were Eagle Scout projects clearing invasive plants and debris, and trail work. Another, a Barrington High School Senior project, removed invasive plants at Sowams Woods. We thank all of the participants for helping us steward these properties.



*Annawamscutt Cleanup*

## **NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

### **ED SCHOTTLAND**

Ed came onto the Board last year with ten years of stewarding experience for the Land Trust. Not surprisingly he was quickly tapped to chair the Stewardship Committee, a job he shares with Land Trust member, Dave Parkhurst. As the above article indicates it is a busy and time consuming job that requires a variety of skills.

Ed's profession is hospital and health service administration which he has practiced since 1972 serving as CEO and Director of several medical institutions including Tufts-New England Medical Center, Lifespan, Inc. and The Miriam Hospital. He is currently Partner at Carl Marlks Healthcare Partners in New York. This experience as well as service on many related committees and councils including the Barrington Harbor Commission, together with his years as steward is ideal for his position as Head Steward for the Land Trust.

"I was interested in joining the Board based on my 10 years experience as a steward and from the perspective of having the opportunity to continue my commitment to community service. Preservation of the land overseen by the Trust is one of the great opportunities to keep Barrington a wonderful town to live in."

### **BETH RONDEAU**

Beth is our recording secretary extraordinaire – minutes in a ‘minute,’ inclusive and accurate. But she offers so much more to our Land Trust Board – enthusiasm, participation in many activities and events, and good ideas, the ‘why didn’t I think of that’ kind!

## **OUR MANY THANKS**

The Land Trust is very grateful to the Rayner family for naming the Trust as recipient for gifts in memory of Doug. We thank the following donors:

Kenneth and Mary Frank  
Doris Berry  
Gertrude Parkhurst  
James and Bonnie DiMeo  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert LaPlume  
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Stewart and Janet Morrison  
Lorraine Conti

As a member of the Finance and Development Committee her experience as an accountant and financial manager at Salomon Brothers for many years and her current job as Director of Financial Administration at Research Engineering & Manufacturing Inc. in Middletown, RI is a great addition to the always needed attention to the Trust's financial picture.

Beth and her husband Anthony have three children – Ali (16), Benjamin (13) and Nicholas (10). Somehow in her full life she knits, needlepoints, skis, boats golfs and has time for reading!

### **LYN CLEARY**

Our newest Board member loves thinking creatively and collaborating on projects. As newly appointed steward for Pic-Wil Nature Preserve, she has already begun by enlisting Barrington High School Environmental Club students and volunteers for an invasives clearing project on the property.

Her professional life has been as a projects and operations co-ordinator for Gilbane Building Company, Bristol Realty Group and Proctor and Gamble, among others. This skill is invaluable to the Trust as it moves into its new phase of operations.

Lyn has been active as a volunteer for Save the Bay, a member of the Ocean State Dragon Boat Club, organizer of the Barrington Community Peace Patch Vegetable Garden behind St. John's Church and an avid perennial gardener. Clearly, no stranger to the environment!

Carl and Wilma Kornmiller  
Russell and Lenore Backman  
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**Membership Categories (circle one)**

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**Conservator \$250**

**Patron \$100**

**Sponsor \$50**

**Family/Friend \$35**

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please contact me.**

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*We solicit funds to help  
maintain our properties via an  
Annual Appeal in December.  
Membership dues are solicited  
in May and are for that current  
calendar year.*

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