



Site Lines

SUMMER 2009

SOUTH KINGSTOWN
LAND TRUST

SKLT NEEDS YOUR HELP PROTECTING THE PERRYVILLE CARPENTER FARM

The South Kingstown Land Trust has been working many years to protect the strategically-located Carpenter Farm in Perryville, at the southeast corner of Post Road and Moonstone Beach Road, and we are coming down to the wire. SKLT now must raise \$125,000 to close the deal by mid-July.

A well-known local landmark, the Carpenter farm is nearly surrounded by protected open space, and the protection of this farm is key to preserving the character of the historic Perryville area. The farm is visible to passersby on three sides, truly defining the rural character of the village. It would be difficult indeed to find another parcel in South Kingstown in such a strategic position for open space protection in its village.

With your help, SKLT will be able to permanently protect 40 of the farm's 52 acres for farming, preventing the development of a 19-lot subdivision on the property. Simultaneously, preserving the Carpenter Farm, which serves as a critical upland buffer for the State Trout Hatchery, will also protect the fragile habitat and water quality of the hatchery from the effects of a subdivision with 19 individual sewage disposal systems. The landowner will retain 12 acres, where current zoning would allow six or seven houses to be built in the future. SKLT plans a trail on the northwest corner of the property, to meet up with other SKLT trails in the area.

For a century, the farm has belonged to the Carpenter family, which has a long history of farming in the Matunuck and Perryville areas. The family sold development rights on its farmland in Matunuck in 1998, and now the current owner is working with SKLT to protect this Perryville land through a combination of conservation easement and fee protection.



Photo: Joanne Riccitelli

Since 1935, the farm has produced potatoes, sweet corn and hay, and has pastured from 15 to 70 cows for dairy production (until 1975) or beef.

Fortunately, SKLT has secured grant funding for 92% of the total purchase price of \$1,435,000, from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, and the Town of South Kingstown Open Space Bond Fund. The landowner has also recently reduced the purchase price by nearly 10% in order to help the project succeed. Now SKLT needs your help to meet our goal. All contributions to SKLT for this project are tax deductible.

Contact Joanne Riccitelli at Joanne.Riccitelli@sklt.org if you have questions. Please consider investing in the preservation of the village of Perryville! SKLT believes that this is our best and last chance to preserve this historic, scenic and productive farm. Please make checks payable to 'SKLT' with 'Carpenter Farm project' in the memo line, and mail to SKLT at 313 Main Street, Wakefield RI 02879.



THE NEW AMERICAN CHESTNUT ORCHARD UPDATE

The chestnut saplings and nuts arrived on a cold, winter-like day in early May. Several URI Master Gardeners and SKLT members were there at the Tuckertown Road site ready to plant an orchard. The deer fence was in place, the garden had been turned and everything was ready for planting. Yvonne Federowicz, our RI contact from The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) was on hand to supervise the planting and make certain her “charges” were well planted and given every opportunity to flourish.

The orchard contains one-year-old hybrid seedlings previously crossed with genes from both the American Chestnut and the Chinese Chestnut, which is immune to the blight that destroyed the giant American Chestnut. By crossing the two, TACF is attempting to develop a tree that possesses both the stature of the American Chestnut and the immunity of

the Chinese trees. In addition to the seedlings, there are 40 nuts of either American or Chinese origins. These are carefully identified and cross-breeding will continue to create a new American Chestnut.



Photo courtesy of the American Chestnut Foundation

The project is an example of how various organizations can come together for a single purpose. Each group provides an integral part of the whole, and participants from all the organizations work together for a common exciting goal. The project has generated such excitement in the community that the South County Garden Club has agreed to fund a portion of the costs to build and maintain the orchard. SKLT is most appreciative of their enthusiasm.

The nuts have germinated, so stay tuned for an update in upcoming issues of *Site Lines*. We look forward to bringing our members to the site this fall for a discussion and tour of the project.

SKLT TO PROCEED ON BUFFER ZONE PROJECT AT BLISS PROPERTY

This month SKLT will begin working on its first buffer zone management project along the shores of Potter Pond’s Segar Cove in Matunuck. The background for the project is a cooperative project to restore wildlife habitat at the Bliss Farm, a 14+ acre parcel generously donated by Zenas W. Bliss in 1999. In 2006 SKLT received grant assistance from the Natural Resource Conservation Service to restore the tangled jungle of invasive plants that occupied former pasture and farm land to a condition more similar to farm and grassland habitat. In 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife also contributed funds, labor and equipment to start the clearing. During this period, the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) adopted a new program designed to encourage coastal

property owners to help protect and properly manage the sensitive natural resource areas adjacent to the coastline. The permit program allows projects that manage invasive vegetation according to a plan developed by a trained invasives control specialist. Clarkson Collins of SKLT’s staff received URI and CRMC training in invasive plant management in 2008, and submitted a plan to restore an acre of land this spring. We received permission to go ahead with the project in early May. According to the plan part of the buffer zone will be restored to pasture, and the part closest to the shoreline will be restored to native coastal grassland habitat. SKLT is very pleased to have the support and cooperation of our partners in this program.

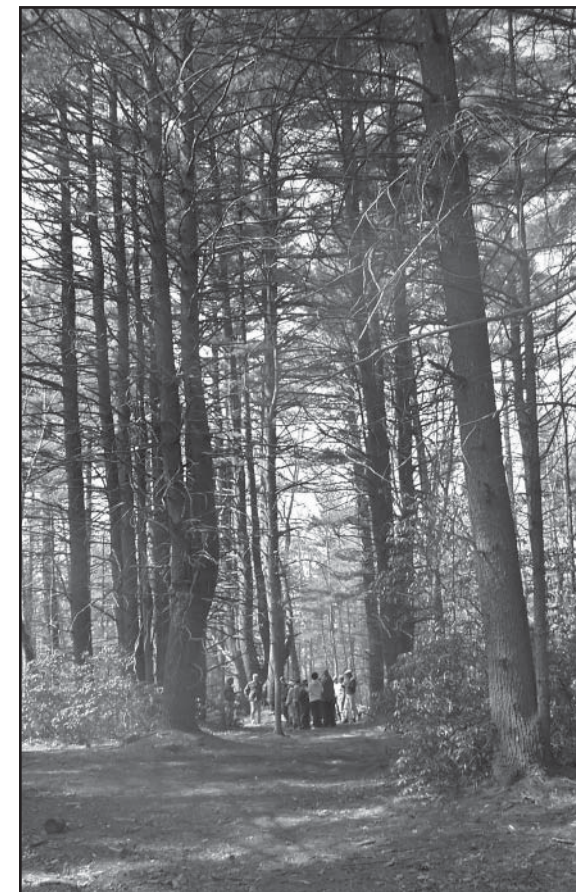
COME HELP SKLT THIS SUMMER!

Every summer SKLT has a great need for volunteer help to carry out a range of activities related to land management. For the hearty and hale, we are continuing on the stone wall restoration project at Weeden Farm, each Wednesday from 9am to noon, with rain dates on Saturday, same time. We will need crews of three to four persons. Some experience is desirable, but we have a core group of experienced workers that can provide on-the-job training. Suggested reading is Robert M. Thorson’s *Stone by Stone*, which provides very enjoyable reading, and plenty of information on the history, geology, artisanship, and construction techniques. We have had volunteers from 16 to 85 years of age contributing their skills at rock laying, chinking, and site preparation. SKLT provides soft drinks, work gloves, T-shirts and bug repellent as needed.

The schedule begins on June 10 and continues until Labor Day.

This summer SKLT will also continue work on trail clearing and enhancement at the Scott Evans fishing area (Biscuit City Pond), on the Alderwick and Strange Properties around Patch Pond in the Matunuck Hills, and a new woods trail off the DuVal trail on the Elmer Congdon Property in the hills of Perryville.

For those who prefer indoor work, SKLT continues to improve record keeping, monitoring and management plan development for all of our 132 properties. For those with a good knowledge of natural history, local history and land use, SKLT would love to have guides to assist in trail walks planned for the rest of this year. Contact Clark.Collins@sklt.org or 783-4999 if you can help!



Photos: Claudia Swain

SPRING TRAIL CLEARING DAY A SWEEPING SUCCESS

On April 19th, 22 hardy souls with loppers and black trash bags gathered at the Barn for a day of trail clearing. One group headed off with our fearless leader, Mike Bontecou, to repair a stone wall on the DuVal trail. Another group headed off to Barber’s Pond to clear trail. This group was side tracked by a small family graveyard that we felt compelled to investigate (a project for another day). Thanks to our volunteers, invasive plants were cut back, trash was removed and the stone wall was mended!





Save These Dates - Events at SKLT Barn

Sun. July 5	Perryville Days
Sat. July 18	English Country Dance, 7:30-10:30 pm
Sat. July 25	American Farm School in Greece reception, 5 pm
Sun. Aug. 16	SKLT Auction (see back cover article)
Sat. Sept. 19	English Country Dance, 7:30-10:30 pm
Sun. Sept. 27	SKLT Photo Contest
Sun. Oct. 4	Trail Hike, Bliss Land (see article, p. 2)
Sat. Oct. 3, 17, 31	English Country Dances, 7:30-10:30 pm
Sun. Nov. 1	SKLT Annual Monitoring Day, 9 am - 9 pm
Sat. Nov. 14 & 28	English Country Dances, 7:30 - 10:30 pm



EXPERIENCE PERRYVILLE DAYS AT THE BARN ON JULY 5TH!

Don't miss the fun! Hundreds of vintage and antique autos will parade to the Barn where they will remain on view around the grounds for the day. Everyone's favorite local cartoonist, Don Bousquet, will give his favorite vehicle an award, and maybe take a couple of aerial views of the festivities too. Here is his photo from last year's Perryville Days. There will be exhibits, food (jonnycakes of course) and so much more. We hope to see you all there! Proceeds from Perryville Days will support SKLT's effort to preserve the Carpenter Farm! (See article on page 1).



Photo: Don Bousquet & Son Photography

REPORT ON THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION SUMMIT

The sixth annual Land and Water Conservation Summit held at the URI Kingston Campus on March 21st was sponsored by the Rhode Island Land Trust Council, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program and the RI Association of Conservation Commissions. The day-long conference offered 31 workshops on all aspects of land and water conservation and management of land trusts, watershed organizations and conservation commissions. It also provided networking opportunities with land trust leaders and other grass roots conservation leaders.

Our own SKLT Board member, Kevin McDonough, just completed his second year as President of the RI Land Trust Council. In that role, Kevin presented the Peter Merritt Award for Conservation to Linda Steere (at right). Linda's conservation work with the Narrow River Land Trust in South County and her work with the Washington County Land Trust Coalition made her a worthy recipient. We were thrilled to see the hard work of this champion of conservation be recognized for her years of service.

Keynote speaker Tom Wessels, an ecologist from Antioch University, gave an enlightening presentation on Reading the Forested Landscape. This was especially riveting to those who have tried to dig in New England soil, or who have admired the "stone walls that go on for

250,000 miles and if stacked one upon the other would be 14 times as massive as the great Pyramids of Egypt."

A briefing was given by Senator Sosnowski who represents South Kingstown and is Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment. Senator Sosnowski outlined legislative priorities in the state house this year. Representative Eileen Naughton outlined environmental priorities facing the House.

SKLT's Claudia Swain presented two workshops: one focusing on our activities in the Matunuck Hills that combined land protection with cultural and historic aspects of protecting the landscape, with Wendy Nicholas, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and former SKLT Trustee Richard Youngken (below); and the other about fundraising strategies for land trusts.



Photos: Claudia Swain

Come to the SKLT Barn July 20-25 to learn about the American Farm School of Thessalonika, Greece, and view their exhibit entitled: "Stewards of the Land: the American Farm School and the Development of Modern Greece." A reception for the exhibit will be held at the Barn on Saturday, July 25 at 5 pm, and SKLT members are welcome and encouraged to attend!



MILESTONES

Wow, here we are in June of our 26th year! We had so much activity last year as we celebrated our 25th anniversary, that you might think we are taking a breather this year. But that isn't the case! The Land Trust remains very busy as we begin our second quarter century.

This spring, our annual meeting drew a record turnout to hear Dr. Tom Mather, the University of Rhode Island "tick guy," tell us how to avoid being bitten by the infamous deer tick in a landscape literally crawling with ticks. Our audience was enthralled and kept Dr. Mather busy long after the meeting with questions.

On May 3rd, SKLT held our 2nd annual Taste of Matunuck dinner for volunteers and major supporters. More than 80 members were at the Barn to feast on fare hunted on SKLT land and prepared by those same hunters in specialty dishes such as braised venison with gnocchi and goose fajitas. Diane and Bob Smith were on hand to cook up some delicious jonnycakes made from flint corn grown in South Kingstown. And for those of us who like it raw, Perry Raso provided cold, fresh oysters grown right in Potter Pond. Wayne and Marisa Davis brought dishes made with their eggs and goat's milk. Thank you to all who provided food for that fabulous feast.

As with many charitable organizations, this year is a challenging one. Claudia Swain, our development director, is happy to announce that Leslie Chouinard is the 29th member of our legacy group, EverGreen. We continue to reach out to the community to increase our membership and share our mission. There is still land to be protected and stewardship projects to be completed. Our heartfelt thanks go to our members and volunteers for your ongoing loyalty, encouragement and support.

See you at the auction on August 16th.

Michael A. Sherry, President

SKLT SEEKS NEW MEMBERS!

SKLT is over 650 families strong! Membership grows each year, but there are still many who are not aware of SKLT and the wonderful work being done to preserve the special places throughout our town. In 2009, we are making an all-out effort to increase our membership by 10 percent, by reaching out to folks and inviting them to join us in our mission. You can help by letting us know of friends or neighbors who might be interested. Please send names and addresses of anyone you think would like to support open space efforts; we'll take care of the rest. Please e-mail jane.baumann@sklt.org, or send a note. We will let you know how we are doing in later editions of Site Lines. Thanks for your help.

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
Treasurer: Charles M. Lewis
Secretary: Sophie Page Lewis

Trustees

James V. Aukerman
Michael Bontecou
Kathleen Peterson Hahn
Christopher Little
Kevin McDonough
Doug McGovern
Peter Nunes
Sally Olsen
Anne O'Neill
Carl Sawyer
Paul Schurman
Carroll Tickner
William Wallace
Virginia Lee, Trustee Emerita
Margaret Munroe, Trustee Emerita

Staff

Joanne Riccitelli,
Land Protection Director
Clarkson Collins,
Land Management Director
Claudia Swain,
Development Director
Jane Baumann,
Finance & Development Assistant

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

SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST'S ANNUAL MEETING



Photo: Claudia Swain

More than 60 members attended SKLT's 26th Annual Meeting at the Barn on sunny April 5. After a short business meeting, Dr. Thomas Mather, professor of entomology at URI, locally known as 'the tick guy', showed the documentary: *Hidden in the Leaves*. Tom sprayed the boots of Clarkson Collins, SKLT director of land management to demonstrate how to protect ourselves from tick encounters. Clark spends much of his time mucking about in the leaves and along the stone walls where ticks are prevalent. Tom said that by treating his boots, Clark will be 70 times less likely to have a tick latch on to him. Damon's Hardware Store is carrying Sawyer's Tick Repellent, which contains the active ingredient that Dr. Mather recommends as most effective against tick bites: permethrin. To find out more, go to his web site at www.tickcounter.org.

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..... \$25
 - Family \$40
 - Protector \$50-99
 - 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

Site Line



SKLT'S 'GREAT OUTDOORS CELEBRATION' COMING IN AUGUST

On Sunday August 16th SKLT presents its "Great Outdoors Celebration" from 4 to 6:30 pm at the SKLT Barn. This fun and festive event, featuring a live auction of art and adventures, will celebrate the Land Trust's saving 2,400 acres of beautiful South Kingstown land and will raise funds to support land acquisition and preservation of the local landscape.

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We wish to thank our honorary chairs, Nod and Henry Meyer, and the following businesses that have generously sponsored the "Great Outdoors Celebration": Applied Radar Inc., Coastal Properties, Little Medeiros Kinder Bulman & Whitney P.C., and South County Steel. Thanks also to sponsors Hugh and Nancy Weidinger and Carroll and John Tickner.

If you would like to add your name to the list of sponsors, please contact Claudia Swain at 789-0962.

In return for your generous sponsorship, you or your company will be recognized on the SKLT website, in the program and during the event. Again, thank you for considering supporting SKLT. Look for your invitation in the mail in early July. Be sure to bring a friend to enjoy a lovely afternoon and help protect open space.



Photo: Claudia Swain

Open Space Makes All the Difference