



# Site Lines

Winter 2023  Open Space Makes All the Difference



## Mushroom Hunting Foundation Spreads the Joy & Wonder of Fungi Foraging

By Ryan & Emily Bouchard, [mushroomhunting.org](http://mushroomhunting.org)

Until recently, mushroom hunting has remained a very obscure part of our culture. The general reaction to the idea of eating wild mushrooms is one of astonishment, or even outright fear. I certainly remember being warned to stay well away from mushrooms as a little kid!

Most parents and teachers are concerned that children will get poisoned by touching wild mushrooms, even though that's not actually possible; even with those few species that are deadly, a person can handle them all day and even squish them with their hand without fear. To get poisoned by a poisonous mushroom, it takes actually ingesting it. Sure enough, there is a real danger if someone eats wild mushrooms carelessly; but in our culture, one gets the general impression that they are quite menacing.

And yet, in our travels, like at our SKLT lecture in February, Emily and I run into so many Rhode Islanders that do know about wild mushrooms already. We have met in particular a lot of Polish and Italian mushroom hunters; and plenty of others too. Many of these people have fond memories of family members foraging and cooking special mushrooms.

But a lot of those relatives were reluctant to teach the younger generations in America about the mushrooms they knew. This was often because, although some mushrooms' visual features can be recognized easily, they are hard to describe if you don't know mycological vocabulary words. These people figured, rather than teach their kids about species identification with a dangerously confusing lesson, best not to teach them at all.

Another factor is that many young Americans are embarrassed by older family foraging for mushrooms. "Grandma, please don't offer to cook those mushrooms for my friends...everyone is asking if you're a witch or something! This is America, where we eat modern food...you know, from factories." As a result, these family traditions have been lost over the years. Emily and I are able to help people reconnect to their own traditions, and it's one of the things we are proudest of. But the majority of our audiences are people who have never tried wild mushrooms.

That's exactly where we were ourselves, a dozen years ago. With a little bit of science, though, it's quite easy to do, in complete safety. And luckily, people are starting to figure out that food from factories isn't so cool after all, and that foraging for delicious ingredients in your own local forest, is. People can explore old cooking traditions from their own heritage, or different parts of the world; and even more exciting, they can come up with brand new ideas of their own.

Mushroom hunting really is a whole new world of astonishing colors, shapes, textures, aromas, and flavors. We hope you take an interest in learning about it through the Mushroom Hunting Foundation.



Ryan & Emily Bouchard - Photo By Cat Laine, RI Monthly 2015

# MILESTONES

Monitoring season has begun!

Staff, board members, and volunteers are venturing out and exploring protected spaces and places throughout South Kingstown.

Equipped with “*Landscape*” software on their phones, monitors can now follow the map in their hand and even pinpoint exactly where documentation photos are taken. Using Little Rhody DEM’s amazing aerial mapping program, monitors can look at yearly maps and pre-identify any potential problems before ever heading out into the field. We always need help, with or without technology, so please reach out and attend one of the monitoring events listed on the calendar.

I’m happy to report SKLT received a conservation easement donation on four acres of farmland. The modest landowners do not want public accolades but are bolstered with the knowledge that this is a gift for future generations. They have never been prouder, and we all owe them our thanks.

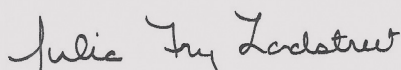
SKLT would like to express gratitude for the life and grief for the loss of board member Tim Philbrick. Gracious and good humored, he was passionate about the community. He was a font of historical knowledge about the families, farms, businesses, and skills that defined our community.

His treasure trove of knowledge supported our work with the Hale House, the Perry Grist Mill, the design and construction of the Woodcock Campus, and much more. His thoughtful support as a volunteer board member and sincerity as a friend to the community will be missed dearly.

Enclosed you will find your name and the names of the others in our community who have made protected land a philanthropic priority. Individuals and businesses have committed their financial resources to protected groundwater aquifers, local agriculture, wildlife habitat, scenic viewsheds, and miles of hiking trails. Thank you and thank your neighbor and supporting businesses. Thank them when you see them and know that your contributions are appreciated by many in our community on a daily basis. Your gift has improved the quality of life for so many.  
*Thank you.*

Enjoy the subtle charms of spring in coastal New England, and don’t forget to go outside.

In gratitude,



Julia Fry Landstreet  
Executive Director



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and by appointment

**Website:** [sklt.org](http://sklt.org)

**Email:** [info@sklt.org](mailto:info@sklt.org)

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**The mission of the South Kingstown Land Trust is to protect and steward natural resources, open spaces, and cultural landscapes for the benefit of the community, now and forever.**



## SKLT Welcomes New Land Management Staff Thomas Prescott Meyer

Thomas Prescott Meyer joined SKLT in December of 2022.

He is a recent college graduate, obtaining degrees in Environmental Sustainability, Society, & Policy as well as Criminal Justice.

Thomas is an avid outdoorsmen and wildlife enthusiast. Growing up on a coastal farm in Matunuck, Rhode Island and working at Twin Peaks Land & Cattle, a local Matunuck ranch, Thomas has developed a true love for working the land.

His passion for wildlife, ecosystem balance and sustainability, along with his robust interpersonal skills makes him a strong conservationist. In his spare time you can find him hunting, fishing, farming and filming wildlife!

Thomas is excited get to know the SKLT family. Your emails are welcomed at [thomas.meyer@sklt.org](mailto:thomas.meyer@sklt.org).



## Weekly Volunteer Work Days

SKLT depends on volunteer support for all aspects of our mission. With 178 properties spanning 3,100+ acres and 15 miles of public hiking trails, nothing is more important than the active land management and maintenance of the protected land in our care.

In 2021, SKLT launched Weekly Volunteer Work Days to create a consistent schedule of opportunities and cultivate an engaged crew of volunteers.

Projects include trail clearing, invasive plant removal, wildlife habitat enhancement, stonewall and historic foundation repair, and much more.

Work days are currently running Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

**Sign up to join the crew at [sklt.org/supportsklt/volunteer](https://sklt.org/supportsklt/volunteer)**



## Spotting the Spotted Lanternfly: A Colorful Cause for Concern

Meet the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), a sap-feeding insect native to Asia. But, no, it is **not** your friend.

The invasive pest, not a fly but a plant-hopper, has caused extensive damage to crops in the Mid-Atlantic region and has since migrated north, with the first being found in Rhode Island in August 2021. Within a year, its numbers exploded, and it has become well established in areas of Smithfield.

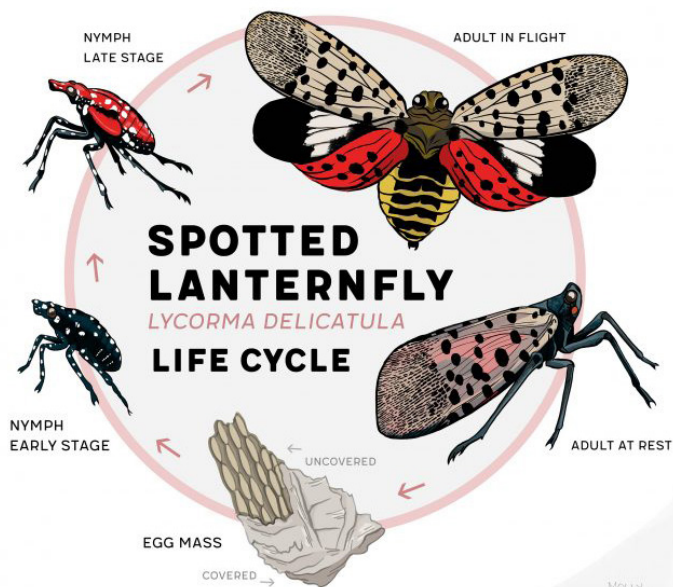
It's voracious and varied appetite is devastating to important trees such as maples and black walnuts and crop plants such as grapevines, apple, plum, cherry, peach, and apricot. The insects remove significant amounts of sap from the plant, and the sooty mold can contaminate the berries.

Spotted lanternflies' preferred host is its fellow invasive species from Asia, the tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), a rapidly growing deciduous tree that was widely planted decades ago for erosion control or as an ornamental tree.

**WHAT TO DO:** In January 2023, SKLT identified a large tree-of-heaven at Weeden Farm (above) and decided to take it down to eliminate the possibility of a future infestation. If you do decide to remove a tree-of-heaven from your yard, just be aware that cutting this tree encourages shoots, so dig out the entire plant, or apply a herbicide to the cut trunk.

Spotted lanternfly egg masses that are accessible can be scraped off and destroyed. Use a stick, plastic card, or similar tool to scrape eggs into a container filled with alcohol, hand sanitizer or soapy water to kill the eggs. Simply mashing eggs is often not entirely effective.

Learn more at [uri.edu/biocontrol/spotted-lanternfly](http://uri.edu/biocontrol/spotted-lanternfly)



The tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is the preferred host of the spotted lanternfly.



Left: Unhatched egg masses. Right: Mass with some eggs hatched.

Photos by Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State University, Bugwood.org (left photo) and Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org (right photo).

Graphic by Molly Schafer for Mt. Cuba Center, Delaware: [mtcubacenter.org](http://mtcubacenter.org)



# 2022 Open Space Circle



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Paul & Kathleen Fitzgerald

Kristin Lombardo

Lisa Lombardo

Christine & Steve Lyons

Nancy Morton

Frances & James Sammons

Robin Smith

Karen Toy

Paul Toy Jr.

Maura Travers

### In Memory of Tim Philbrick

Clarkson Collins &

Marcie Cummings

Linda & Howland Green

Julia & Bev Landstreet

## IN HONOR

### In Honor of Michael Bontecou

Clarkson Collins &

Marcie Cummings

Martha Day & C.N. Hetzner

Linda & Howland Green

Eleanor & Mark Mascheroni

### In Honor of Clarkson Collins

Molly Johnsen

Eleanor & Mark Mascheroni

Liz & Frank Mauran

### In Honor of

#### **Arthur & Marion Gold**

Misty Callies & William Secrest

### In Honor of

#### **Susan Seyfarth Lovejoy**

Samuel & Meg Richards

### In Honor of Tyler Maikath

David Wilson &

Andrea R. Sarrasin

### In Honor of Joanne Riccitelli

Cheryl Foster &

Colin McCullough

### In Honor of Tom Rowe-Drake

Noel B. Rowe





## Youth Fishing Opening Day of Trout Season at Biscuit City

Biscuit City Preserve in Kingston is a restored historical area that includes hiking trails, natural plantings, the ruins of the old Biscuit City Mill, and its most prominent feature, Scott Evans Memorial Pond.

The pond was dedicated to Scott Evans, a child who was struck by a car while fishing from a bridge and died in 1974. In its early days, the pond was dredged and stocked with trout by the RI DEM but over time the pond filled in with silt and was eventually dropped from the stocking program. Ellen Grebstein, a Biscuit City neighbor and SKLT Board Director spearheaded the effort to restore the pond habitat and youth fishing.

2019 marked the reopening of the pond as a youth fishing pond thanks to the combined efforts of SKLT and the RI DEM. Perhaps the best feature of the site is easy handicap access and ample parking, making it ideal for young children, parents and grandparents.

Want to teach your kids how to fish? Join the opening day of trout season at Biscuit City on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>!

The pond will be stocked with brook and rainbow trout by RI DEM beforehand. Fishing starts at 6:00 a.m. Staff and volunteers will be on site to assist until 4:00 p.m. Only children ages 14 and under may fish.

Visitors may also have the opportunity to meet the male beaver who moved into the pond in the summer of 2021.

## Thank You to SKLT's Top 2022 Corporate Sponsors



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## Programs & Events

SKLT Potluck Lecture:

### **Walking Rhode Island: Hiking in the Ocean State w. John Kostrzewa**

Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> (6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)

What's the best hike in Rhode Island? The best hike for fall foliage? Families? Waterfalls, ponds, history, geology, flowers, ocean views?

Former Providence Journal editor John Kostrzewa writes the "Walking RI" column, a series of narrative articles that chronicle hiking trails in all corners of the state. Join the lecture to hear tales of John's favorite adventures, learn tips and directional info, and get inspired to explore the beautiful trails and open spaces of RI.

Free, \$10 suggested donation  
SKLT Barn, 17 Matunuck Beach Road



### **Guided Hike at Alewife Brook Trail: Town of SK 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> (9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

Join a fun short guided hike at Alewife Brook in celebration of the town of South Kingstown's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday!

You'll be looking for migratory birds as well as interesting spring mushrooms and flowers springing up beside the trail. The one-mile trail loops through a 43-acre property acquired from the RI Boy Scouts with partial funding from the Town of South Kingstown.

Free. Registration is required.  
Inclement weather cancels. All ages welcome.

### **Trusting Your Vision: Plein Air Painting Class with Trish Hurley**

Every Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> - May 24<sup>th</sup> (9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Capture the beauty of Land Trust properties with your sketchbook!

Local artist Trish Hurley will be guiding the group through different properties each session and discussing visual components such as composition, line and value, and color.

This is a plein air class on Land Trust properties. The ability to carry materials a little distance and negotiate uneven terrain is needed.

Inclement weather cancels. Multiple locations.  
\$150 per person. Registration is required.



### **Guided Hike at Crawley Preserve Trail**

Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> (9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

Explore a variety of thriving habitats in spring bloom at Crawley Preserve, a beautiful trail shared between SKLT and the Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust.

You'll cross over the bubbling Sandy's Brook and see massive boulders and ridges left behind by glacial retreat. You'll also be on the lookout for migratory birds and other wildlife as well as interesting trees and spring flowers.

Free. Registration is required.  
Inclement weather cancels. All ages welcome.

# Join Us in Preserving Open Space in South Kingstown

Your support for open space preservation continues to strengthen our organization and invigorate our work. Join or renew your membership, make a general donation, or become an EverGreen member! The South Kingstown Land Trust is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, so your donation is tax-deductible. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

## MEMBERSHIP

I want to  Join  Renew

- Individual ..... \$30       Family ..... \$50
- Steward ..... \$100-\$249
- Guardian ..... \$250-\$499
- Conservationist ..... \$500-\$999
- Benefactor ..... \$1,000-\$2,499

## GENERAL DONATION

I'm already a member, but I would like to make an additional donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.



## EVERGREEN

I have already planned a legacy gift to SKLT and qualify to be an EverGreen member through

- Estate Plan  Trust  Other
- Please contact me about making a legacy gift

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to: South Kingstown Land Trust, 17 Matunuck Beach Road, South Kingstown, RI 02879*

## SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

This program allows our donors to easily establish and maintain their membership through a monthly, automatically recurring gift.

I want to become a sustaining member at the monthly amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my credit card:

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## OTHER SUPPORT

- I'm a landowner interested in preserving my land.
- My employer will match my gift. I've enclosed a matching gift form.

## Earth Day Spring Cleanup: Town of SK 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Celebrate Earth Day and the town of South Kingstown's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday by joining one of South Kingstown's Earth Day Spring Cleanups with your friends and neighbors!

Grab a trash bag and gloves and clean up as much litter as you can at your favorite piece of paradise in South Kingstown, whether that be a beach, trail, park or even common litter areas in your neighborhood.

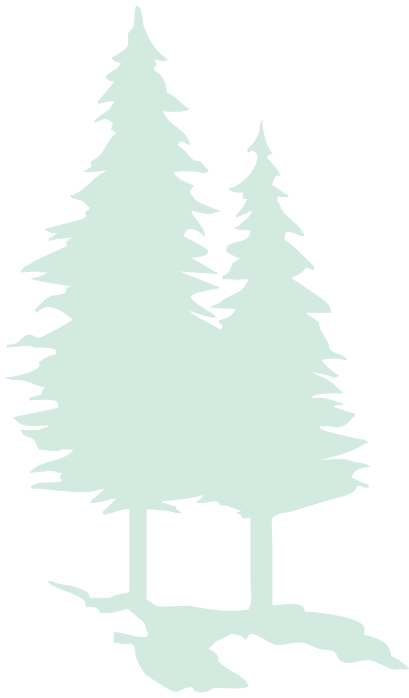
Be on the lookout for designated cleanup locations organized by SKLT, the Friends of the Saugatucket, and others.





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## Join Us at an Upcoming Program or Event

Please register for all programs and events in advance at [sklt.org/event-tickets](http://sklt.org/event-tickets)

March 25	9 a.m.	Monitoring Day, <i>The Barn</i>
March 29	6 - 8 p.m.	"Walking Rhode Island" John Kostrzewa Potuck/Lecture, <i>The Barn</i>
April 7	9 - 11 a.m.	Guided Hike, <i>Alewife Brook Preserve Trail</i>
April 8	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	RI Land & Water Conservation Summit, <i>URI</i>
April 8	6 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Youth Fishing Opening Day, <i>Scott Evans Memorial Pond, Biscuit City</i>
April 22	All Day	Earth Day Spring Cleanup, <i>Various Locations</i>
April 23	TBD	Far Bank Fly Casting Olympics with Trout Unlimited, <i>The Barn</i>
April 26 - May 24	9 - 10:30 a.m.	Plein Air Painting Class, <i>Multiple Locations</i>
May 5	9 - 11 a.m.	Guided Hike, <i>Crawley Preserve Trail</i>
June 6	9 - 11 a.m.	Guided Hike, <i>DuVal Trail System</i>
June 17	10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Town of South Kingstown 300 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade, <i>Main Street</i>
June 25	3 p.m.	SKLT Annual Members' Meeting, <i>The Barn</i>
July 7	9 - 11 a.m.	Guided Hike, <i>Biscuit City &amp; Potter Wood Trails</i>
August 4	9 - 11 a.m.	Guided Hike, <i>Browning Woods Trail</i>
August 6	4 - 6:30 p.m.	Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction, <i>The Barn</i>

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Not on the SKLT email list?  
 Contact us at [info@sklt.org](mailto:info@sklt.org)

