



# Site Lines

FALL 2018

SOUTH KINGSTOWN  
LAND TRUST

## STAY ACTIVE AND ENGAGED WITH THE LAND TRUST

It's nearly that time of year—when the landscape turns vibrant shades of red and gold, when the streets get sleepier, when the days suddenly seem so short, when, dare we even mention it, Brickley's closes for the season! But just because our town quiets down does not mean the Land Trust does. We continue to get outside, meet and plan year round!

Each month, on the third Thursday at 8:30 a.m., we invite the community and members to visit a different SKLT trail—a great way to see all the hikes you can do on our properties and to stay active as the colder weather hits.



SKLT also participates in the national program, Hike Rx, throughout the year with hikes leaving Browning Woods Trail every first Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Also this time of year, captivating lectures and delicious potlucks return after a summer hiatus. These are updated regularly on our website and Facebook page and shared through e-blasts, which keep you up-to-date on these and other events.



Quite a lot happens behind the scenes, as well, to keep SKLT running. Consider volunteering with us! We always have projects underway that need extra hands and talents: stone wall maintenance, research and writing, bulk mailings, event staffing, scrapbooking, committee work and more!

If you would like to be included on our volunteer list, or if you do not currently receive our emails with upcoming events and would like to be included, reach out to Angela Brunetti, Development Coordinator, at [angela.brunetti@sklt.org](mailto:angela.brunetti@sklt.org) or 401-789-0962 x204.



SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST

1983 Celebrating 35 Years 2018

## MY FIRST GREAT OUTDOORS CELEBRATION & AUCTION

It was dismal mid-January when I walked into the SKLT office for my first day of work, and even then, we discussed “The Auction.” It was brought up with happy thoughts—summertime, the beauty of Weeden Farm, the coming together of members and friends, and FUN.

As the weeks went by, bit by bit working with committee volunteers Wendy Bowen, Heather Mae Breau, Mo Howard, and Deb Stallwood, I began to connect the dots. Solicitation letters were mailed, and passionate people and local businesses started underwriting the Celebration; others seemed to come out of the woodwork to offer wonderful auction items and even all sorts of libations for the event! Sorting mail, typing up lists, and drafting descriptions became an adventure in utilizing our new back-office database. A fleet of volunteers showed up and made light work of labeling and mailing invitations.



When August 5 rolled around, holy cow! Volunteers jumped on the chance to help with everything, from tending bar to channeling “Vanna White.” Floral arrangements appeared for every table, and trustees not only contributed all the food, but also gave their day to set up and tear down. Attendees were munificent with their offers and final item

donations. The families of our founders attended to extend their support. And the Live Auction? Auctioneer Louis and our supporters were quite the show!

The 2018 Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction was fantastic. Turnout was historic, with nearly 300 attendees. The final item – this year being the sluiceway repair – did better than ever! Thank YOU for recognizing the value of open space and for supporting all we do to steward, preserve and protect. See you at next year’s Celebration—this time as a seasoned veteran! —*Angela Brunetti*

## PEACE DALE MILL STUDIO OPEN HOUSE & RECEPTION

Have you ever sipped a cocktail or visited the winter farmers’ market and wondered what lies on the top floor of the Peace Dale Mill? On Sunday, Oct. 21 from 3-6 p.m., join noted furniture maker and SKLT trustee Tim Philbrick and fellow artisans as they open their top-floor studios for an afternoon of drinks, conversation, and tours. Their exquisite artistry, craftsmanship and design encompasses furniture, costume designs, historic clocks, and architectural restoration, all housed in an historic mill building of equal grace and style. All proceeds benefit the Land Trust. Tickets are limited and are \$30 per person. To purchase tickets, visit [sklt.org/event-tickets/](http://sklt.org/event-tickets/). Studios include:



Timothy Philbrick Studio Furniture

- Timothy Philbrick Studio Furniture
- Corwin Butterworth Custom Furniture
- Black Forest Custom Woodworks
- Old School Antiques
- Feather + Threads Studio
- J. A. Garfield Architectural Restoration

## GRIST MILL CORN CRIB & PROJECTS

In 2012, long time South County resident Bob Smith and his wife Diane donated the Perry Grist Mill to the South Kingstown Land Trust, after restoring and operating it for many years. Unfortunately, Bob passed away this summer. But the Grist Mill will continue to operate under the care of Kevin McCloskey, a new board member, and Rob Lyons, as trained miller. Kevin has carried on Bob's years-long tradition of cooking jonnycakes from white flint corn as the "taste of South County."

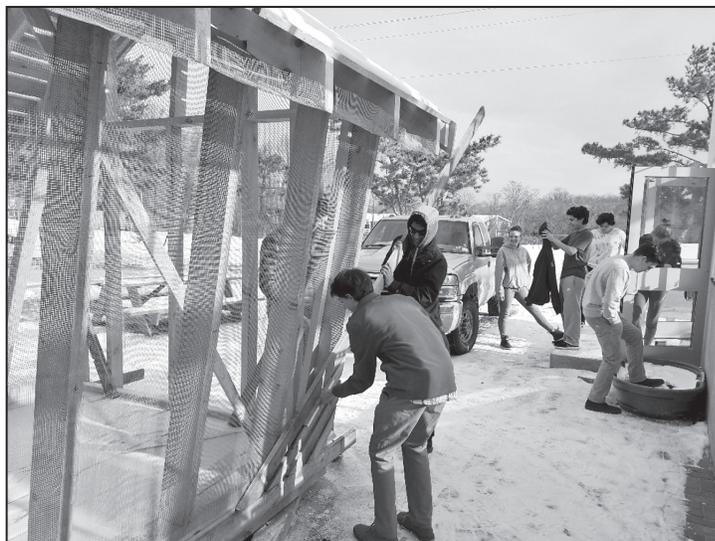
The highlight of the 2017 season was the creation of a "corn crib" to store the flint corn to be ground at the mill. Kevin formed a partnership with Greg Breene, instructor of the Future Farmers of America class at Narragansett High School, to build the crib. Thanks to the generous donation of materials from many local businesses, and Eric and Meera Widmer, who underwrote the cost of the lumber, the crib was completed and delivered to SKLT property on Ministerial Road at end of the school year. Our goals are to preserve the tradition of grinding flint corn at the Perry Grist mill and involve local schools. Narragansett, South Kingstown and Charleho high schools may use

meal flour for fund raising.

Flint corn is a very hard corn first grown by local native peoples. It has only one ear per stalk and was grown with beans and squash. The stalks would support the beans and the squash would cover the ground retaining moisture and suppressing weeds. Care must be taken that the corn does not cross pollinate with other corn, which has a much higher yield and a different taste. Because of the low yield, Kenyon and Gilbert Stuart mills do not use flint corn for their operations. Fortunately, the University of Rhode Island is currently growing the flint corn, with a hopeful yield of 1,500 lbs. a year, that will be stored in the new corn crib.

Several projects are currently underway at the mill, including repairing the sluiceway and installing stone stairs. The water channel, sluiceway, from the pond to the mill breeched last spring. A local enthusiast offered a dollar for dollar challenge match that was met with gusto and generosity at the 2018 Celebration. Once repaired, our plans

are to have at least four grinding sessions a year open for viewing by students and land trust members. Under the guidance of McCloskey, Lyons, and SKLT, the Perry Grist Mill and flint corn are a legacy that will be passed on to future generations. – Rick Wilson



## INSPIRED WOODWORKERS SERVING SOUTH COUNTY CONSERVATION EFFORTS

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The “Tuesday Group” is a roughly organized volunteer group that defines itself as “mostly retired men with well-honed skills mostly along the carpentry line” who have been quietly and effectively constructing scores of publicly accessible structures throughout Rhode Island parks and open space properties. Originally with 12 members in 1996, the team convened on Tuesdays to restore and enhance the buildings and facilities at Canonchet Farm’s South County Museum. Ten years later, the group came to the Trustom Pond National Wildlife Reserve to build the popular observation platform overlooking Trustom Pond. This has led to 12 more years of creating bridges, gates, benches, trail markers, informational kiosks, photography blinds, and many other amenities and necessities you’ve probably seen adorning Rhode Island’s nature trails and other publicly accessible natural reserves.

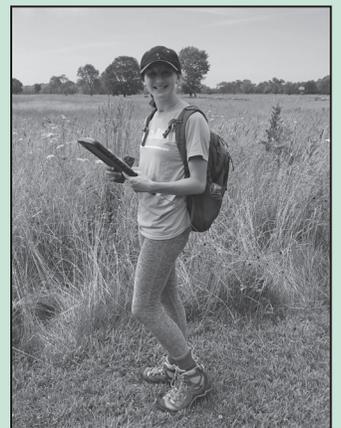
We at SKLT have stood in admiration of their work, but were unaware that they would also volunteer “off the farm” to help organizations like ours. In working at the Samuel Perry Grist Mill’s grinding last fall, I happened to mention to Bill Wright, a Tuesday Group member, SKLT’s desire to create a “bluebird walk” at our nature trail at Weeden Farm. He generously offered to talk to his group about the project. Funding for

materials was provided by a grant from the General Federation of Women’s Club, Women’s Club of South County. The result is a dozen carefully designed and crafted bluebird nesting boxes affixed to trees at the edges of our popular Weeden Farm fields, and a Wood Duck box for Kingston’s Biscuit City Preserve.

So, here’s to you, Bill Wright, Dave Cox, Ray Sweet, Al Stedman, and Cliff Fantil of the Tuesday Group for your generosity and commitment to public enjoyment of our environment! - *Clarkson Collins*

### THANK YOU SOPHIE CLODE!

Sophie Clode was our 2018 summer intern. Born and raised in South Kingstown, she has enjoyed many of the Land Trust properties over the years and was excited to be involved with the organization. She is currently a graduate student at the University of Rhode Island, studying environmental science and management with a focus on conservation biology. During her time at the Land Trust, she created a detailed plant inventory of our fields at Weeden Farm, assessed site conditions, determined what species of grassland nesting birds are present, and looked for rare plants. This information will give us insight into the current biodiversity at the site and will help us determine what measures we need to take to maintain that biodiversity. While most of her time was spent at Weeden Farm, she also lent a hand at our various events. After graduating in the spring, Sophie is hoping to find a career that involves conserved land management and habitat restoration.



## NEW TRAIL EXTENSION AT YAWGOO POND

Back in July 2017, the Land Trust celebrated the acquisition of 33 acres of Wells Farm, located on the east side of Yawgoo Pond, from the Littlefield family. This project, funded by grants from Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Town of South Kingstown, Bafflin Foundation, and private donations, was added to 90 acres that SKLT had already preserved around the pond. This gave SKLT room to extend the existing Yawgoo Pond Trail system by 0.6 miles for the public to enjoy.

In creating the recently opened trail extension, Operations Coordinator Michael Bontecou took advantage of existing tote roads and used the trusty brush hog and chainsaw to cut new trail sections where needed. Eagle Scout Josh Filiberto and fellow scouts from Kingston Troop 1 also provided much-appreciated muscle and expertise to get the job done.

The new trail, named Founders' Loop in honor of the original creators of the Land Trust 35 years ago, owes its existence to funding from our members, who donated generously at our annual auction in 2017 for this project. Visitors will notice red blazes, gates and fence sections to guide them from accidentally straying onto adjacent private property.

The new trail extension is accessed from the original



Yawgoo Loop and skirts the pond shore before turning inland through serene fern-carpeted forest floor. The trail then makes a sharp turn into thicker forest, filled with a rhododendron understory, which gives way to a mysterious clearing in the middle of the woods, before diving into the forest again. Hikers will arrive back where they started the loop and can return to the parking area via a short connector and the original Yawgoo Loop Trail. We hope you enjoy the new trail and will help us steward this beautiful property! *–Doug McGovern*

## THEWLIS WOODS DAR TRAIL CLEANUP

Looking to play in the dirt? Join us Saturday, Oct. 20 at 9 a.m. to clean up our popular neighborhood trail at Thewlis Woods. This 27-acre parcel features stands of eastern white pine, scarlet oak, and beech. Turkey, coyote, fisher, and many other animals find food and shelter on this property. The 0.8-mile hiking trail, built in 2006 by John Tarasevitch as an Eagle Scout project and generously funded by the Daughters of the American Revolution, gives hikers access to this beautiful property. Free coffee and donuts will be served. Bring family, friends, gloves and clippers. All ages welcome! Please let us know you are coming by emailing [info@sklt.org](mailto:info@sklt.org) or call the office at 789-0962. Directions can be found at [www.sklt.org](http://www.sklt.org).



## MILESTONES

The citizens of South Kingstown value open space. All recent votes, local and state, have received between 73- and 80-percent approval, and sentiment hasn't changed. Town Council held a public hearing in July on behalf of contributing funding to a land protection project. Y'all wrote letters, sent emails, attended the meeting and spoke up in support of land protection. Thank you. Thank you, council members, for approving the funding. There are still dollars to raise, but this support puts protecting the Boy Scout property within reach.

Go visit our newest trail, the Founder's Loop extension, at Yawgoo Pond—a beautiful addition. We have also begun a habitat restoration project at the south end of Yawgoo pond – stay tuned!

The 2018 Great Outdoors Celebration and Auction was a resounding success: a beautiful day, record attendance, fabulous items, terrific volunteers. Clarkson Collins shared thoughts and insights on each of our Founders, and you can read them at [sklt.org](http://sklt.org). Thanks to the trustees and members who provided the delicious food, to John Tickner and Bev Landstreet for manning the bar, to Heather Mae Breau for creating the silent auction, and to Louis Raymond for entertaining and inspiring all of us to contribute generously to meet the Blakelys' challenge grant for restoration work on the Grist Mill sluiceway.

Triple thanks to Caroline Wilkel for visioning and creating the Green Corn Moon Party! What a memorable night of music, food, drinks, friends, fields, and astronomy.

Sad to report that Woody Small has stepped off the SKLT Board to fully honor other commitments, but happy to report he will continue to serve on SKLT committees.



Other members have joined our committees. Please call me or Martha Day if you would like to help in this capacity.

Your help and support make 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

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Ellen Grebstein  
Kevin McCloskey  
Kevin McDonough  
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*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



## 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.

## GENERAL DONATION:

I'm already a member, but I would like to make an additional donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Please make checks payable to: South Kingstown Land Trust, 227 Robinson Street, Wakefield, RI 02879*



## DONATING SECURITIES

When you donate appreciated securities to SKLT—that is, publicly traded stocks, bonds and mutual fund shares—you can deduct the gift as a charitable donation AND avoid capital gains tax at transfer, a double benefit that allows you to increase your gift to SKLT. *(Be sure to consult your financial/ tax advisors.)*

### HOW IT WORKS

- You transfer appreciated securities\* to SKLT.
- SKLT sells the securities and uses the full proceeds to fund critical conservation work. Because SKLT is a tax-exempt charity, capital gains taxes do not apply.

### HOW YOU BENEFIT

- You receive credit and an immediate income tax deduction for the fair market value (average of the high and low prices on the day of transfer).
- You avoid capital gains tax.

### MORE INFORMATION

Transferring securities is a smart way to manage securities that have appreciated substantially and that: a) may no longer be aligned with your objectives, or b) have grown in size to the extent that they represent an increased risk in your portfolio. We can help you navigate this simple process. Contact Julia Landstreet at 401-789-0962 to start the process.

*\* Please note the securities you gift must have been held by you for more than one year to be fully deductible.*



**SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST**  
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## Join Us For These **UPCOMING SKLT EVENTS**

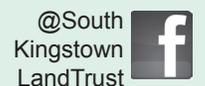
Every 1st Sat.	10 a.m.	All Ages Rx Hike, Browning Woods Trail
Thu. Sep. 20	8:30 a.m.	3rd Thursday Hike at DuVal Trail
Thu. Oct. 18	8:30 a.m.	3rd Thursday Hike at Crawley Preserve
Sat. Oct. 20	9 a.m.	Thewlis Woods Trail Clean Up Day
Sun. Oct. 21	3 p.m.	Peace Dale Mill Studio Tours & Cocktail Reception
Wed. Oct. 24	6:30 p.m.	“The Great New England Vampire Panic” organized by South County History Center. Lecture, display, and desserts, SKLT Barn
Wed. Nov. 14	6 p.m.	“Mushroom Hunting” Potluck and Speaker, SKLT Barn
Thu. Nov. 15	8:30 a.m.	3rd Thursday Hike at Biscuit City
Thu. Dec. 20	8:30 a.m.	3rd Thursday Hike at Weeden Farm

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

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 Kingstown  
 LandTrust

***OPEN SPACE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE***