



Site Lines

FALL 2011

SOUTH KINGSTOWN
LAND TRUST

LAND PROTECTION PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Land protection work is on an upswing at SKLT after a slow time due to changes in real estate values. Multiple projects are in the works, and we hope to close on some by the end of the year. Two land and conservation easement donations are in process in Kingston, as well as two more in Matunuck and another in West Kingston. We're also hoping to move forward two acquisition projects, but we'll need help from our members and neighbors for those to succeed!

SKLT's continuing effort to preserve the former Bud Browning farm on Jerry Brown Farm Road was recently featured in the local newspapers. We have a signed purchase and sales agreement with the estate, received the results our appraisal, and can now move ahead. We will apply for funds from the federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, which could provide 50% of the cost of the conservation easement. We now need to look to our members, neighbors and friends to help raise the remaining funds.



Green Hill Project

Another acquisition opportunity is in Green Hill, directly north of the Ferrick land that SKLT recently preserved. This lot is strategically positioned between SKLT's property and the South Shore Management Area owned by the RI Department of Environmental Management. If this land is developed, the uninterrupted landscape of natural land on the east side of Green Hill Beach Road will be broken. Again, we await appraisal results in order to continue negotiations with the landowner, but we are hopeful that we will be able to purchase this land and protect our investment in the neighboring property. We estimate that this project will cost just over \$200,000, and more than \$35,000 has already been pledged.

If you can pledge support to SKLT to proceed on either of these projects, or want to be on an email distribution list for either project, email Joanne at Joanne.Riccitelli@sklt.org.



Bud Browning Farm Project



HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS AT BROWNING WOODS TRAIL

Early this September, SKLT started a new forest habitat improvement project adjacent to the 2.75 mile Browning Woods Trail, southwest of Worden's Pond. The project involves clearing 2.5 acres of second growth forest consisting mainly of black oak, with a mix of other hardwoods including black locust, red maple, black cherry and white ash. Long ago this area was a field surrounding a farmstead. Today, only stonewalls, a hand dug well, and a stone foundation remain - if you can detect them amid the expanding tangle of bull briars, bittersweet and other invasive plants.

With a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and generous donations from attendees at our recent auction, we have developed a clearing plan and hired a logging contractor to remove most of the trees in the area, while keeping a few well-formed trees of desirable species as seed stock for regenerating early-successional forest habitat. After the clearing we can anticipate a rapid re-growth of grasses, shrubs, and saplings that have been suppressed



Photo: Clark Collins

Stone steps leading into the foundation on Browning Woods Trail

by the shade of the tree canopy. Wildlife, particularly ground nesting birds suited to open areas and shrub cover, such as ruffed grouse, woodcock, turkey and quail, as well as kingbirds, fly-catchers, indigo buntings, towhees, and scarlet tanagers who feed on the many insects that thrive in such openings, will benefit. Placed strategically in the opening will be piles of brush and slash to serve as cover for grouse, cottontail rabbits and other small mammals.

The hiker who walks by this area on the Browning Woods Trail will encounter not only a better view and understanding of the old farmstead as part of this 250-acre reserve's history, but also an appreciation of the powerful and fast-moving forces of natural succession at work in forest clearings. This fall, please take a walk on the trail to experience this site of clearing and renewal! You can join us for a guided hike on October 23rd – see page 7, or you can enjoy the trail on your own – download directions and trail map from our website www.skl.org.

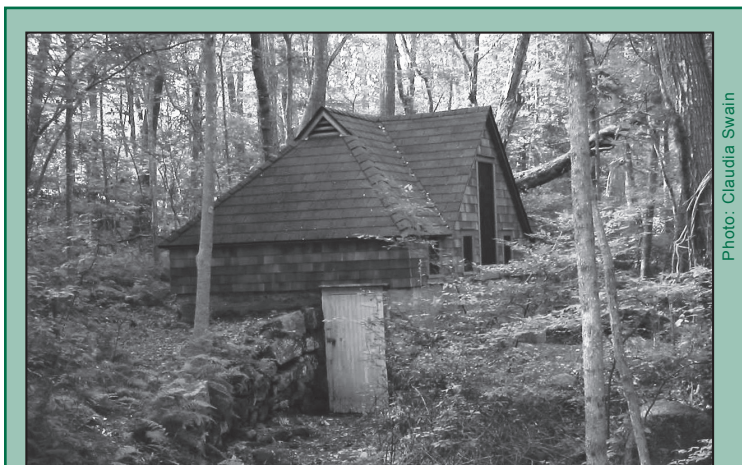


Photo: Claudia Swain

Thanks to the Mary LeMoine Potter Fund and over 20 neighbors and members, SKLT's Spring House on the Biscuit City pond property has a new roof!

“GROWN UP IN THAT VERY PLACE”: EARLY NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF SOUTHERN RHODE ISLAND

Join us for a pot luck supper at 6 pm on November 10, at the Barn, at 17 Matunuck Beach Road, followed by a 7 pm presentation by Joseph Waller, senior archaeologist with The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. and doctoral candidate in anthropology at University of Connecticut. Some of us heard his presentation at the South County Museum last spring and were eager to share it with our members.

A lifelong resident of South County who's been involved in archaeological projects in southern New England for 18 years, Joseph will present an

archaeological history of southern Rhode Island, focusing on the Pettaquamscutt River, Point Judith/Potter's Pond, and Trustom Pond tidal estuary systems of North Kingstown, Narragansett, and South Kingstown. He will highlight recent discoveries at a 12th to 14th century A.D. ancient Narragansett Indian village located at the head of Point Judith Neck in the Town of Narragansett.

Please register in advance at 789-0962 or jane.baumann@sklt.org. We encourage folks to bring locally grown or raised food for the potluck to keep it local!

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THE CHESTNUT ORCHARD GROWS

Chestnut trees are thriving in our first chestnut orchard, so what is the next step? Another orchard of course! SKLT and its partners, the URI Master Gardeners (MG) and the South County Garden Club were so successful at the first chestnut orchard that we have been selected by the American Chestnut Foundation to create the next generation orchard right next door. Fortunately, we had some room in the beautiful fields on Tuckertown Road to build a second orchard. This SKLT property also includes our newest tenant's fields of organic vegetables and the small but prolific tomato field of Steve Siravo who sells his tomato salsa under the name Poblano Farms. An aerial view of the four enterprises on this property is shown in the photo.

The new orchard is being made possible by a substantial grant from US Department of Agriculture NRCS. As with all grants, there are certain rules and regulations that we must meet. In this case, we needed a “crop” in production before the grant was issued. “No



SKLT's Tuckertown Road property

problem” said our MG leader, Rudi Hempe. He arranged a potting party this spring and planted 60 nuts which will eventually be moved into the new orchard. With the crop under way, the grant was issued and all concerned began work in earnest. The fence is constructed, and now the crew

will move on to the irrigation system. Soon, the nuts will be planted with the anticipation that the trees will be sufficiently blight resistant to be transplanted into the forests of Rhode Island. This is a long range project but the end result, if successful, will forever enhance our landscapes in the state. We are privileged to be a part of this great collaboration.

The four separate endeavors at our Tuckertown property are a prime example of how complimentary farming with different crops can share adjoining fields and be successful. The new crops on this farmland are all organic, and replace the herbicide dependent turf field that preceded these uses. The Land Trust is proud to have these enterprises as partners on our land.



Save These Dates - Events at SKLT Barn (unless noted)

Oct. 8 & 22	English Country Dances, 7:30 to 10:30pm
Oct. 13	Estate Planning Workshop, 7pm & light dinner, 6pm*
Oct. 23	Browning Woods Farm hike, 1pm*, meet at site
Nov. 10	Joseph Waller Talk & Potluck, 6pm*
Nov. 13	Hike and trail work at UU land, 1pm*, meet at site
Nov. 19	English Country Dance, 7:30 to 10:30pm

* Please register at 789-0962 or jane.baumann@sklt.org to get directions to sites

CALLING ALL AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS!

SKLT is proud of the 'sense of place' that is South Kingstown. If you have a favorite scene that captures the natural beauty of South Kingstown, grab your camera, and enter your favorite local photos in our Third Ever Photo Contest, which provides us great photographs of our local landscape for use in SKLT publications and invitations.

Entries must be unframed, sized to fit in an 8" x 10" mat, and may be black and white or color. On a piece of paper affixed securely to the back of each photo, please print your name, telephone number, e-mail address, the name or subject matter of the photo, and date and location where it was taken. Contestants are limited to three entries, and there is a \$10 per photo entry fee. Make checks payable to SKLT and send to our Main Street office, by Friday March 23, 2012.

Photos will be judged by a panel of judges for first, second and third place winners, and by all who visit the show for a 'People's Choice' award. All photos entered will be matted by SKLT and displayed at the Barn on Matunuck Beach Road at our Annual Meeting in April 2012. Photos may also be reproduced and later used by SKLT.

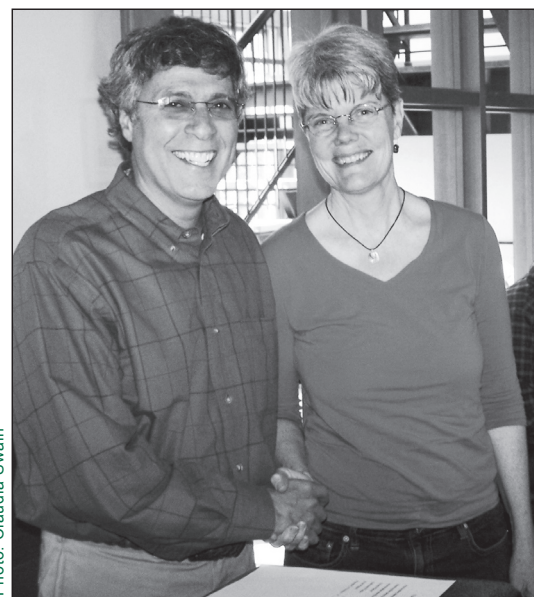


Photo: Claudia Swain

Paul Schurman, SKLT Vice President, congratulates Carol Ansel on her first place finish

PLANNING YOUR LEGACY

On Thursday October 13th, 2011, SKLT will offer an estate planning seminar entitled: *Your legacy: Maximizing your resources for your family and your charities of choice*. Join us at the Barn, at 17 Matunuck Beach Road, at 6 pm for a light supper, followed by the program at 7 pm, with presenters James V. Aukerman, Esq. and Jim Sanzi, Senior Development Officer at the Rhode Island Foundation. This seminar is for your information and planning, and you will not be solicited. While the seminar is free, please register so we know how many handouts to prepare. If you will be joining us for dinner, we ask for a \$7 donation. Register by emailing jane.baumann@sklt.org or call (401) 789-0962.

SO, WHAT IS EVERGREEN, ANYWAY?

EverGreen is a group of South Kingstown Land Trust supporters who have made an enduring commitment to the organization either by naming SKLT in their estate plan or by making an outright gift of \$10,000 or greater to the EverGreen Fund. Christopher Ogden and his wife Linda Fuselier are SKLT's newest EverGreen members, and when asked what inspired them to make that level of commitment, Chris has this to say:

"Born in Providence, I grew up in South Kingstown on Potter Pond. As a kid with itchy feet, I spent my childhood trying to get out of Rhode Island and much of my adult life attempting to get back. I've been fortunate to see a lot of the world - all 50 states and 140 countries - and learn from other cultures, yet the more I've experienced, the more I appreciate the unique delights of South Kingstown. There is simply no other place like it. There are, to be sure, plenty of lovely communities around. Even some good ones nearby: the Cape, Martha's Vineyard, Newport, Watch Hill. Yet none compares with the unspoiled, natural beauty of South Kingstown. That's a situation certainly worth preserving, but it doesn't just happen by chance. It's great



EverGreen members Linda Fuselier and Christopher Ogden

to see SKLT and its members and friends working so hard to keep South Kingstown special. My wife Linda, who is originally from Louisiana where natural beauty is appreciated, but despoiled as well as preserved, also feels a real kinship for South County. She and I don't live here, but visit when we can and finally figured that EverGreen might give us our best chance to stick around longer and give a little back."

For more information on becoming an EverGreen member, please call Claudia (401) 789-0962.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS CELEBRATION AND AUCTION

SKLT held its Great Outdoors Celebration and Auction on August 14th at the Barn on Matunuck Beach Road. Hosted by Will and Whitney Cummer, more than 160 supporters came out to bid. Undaunted by the threatening skies, hardy guests bid on paintings by Kevin Friedland, the late Gibby Ferry, Joseph Keiffer, Peggy Leeson and Troy West. Also up for bid and sold were a robust array of plantings, a cadre of wonderful adventures, and a lovely photo of our own "Hay Rolls" by Barbara C. Crane,

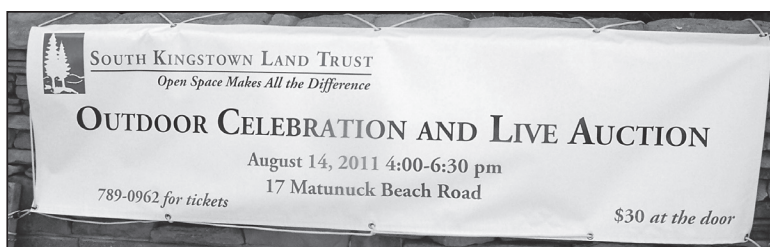


Photo: Claudia Swain

The gregarious, legendary, and caustic wit of auctioneer, Louis Raymond encouraged (may I add: shamelessly!) significant bidding

and netted a windfall for SKLT. The evening ended with a bang, not of thunder, but the call of support for our land management team to work on trail improvements and habitat restoration.

As always, we could not have done this without our committed sponsors, the volunteers, and the many generous donors who make this possible.



MILESTONES

People with a broad range of interests find a common denominator in supporting the preservation of natural lands in South Kingstown. Fans of water resource protection, hiking, wildlife habitat, rare species, farming, hunting, horseback riding, scenic vistas, and cultural heritage all find reason to support the activities of the Land Trust.

Our members come from all sectors of the community and participate in different ways. Individuals contribute as they wish in “time, talent, and treasure” – all your contributions are greatly appreciated.

TIME: Giving one’s time is the greatest contribution of all as it is the one commodity that we all have the same amount of and choose to spend on the things that are important to us. Volunteers help us in stone wall building, investment expertise, land management, legal work, fundraising, and more. Let us know how you’d like to be involved.

TALENT: Volunteers bring a wide spectrum of educational and experiential background to SKLT. As a small nonprofit with part-time professional staff, we rely on volunteers to help us out. Whether your interest lies in utilizing your professional expertise or learning about our work, we have a place where you can help.

TREASURE: There is no denying that all organizations need money to execute their mission and the Land Trust is no exception. Donors come in all sizes and all are important to our ability to acquire and maintain the open space that characterizes the “sense of place” that is South Kingstown. Over the years I have had the pleasure of seeing the financial support to the Land Trust grow steadily – both by individuals giving more, and by more individuals giving. The steady financial support of the community through tough economic times has really energized the volunteers, staff, and board of trustees.

We know you value the work of the Land Trust and we see it in your donations of time, talent, and, treasure. Thank you for your loyal support.

Michael A. Sherry, President

Our membership drive for this year is almost over. But for one last push, we have decided to offer you a deal you can’t beat. Send us one new member and we will send you and your new member an SKLT t-shirt. Our logo is on the front and the back reads...Open Space makes all the difference. The t-shirt is white, with our logo and text in green, short sleeved and comes in almost any size, child and adult. So sign someone up and both of you will receive a shirt. Better yet, buy a membership for someone to celebrate a birthday, bar or bat mitzvah, holiday or for no reason whatsoever! Same rules apply: you and your new member each receive a free t-shirt!

SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST

The mission of the South Kingstown Land Trust is to conserve and protect the natural resources and open spaces of our town for the enduring benefit of our community.

Officers

President: Michael A. Sherry
Vice President: Paul Schurman
Treasurer: Charles M. Lewis
Secretary: Sophie Page Lewis

Trustees

James V. Aukerman
James Farrell
Kathleen Peterson Hahn
Christopher Little
Kevin McDonough
Doug McGovern
Carolyn Moulthrop
Peter Nunes
Carl Sawyer
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Staff

Joanne Riccitelli,
Land Protection Director
Clarkson Collins,
Land Management Director
Claudia Swain,
Development Director
Jane Baumann,
Membership Coordinator
Mike Bontecou,
Land Operations Coordinator

Main Office
313 Main Street, Ste C, Wakefield, RI 02879
401-789-0962
Field Office (SKLT Barn)
17 Matunuck Beach Road
401-783-4999

Site Lines Designer, Cindy Sabato, Volunteer



HIKE WITH SKLT THIS FALL

Land stewards are at work! A timber stand improvement project is underway at Browning Woods (see article, page 2) to strengthen the forest through landscape diversification, and to give hikers better access to the historic remains of the farmstead. Join us on October 23rd at 1 pm for a closer look.

On November 13th at 1 pm, we will hike the trails at SKLT's UU property, so named for the generous donation of this 55-acre parcel on Kingston Hill from the local Unitarian Universalist Congregation in 1995. The property features a quiet shaded forest with a high canopy of white ash, black oak and American beech. This month volunteers will restoring hiking access from the end of Diane Drive, at the east end of Old North Road. Register in advance at 789-0962 or jane.baumann@sklt.org. Check our website www.sklt.org for trail maps at other sites, and be our "eyes and ears" on the land while you're



Photo: Claudia Swain

Early summer hike

hiking. If you notice anything we should be aware of, contact Michael at 742-4515 or michaelbontecou@gmail.com.

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! SKLT is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization so your donation is tax-deductible. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP:

I would like to: ☐ *Join* ☐ *Renew*

- ☐ Individual..... \$30
- ☐ Family..... \$50
- ☐ Protector..... \$51-99
- ☐ Steward..... \$100-\$149
- ☐ Guardian..... \$150-\$499
- ☐ Conservator..... \$500-\$999
- ☐ Benefactor..... \$1000+

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

GENERAL DONATION:

I'm already a member, but I would like to make a general donation. Please accept my check in the amount of \$_____.



EVERGREEN:

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

- ☐ Estate Plans ☐ Trust ☐ Other

- ☐ I am a landowner interested in preserving my land.
- ☐ Please contact me about making a Legacy gift.
- ☐ My employer will match my gift. I've enclosed a matching gift form.

Please make checks payable to:

South Kingstown Land Trust

313 Main Street, Suite C, Wakefield, RI 02879



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Site Lines



SKLT staff Michael Bontecou (on tractor) and Clark Collins (center), and volunteer Rick Tormey work on the stone wall near the south end of Weeden Farm on Matunuck Beach Road in preparation for a new tenant farmer.

SKLT now has a variety of leftover stones – from bread loaf to small car sizes! They're available to members for pick-up – a donation would be appreciated! Contact Michael at michaelbontecou@gmail.com or 742-4515 to arrange a time.

Photo: Claudia Swain

