



Site Lines

FALL 2009

**SOUTH KINGSTOWN
LAND TRUST**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FALL MONITORING DAY

Please join us as we embark on the second annual SKLT Fall Monitoring Day Sunday November 1st. As part of our stewardship duties, each of our properties must be inspected and monitored annually, and with 135 projects, that is a big task! We cannot do it without the help of you, our volunteers.

On November 1st we will gather at the Barn at 11am to assign properties to groups of two or three who will then go inspect the land, take photos, and report back later in the afternoon, between 4 and 5 pm. We will tally results, collect photos & maps and then enjoy a nice hot meal together. Weather permitting we'll have a bonfire ablaze in the side field!

This format worked really well last year so we want to continue! At the end of the day over 80% of SKLT's properties had been visited, contributing significantly to completing our annual monitoring responsibilities. If you would like to volunteer, please let us know – email jane.baumann@sklt.org or call us at 789-0962. Huge thanks to the 60+ volunteers who came out last year – please come back again! We appreciate all your help!



Photos: Barbara Schurman



Volunteers receiving instructions from Clark Collins.

CARPENTER PROJECT A SUCCESS!!

Thanks to all who contributed to SKLT's successful closing on 41 acres of the Carpenter Farm in Perryville! While the lion's share of the project was funded by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm and Ranchland Program and the Town of South Kingstown, nearly \$125,000 was donated by the Bafflin Foundation, the Sharpe Family Fund, the Ruth and Hal Launder's Family Foundation and

101 generous contributors. Although we actually still need to raise \$4400, this project has already qualified as a resounding success because of the enormous groundswell of support that answered our call for help. We also thank the landowners for reducing the purchase price to make the deal possible! All of us at SKLT now better appreciate this community's concern for protecting important open space in our town – and keeping our special places preserved.



CHESTNUT ORCHARD PROGRESS REPORT

SKLT and its partners, the URI Master Gardeners Association (MGA), the American Chestnut Foundation (TACF), and the South County Garden Club are proud to announce the completion of the new American Chestnut research orchard at SKLT's Hollis Tucker farm property on Tuckertown Road in Wakefield. Due to the impressive skills and dedication of the Master Gardeners, the one-acre orchard quickly took shape on a piece of rolling meadow with the installation of a 10' high deer fence, neat rows of tilled planting rows covered with permeable sun blocking material, and an in-ground drip irrigation system featuring a programmable solar-powered pumping system. The site also has adequate parking for volunteers, a storage shed and an informational kiosk with interpretive signs provided by TACF.

Support for the effort came from many directions. The Norcross Foundation, a nature conservation group in Connecticut, started the ball rolling with a grant of \$2,500 for materials, soon to be augmented by the leadership skills of Rudi Hempe of the Master Gardeners, who came up with fencing supplies and a 500-gallon reservoir for the water system. MGA volunteers also contributed engineering design and the services of a farm tractor to dig the post holes, and constructed a storage shed for orchard supplies featuring recycled wood,

donated by Master Gardener and SKLT member Charles Samson.

The South County Garden Club, also a longtime partner for SKLT projects, answered our call for help by providing \$2,000 for the acquisition of the solar-powered pumping system and drip irrigation network. And, just as we were worrying about how we would maintain the orchard, Martha Hough, a member of the SC Garden Club and SKLT, donated a new garden tractor and weed-whacker she had won at a fund-raiser! The Master Gardeners are committed to supplying volunteer labor for the maintenance of the site for several years and the Garden Club has agreed to continue a level of support as well.

The result of all this work and serendipity is now open to see. The orchard presently contains approximately 30 briskly growing American, Chinese, and hybrid chestnut seedlings, and over the next few years TACF will assist volunteers in filling the orchard to its 260-tree complement. Some of the plants will contain the genes of local Rhode Island blight survivors, and, with a little luck, good management and science, we can expect some of these trees to make a significant contribution to the restoration and reintroduction of a healthy and blight-resistant American chestnut into our forests.

MARK SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14 ON YOUR CALENDAR!

That's when Kendra Gurney, New England Regional Science Coordinator for The American Chestnut Foundation will make a presentation on the chestnut research project in South Kingstown. She will explain all the procedures we will be doing next spring and in future years and will be able to answer a lot of questions. This informative talk will be at the URI Coastal Institute's Weaver Auditorium on the Kingston campus from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday November 14. The session will be open to Master Gardeners, SKLT members and members of the South County Garden Club. For a guided tour, contact Rudi Hempe at rudi20@cox.net.



Informational kiosk at the Chestnut Orchard

Photo: Claudia Swain

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE AN EAGLE SCOUT?

Nicholas J. Finan knows. Nick completed his Eagle Scout project on the Browning Woods Trail for the South Kingstown Land Trust, under advisement of SKLT's Clarkson Collins, Director of Land Management. For those of you who are not familiar with the qualifications to make Eagle Scout, there are seven major areas one must complete before his 18th birthday:

1. Achieve the rank of Life Scout.
2. Demonstrate that you live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life.
3. Earn a total of 21 merit badges.
4. While a Life Scout, serve actively for a period of six months in positions of responsibility within the troop.
5. While a Life Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project in your community.
6. Take part in a Scoutmaster conference.
7. Successfully complete an Eagle Scout board of review.

Nick's project improved the Browning Woods Trail through installation of trail markers, removal of brush in and around the old foundations to make them more recognizable and removal of invasive plants around



Photo: Lou Finan

Nick Finan, 3rd from left, and crew at Browning Woods Trail

the site. He spent 42 hours working on the project and enlisted the help of 20 other individuals who donated 87 hours of their time in helping him to get the job done. It was a terrific project and the land trust community has already benefited. SKLT has led hikes here (maps are available on our website www.skl.org) and photographed this hike for use in a virtual tour that was shown to all elementary school children in South Kingstown as part of the 2008/2009 Elementary Community Programs. Nick's Eagle Ceremony took place at the Barn in May. Thanks so much for your terrific efforts, Nick.

Fun with Lichens - Lichen Identification Walk, October 24th

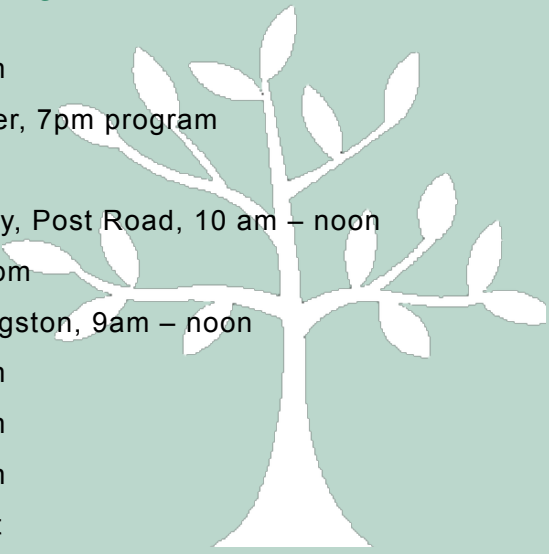
Come learn about LICHENS on Saturday, October 24th from 10am until noon at the Historic Cemetery on Post Road near the Trout Hatchery sign. Elizabeth Kneiper, an instructor for the New England Wildflower Society will teach the basics of lichen identification and talk about the important ecological role played by these unusual plants. Bring a 10 power hand lens if you have one!

Please register for this walk by email to jane.baumann@sklt.org or call 789-0962. Rain date will be Sunday October 25th.



Save These Dates - Events at SKLT Barn

- Oct. 3, 17, 31 English Country Dances, 7:30 – 10:30pm
- Oct. 14 Invasive Plant workshop, 6pm light dinner, 7pm program
- Oct. 17 Trail Hike to Bliss Property, 10:30am
- Oct. 24 Lichen Walk, Perryville Historic Cemetery, Post Road, 10 am – noon
- Nov. 1 SKLT Annual Monitoring Day, 11am to 7pm
- Nov. 14 Chestnut Talk, URI Coastal Institute, Kingston, 9am – noon
- Nov. 14, 28 English Country Dances, 7:30 – 10:30pm
- Jan. 16, 30 English Country Dances, 7:30 – 10:30pm
- Feb. 13, 27 English Country Dances, 7:30 – 10:30pm
- April 11 SKLT Annual Meeting and Photo Contest



COME FOR A WALK ON THE BLISS PROPERTY OCTOBER 17TH



Photo: Claudia Swain

Scottish Highland cattle at the Bliss property

Join SKLT's Land Management Director Clark Collins for a walk at the Bliss property on Matunuck Beach Road – this is the site of SKLT's management project to remove invasive plants and establish a pasture with the help of Scottish highland cattle owned by neighbor Tom Browning. SKLT has received a grant from NRCS for this project and a permit to remove plants from the Coastal Resources Management Council. This is a great example of active land restoration that will benefit our shoreline ecosystem and local agriculture. To register, email: jane.baumann@sklt.org, or call 789-0962. Participants will meet at the Barn, 17 Matunuck Beach Road, at 10:30 am.

FEELING THANKFUL AT THE SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST

The South Kingstown Land Trust is grateful to have the support of so many generous members. Some choose to support us through membership; some have donated their land or a conservation easement to SKLT. Others give generously to our annual campaign at the end of the year. Some offer the winning bid at the auction. This year we had tremendous response to our appeal for the acquisition of the Carpenter Farm. Some people give their time as land stewards, stone wall “rock stars,” or board members.

Many do a combination of these things. All of these contributions enable SKLT to protect open space. We could not do it without all of these supporters.

EverGreen is yet another way that members can support SKLT. EverGreen members are those who have made an enduring commitment to open space in our community by naming SKLT in their estate plans or by making an unrestricted, outright gift of \$10,000 or greater to the SKLT EverGreen Fund. This fund is specifically dedicated to support the successful operations of the organization into the future. One person who has chosen to become an EverGreen member is Leslie Chouinard....

SKLT WELCOMES ITS 30TH EVERGREEN MEMBER



Photos: Claudia Swain

Leslie Chouinard first came to South Kingstown from Pawtucket to go to college and never went back. Her journey here began at Mount St. Josephs College, which ceased operations in 1975, albeit not from anything Leslie did! I guess she fell in love with the area, because she returned to live here after earning her masters degree from Providence College. That was 40 years ago when the population was only 10,000. Today, South Kingstown has more than 30,000 residents.

A teacher for 30 years, Leslie has also been an active community leader in Peace Dale, helping to establish the Domestic Violence Center. She is presently focusing her efforts on the Peace Dale Revitalization Coalition. Now that she has retired from teaching, she also has time to volunteer at the land trust! Last year she hiked with us, monitored properties on Monitoring Day and attended most of the events we held at the Barn.

When she first learned of SKLT, she saw the value in joining, more than 20 years ago. Believing in the land trust's mission she decided to put us in her will long before we started a Legacy group. In fact, it wasn't until she was on a hike with Claudia at Yawgoo Pond that they began speaking about EverGreen, and Claudia learned that she was, by her earlier actions, already a member.

When asked why she put the South Kingstown Land Trust in her will she said this:

“Preservation is important not just for aesthetic reasons but for the economic development of this town. The value of preserving land keeps down the costs of running a town by not requiring infrastructure such as schools, town water, fire services, waste removal etc. As well, preserving the land keeps the area clean and beautiful and protects the landscape: providing a scenic vacation destination and a great place to live and work.”

Welcome to EverGreen, Leslie!

SKLT PHOTO CONTEST EXTENDED TO APRIL 11

WE'VE DECIDED TO PAIR UP OUR ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST WITH OUR SPRING ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 11TH, SO KEEP TAKING PHOTOS!
SEE SKLT.ORG FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.



MILESTONES

6 **F**all is here! The air is crisp and the sky is bright blue; children are back at school and the summer that never was is over. We here at SKLT can't believe that we are approaching the end of the year and preparing for the next one. Despite the rather grim predictions at the beginning of this year, the Land Trust has fared pretty well.

We have more members than ever, and more of you are attending our events and volunteering your time. Before you know it, our Second Annual Monitoring Day will be here. Please read the article on page one, and let us know if you can help out. It was a great day last year, and we anticipate a repeat on November 1st.

In July we lost a loyal SKLT member in Herbert Behrens. For the past several years, Herb has supported the Land Trust with significant donations. After his death, his widow Helen directed memorial donations to SKLT and we are honored to have received many contributions in Herb's name. We are grateful to both Helen and Herb for all they have done for us.

And, of course, there was the Carpenter Farm project (article on p. 1). What a story! After years of negotiations, it was finally going to happen, but we were short about \$125,000. SKLT sent out the word, and our membership and community responded with such generosity we were able to close on time. To show our appreciation to all our contributors, we held a party at the Barn, ate cake, drank Champagne and congratulated each other.

What's next? Stay tuned.

Michael A. Sherry, President

SKLT FINDS NEW MEMBERS!

Early this year SKLT set annual priorities which included increasing membership by 10%. It seemed like a long shot, especially with the economy in a tailspin. Thanks to each and every one of you, SKLT has met and exceeded that goal! To all of our new members, welcome! To our tried and true "old" members, thanks for all you continue to do. Our numbers are increasing and we couldn't be happier. Today, SKLT membership has grown to 715 families - an increase of 79 families this year alone! Our mission to preserve South Kingstown's open space is being heard across the area and you are responding.

After almost 26 years, your land trust is stronger and more active than ever before. Please help us keep up the momentum and provide for further preservation of this great place. We are always looking for ways to include our members in our work; if you wish to volunteer, if you have ideas for the land trust, if you know of anyone who might want to join us, please contact us and let us know what's on your mind. And remember to give us your email if you haven't already - we send notices of interest to our members on a regular basis - and we don't give the list to anyone else!

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
Treasurer: Charles M. Lewis
Secretary: Sophie Page Lewis

Trustees

James V. Aukerman
Michael Bontecou
Kathleen Peterson Hahn
Christopher Little
Kevin McDonough
Doug McGovern
Peter Nunes
Sally Olsen
Anne O'Neill
Carl Sawyer
Paul Schurman
Carroll Tickner
William Wallace
Virginia Lee, Trustee Emerita
Margaret Munroe, Trustee Emerita

Staff

Joanne Riccitelli,
Land Protection Director
Clarkson Collins,
Land Management Director
Claudia Swain,
Development Director
Jane Baumann,
Membership Coordinator

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

Site Lines Designer, Cindy Sabato, Volunteer

THE GREAT OUTDOORS CELEBRATION AND AUCTION

On August 16, more than 150 people attended the South Kingstown Land Trust's Great Outdoors Celebration at the Barn on Matunuck Beach Road.

This summer's festive event featured local artists, water-based adventures and luscious dining experiences to support land protection in South Kingstown. Rhode Island personality Louis Raymond of Renaissance Gardening was again the entertaining and able auctioneer. Unique items included a 1917 "New Edition" of "A Man Without a Country," and an antique picnic basket with a lid, hand-painted by local artist Barbara Schurman, depicting the Everett Hale House in Matunuck. A big crowd pleaser was a child's Adirondack chair painted by Sophie Lewis and Mary Brown, two local artists who depicted delightful woodland creatures on all surfaces of the chair. The event brought SKLT closer to paying off its Carpenter Farm project in Perryville.



Photo: Claudia Swain

We wish to thank all the attendees, donors, sponsors and our honorary chairs, Nod and Henry Meyer. We could not have done it without you!

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..... \$25
 - Family \$40
 - Protector \$50-99
 - Steward..... \$100-\$149
 - Guardian \$150-\$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
313 Main Street, Suite C, Wakefield, RI 02879



SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST
 313 MAIN STREET, SUITE C
 WAKEFIELD, RI 02879

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Site Lines



COME LEARN ABOUT INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES MANAGEMENT

SKLT will host a presentation by Hope Leeson, botanist and invasive species coordinator with the Rhode Island Natural History Survey (RINHS), on Wednesday October 14 at the Barn. Hope surveys rare plant populations for the RINHS and the New England Wildflower Society. Each spring, Hope teaches a course in Field Botany and Taxonomy at the University of Rhode Island.

At this workshop, Hope will talk about the early detection of invasive plants new to Rhode Island. Although present in other parts of the eastern United States, these plants have just recently been found in Rhode Island, and are not yet on the radar screen for most landowners or managers. The RINHS hopes that by educating people in how to identify these newly found species, that the widespread distribution of the plants can be prevented. Come by at 6 pm for a light supper (\$5 donation requested) or at 7 pm for the program. Please let us know if you will attend so we can plan for food – call 789-0962 or email jane.baumann@sklt.org.

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Invasive Bittersweet

Photo: Claudia Swain

Open Space Makes All the Difference