



# Site Lines

SUMMER 2014

SOUTH KINGSTOWN  
LAND TRUST



## SKLT's GREAT OUTDOORS CELEBRATION & AUCTION COMING IN AUGUST

Join us for a lovely, fun-filled afternoon on Sunday, August 10th, from 4 - 6:30 pm for our annual Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction at the SKLT Barn in Matunuck. Proceeds will be used to further land acquisition and preservation of the local landscape.

Going once, going twice, sold! Noted garden designer and horticulturist Louis Raymond of Renaissance Gardening will again delight as our humorous auctioneer. The auction features works by local artists, dining experiences and travel adventures, including a one week stay in a gracious beachfront home overlooking the Atlantic Ocean on the island of Eleuthera, and closer to home, a round trip scenic coastal flight in a Piper Saratoga to Martha's Vineyard. Works by local artists include a still life on canvas by Joe Keiffer and a framed oil painting by landscape artist Gregor Kammerer.

We are honored to have Rudi's Rangers (aka University of Rhode Island Master Gardener Volunteers under the direction of Rudi Hempe) as our Honorary Chairs. Rudi is the coordinator of SKLT's two chestnut orchards and heads up the effort to generate hybrid American chestnut trees. The group also designed and built a purple martin bird house for last year's auction. This year they are constructing a raised garden bed.

Bring a friend to enjoy a lovely afternoon and help protect open space. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door –



Photos: Joe Catelli and Joanne Riccitelli

watch your mail for the invitation near the end of June. Please contact Anne O'Neill at 789-0962 x 3 or [anne.oneill@sklt.org](mailto:anne.oneill@sklt.org) for more information.

## A JEWEL IN THE MAKING IN BISCUIT CITY

In November 2000, the Kingston Improvement Association (KIA) transferred to SKLT several properties on the west slope of Kingston Hill, including a 10.5-acre parcel of wooded land around the old Biscuit City Mill Pond. The sloping site contains notable stone foundations of a former water-powered mill from the late 1700s, its mill pond and dam, a well house that supplied Kingston Village's first public water system, and a well-used walking trail that loops around the pond, connecting Biscuit City and Springdale roads.

Since 2003, SKLT has been transforming this rough diamond into a jewel of a neighborhood park in Kingston Village. With grants from the RI Department of Environmental Management, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Mary LeMoine Potter Fund and donations of funds and labor from private individuals, local churches, local businesses, and educational groups, we are addressing drainage and erosion problems,



Photo: Clarkson Collins

securing and repairing structures in need of care, creating new loop trails, and clearing invasive plants from the forest understory.

This spring SKLT trustee Ellen Grebstein, a professional landscaper, is planning and directing an ambitious project to create plantings of naturalizing and ornamental native plants along the Springdale trail, leading from Biscuit City Road to the mill pond. The design will bring year-round beauty with flowering shrubs, winter berries, evergreens, and other eye-catching plants, selected especially for stream valley and woodland habitats.

SKLT invites members and friends to help in this spring and summer's ambitious plan – contact [jane.baumann@sklt.org](mailto:jane.baumann@sklt.org) to volunteer.

We also offer many thanks to the Kingston Congregational Church, Mary LeMoine Potter Fund, KIA, URI Landscape Architecture Department, Kingston Water District, Hope Leeson, Katherine Long, David Carpenter Excavating and others for their help.

**The Land Trust Alliance**, a national organization of land trusts throughout the United States is holding its annual convention, Rally, in Providence on September 18-20. SKLT will have a large contingent at Rally and would love to have some of our members attend with us! Please check [lta.org](http://lta.org) for more information. SKLT has been chosen to run one of the all-day field trips for attendees and you can get in on that if you are registered.



SKLT volunteers gather together on Monitoring Day in March.

## SKLT's 31st ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and his wife Sandra attended SKLT's Annual Meeting in April and the Senator informed the overflow crowd of his efforts to reinstate the tax credit for conservation easements as well as legislative measures to address climate change.

After the business meeting, during which new bylaws were approved by vote of the membership, SKLT's

newest trail, the Jonnycake Trail, was dedicated to Bob and Diane Smith, former owners of the Samuel E. Perry Grist Mill. Bob and Diane were on hand to view the plaque and see it set in the stone wall at the beginning of the trail. The trail is not yet completed, but will soon go from the fields at Weeden Farm to the grist mill pond on Moonstone Beach Road where a viewing platform will be constructed.



Photos: Joanne Riccitelli

3

## SKLT WELCOMES OUR NEW TRUSTEES

At our annual meeting on April 13th, SKLT elected new and returning trustees. **Carl Sawyer** returned to the Board after a two year hiatus. He is an agronomist at the University of Rhode Island (URI), and we have often relied on his plant expertise. SKLT now owns the Samuel E. Perry Grist Mill, and Carl will head up our efforts to help grow the white flint corn needed for the jonnycake meal.

SKLT welcomes our new Board member as well. **Heather Grant Breau**, a 2007 URI Pharmacy grad and life-long South Kingstown resident, is coming to the Board with a strong interest in open space preservation. Year-round resident **Susan Lovejoy** is joining the Board

after working on the Auction committee. Her interest and experience in board governance are welcome as SKLT embarks on new endeavors. Furniture designer and craftsman **Tim Philbrick**, also a trustee of the Museum of Primitive Art and Culture in Peacedale, has deep roots in South County and a commitment to maintaining South Kingstown's sense of place in a rapidly changing world.

We heartily thank our retiring trustees for their long standing service: **Kevin McDonough, Kathleen Peterson Hahn, Peter Nunes** and **Carolyn Moulthrop**. They were presented with beautiful hand crafted walking sticks by President Mike Sherry.



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

Summer	Weeden Farm stone wall work, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 am - noon
Sat. June 14	English Country Dance, 7:30 - 10:30 pm
Sun. June 15*	Hike at DuVal Trail, Quaker cemetery, Post Rd, 3 pm
Sun. June 22	Grinding at the Grist Mill, Moonstone Beach Rd, 2 pm
Thurs. June 26	New England Fisheries talk: 6 pm Potluck appetizers; 7 pm Talk
Sat. July 12	English Country Dance, 7:30 - 10:30 pm
Thurs. July 31	SKLT/Contemporary Theater Company Farm Dinner, contact CTC – see article on page 5
Sun. Aug. 10	SKLT Auction, 4 – 6:30 pm
Thurs. Aug. 21*	Hot Dog Roast & Biscuit City Band, 5 – 7 pm
Sun. Sept. 7*	Sculpture Trail Opening, Green Hill Beach Rd, 3 pm

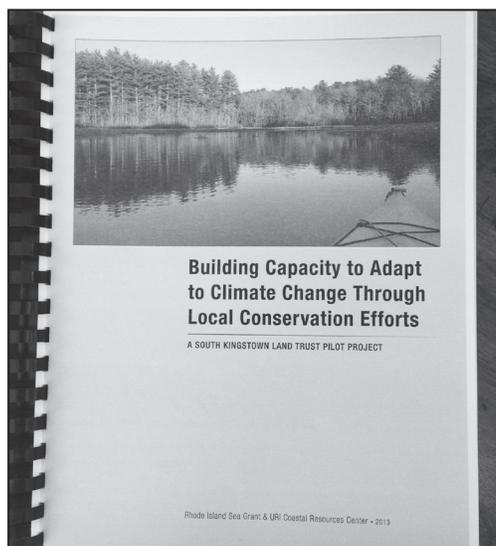
\* Please register at [jane.baumann@sklt.org](mailto:jane.baumann@sklt.org) or call 789-0962 ext. 1.

## CLIMATE CHANGE PILOT PROJECT FOR LAND TRUSTS

SKLT was invited by the University of Rhode Island's Coastal Resource Center (CRC) to participate in a pilot project investigating how climate change could impact land trusts – either our land holdings or our priorities for preservation. In our area, climate change will include sea-level rise and increases in air and water temperature, precipitation and storminess. The study was funded by the RI Coastal Resources Management Council.

SKLT was pleased to work at the leading edge of thinking about land trusts' role and response to climate change. Since we already see

effects of changing climate on our lands and in daily life, we were eager to explore how to safeguard our investments in land already protected and think about how to prioritize our future work with this additional perspective.



In this study, SKLT worked with CRC to identify the key habitat types that we protect and to characterize the vulnerability of those habitats to climate change. We explored management options, such as planting shade cover along cold-water streams to try to protect species that need cool waters, and focused on understanding the disruptive effects of invasive plants in our forests. The complete report is posted on SKLT's website, [sklt.org](http://sklt.org), under Stewardship Projects and also on the RI Sea Grant website at <http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/climate/conservation.html>.



Photos: Joanne Riccitelli

## CELEBRATE LAND TRUST DAYS WITH SKLT THIS FALL

The third annual Rhode Island Land Trust Days will feature events hosted by land trusts from across the state in August and September. SKLT will feature two events – our ever popular hot dog roast and the opening of SKLT’s Sculpture Trail in Green Hill.

Join us at the Barn on Thursday, **August 21st** at 5 pm for hot dogs, salads, lemonade, desserts, and all the makings for s’mores at the bonfire. Bring your folding chairs or a blanket for a lovely evening picnic, featuring the music of local band Biscuit City – you can check them out on YouTube. Biscuit City includes

Josh Schurman, Paula Clare, Richard Ribb, Mike Tanaka and Bro Dunn. It’ll be a rollicking good time! And on Sunday, **September 7th**, at 3 pm, join us for the opening of our Sculpture Trail. On SKLT’s Green Hill Beach Road property, just north of Matunuck Schoolhouse Road, in an area partly cleared by previous owners, SKLT has established a sculpture trail featuring works donated by 16 area artists, specifically designed for this site. This project was the brainchild of longtime supporters Troy West and Claudia Flynn, and their hard work and dedication has made it happen.



## FARM DINNER EVENT WITH THE CONTEMPORARY THEATER COMPANY

Please join SKLT and the Contemporary Theater Company (CTC) on July 31st for our second annual Farm Dinner - a celebration of local food and local talent combined!

Our menu this year, presented by CTC’s talented chef Christian Tamez, will include tantalizing locally-sourced meats and cheeses, as well as the freshest fruits and vegetables from our neighbors at Carpenter Farm and Jackson Farm. If you are hoping for a return visit of the fabulous fruit tart with the freshest pastry cream ever, have no worries!

Entertainment will be provided by members of the CTC ensemble, and our liquid libation this year will be a Plantation Rum Punch that you won’t want to miss! So get your tickets early - this event is sure to reach capacity quickly. Dinner will begin at 6 pm at the SKLT Barn in Matunuck. Tickets are just \$50 and are available at the theater box office, by phone at 401-218-0282 or online at [contemporarytheatercompany.com](http://contemporarytheatercompany.com). So come support two important local organizations that bring us a better place to live and grow!



## MILESTONES

### *Land, Lives and Legacy*

Our lives are inextricably linked with the land around us. Everywhere, if we look, we can see how we interact with the land. From the food we eat, the homes where we live, and our options for recreation, the land provides for us in so many ways. With all this taking from the land comes our responsibility to care for the land in return.

With more than 2,600 acres preserved in our town, the South Kingstown Land Trust has an obligation to maintain the land in perpetuity. Many duties and responsibilities are associated with the stewardship of this land. Whether our stewardship involves hiking trails, farming activities, wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, invasives removal and more, it takes a dedicated organization, donors, and volunteers to stay on top of all the activities.

Now that summer is upon us and outside activities are again plentiful, please consider all this land, your life and your legacy.

Please contact our office staff for information on volunteering - Jane ([jane.baumann@sklt.org](mailto:jane.baumann@sklt.org)), on giving opportunities - Anne ([anne.oneill@sklt.org](mailto:anne.oneill@sklt.org)), or on preserving your land – Joanne ([joanne.riccitelli@sklt.org](mailto:joanne.riccitelli@sklt.org)) and thank you again for supporting the important work of the land trust.

Sincerely,

Mike Sherry, President



### 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 Sherry  
 Vice President: Paul Schurman  
 Treasurer: James Farrell  
 Assistant Treasurer: Charles Lewis  
 Secretary: Sophie Page Lewis

### Trustees

Heather Breau  
 Edward Cimilluca  
 Martha Day  
 Ellen Grebstein  
 Linda Green  
 Susan Lovejoy  
 Tim Philbrick  
 Carl Sawyer  
 Richard Youngken

### 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

## THE LACE FUNGUS: SOME FINE FUNGUS AMONG US

Look what was discovered on Monitoring Day in March - someone identified this interesting and rare fungus and left this cryptic message for all to enjoy. We'd love to know more about it! Keep an eye out when on our trails – we'd love to know if you find something unusual on any of our properties, so it can be protected and identified! Thanks to the anonymous botanist who took the time to tell us about the lace fungus and post it for all to see.

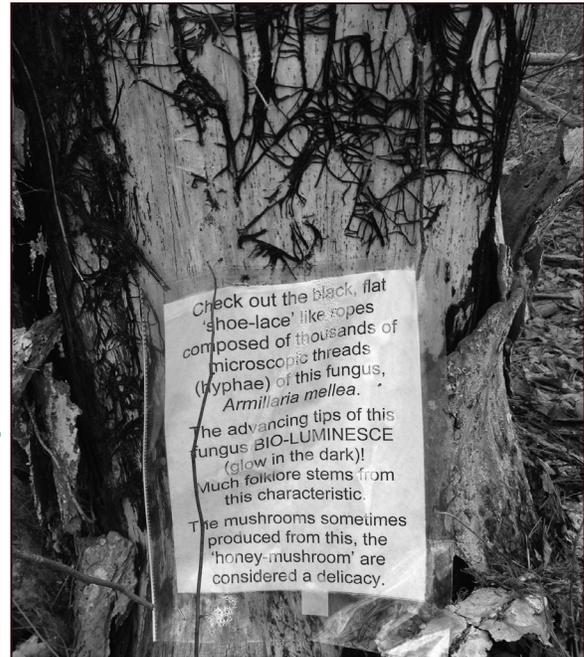


Photo: Katharine Long

## 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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Wakefield, RI  
Permit No. 132

*Hot off the presses!  
SKLT's new Trail Guide.  
Stop by the office to get one!*

## Site Lines

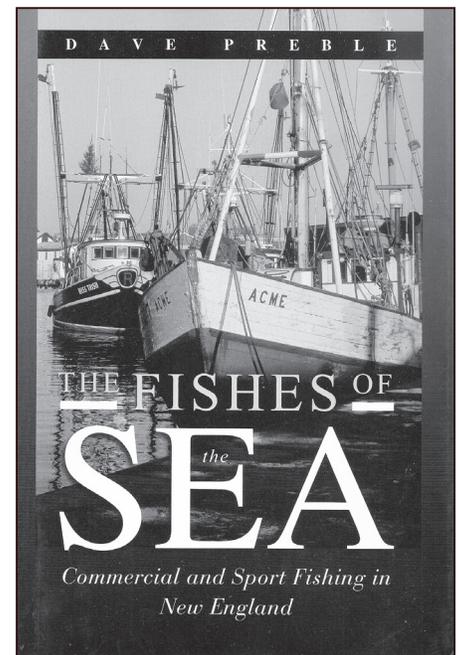


# ON THE CONSERVATION OF FISHERIES

SKLT and The Nature Conservancy invite you to a talk by Captain Dave Preble on the conservation of New England fisheries. The author is an expert tuna fisherman who's spent a lifetime on the waters off the northeast coast as a charter captain and on commercial vessels. Descended from generations of seafarers, Preble now devotes his life to the conservation and management of our fisheries.

Preble has a wealth of knowledge of New England's fish and the people who depend on them for their livelihood and recreation. He believes that a policy with conservation of the resource as the primary fishery management goal will always be in everyone's best economic and cultural interests. He says, "I will do whatever I can to protect our living marine resources for my own benefit and for the benefit of my grandchildren."

The event will be held at the SKLT Barn on Thursday June 26th, with potluck appetizers at 6pm and talk beginning at 7pm. Please RSVP to [jane.baumann@sklt.org](mailto:jane.baumann@sklt.org).



OPEN SPACE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE