



Site Lines

SUMMER 2010

SOUTH KINGSTOWN
LAND TRUST

A SPRING WALK WITH A FRIEND

The morning of June third was what is known hereabouts as a “soft day” with a low overcast sky, a hint of fog, and a promise of sunshine - or perhaps un-shine - by noon as SKLT’s Sophie Lewis and Clark Collins rendezvoused with John Monroe at the old Quaker Cemetery in Perryville to present the new loop of the DuVal Trail, known as Polly’s Loop. In his capacity as director of the Rhode Island and Connecticut Rivers and Trails Program of the National Park Service, John makes it a point to visit and walk as many trails in Southern New England as he can, and to advise and assist the many groups who provide a volunteer network of nature trails across the region. By nature he is an avid hiker and has a keen sense of the natural setting of trails, and its wonderful effects on the walker.



Photo: John Monroe

Join us for a hike on this new loop trail on Sunday,
September 12th at 1 pm.

Entering on the modestly marked entrance we talked of ways to enhance this area to the traveler - perhaps a small kiosk giving a simple map and brief description of the features of the trail. After moving a short way through the suffused green light of the forest trail, we branched off onto the new trail, traveling west along a low ridge overlooking to the north a white oak grove, and a sea of low-bush blueberries and huckleberries. John remarked that the design and the feel of the trail was masterful, and asked who the designer was. We proudly stated that it was none other than Michael Bontecou, one of our long-time volunteers and now staff member who has a natural gift for trails. We were pleased to learn that the trail’s gentle twists and turns, its approaches to features of the landscape, were practically textbook examples of the Park Service’s design recommendations.

As we climbed (puffing a bit at times) from the lowlands up through the dramatic ups and downs of the moraine, we were surrounded by mountain laurel and the songs of warblers of many kinds, towhees, ovenbirds, chickadees and other familiar friends. We noted that a good trail is like a walk with a friend - where the conversation turns easily from one thing to the next, stopping briefly taking in the dramatic, but also pausing for the small, subtle, but equally noted detail.

We think you will like this friendly walk.

AGNES 101

We had the good fortune to sit down with one of SKLT's supporters, Dr. Agnes G. Doody, professor emeritus of URI, who taught in the Department of Communications for 45 years at the undergraduate and graduate level.

The condensed vitae, for those whose first introduction might be this article: Agnes received her BA from Emerson College, her MA and PhD degrees in Intercultural Communications from Pennsylvania State University and a Certificate from the year-long Program of Negotiations at Harvard Law School. Agnes' list of significant positions, professional awards and competencies, and magnificent stories are too numerous to mention here. But just to give you an idea of what you might find, when she retired from URI, her many friends, students and colleagues threw her a "Hurricane Agnes" party.

Being in the presence of the wit and wisdom of Dr. Agnes Doody is probably similar to having been one of her students. But this was not Intro. Communications, this was "Agnes 101."

Born and raised on a farm in North Branford, CT, Agnes attributes her academic pursuits to her parents. "Both were supportive of my ambitions," she recalls, though it was her father's support and mentoring which sustained her through her toughest days.

She was married to Arthur Jeffrey in 1962 and lived in Narragansett for two years before the carriage house, designed by Stanford White, at 1 Post Road, became available. They bought it, and renovated it. Both were professors at URI. After her husband died unexpectedly in 1985, she decided to buy the six acres that were adjacent to her property when they became available.

"I love every inch of 1Post Road and can't imagine



Photo: Claudia Swain

living anywhere else. Driving home, looking over the meadow, it feels so good that it will always look as it does. I have never had a split second of doubt over what I did."

She refers to her decision to donate conservation easements on over 12 acres of her land to the South Kingstown Land Trust. She had been fearful about the loss of open space in South Kingstown. When she looked into the option of donating conservation easements, she discussed it with her children, and they supported her decision.

Agnes G. Doody, ever the teacher of communications, is the President and founder of Arthur Associates in Wakefield, RI. Named for her first husband, she continues to do consulting for those in need of services for public speaking, interpersonal and organizational communication, etiquette, and conflict resolution.

Work Crew Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are still needed to do various projects on SKLT properties! The crew meets on Tuesday mornings, and if the response is good, Saturday mornings, too! E-mail jane.baumann@sklt.org or call 789-0962 to get on the e-mail list. Projects vary from week to week. If you prefer to help in the office with mailings, let us know and we will invite you to a stuffing party soon!

DISCOVER "HIDDEN LANDSCAPES" ON TUESDAY, JUNE 29TH

Come to the Barn for a film and light dinner and discover startling things! SKLT will screen 'Great Falls – Discovery, Destruction and Preservation in a Massachusetts Town', a 2 hour film which documents the discovery of native American ceremonial stone landscapes in Turners Falls, Massachusetts. This film was shown to attendees at this year's Land and Water Summit in March and the audience was captivated! We can't wait to share this story with you. You'll never take a walk in the woods in the same way again! Join us for a light dinner (\$7 donation) at 5:30pm then we'll start the film at 6:15pm.

PRESERVING LAND 'IN-TOWN'

So many people drive into town along Route 1, coming from the south, and taking the 'Wakefield, Tuckertown Road' U-turn. One of the first properties they see is Agnes Doody's land, on the right-hand side, with its lovely fields producing vegetables or hay. Most passersby will never know that these 12+ acres have been protected in perpetuity. The crops may change, some trees will grow up, but there will never be 5 or 6 houses there, crowding the road and erasing that landscape.

Other folks might not like making that U-turn, and instead take the Pond Street exit to get into town. On that route, they'll pass beautiful farm fields, and probably glimpse a cow or two in the pasture on the left side of Pond Street. The Robinson Farm's 56 acres, owned by

Jim and Susie Bowers, are also permanently protected. Those fields and pastures will always stay open, and this vista will continue to remind visitors and neighbors of our agricultural past and present, right in the middle of town.

SKLT is proud to be part of an effort to protect important places and habitats in our town – from hundreds of acres of pitch pine habitat in Perryville, farmland in West Kingston, and drinking water buffer area in Tuckertown to the 100+ acre Weeden Farm in Matunuck. But we are also happy to protect smaller signature landscapes 'in-town', close to many neighbors, in the hope that even more people will appreciate the difference that open space makes in our community.

COME BACK IN TIME... TO PERRYVILLE DAYS



Photo: Don Bousquet & Sons

Do you want to stroll back to the time when Perryville in the summer was in its heyday? At 11am on Sunday July 11th, watch the parade of antique cars headed to SKLT's Barn on Matunuck Beach Road and enjoy a day of music, local food, vintage fashion show, celebrities and cars, cars, cars! This marks the third year that SKLT's Barn has hosted this exciting event. Each year the number of antique cars grows, and there are even more events and displays both inside the Barn and outside on the great lawn. There will, of course, be a prize for Don Bousquet's favorite old car, presented by Mr. Bousquet himself! If you have been to Perryville Days in the past, you know what a fun day it is! If you haven't come yet, make a point to stop by, sip a lemonade, grab a jonnycake and while away a couple of hours.

Save These Dates - Events at SKLT Barn

June 29	Hidden Landscapes film, 5:30pm light dinner, 6:15pm film
July 11	Perryville Days, noon to 4pm
July 17	English Country Dance, 7:30 to 10pm
July 25	Alderwick hike 3pm*
August 15	Auction, 4 to 6:30pm
Sept. 12	DuVal Trail Polly's Loop hike, 1pm*
Sept. 11, 25	English Country Dances, 7:30 to 10pm
Oct. 9, 23	English Country Dances, 7:30 to 10pm

* Please call 789-0962 or email jane.baumann@sklt.org to register



ANNUAL MEETING & PHOTO CONTEST

Celebrating the 'sense of place' that is South Kingstown, 120 attendees gathered at the SKLT Barn on Sunday April 11th for our 26th Annual Meeting and Mathias Oppersdorff Memorial Photo Contest. Guests cast ballots for their favorite photograph among 61 entries depicting people, places and wonders in our community. Non-entry photos by the SKLT Board of Trustees were also on display.

Although Judges Seth Jacobson and Kate Vivian picked the winners earlier in the week, they were not revealed until Sunday after the annual meeting. First place went to Carol Ansel for "Hayfields in Afternoon Light;" second place to Judi Wood for "Autumn Glory;" and third place to David Gitlitz for "Croak." Honorable mentions were awarded to Karen Asher for "Fiddleheads in Early Spring," Nancy Burroughs for "Snow on Tree Branches," and Brien Jennings for "Snowstorm at Trustom Pond." The crowd picked Kerri Hayes' picture "A Dragonfly Stopped By" for their People's Choice award.

Friends and family recounted stories about Mathias, known as Mo, whose interest in open space and keen ability for making beautiful photographs made him a beloved member of SKLT. He was the judge of our First Ever Photo Contest in 2008. Some of his work was on display.

SKLT sends thanks to Picture This, the Did You Know? Store, Birdwatchers Nature View, Pier Liquors, all the photographers, and all who help us to protect open space in South Kingstown. View all the photo entries on our website at sklt.org!



People's choice winner Kerri Hayes (right) with SKLT Land Protection Director Joanne Riccitelli. Photo: Claudia Swain

SPEND A LOVELY SUMMER AFTERNOON WITH SKLT!



Photo: Claudia Swain

This year's Great Outdoors Celebration and Live Auction will be held at the SKLT Barn on Sunday, August 15 from 4 to 6:30 pm.

What better way to celebrate our efforts to protect 2,440 acres of open space than gathering with those who feel the same way about maintaining the rural landscape of South Kingstown? This year's auction selection includes vacation homes in San Miguel Allende, Mexico and Tuscany, Italy! Of course there will be beautiful art — including a photograph by the late, and beloved Mathias Oppersdorff, as well as gorgeous plantings from local nurseries, local corn and lobsters, and a shucker and oysters for ten from Perry Raso's Matunuck Oyster Bar!

Our gracious honorary chairs this year are SKLT members Eric Widmer and his wife, Meera Viswanathan. Though they have been living in Amman, Jordan, they return to their Matunuck home each year. They are also EverGreen members, having included SKLT in their estate plans.

Our deepest thanks to those businesses and individuals who have already committed to sponsoring the Great Outdoors Celebration: Applied Radar, James V. Aukerman & Associates, Coastal Properties, Chris Gaffney & Karen Kames, Little Medeiros Kinder Bulman & Whitney P.C., Paul Schurman Contractors, South County Steel and Troy West & Claudia Flynn.

If you would like to add your or your company's name to the list of sponsors please contact Claudia Swain at 789-0962. In return for your generous sponsorship, your company will be recognized on the SKLT website, in the program and during the event.

We look forward to seeing all of you who wish to raise funds to support land acquisition and preservation! Look for your invitation in the mail in early July. Tickets will be \$20 per person. Bring a friend!

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO SKLT

We wish to remember those SKLT members who have died in the past year and for whom we have received gifts in remembrance and celebration of their lives. SKLT is grateful for each gift received and for the lifetime of memories each of the deceased has provided us. If you wish to donate a gift in memory of someone, please indicate the person being remembered and we will advise their family of your gift.

Herbert Behrens, July 2009

Robert Lepper Jr., March 2010

Agatha S. Littlefield, December 2009

Catherine S. Smith, March 2010

MILESTONES

Your Land Trust is growing! Projects are being proposed and spearheaded by volunteers on our properties, and we can't thank you all enough.

Rich and Sue Clark of Clark Farms offered to donate 10 percent of their profits to SKLT one weekend this spring. We sent out an e-mail to members and you responded. The farm had a great weekend and we are the delighted recipients of a substantial check. Thank you Rich and Sue!

Another of our hard working volunteers is Katharine Long, whose project is to get our Biscuit City property, with its great stone ruins of a once-prosperous mill, listed on the National Historic Register. Katherine has researched its history and presented the results to a committee who will make a recommendation on its designation. If successful, the property would be eligible for federal funds to clean up and highlight the key historical findings. We are quietly optimistic about our chances to be listed.


David Gitlitz is out doing clean-up work on the trails, the stone walls, and now the historic cemetery at the Yawgoo Trail property! If something needs doing, we know David will answer the call. Loddy Collins, Marjorie Jackson and DeWayne Allen are out there whenever we need them too.

This wonderful publication would not be possible without our friend Cindy Sabato, who came to us two years ago with a proposal to "put together our newsletter." We were part of a regional newsletter at that point, but her offer moved us quickly to starting our own! We love the collaboration and the result.

Rudi Hempe and his Master Gardener troops have become invaluable to the Chestnut orchard, and are now working to rid the Bliss property of invasives and restore the meadow for nesting birds and other wildlife. They're always two steps ahead and get their projects done in great style.

Finally, our good friend Troy West has proposed an art and sculpture installation at one of our properties. We are looking into this and hope to have more to report in our next SiteLines.

If you have a project that you would like us to consider, or want to help on any of these, please let us know. Every one of our volunteers means a lot to us - won't you please lend us your talents to make SKLT the best land trust we can be?


Michael A. Sherry, President

Thank you, Rich and Sue Clark, for thinking of SKLT during Earth Day this year and donating a percentage of tree and shrub sales to SKLT! Be sure to check out their new location on Route 1 when you are planting this year.



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
Kathleen Peterson Hahn
Christopher Little
Kevin McDonough
Doug McGovern
Peter Nunes
Sally Olsen
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Virginia Lee, Trustee Emerita
Margaret Munroe, Trustee Emerita

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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

A TASTE OF MATUNUCK FOR SKLT'S KEY SUPPORTERS

On May 2, 2010, SKLT hosted our hard-working volunteers and major donors at the Barn to taste the benefits of protecting open space, celebrate the productivity of our working lands, and thank our faithful supporters.

With so much delicious food, it's hard to know where to begin! Steve and Kate Siravo, who lease an acre of SKLT land on Tuckertown Road, brought three types of salsa, plus a new line of tomato sauce - look for it at Belmonts! Craig and Emily Totten from Greenview Farm, which SKLT helped to protect, brought fresh field greens and raspberry jam. Bob Smith and Paddy McKeag (standing in for the indisposed Diane Smith) served up jonnycakes and cornbread made from Stuart Sherman's flint corn, grown on protected land and ground at the Carpenter Grist Mill on Moonstone Beach Road. Perry Raso sent over the most delicious, sweet oysters from Matunuck Oyster Company. Bryan Waltz, Bryce Boratko, and

Craig Caldwell, who have special permission to hunt on SKLT land, provided delicious venison and wild turkey, and cooked up David Carpenter's tenderloin of beef on tasty bruschetta. Spud Mack, who keeps cows on the Bayfield farm, provided a most delicious sausage. Yet another highlight belonged to Wayne and Marisa Davis who brought their darling newborn goats and mother to share in the festivities. Marisa also made varieties of dips with her goat cheese as well as deviled eggs from her hens. Their farm is at the corner of Ministerial Road and Post Road in Perryville. Look for the goats! We were also happy to have Julie Cottrell Broder in attendance, with Rhody Fresh milk, as her family's farm is protected and part of the Rhody Fresh cooperative. Salubrious thanks to all who made this a delightful event!

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



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CHESTNUT ORCHARD UPDATE

What a difference a year makes! Last year the URI Master Gardeners, in conjunction with the American Chestnut Foundation (TACF), began planting a research orchard on SKLT property off Tuckertown Road. They planted 30 nuts, both American and Chinese Chestnut, and several hybrid seedlings. Some nuts germinated; some seedlings prospered. This year, another 230 nuts were planted, completing the rest of the orchard. According to Master Gardener Rudi Hempe, the germination rate is about 90 percent, exceeding all expectations and creating quite a buzz!

At this writing, the baby seedlings are being encased in metal cages to protect them from predators as they gain a foothold in the orchard. It is a beautiful scene and one we hope to show off to our members soon. We thank all our partners in this effort, especially the South County Garden Club for their generous grant to install and maintain the solar watering system devised especially for this project. This system has gained recognition and other chapters of TACF are hoping to use it in their orchards around the country.



Photo: Claudia Swain