



Site Lines

FALL 2015

SOUTH KINGSTOWN
LAND TRUST

HELP PROTECT THE WHALEY FARM

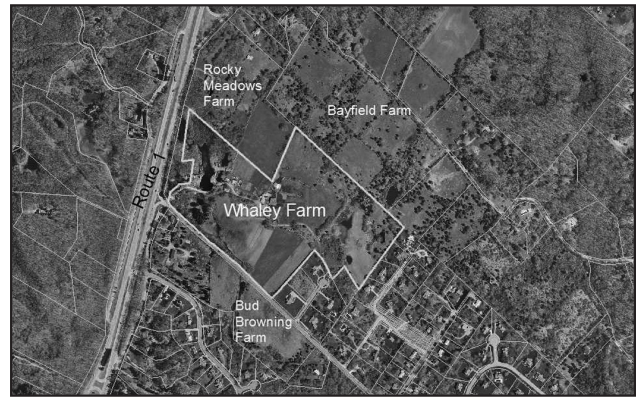
The South Kingstown Land Trust is very excited to announce our effort to buy the development rights to the 40-acre Whaley Farm on Jerry Brown Farm Road, and once again, three years later, we will need your help to 'save the farm!' Protection of the Whaley farm will connect a 113-acre corridor of protected farmland, including the abutting Bud Browning farm, Rocky Meadows farm and Bayfield farm. To save Whaley Farm would be a tremendous step forward for farmland preservation in our town.

SKLT has already secured grant funding from the

federal Natural Resources Conservation Service and the state Agricultural Land Preservation Commission. These two grants will provide more than half the funds needed for the project, but we still have to fill a sizable gap of about \$150,000. SKLT will depend on our friends and neighbors to raise these funds! SKLT aims to raise \$75,000 from individual supporters. Donations can be made in 2015, 2016 or both tax years. Please contact joanne.riccitelli@sklt.org if you can make a pledge!



Photo: Joanne Riccitelli



CELEBRATE THE HARVEST OF R.I. WHITE FLINT CORN

On Saturday, October 24th, come learn about the cultivation, grinding and uses of the special Rhode Island white flint corn variety, and taste some jonnycakes and succotash! Nancy Brown Garcia, a member of the Narragansett tribe, will describe the traditional uses of this corn in arts and crafts as well as food. Her grandsons will drum typical music for the celebration of the harvest. University of Rhode Island faculty member and SKLT Trustee Carl Sawyer will discuss the conditions necessary to successfully cultivate this corn. Cheryl Goewey will explain the origins of succotash. And millers Bob Smith and Rob Lyons will talk about the grist mill, owned by SKLT and located on Moonstone Beach Road, which has recently undergone a significant repair.

This program will take place at the SKLT Barn on Saturday October 24th at 2 pm. A donation of \$5 per adult is suggested. On the following day, Sunday, October 25th, the grist mill will be grinding again, beginning at 2 pm. SKLT thanks Diane Smith for organizing this great event!



THE MAJESTIC MONARCH BUTTERFLY

One of southern New England's most anticipated rites of late summer is the visit of Monarch butterflies to open fields and roadsides where milkweed thrives. These magnificently graceful and colorful butterflies feed on milkweed, breed, lay eggs, and create a new generation to take its place in a unique odyssey reaching from Canada to Central Mexico and the Yucatan peninsula. The Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) is the only butterfly species that migrates across an entire continent, with at least two, and as many as four, generations needed to complete the entire cycle. It is a wonder that each generation somehow knows where to go without ever having been there.

The SKLT crew that is rebuilding the walls of Weeden Farm has developed a close relationship with these deep orange-and-black beauties as they blow into town in early July and for the next month do aerial dances, mate while aloft, and lay their eggs on the milkweed growing in the fields. As August passes into September, we notice growing numbers feeding among the milkweed and other flowers, and then the surprise of brilliant green



Photo: Clark Collins

chrysalides dotted with gold attached here and there on the rocks of the stone wall! A surprise, since most of us as children saw our first chrysalis hanging from milkweed leaves. We made sure these Monarchs-to-be were protected from harm during the construction work. By October, the travelers will be off on their way south.

Over the past few years, the Monarch species has been in decline due to loss of wintering habitat in Mexico and growing pesticide use as well as increasingly efficient harvesting techniques and agricultural uses throughout North America. Over the last decade, it seemed that Monarchs had declined significantly on Weeden Farm. However, this year has been the best in our memory. An informal count over one acre totaled at least 44 adults, and more than 20 chrysalides on the walls and other objects at the edge of our fields. We hope this is a good sign for the Monarchs.

To learn more about Monarchs, visit the Xerces Society web page at www.xerces.org/monarchs/ and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service website at www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/poll.



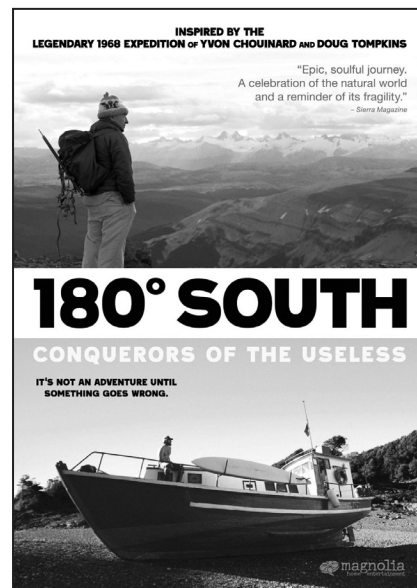
Stone Wall work is continuing apace at Weeden in summer and fall. Here, (left to right) Michael Bontecou, SKLT operations coordinator, and volunteers Lodowick Collins and Steve O'Brien show off their handiwork. Thus far volunteer crews have worked Tuesdays and Thursday mornings for nine years, completing about two miles of wall restoration. At this pace, the entire three-mile project should be completed in 2017.

LOOK FORWARD TO THESE GREAT WINTER PROGRAMS

JANUARY MOVIE NIGHT: 180 DEGREES SOUTH ➤

In 1968, two intrepid adventurers headed for Patagonia in South America. They were best friends, Yvon Chouinard and Doug Tompkins, and their epic journey inspired filmmaker Jeff Johnson to recreate their remarkable travels in this 2010 movie. This is a film about how, why and what the original pair did about saving, “the last wild place on the continent”. These two came home and founded Patagonia and The North Face to help raise money to continue buying and saving land in Patagonia.

Come see this visually stunning film on January 21st at the Barn. Potluck will begin at 5:30 pm and the movie (85 minutes long) will begin at 6:15 pm.



ENCOUNTERS WITH NEW ENGLAND'S MOST IMPERILED WILDLIFE ▼



American Burying Beetle

Natural history author Todd McLeish will introduce the remarkable lives of the rarest and most endangered wildlife in New England, from birds and beetles to whales and plants. He will take his audience along on an entertaining first-person journey as he tracks basking sharks, collects biopsy samples from humpback whales, investigates the nesting burrows of elusive seabirds and observes the metamorphosis of rare dragonflies. His talk is based on two books he wrote, *Golden Wings & Hairy Toes* and *Basking with Humpbacks*, which will both be available for purchase and signing following his presentation.

Mark your calendar—Thursday, February 18th, dessert potluck at 6:30 pm and program at 7 pm. A \$5 donation is requested.

GREAT OUTDOORS CELEBRATION & AUCTION - A WONDERFUL SUCCESS

On Sunday, August 9, more than 190 people enjoyed SKLT's annual Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction. Thanks to the humor, enthusiasm, and incredible skills of our auctioneer, garden designer and horticulturist Louis Raymond, we netted more than \$49,500 to support our mission of preservation and stewardship of open space. The auction featured boating adventures, dining experiences, paintings by local artists, and a framed original Audubon print, donated in memory of Nod Meyer by her family. Thanks to all our guests and our honorary chairs, Paul & Barbara Schurman. As always, a big thank you to our committed sponsors, volunteers and the many generous donors and buyers who make this annual celebration possible.



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

Saturday, October 24	Celebration of the Harvest of RI Flint Corn, 2 pm, \$5
Sunday, October 25	Grinding at the Grist Mill, Moonstone Beach Road, 2 pm
Wednesday, October 28	*Bat talk, Dr. Pete August, 6pm potluck, 7 pm program
Saturday, November 28	*Hike at Biscuit City, 1 pm
Thursday, January 21	*Movie – 180 degrees south, 5:30 pm potluck, 6:15 pm movie
Thursday, February 18	*Talk – Todd McLeish, 6:30 pm dessert potluck, 7 pm talk

For information on the English Country Dances held at the SKLT Barn, visit www.kingstonenglishcountrydance.org.

* Please register at jane.baumann@sklt.org or call 789-0962 ext. 1.

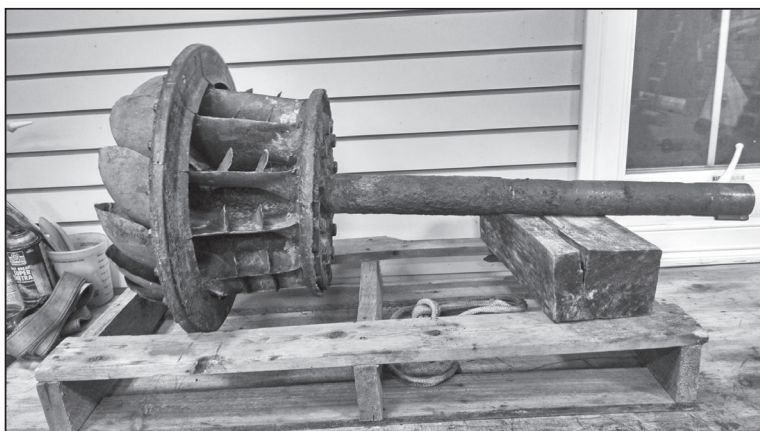
PROGRESS AT THE GRIST MILL



Photos: New Turbine (above), Rob Lyons;
Old Turbine (right), Clark Collins

The crew working hard to repair the Samuel E. Perry grist mill is truly dedicated! Creative solutions have been found to fix our 1703 mill – replacement parts are simply not available at any big box store. Here are before and after photos of the turbine—the installation process has been carefully documented for posterity. We all look forward to celebrating at the grand reopening on Sunday, October 25th!

Until then, watch the Grist Mill video! The recently completed video on the mill is now playing in the “Digging Deeper” section in the bottom right corner of SKLT’s homepage at www.sklt.org. The video captures the importance of preserving this enduring landmark of cultural history. This project has been made possible by a grant from the ADDD Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation, a proactive community and philanthropic leader dedicated to meeting the needs of the people of Rhode Island.



DO WHAT YOU CAN: ONE VOLUNTEER'S PERSPECTIVE

By Cindy Sabato

Back in 2007, as my husband and I made the drive to Rhode Island for the first time, to report to his new duty station for the Navy, we were unexpectedly captivated by the beauty of the Ocean State. We hadn't expected so much land, so many trees, so much beauty. After all, Rhode Island's been here a long time; we kind of figured it had all been paved over by now (shows what we mid-Atlantic natives knew about New England). Once we got here, we learned that all this "beautiful" didn't happen by accident, but through the hard work and dedication of organizations called land trusts and the people who lead and support them. And it turned out, there was one right in my own local community - the South Kingstown Land Trust.

I knew right away I wanted to contribute to what makes Rhode Island so beautiful, to help further that work in some way. But I'm not a scientist or ecologist or naturalist or engineer or anything at all with talents in the way of "field



support." So I offered up what I know - public relations, marketing, communications...*newsletters*. I have some rudimentary layout and design skills, and I guessed that, as a small and lean non-profit, SKLT might be able to use my skills in this small way to communicate with its members and supporters. So I made that call to Joanne in late 2007, and she took me up on it.

Volunteering is important to me because I believe when everyone pitches in a little, it makes our communities better. Typically, the organizations that do the most important things for people, animals, the environment, are all operating on minimal staff and budgets, and they rely on the power and generosity of those who believe in what they do. I work full time for Save The Bay and spend two hours on the road every day, so I don't have a lot of time to volunteer in a more physical way - much as I'd love to - so the newsletter is my way of giving back. It's the one small thing I can do a few times a year, late at night or on the weekend when I can weave it into the rest of my life.

I'd encourage everyone to find the organization that means something to them and give some time. Everybody wins when you do.



Loren Spears from the Tomaquag Museum engages the entire audience in a Native American welcome dance during the Full Moon Land Trust Days Event at the Barn on July 31st.

Photo: Mikaela Karlsson



MILESTONES

The Old Grist Mill

The Perry Grist Mill and grounds have been undergoing major maintenance and upgrade for some time now.

The 19th-century turbine is being repaired and upgraded using 21st-century technology, tools and materials. Laser digitization of old parts of the turbine enabled water jet cutting of new stainless steel replacement parts. The bypass millrace has been excavated and rebuilt with magnificent stonework and a new riprap runoff that will prevent erosion.

A new raised bed demonstration planting area is being constructed that will be used to grow flint corn using the Native American "Three Sisters" method of planting corn, beans and squash.

This year's flint corn crop is again being grown at the Hoffman field near the mill. There has been no crop damage due to deer this year as a result of the entire field having been protected with deer fencing.

A great many people have been working diligently to complete all of this work. Volunteers of all types are providing their time, talent, and treasure and are working collaboratively with land trust staff and contractors hired for various specialty tasks.

Stonemasons, heavy equipment operators, machinists, engineers, farmers, millers, fundraisers, donors, Boy Scouts and many others have provided impressive energy and enthusiasm in preserving this piece of history.

Everyone is looking forward to the mill resuming operations toward the end of October. Thanks to all of you for your support. See you at the grinding.

Sincerely,

Mike Sherry, President



**SKLT WELCOMES OUR NEW MEMBERS FOR
2015! VISIT OUR NEW MEMBER PAGE ON
WWW.SKLT.ORG TO SEE WHO'S JOINED US.**



Like SKLT on Facebook!



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: Martha Day
Secretary: Linda Green
Treasurer: James Farrell
Assistant Treasurer: Charles Lewis

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Land Protection Director
Clarkson Collins,
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Jane Baumann,
Community Relations Director
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

SKLT ACQUIRES THE HALE HOUSE

In June, the Hale House was transferred to SKLT and reunited with the farm from which it once 'hailed.' In 1873, William Weeden built the big red house on the hill as a summer home for his friend Edward Everett Hale and Hale's family, who used the house until Susan Hale's death in 1910.

The house and the land it sits on were part of the Weeden Farm—the property where the Barn is located—before construction of Rte 1 divided the farm. With no trees at the time, the view from the house went all the way to the ocean in front and to Wash Pond in back.

This summer, the house was open to the public. Docents provided interesting tours to visitors, introducing the Hale family and how they enjoyed the property. The Matunuck Preservation Society (MPS), created to implement a program of lectures and musical events at the house, held six fully subscribed events. It was an exciting inaugural summer and MPS is already preparing the programs for the coming season. If you were not able to visit this summer, put it on your schedule for next year. The house reopens in June 2016.



Photo: Deb Stallwood

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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



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THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BATS OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Join us before Halloween for a not-so-spooky talk about bats! University of Rhode Island professor Dr. Peter August will review bat diversity around the world with special emphasis on bats of southern New England. He will discuss the surprisingly complex annual cycle of our most common bat - the little brown bat. Dr. August will update us on White Nose Syndrome, the mysterious disease that is decimating bat populations in the northeastern United States.



Little Brown Bat

Join us at the Barn on Wednesday, October 28th - we'll start the evening with a potluck dinner at 6 pm, and the program will begin at 7 pm. Dr. August is a professor in the URI Department of Natural Resources Science where he teaches classes in geographic information systems and landscape ecology. He has studied bats in New England, the Caribbean and South America.

OPEN SPACE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE