



Site Lines

SPRING 2012

SOUTH KINGSTOWN
LAND TRUST

BUD BROWNING FARM PROJECT STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP

SKLT is coming down to the wire in our effort to purchase a conservation easement on 14 acres of the Bud Browning farm on Jerry Brown Farm Road. Thanks to neighbors and supporters of the project, we now have additional help promoting the project — four wooden cows strategically placed along the edge of the farm near the road. The first three cows deliver the message: “Help Save the Farm – donate to SKLT” and the fourth, pictured here, tracks our progress.

As of press time, we’ve raised 87 percent of the funds needed. There’s still time to help preserve this rural landscape, but the end of March is our closing. Please contact Joanne at 789-0962 for information or send a donation to the office, with ‘Bud Browning Farm’ in the memo line. We’re very excited to be nearing completion on this project – in the works for over five years now – but still need your help to pull it through to a successful conclusion!



Joanne Riccitelli

SKLT ANNUAL MEETING: CELEBRATE THE PERRY GRIST MILL



The Samuel E. Perry Grist Mill

At this year’s annual meeting, SKLT will celebrate the upcoming protection of the Samuel E. Perry Grist Mill in Perryville. Also known as Carpenter’s Grist Mill, this 1703 water-powered mill has been owned and operated by Bob and Diane Smith since 1986. In 2011, the Smiths and SKLT agreed that the grist mill and 3.3 acres upon which it sits would be a fitting addition to SKLT’s growing list of protected properties.

To assure a sound financial future for the Mill, the Smiths and SKLT have begun a Grist Mill Fund – kicked off by many donations from members of the Perry family. Now we’re spreading the word about the Mill and how you can help us protect this unique historic resource.

Make a note to attend SKLT’s Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 29th at 3 pm to learn more.



JOIN OUR ANNUAL MONITORING DAY ON MARCH 25TH

The days are brighter, the nights are shorter. That means it's time to once again ask you to join us on our properties for our annual monitoring. Hard to believe it was a year ago that we called you all to help with monitoring day, but it's true. Join us for our 5th Annual (can you believe it?) Monitoring Day event at the Barn on Sunday, March 25th at 1 pm.

Sophie Lewis has been hard at work preparing for this year's marathon and assures us it will be easier than ever for participants to locate and monitor their assigned properties. New maps will dramatically reduce instances of lost monitors. SKLT needs your help and promises a great experience. If you are wondering what it is all about,

give us a call and we can explain more. First timers and experienced monitors are welcome.

If you have a favorite place you've monitored in the past and would like to do again, please let Jane know so she can reserve the property for you. If you can't make the event, but want to assist in the effort, contact us about picking up files and instructions before March 25th so you can monitor on your own time.

As a thank you, we invite all monitors to join us for a simple dinner at the end of the day and the ever-popular after-dinner bonfire. Please register by email, at jane.baumann@sklt.org, or by phone at 789-0962. All of us look forward to another great monitoring day!

YAWGOO POND WATER QUALITY TALK

Come to the Barn on Thursday March 29th to hear about the water quality of Yawgoo Pond over the past decades. URI Watershed Watch Director Linda Green will set the stage with a mini-primer on lake ecology, explain the water quality challenges that have occurred at Yawgoo (and downstream Barber Pond), how they were caused, how they've changed over the years, what issues remain, and what challenges await this beautiful, resilient lake.

SKLT owns over 80 acres of land bordering Yawgoo Pond, much of which was protected with water quality protection in mind. We also have a public access trail on

our land on the east side of the pond. Check our website for more information.

Bring a dish for the potluck dinner at 6 pm, and Linda's talk will begin at 7 pm. Please let us know if you are coming – email jane.baumann@sklt.org.



Joanne Riccitelli

MANAGING SKLT'S LANDS

As SKLT enters into its 29th year of conservation work, we are proud to protect over 2,500 acres of forests, farmland, wetlands, streams and pond and ocean shoreline. Looking back on those first days in the early '80s, I don't think any of the first founders thought we would ever reach this point of success. It truly would have been unthinkable without the continued support of hundreds of local land owners, a generation of Town Councils, staff, boards and commissions, and thousands of residents, private donors and charities, and state and federal agencies.

Along with the pride of these accomplishments comes an equal sense of duty to sustain these lands and their natural values for the enduring benefit of our community. As our resources are limited, we must carefully tailor our management efforts to fit a great variety of environmental values of each property and potential beneficial uses - whether that be for natural resources, habitat or scenic value, trails, or scenic access.

Whenever possible, SKLT seeks financial or in-kind assistance from such conservation partners as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, US Park Service, RI Department of Environmental Management, and The University of Rhode Island, and such private charities as the Mary LeMoine Potter Fund in Kingston, the South County

Garden Club, and others. Over the past five years, our partners have contributed more than \$110,000 in grant funding and services for management concerns.

We hope you enjoy our actively managed properties, including the 100-acre Weeden Farm, managed as working farmland, but also for scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, and walking trails; the 260-acre Browning Woods/Kenney properties, managed for hiking access, wildlife and historic education, as well as forest resource development and natural habitat enhancement; the Duval Trail in Perryville, managed for hiking and passive recreation through more than 200 acres of forested hills; the 70-acre Yawgoo Pond properties in West Kingston managed for forest resource enhancement, hiking and scenic access. Other specially managed properties include the 15-acre Bliss Preserve in Matunuck for coastal habitat enhancement and farming; the 12-acre Biscuit City Property in Kingston for public trails, forest habitat, and historic interpretation, and the 55-acre Hollis Tucker farm in Tuckertown, for organic farming, and orchards to produce over the next thirty years, a locally grown blight-resistant American chestnut strain to be used in future forest habitat restoration efforts. These long term management efforts are complemented by studying the potential effects of climate change on SKLT's properties in cooperation with the URI Coastal Resource Center.

WANT TO GET AWAY FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE?

Come to SKLT's Biscuit City property and take the new trail, beginning on Biscuit City Road, across the street from the Potter Woods property of KIA, past the renovated pump house, around the small pond and down through the mysterious ruins of the very old mill complex. With your help, the entire area has been improved and we are certain you will enjoy it.



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

March 24	English Country Dance, 7:30 to 10:30 pm
March 25	SKLT Monitoring Day, 1 pm *
March 29	Potluck and Talk on Yawgoo Pond, 6 pm dinner, 7 pm talk*
April 14 & 28	English Country Dances, 7:30 to 10:30 pm
April 19	SKLT new office Open House at 227 Robinson Street, 4 to 6 pm
April 29	SKLT Annual Meeting, 3 pm *
May 19	English Country Dance, 7:30 to 10:30 pm
July 8	Perryville Days
August 12	SKLT Auction

* Please register at 789-0962 or jane.baumann@sklt.org

CHANGES AT SKLT PAVE THE WAY FOR THE COMING YEAR

It has been a very busy winter here at SKLT. In December, our Board of Trustees met to discuss the future direction of the organization and decided some changes were needed to enable us to meet the challenges of the coming years. We are currently reassessing our staffing needs, updating our website, and preparing to move to larger quarters.

In fact, during the coming weeks, we are moving the SKLT offices to 227 Robinson Street in downtown Wakefield. This storefront office will help make the land trust much more visible to our entire community. The move will occur by April, and we're looking forward to having a stronger presence in the community. We invite you to come visit our new space at an Open House on Thursday, April 19th from 4 to 6 pm.

Finally, we are sad to report that Claudia Swain has left SKLT for a wonderful opportunity at South County Hospital. Although we wish her the very best in her future endeavors, we will miss her immensely. Her enthusiasm and goodwill have earned her many friends at SKLT. Her work as development director for the past several years has left us a healthier organization and we thank her for that.



Jane Baumann, Claudia Swain, and Joanne Riccitelli at an SKLT Fall 2011 event.

BUSY YEAR FOR THE RHODE ISLAND LAND TRUST COUNCIL

South Kingstown Land Trust belongs to a statewide coalition of land trusts called the Rhode Island Land Trust Council (RILTC). SKLT has two representatives on the council, Kevin McDonough, a long time Board member, and Jane Baumann, membership coordinator. The RILTC was established some years ago to foster a sustainable land conservation movement in Rhode Island by supporting the mission and operations of land trusts and providing a forum for their effective cooperation. The RILTC also proposes and advocates for legislation in support of the land trust movement and against potentially harmful legislation.



One of the most visible activities of the RILTC is the annual Land and Water Summit held at URI in March each year. Plan now to join us next year at the Summit, which is always held on the Saturday at the beginning of the URI spring break.

Later this summer, RILTC will sponsor a statewide initiative called Land Trust Days. From August 10th through the month of September, each participating land trust will sponsor a free event, open to all in Rhode Island. It might be a hike, a talk, an evening program or something else altogether. The programs will be listed on the council's website and there will be lots of publicity around the events.

SKLT is hosting the Land Trust Days closing session on September 30th at the Barn.

We will hike around Weeden Farm, and Claudia has promised to return to talk about the geology of the stone walls. Then we will party on the porch of the Barn. Mark your calendars, and let us know if you would like to be part of the planning for this ambitious and worthwhile project.

'GREAT OUTDOORS CELEBRATION' COMING IN AUGUST

On Sunday August 12th, SKLT presents the "Great Outdoors Celebration" from 4 to 6:30 pm at the SKLT Barn. This fun and festive event, featuring a live auction with the very lively Louis Raymond, will offer original art, terrific garden features, and travel adventures. We will celebrate saving over 2,500 acres of beautiful South Kingstown land and will raise our glasses to the good people who bid to support our urgent land preservation initiatives on the South Kingstown landscape. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. If you're a member of SKLT, look for your invitation to arrive by



Claudia Swain

early July. Be sure to bring a friend to enjoy a lovely afternoon on the porch of the barn and help protect open space.



MILESTONES

CHANGE: It's inevitable and more often than not disconcerting to most of us. SKLT, whose mission is to preserve in perpetuity, must also embrace change and evolve its structure and operations to accommodate the increasing requirements from accreditation to audits to policies and procedures. As SKLT has had great success protecting many special places, along with that success comes the challenge of operating and maintaining it all.

Our members have consistently recognized the need to support back office operations and the associated costs. The Board and staff thank you for that support and understanding. As part of our growth we have outgrown our little office on Main Street and are moving a short distance to Robinson Street next to Healy's. We hope that you will drop in and visit. We should be settled in by the end of March.

As some of you already know, our development dynamo, Claudia Swain, has taken a position with South County Hospital. Claudia was SKLT's first staff member solely dedicated to fundraising (although she did so much more). She has done a spectacular job during her tenure and will be sorely missed. We wish her well in her new role.

We are also in the process of completely updating our website in order to better communicate with our members and more easily update content. Our website committee has been planning this upgrade for quite some time and we look forward to the result.

As our mild winter changes to spring, SKLT begins an extremely active period. New acquisitions, monitoring day, annual meeting, stone wall building, hikes, Perryville Day and Auction are but some of the activities scheduled.

On behalf of the Staff and Board of Trustees, please join us as we embrace the change.

Regards,

Michael A. Sherry, President

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
 Carroll Tickner

Staff

Joanne Riccitelli,
 Land Protection Director
 Clarkson Collins,
 Land Management 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



GREAT RESULTS IN 2011

SKLT closed on eight land projects with seven different landowners in 2011, protecting over 94 additional acres in South Kingstown. All of these projects were donations, with five parcels donated in fee and three conservation easements, and were spread about town, with two parcels protected in Kingston, three in the Potter Pond area, one in Middlebridge, one in Perryville and one in Matunuck Hills. It was a very busy year, and 2012 is showing no signs of slowing down.

Another 2011 highlight for SKLT in land protection was a \$300,000 grant award from the RI Department of Environmental Management for the Wells Farm property, located on Yawgoo Pond. Here, Director of Land Protection Joanne Riccitelli accepts the grant award from Governor Lincoln Chafee at the November 2nd ceremony.



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



SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST
313 MAIN STREET, SUITE C
WAKEFIELD, RI 02879

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Site Lines



Take a good look at SKLT's Bayfield Farm property – one of the many Rhode Island locations where Director Wes Anderson's new movie "Moonrise Kingdom" was filmed last spring. Watch for its transformation into the Boy Scout camp setting in the film. Check online for the movie's trailer.

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Claudia Swain

Open Space Makes All the Difference