



# Site Lines

SUMMER 2018

SOUTH KINGSTOWN  
LAND TRUST

## 2018 GREAT OUTDOORS CELEBRATION & AUCTION

What's the best way to celebrate the founding of the South Kingstown Land Trust 35 years ago? Well, the Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction, of course. Mark your calendars, polish your flip-flops, and get ready for a fabulous afternoon on Sunday, August 5, at 4 p.m. at the Barn.

This event is the primary fundraising event for SKLT, and it just gets better every year. Truly reminiscent of a country auction, there are delicious appetizers, bartenders who know your name (or will make one up just to tease you a bit), beer provided from a local brewery, fabulous floral arrangements fresh from someone's garden, and an auction and auctioneer that make you glad you left the beach and chose to support the preservation of open space in South Kingstown.

And like a great country auction, there will be plenty of treasures and opportunities to bid on. Would you like the weeklong stay in Colorado? A case of fine Italian wine? A day sail around Narragansett Bay? Perhaps you're thinking about a round of golf at The Misquamicut Club or an offseason weekend at the new Margin Street Inn? Maybe dinner at FiSH, a six-month membership to the River Bend Athletic Club, original artwork, or new plant material? The complete listing will be posted on our website, [www.skl.org](http://www.skl.org), with plenty of time for you to muse and peruse.

This year, our honorary chairs are our founders: Ivory Littlefield, Roger Freeman, Edward Watson, Helena-Hope Gammell, Virginia Kittredge and Anthony Guarriello. We will honor them "in spirit." Their vision and perseverance have led us to where we are today. And just as we would not



be here without them, we would not be here without the efforts and support of our members and the community. SKLT is looking forward to celebrating this legacy with their families, our members, and friends at the Barn. We hope you'll join us!



# SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST

1983

Celebrating 35 Years

2018

## LAND PROTECTION UPDATE

2

2017 was a very busy year for land protection at SKLT. We successfully protected Wells Farm on Barbers Pond Road at Yawgoo Pond, the Smith family land on Torrey and Middlebridge Roads in Narrow River, and Whaley Farm on Jerry Brown Farm Road and Route 1. In addition, SKLT closed on three donated easements on the Jackson family land in Green Hill. In all, you helped us preserve just over 99 acres in 2017!

Generally, land protection projects ebb and flow, but so far, 2018 is all flow! An unexpected opportunity arose in February—SKLT heard that the R.I. Boy Scouts were in discussions to sell their 50-acre property on Wordens Pond Road, abutting protected open space owned by the R.I. Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. SKLT vied for the chance to raise money to buy the land, and the Boy Scouts agreed to enter into a purchase and sales agreement with us! Because we fundraise for every dollar of every project, we are now in the process of applying for funding from a variety of sources to buy this land. We'll keep you, our members, apprised via e-mail as to how you can help support this effort.



Rhode Island Boy Scout Land

Also in February, SKLT was awarded a Local Open Space grant by DEM for the Tucker & Witham properties on Tucker Pond, south of Tuckertown Road. That grant will provide most of the funding for the purchase, and we are now applying for supplemental funds.

Other active projects include three farmland protection projects, two in the Curtis Corner

Road area and one in West Kingston. Partial funding for all three projects will come from the R.I. Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission. Two of those farms will also receive funding from the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service Agricultural Land Easement program, which is funded by the Farm Bill.

We are grateful to the generous landowners who are working with us—most of them donate a portion of the value of the protected land, which makes these projects more attractive to potential funders. SKLT must turn many landowners away (unless they can donate their land) since funding for open space protection is limited to projects that will rank highly in statewide competition for funds. — *Joanne Riccitelli*

## BE OUR EYES AND EARS ON THE TRAILS

We need your help! As SKLT continues to grow and open more trails for the public's use, we find it difficult to be on all the trails as often as we would like. We know that many of you are regular users of our trails, and we would like you to be our eyes and ears while you are there. If you see something that needs to be addressed, please let us know either by email or phone. Our land management crew, led by Michael Bontecou, wants our community members to have a great experience, and that means addressing problems immediately. You can help us do that. You can reach Michael at 401-742-4515 or at [michaelbontecou@gmail.com](mailto:michaelbontecou@gmail.com). Thank you!

## MONITORING DAY ADVENTURES OF A NEWBIE TRUSTEE

Monitoring Day. After reading about it every year for the past decade, this year I thought, “I’m finally going to give this thing a try,” and headed to the Barn on the cold, damp morning of April 7. Excitement filled the air as dozens of volunteers milled about. I breathed a sigh of relief to discover that about half the people there were Monitoring Day first-timers like me.

Trustee Heather Mae Breau took to the podium and cheerfully explained how the day would work. With a map showing the locations of all 164 SKLT properties, she instructed us to choose the property or properties we wanted to monitor and then pick up the corresponding folder(s). Property folders were perfectly organized with everything we needed: directions, map, Google Earth image, a sheet listing issues to look out for, and a sheet to write our observations.

Fellow trustee Caroline Wilkel, also a first-timer, and I turned to each other as if to reassure ourselves we could do this and decided to team up. We chose two properties: a retail garden center and undeveloped land near a pond. Caroline and I were in a great mood for adventure.

We intrepid two headed out to the garden center first. Easy to find, easy to traverse, easy to identify any potential problems. We walked the perimeter and into all the super-secret places that customers don’t usually go. We had fences and paths to follow and the fun of seeing “behind the scenes.” We discovered that ballpoint pens are reluctant writers in the cold and were grateful for the tissue packs donated by Fall River Walgreens.

After about an hour there, feeling successful and emboldened, we headed on to the second property. After some navigational trial and error, we found the long narrow driveway that would lead us where we needed to go and moseyed past several beautiful private properties toward the driveway’s end. There, we were supposed to find a stone wall “just ahead,” with “a gap halfway down the field,” and a cemetery. Apprehensive about trespassing, we surmised (incorrectly) that we shouldn’t

park at the house and walk through the gorgeous yard. Instead, we parked a fair way down the drive along a bramble-covered stone wall and began what turned out to be a scavenger hunt of hilarious proportions. We climbed the wall (not at a gap), forged a new path through some woods (discovering why Monitoring Day is held in April, before the bull briar grows into impassable jungles), crossed a big field next to the house (not the correct field), discovered the cemetery, scaled the cemetery wall, may or may not have tested the functionality of an electric fence, and, in a moment of doubt, called back to the Barn for help.

Turns out... at that moment, our detour had led us precisely where we needed to go. Had we parked at the



house and walked through the yard in the first place, we’d have seen the “gap in the wall halfway down the field” right in front of us the whole time.

By the time our first Monitoring Day was done, we’d had a great three-hour hike, were rewarded with a pristine mix of undeveloped, wide-open field and woods along the shore of a salt pond, felt invigorated by the crisp air and outdoors, and were proud of ourselves for having great fun on a new adventure.

If you’ve ever thought about doing Monitoring Day, but let your apprehensions hold you back, I encourage you to put it on your calendar for next year (and I promise, SKLT has plenty of properties with direct access). – *Cindy Sabato*

## NEW SIGNAGE MARKS SKLT PROPERTIES

4 **C**ome see our newly installed signs at Biscuit City Preserve in Kingston and the Perry Grist Mill Garden on Moonstone Beach Road. Three new signs, created to inform the public about unique features of our properties, are the first of a series made possible by ongoing financial support of our members, generous donations from our board of trustees, and a grant from the Herman H. Rose Civic, Cultural and Media Access Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation.

The trailhead sign pictured right, located on Springdale Drive at the entrance to Biscuit City Preserve, welcomes visitors with an historical overview of the property, once the site of a mill and small community. A trail map gives hikers the lay of the land and features pictures and descriptions of flora, both native and invasive, to be found along the trails. A smaller sign installed near the foundation of the long-abandoned mill features a late 1800s photo of the mill building and outlines the various uses of the site over time. Ben Eddy and fellow scouts of Boy Scout Troop 1 Richmond constructed the kiosks at Biscuit City as an Eagle Scout project. South County



History Center generously donated the use of the historic photographs, and Katherine Long provided the historical content.

Perry Grist Mill visitors will discover a new sign installed on one of the three sisters garden fence posts where flint corn, beans and squash are planted each spring to show how Native Americans raised these crops long before the arrival of Europeans. Flint corn is used for grinding demonstrations at the mill, and attendees often sample delicious jonnycakes made from the cornmeal! - *Dong McGovern*

## WELCOME NEW TRUSTEES!

**Kevin McCloskey** has summered in South Kingstown since he was nine years old and moved here in the mid-1970s. He loves the area and works to preserve and bring history to life through the conservation of antique furniture, cars and agricultural machinery. In addition, Kevin has taken the lead on preserving the “taste of South County,” ensuring the growth, harvest, storage, milling, and preparation of white flint corn and jonnycakes.

**Jeanine Silversmith** is the Project Manager at the Rhode Island Environmental Education Association, a collaborative network of individuals and organizations working to promote environmental education throughout the state. Jeanine started R.I. Families in Nature, a family nature club that hosts free, kid-friendly hikes throughout the state. She briefly worked at the South Kingstown Land Trust and has been a member for several years.

**Ted Watson** is the CEO and owner of Baltimore Research, a marketing research company specializing in the healthcare industry and consumer products. He spent his summers on Wordens Pond and served on the board of the Willow Dell Beach Club from 2008-2015. Ted has been a long-time member of the South Kingstown Land Trust and is the son of founder Edward Watson. Ted has enjoyed watching SKLT grow since its inception.

## HALE HOUSE SUMMER 2018: PATRIOTISM/PROTEST



Patriotism/Protest is the theme this summer at Hale House, particularly appropriate amidst all the political turmoil of these times! Hale House will kick off its season on Flag Day, June 14, 5-7 p.m., with songs and a photo exhibit of South County celebrating the flag and patriotism in the past. Kristine Wilbur is preparing all our favorite patriotic songs for a community sing-along. A vintage American flag painted during the Vietnam War will be unveiled for the first time in many years, hanging from corner to corner of the parlor ceiling. After June 15 and through September 1, Hale House

will be open every Friday & Saturday from 1-4 p.m. We hope to see you there, as well as at many of our other summer events! For registration and more info on these programs, please visit: [halehouser.org](http://halehouser.org) or email [halehouser@gmail.com](mailto:halehouser@gmail.com)

### Hale House Opening Ceremony

A sing-along of patriotic songs  
led by Kristine Wilbur

Friday, June 14, 5 p.m. at Hale House

### Maury Klein talk on Patriotism during/after Civil War

Friday, June 29, 7 p.m. at SKLT Barn

### Nancy Hood & Barry Brown “I’ve Got a Song”

A presentation on a living history  
of the McCarthy Era

Friday, July 20, 7 p.m. at SKLT Barn

### The Hilltop Trio Classical Concert of Patriot Music

Friday, August 17, 7 p.m. at Hale House

\$20.00 entry fee

(register early: limited seating available)

## ANNUAL HOT DOG ROAST AT THE SCULPTURE TRAIL

Join us on Sunday, Sept. 16, from 3-5 p.m. at the SKLT Sculpture Trail for our Annual Hot Dog Roast, part of R.I. Land Trust Days! One of the featured art installations, “Sir Loin Barbecue Bull,” will be fired up for the first time to grill hot dogs and vegetarian options. This year we’re serving a beloved Rhode Island tradition, Saugys, made in Cranston with natural ingredients for generations upon generations. Wash your hot dog down with a cold beer, courtesy of Whalers Brewing Company.

SKLT’s sculpture trail occupies about three upland acres of an otherwise wet and forested 22 acres of protected land. The easy-to-walk trail includes 23 art installations by local artists. The event celebrates the trail and artwork that has been recently refreshed, restored or replaced.



## MILESTONES

Spring this year could be identified through the return of the osprey, the red tail hawks dancing through the skies and the calls of the robins at sunrise and the peepers at sunset. Winter lingered through April, but SKLT was full of change and energy.

As it turns out SKLT is a bit like the “Hotel California.” Sad goodbyes to Mo Howard who left SKLT in April to pursue a nursing degree, but she can still be spotted at various SKLT events. Trustees Ed Cimilluca and Carl Sawyer stepped off the Board but remain vital committee members. Mike Sherry tried to step off the Board but was immediately elected to serve as Trustee Emeritus. As a Land Trust our commitment to the land is in perpetuity. So, it is no real surprise that our community supports us with that same constancy and passion.

What does change? The number of protected properties has increased. There is an expanded roster of hikes, programs and events. I hope you can take the time this summer to explore the trail improvements at Biscuit City to accommodate wheelchairs. Over the next few weeks, the artwork at the Sculpture Trail will be fully restored or replaced and the Yawgoo Trail extension will be completed.

When you meet new people on the trails or around town let them know we are a membership organization. Tell them how much your membership means to you and to SKLT and suggest they become one as well. SKLT was started by members of the community to protect and preserve the land for the benefit of the community. Thank you for all you do to help us with our mission.

Open Space Makes All The Difference...



*Julia Fry Landstreet*

Julia Fry Landstreet, Executive Director

*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.*

## SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST

### Officers

President: Martha Day  
Vice President: Susan S. Lovejoy  
Secretary: Linda Green  
Treasurer: James Farrell

### Trustees

Heather Mae Breau  
Ellen Grebstein  
Kevin McCloskey  
Kevin McDonough  
Joe Orlando  
Timothy Philbrick  
Cindy Sabato  
Jeanine Silversmith  
Sherwood Small  
Ted Watson  
Caroline Wikel  
Richard Youngken  
Charles Lewis, Trustee Emeritus  
Sophie Page Lewis, Trustee Emerita  
Michael Sherry, Trustee Emeritus

### Staff

Julia Fry Landstreet  
Executive Director  
Joanne Riccitelli  
Land Protection Director  
Clarkson Collins  
Land Management Director  
Michael Bontecou  
Land Operations Coordinator  
Doug McGovern  
Land Operations Coordinator  
Angela Brunetti  
Development Coordinator

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

Site Lines Design: Cindy Sabato

## 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. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

### MEMBERSHIP:

I want to:  Join  Renew at the following level:

- Individual ..... \$30       Family..... \$50
- Steward..... \$100-\$249
- Guardian ..... \$250-\$499
- Conservationist ..... \$500-\$999
- Benefactor..... \$1000-\$2,499
- Protector ..... \$2,500-\$4,999
- Preservationist..... \$5,000-\$9,999
- Founders Club..... \$10,000+

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### GENERAL DONATION:

I'm already a member, but I would like to make an additional donation 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



## GREEN CORN FULL MOON PARTY

Dance the night away and howl at the FULL MOON PARTY to benefit the South Kingstown Land Trust, featuring the big rockin' sound of The Shiny Lapel Trio ([shinylapeltri.com](http://shinylapeltri.com)).

SKLT will host this casual, and festive, end-of-summer party on August 25, 6-9 p.m., overlooking the beautiful fields of Weeden Farm. Enjoy a sampling of summer's bounty from local R.I. farms, Matunuck Oyster Bar, Whalers Beer, and more! When the band takes a



Photo Credit: David Besh

break, astronomers from Frosty Drew Observatory will be on site with telescopes and a wealth of stories to share about August's Green Corn Full Moon, Venus, and other delights of the August night sky.

See you at the Barn, 17 Matunuck Beach Road. Tickets are \$50 and go on sale June 15 at [sklt.org](http://sklt.org). Purchase early as space is limited and we expect a sellout. Save the date..... awhooooooooo!

– Caroline Wilkel



**SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST**  
 227 ROBINSON STREET  
 WAKEFIELD, RI 02879

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

*Site Lines*



## Join Us For These UPCOMING SKLT EVENTS

Every 1st Sat.	10 a.m.	All Ages Rx Hike, Browning Woods Trail
Every Sat. June 9 - Aug. 25	9 a.m.	Yoga for a Cause, SKLT Barn
Thu. June 21	8:30 a.m.	3rd Thursday Hike, Weeden Farm
Wed June 27	6 p.m.	<i>Return of the Sea Otter</i> , Talk & Book Signing with Todd McLeish, SKLT Barn
Thu. July 19	8:30 a.m.	3rd Thursday Hike, Yawgoo Trail
Sun. Aug. 5	4 p.m.	Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction, SKLT Barn
Thu. Aug. 16	8:30 a.m.	3rd Thursday Hike, Thewlis Trail
Sat, Aug. 25	6 p.m.	Green Corn Full Moon Party, SKLT Barn
Sun. Sept. 16	3 p.m.	Hot Dog Roast & Sculpture Trail Event, SKLT Sculpture Trail



**For ALL events, please register at: [info@sklt.org](mailto:info@sklt.org) or (401) 789-0962 x205.**

**FOLLOW US ON:**



@SKLandTrust



@South Kingstown LandTrust

**OPEN SPACE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE**