



Site Lines

SUMMER 2013

SOUTH KINGSTOWN
LAND TRUST

SKLT RECEIVES GIFT OF LAND IN PERRYVILLE

During her lifetime, Kitty Smith gave SKLT a conservation easement on 10 acres of her land on Rowe's Brook in Perryville. Now, some years after her death, she continues this legacy through a bequest in her will of another 15 acres along the brook, north of Route 1. In total, Kitty's vision and generosity have led to the permanent preservation of over 25 acres of field, wooded swamp, forestland, and stream buffer. Protection of this land will help keep stream waters clean, which is important to the success of the State Trout Hatchery that abuts this land to the west.

Also in Perryville, SKLT preserved the Carpenter farm on Moonstone Beach Road in 2009 with lots of help from



agencies and individuals. Across the road further west, more land is preserved thanks to the late Helena-Hope Gammell, a true pioneer in land conservation in South Kingstown, and a champion for Perryville in particular.

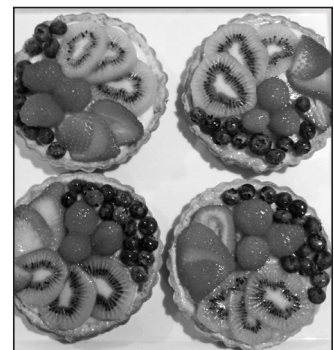
With Kitty Smith's recent donation, most of the land in Perryville bounded by Route 1, Post Road and Ministerial Road is now permanently protected open space, either owned by SKLT or in conservation easement. Large contiguous tracts of protected land like this are critical for sustaining wildlife habitats. SKLT thanks the Smith family for their hard work in seeing Kitty's wishes become a reality.



Photos: Sophie Lewis

FARM DINNER AND THEATER AT THE BARN!

We're excited to be co-hosting a wonderful farm dinner with the Contemporary Theater Company, in our first collaborative event! Starting at 6 pm on August 1st, come enjoy a plentiful four-course dinner at SKLT's beautiful Barn in Matunuck. Many ingredients for the dinner will be sourced from local farms and local markets. In addition to delicious food, you will enjoy cabaret-style entertainment performed by members of the CTC ensemble. Meet CTC's Artistic Director Christopher Simpson, members of the CTC ensemble, and Board of Directors, and hear about their upcoming season. SKLT staff and trustees will of course be on hand as well. Tickets will be limited and will cost \$50. Contact the CTC box office at 218-0282 to purchase tickets, and hope to see you there!





PLANNING FOR APPRECIATION OF ART AND NATURE AT THE FERRICK PROPERTY

In April 2008, with state and private funding, SKLT bought 22 acres along Green Hill Beach Road from the Ferrick family. Most of the site is covered in a wetland thicket of native shrubs and trees surrounding Green Hill Brook. This perennial brook once powered a grist mill, sawmill, and carding mill, but now flows in silence from Factory Pond to the brackish waters of Green Hill Pond.

Along the western edge of the property are three acres of old meadow perfect for passive recreation, and SKLT's desire is to create a discovery path leading visitors to a variety of sculptures within this natural setting. On April 28th, Troy West and Claudia Flynn brought a group of fourteen other local sculptors to the site with a common vision of an environmentally sensitive sculpture trail and park. Then, they came together at the Barn to develop an artistic interpretation



SKLT staff and trustees meet with sculptors at the Ferrick site

Photo: Sophie Lewis

and celebration of the stream and woodland environment.

We are excited to watch this vision evolve this summer. SKLT is creating a fund to assist in supporting trail creation, removing site hazards, and providing an informational kiosk at the entrance on Green Hill Beach Road. If you are interested in contributing to this project, please contact Anne O'Neill at 789-0962.



Photo: Sophie Lewis

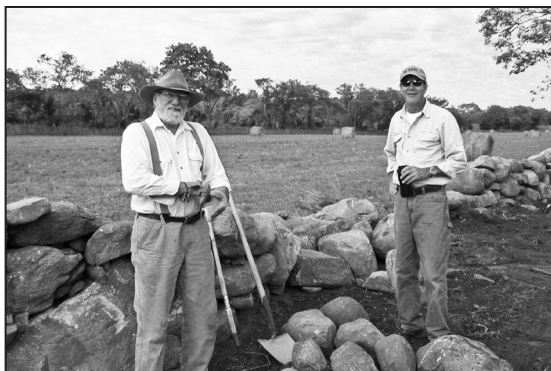
NEW TRAIL BRIDGE AT YAWGOO PROPERTY

Boy Scout Troop 44 - Matunuck, under the leadership of Eagle Scout candidate Jameson Duckworth, has completed a very fine bridge over the Chickasheen Brook where the brook flows out of Yawgoo Pond. This connects two of our properties so that now there is a continuous walk around the southern part of Yawgoo Pond. Jamie, his brother, parents and members of the Land Trust joined at the bridge on April 28 to take a photo of Jamie installing a stainless steel plaque commemorating the work done by him and Troop 44. SKLT thanks Jamie and all of Troop 44 for their hard work on our Yawgoo Pond Trail!

Jamie Duckworth and SKLT Land Management Director Clark Collins at the Yawgoo site

A NEW SEASON OF STONE WORK AT WEEDEN FARM

The hardy volunteers of the stone wall project opened their seventh season in April, clearing brush, removing fallen and half-buried stones, and so far laying fifty feet of reconditioned wall westward along the north side of Weeden Farm's middle field. This season's work sessions are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am until noon.



Lodowick Collins and Michael Bontecou working on the Weeden Farm wall

Photo: Sophie Lewis
Rhode Island College, and others completing community service programs. Since 2007, volunteers have restored two and a half miles of wall, nearly half the total wall length on our historic 100-acre farm.

If you have some time and would enjoy healthy outdoor exercise in a beautiful setting, while learning the basics of rustic South County

SKLT staff Michael Bontecou and Clark Collins and their volunteer force of Sophie Lewis, Lodowick Collins, Rick Tormey, Ted Watson, Scott Rippey, and Doug McGovern use crow bars, shovels, hammers and chisels, a small stone blasting kit, two tractors, and weed-whackers to get the job done. On occasion, they've enjoyed the help of community volunteer groups from Prout School,

wall building, consider volunteering on this project. Activities range from heavy rock lifting and chinking in the gaps between stones to small-scale landscaping and operating hand-held tools. People from ages 16 to 84 have worked on the wall over the past seven years. Contact Clarkson Collins at 783-4999 or clark.collins@sklt.org.

LEARN TO LIKE LICHENS DURING RI LAND TRUST DAYS

Land Trust Days are here again. All across Rhode Island, land trusts will be showing off their properties and introducing the public to all the wonders that have been conserved over the years. This year, Land Trust Days events will take place between August 1st and September 30th. A calendar of events will be posted at the Rhode Island Land Trust Council website, rilandtrusts.org, so you can plan activities with your family for various events statewide.

SKLT is proud to be leading three events this year. On Thursday August 22nd at 5 pm, Clark Collins will lead a late afternoon hike on our Yawgoo Pond Trail in West Kingston. The following Thursday, August 29th, we'll host another popular hot dog roast, along with storytelling by Marc Levitt (see page 8).

Our final event will be a hike and lecture with local lichen expert and SKLT member Elizabeth Kneiper on

September 21st at 2 pm. She'll take us on a hike along DuVal Trail, teach us how to identify and understand the role of lichens in nature, and explain what they



tell us about the health of our environment. Prepare for this two hour walk and talk with a small magnifying glass or jeweler's loupe to get up close and personal with the lichens along the way. The raindate for this event is September 22nd, because it's just too good to cancel for weather related reasons.

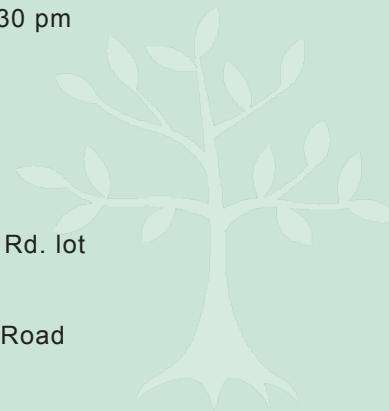
As a footnote, Elizabeth has been asked to contribute tiny lichen landscapes to the exhibit presently being staged at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. Some of the lichens on exhibit, appropriately called Tiny Taxonomy, will be from our own DuVal Trail property, which Elizabeth assures us is a treasure trove of lichens. Try to get there for this exhibit, which runs through September 2nd.



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

June 8	English Country Dance & Ice Cream Social, 7:30 - 10:30 pm
July 7	South County Antique Car Show
July 13	English Country Dance, 7:30 - 10:30 pm
August 1	Farm Dinner with CTC – see p. 1
August 11	SKLT Auction, 4 - 6:30pm – see p. 5
August 22*	Yawgoo Pond Trail Hike, 5 pm, meet at Barber's Pond Rd. lot
August 29*	Storytelling and Hot Dog Roast, 5:30pm – see p. 8
September 21*	Lichen walk, 2 pm, meet at Quaker Cemetery on Post Road

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



SOPHIE LEWIS RECEIVES RI LAND TRUST AWARD

On March 9th, most of Rhode Island's land trust community gathered for the annual Land and Water Conservation Summit at the University of Rhode Island. Unbeknownst to one of our long standing Board members, most of the SKLT Board and staff were there for a very special occasion.

One of the most prestigious awards for land conservation in Rhode Island is the Peter Merritt award given to an outstanding volunteer for service to land protection in the state. The award is presented by the RI Land Trust Council to a person who has dedicated time, energy, and other



resources to conserve those places that are important to our state. It is named for Peter Merritt, a founding member of the Aquidneck Land Trust, who worked tirelessly for sustainable land conservation on the Island and throughout the state. The competition is stiff, but this year, the award went to SKLT's own Sophie Page Lewis. The honor was a complete surprise to Sophie which made the event all the more memorable.

After a lengthy reading of all that Sophie has contributed to SKLT during her tenure of more than 20 years, Sophie was presented with the award. Here she is shown after the presentation with DEM Director Janet Coit congratulating her. Sophie is one of the treasures in SKLT's holdings! We all applaud her good work for the organization.

CHECK OUT TRAILS AROUND RHODE ISLAND!

Information about SKLT's trails, as well as others around the state, are available on ExploreRI.org. Check the site for opportunities to explore other beautiful preserved places throughout Rhode Island.

GREAT OUTDOORS CELEBRATION & AUCTION

This year, SKLT celebrates its 30th anniversary, and the 2013 Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction will be our centerpiece event. Join us on Sunday, August 11th from 4 pm until 6:30 pm at the SKLT Barn for this grand celebration and fund raising event for our ongoing land acquisition and preservation of the local landscape.

The auction will feature works by local artists, dining experiences, and boating and vacation adventures. Unique items include a "Moveable 16th Century Feast" in a Kingston Colonial Home, a Sunday Jazz Brunch for four at the Ocean House and a one week vacation in Eleuthera, Bahamas. Works by local artists include a Holley Flagg watercolor and a Joe Keiffer oil on canvas. Noted garden designer and horticulturist Louis Raymond of Renaissance Gardening will entertain as our spirited auctioneer.

We wish to thank our generous sponsors to date: Arnold Lumber Company, James V. Aukerman & Associates, Jim Blackerby, CFP, Centreville Bank, Coastal Properties, Sue



Photo: Deb Stallwood

Couglin & Sam Slade, Crosstown Press, Martha Day & C.N Hetzner, Chris Gaffney & Karen Kames, Howard Johnson, Inc., Lila Delman Real Estate, Carolyn & David Moulthrop, NewportFed, Randall Realtors Real Living, Rose & Kiernan

Insurance Agency, P. Schurman Contractors, SmithCo Oil Service, Carroll & John Tickner, and The Winter Family Foundation.

To add your company name to our sponsor list, contact Anne O'Neill at 533-3528. In return for your generous sponsorship, your company will be recognized on the SKLT website, in the program and during the event.

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. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door.

IMPROVEMENTS TO BISCUIT CITY TRAIL SYSTEM

In May, members of the Kingston Congregational Church Mission (KCC) Committee (*pictured here*) enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship with SKLT staff while clearing storm damage, trail overgrowth and trail debris on SKLT's Biscuit City property. Freddie Bettinger, organizer of the KCC mission, also coordinated a visit from Volunteers of Rhode Island to dig post holes for three new signs inviting the public onto the trail system at the Biscuit City Mill site. The sign posts are sawn from Eastern red cedar cleared at SKLT's Bliss Property in Matunuck.

Mary LeMoine Potter funds have been used this year to improve the main trail leading to the Mill Pond, produce the signs, and cut trees that threaten the integrity of the foundation walls of the mill and cavern.

SKLT awaits approval of a forest management plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and subsequent funding, to extend a loop trail from the mill site and remove invasive vegetation from the forest understory this summer and fall. We look forward to an integral trail that will let visitors enjoy the peace and beauty, wildlife, and history of this 10-acre reserve.



Photo: Clark Collins



MILESTONES

Summer's approach can be seen and felt on the roads and in the local businesses of South Kingstown as people return. In the midst of all that busy activity, summer can sometimes slip by at light speed. All of a sudden Labor Day is here.

Why not slow down during the summer? Instead of rushing from one thing to another, packing your schedule with activities that don't leave time for contemplation or relaxation, just shut off the cell phone, turn off the computer, and head for the woods for a leisurely hike.

Whether you want a solitary stroll to clear your mind or a family hike with lots of banter, SKLT has several trails to explore. Have you visited the popular DuVal Trail with its loops, or the Browning Trail with historic homestead remains? Perhaps you want to dip your feet in a pristine pond at the end of a long day; try the Yawgoo Pond Trail. Each of these has something unique and worthwhile to visit. Before you shut off that computer, check out our newly redesigned website, sklt.org, for the location of our trails and printable trail maps. Or check out exploreRI.org, which has information on trails throughout the state.

You can also stop by 227 Robinson Street in Wakefield for information on our trails and program activities. Please call the office at (401) 789-0962 to make sure someone is there, as our part-time staff is sometimes out on business.

Thanks again for your support of the South Kingstown Land Trust and its mission.

Sincerely,

Mike Sherry



Like SKLT on Facebook!

Another way to keep in touch with SKLT events and projects is on Facebook. If you use Facebook, please 'like' us!

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: James Farrell
Assistant Treasurer: Charles Lewis
Secretary: Sophie Page Lewis

Trustees

Edward Cimilluca
Martha Day
Linda Green
Kathleen Peterson Hahn
Kevin McDonough
Carolyn Moulthrop
Peter Nunes

Staff

Joanne Riccitelli,
Land Protection Director
Clarkson Collins,
Land Management Director
Jane Baumann,
Membership Coordinator
Michael Bontecou,
Land Operations Coordinator
Anne O'Neill
Development Director

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

Site Lines Designer, Cindy Sabato, Volunteer

SOUTH COUNTY ANTIQUE AUTO SHOW, JULY 7TH

After a year-long hiatus, the popular South County Antique Auto Show will be back at the Barn on Matunuck Beach Road on July 7th beginning at noon. Formerly the Perryville Days Antique Auto Show, the event drew almost 1500 people and more than 100 antique cars to Barn grounds in 2011.

Save July 7th for a family day full of fun, food, music, vendors, and of course many beautiful old cars. South County's own antique auto expert Don Bousquet will recognize the winning automobile using methods only he knows and understands.

If you wish to enter your antique vehicle, contact us at the office and we'll put you in touch with the organizers. SKLT and the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society will be the grateful beneficiaries of the net proceeds from the day. So come early and spend a few hours with us.



Photo: Don Bousquet and Sons Photography

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✂ — — — — — ✂ — — — — — ✂ 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\$75
- ☐ Steward\$100-\$249
- ☐ Guardian\$250-\$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

227 Robinson Street, Wakefield, RI 02879



SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST
227 ROBINSON STREET
WAKEFIELD, RI 02879

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Site Lines



STORYTELLING AND HOT DOG ROAST ON AUGUST 29TH!



Come to the Barn on Thursday August 29th to listen to stories and enjoy our second hot dog roast. Storyteller Marc Levitt has been telling stories at schools, libraries, theaters and festivals throughout the United States and internationally for more than 25 years.

We'll start at 5:30pm with stories appropriate for all ages. After the hot dog roast, Marc will continue with stories for those eight years old and up. There will be a suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$10 per family, with all proceeds going to SKLT. The Land Trust thanks Marc for doing this program for us! Bring along your lawn chairs, and get ready for a great time.

Storyteller Marc Levitt

OPEN SPACE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE