



Site Lines

FALL 2010

SOUTH KINGSTOWN
LAND TRUST

COME HELP ON MONITORING DAY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7TH

As the days grow shorter, the air cools and the leaves begin to change color, our thoughts turn to one of our favorite efforts of the year, Monitoring Day! Those of you who have helped us in the past know that we have over 130 properties that must be monitored annually. It is a Herculean job that can only be accomplished with your help! Two years ago we asked for volunteers to get this job done in one day and we were extremely gratified with the great results. We made lots of changes last year to assist those volunteers in the field, and completed even more of the work on Monitoring Day. This year Trustee Sophie Lewis has worked tirelessly to streamline the process even further to prepare for the big day. We think you will be very satisfied with the changes.

There are many properties to monitor, so we are looking for last year's volunteers and some new faces too. Please e-mail jane.baumann@sklt.org if you can help us this year.

Sophie asks that anyone who wishes to monitor the same property as you did last year, please let Jane know and every effort will be made to assign you that property. This way, you will get to know a certain property well and will be better able to recognize changes that may need to be noted and brought to our attention.

This year, the day will cover more than monitoring. SKLT has been recruited to participate in a pilot study about how local land trusts can address the likely impacts of climate change – ranging from considering potential sea level rise to changes in species of plants and animals that we have already witnessed over the years. We'll give a short talk in the morning before you set out – about which species are expanding their ranges into our area, or declining. Later in the day, at about 4 pm when you return from the field, we'll explain more about this study and invite interested members to share your thoughts and observations.

A hearty supper will follow at 5 pm and a beautiful bonfire in the yard at the Barn will end the evening. We know you will want to be a part of this day, so let us know you will be there. If you don't want to go into the field, but would like to participate, we can use kitchen, set-up and clean-up help too. See you on November 7th - see you at the Barn at 11 am!



Photo: Claudia Swain

Monitors Edith England and Jane Baumann at a farmland property on Tuckertown Road in 2009.

MANAGING OUR TRAILS SUMMER 2010

Providing hiking access to some of the largest and most beautiful parts of our 2,400 plus acre inventory of conserved natural lands is one of SKLT's proudest accomplishments.

We currently provide approximately 10 miles of publicly accessible trails, including Susanna's Woods Trail in Perryville's wooded moraine (2mi), Gammell property in Perryville (1mi.), Browning Woods Trail in Tuckertown (3 mi), the Friendship Trail in Thewlis Woods in Wakefield (0.8 mi), Biscuit City Pond Trail (.25 mi), the Tefft Historic Park Trail in Kingston (.25 mi), Chickasheen and Yawgoo Pond Trails in West Kingston (1.75 mi), the Crawley Reserve Trail in West Kingston (.25 mi), and the Weeden Farm walk in Matunuck (1.6 mi.).

We are pleased to say that the great majority of these trails provide the hiker with an experience of ecologically intact environments, with flora and fauna typical of southern New England forest lands and a satisfying mix of solitude and adventure. The trails are designed to lead the walker gently through the landscape, bending around slopes, stopping at points of interest such as a particularly graceful stand of mature white pine, a large boulder or rock outcrop, and providing a view over a blueberry or laurel understory or across a plain towards the ocean or other open water. The trails sometimes follow stone walls and stop by the remnants of farmsteads, giving the visitor a chance to imagine the great changes that have touched the landscape over the past three centuries.

The walk around the perimeter of Weeden Farm gives an idea of what much of the landscape was like a century and a half ago when farming was in its prime. These trails provide their visitors with silent readings in botany, forestry, geology, history, while also contributing to one's sense of health through exercise. They are constantly changing through the seasons and are equally interesting in the bareness of winter as during the leafy wealth of summer.

Photo: Claudia Swain



Along Polly's Loop Trail in Perryville.

The job of maintaining our current trails and developing new ones is an exciting but considerable challenge. This year, as in many before, we have been fortunate to receive grants and donations from a number of sources, including two RIDEM Trails Grants for equipment and trail head improvements, a grant from the Mary LeMoine Potter Fund for work in Biscuit City, and Federal grants for habitat restoration and construction of gates to defend against unwanted off-road vehicles. Our membership has gallantly supported purchases of equipment for trail maintenance as the need arises.

Perhaps most importantly, we appreciate the volunteered time and effort of our members and other organizations on which we rely to keep the trails clear, open and free of unsightly disturbance. You are invited to our third annual Fall Monitoring day on November 7th (see the article on page one). Other trail work, such as installing signs and trail clearing, will be done as needed during the winter, and we plan to notify our members of work sessions via e-mail. Please send us your contact info if you'd like to be on this list. SKLT invites you not only to enjoy these paths, but also to bring along hand clippers and groom the trail sides, a snip at a time, to keep them open and accessible for the next walk!

FOLLOW-UP HIKE AT THE BLISS PROPERTY

Join Clarkson Collins, SKLT Land Management Director, and Rudi Hempe of the URI Master Gardeners Association for a hike at the Bliss property on Saturday, October 23rd at 10:30 am. We'll meet at the Matunuck Elementary School parking lot and walk over. Some of you will remember that we hiked at Bliss last fall and met Tom Browning and his Scottish Highland cattle. This year we'll look again at the progress that has been made in clearing the area of invasives, especially at the shoreline. Please register for the hike in advance to jane.baumann@sklt.org.



Black Swallowwort and other invasives before treatment.



Forty-seven days after treatment.

SKLT BARN MEETS THE SILVER SCREEN



Photo: Claudia Swain

Many of you have visited SKLT's Barn on Matunuck Beach Road, for our auction, annual meeting, Monitoring Day, or a light dinner and educational program. But lately our Barn has become the star of the show! SKLT rents the Barn to other non-profit groups and is often the setting for board retreats, training sessions or annual meetings. For a couple days in late August, however, the Barn and the Weeden Farm fields

were chosen by filmmakers making a short documentary film for internal use by the Navy Research Lab. They wanted a scene that could pass for the early 1900s, and found our fields and stone walls a perfect backdrop for their story and their antique cars. Quite exciting times in our quiet corner of Matunuck!

Save These Dates - Events at SKLT Barn

Oct. 9, 23	English Country Dances, 7:30 to 10pm
Oct. 10	Susanna's Woods hike, 2pm*
Oct. 24	Bliss hike, 10:30am*
Nov. 6, 20	English Country Dances, 7:30 to 10pm
Nov. 7	SKLT Monitoring Day, 11 am*
Dec. 1	Movie FRESH, light dinner 6pm, movie at 7pm*
Dec. 4	English Country Dance, 7:30 to 10pm
Jan. 19	Todd McLeish talk, 7pm, light dinner 6pm

* Please call 789-0962 or email jane.baumann@sklt.org to register

EVERGREEN EVENT

Rudi Hempe was in fine form on August 4th when he addressed SKLT's EverGreen members at the site of the American Chestnut Foundation Research Orchard. Rudi is the URI Master Gardener who heads up the effort to generate hybrid American chestnut trees in South Kingstown. This partnership includes the South Kingstown Land Trust, which provided the land for the orchard, The American Chestnut Foundation RI /MA chapter, which provides oversight, nuts and "know how," and the Master Gardeners, who provide the brawn to plant, steward and protect the site (from deer browse, for example). The project is part of a national effort to develop American chestnuts that are immune to blight and can be eventually planted in north eastern forests. The orchard occupies one acre of the SKLT's 55-acre Tuckertown Road property.

This was a chance to update EverGreen members on the exciting results of the year's efforts. EverGreen

members are our loyal SKLT members who have either made an outright gift of \$10,000 to our legacy fund, and/or have let us know that they have included us in their estate plans. Their vision for SKLT will ensure that the lands we protect today will be stewarded for their natural resources, beauty and sense of place that is South Kingstown, for generations to come. To date there are 33 EverGreen members.

So, what was the good news? It seems the solar-powered watering system that was developed and installed by our Master Gardeners with funding from the generous South County Garden Club may well be the secret to the high rate of nut germination. In fact, the watering system is so effective, it is to become the prototype for future chestnut orchards! Of 260 nuts planted, all but five germinated, and potted reserves will compensate for the losses. The planting of this orchard is the penultimate step in a multi-generational effort to bring back American chestnuts to Rhode Island. Kudos

to the hard working Master Gardeners, the South County Garden Club, The American Chestnut Foundation, and SKLT. When we work together, we work smarter.



Photo: Google Earth

NOW YOU CAN GIVE TO SKLT ONLINE!

PayPal is now available on our website, SKLT.org! If you can't picture yourself writing a check, finding an envelope and stamping it, this is for you. Our intrepid Trustees Carroll Tickner and Kathleen Hahn Peterson have enabled the website to accept your contributions via PayPal, worked out the inevitable kinks, and gotten us up and running. Check it out and send your contributions anytime, from anywhere. For those of you who have never heard of PayPal (and may not want to), don't worry — the old-fashioned way of sending us your donations still works perfectly.

SKLT'S GREAT OUTDOOR PARTY AND AUCTION

SKLT held its Great Outdoor Party and Auction on August 15th at the Barn. Hosted by Eric and Meera Widmer, recently back from Jordan, the event drew over 140 supporters who came out to bid on local artists' work and adventures. A wonderful photograph by the late Mo Oppersdorff got participants involved in the spirit of the day - followed by a half day sail on Narragansett Bay captained by the very able Will Cummer, whose happy participants last year were featured in a photo. A wonderful painting, "Ding Hao Gardens" was donated by the Keiffer family, and framed for us by Picture This. (Check out other works by Googling Edwin Keiffer). Other terrific items included a gorgeous rug from Dove and Distaff, a wonderful week in Tuscany, Italy and one in San Miguel Allende, Mexico. Ever popular artists Gregor Kammerer, Sophie Lewis and Troy West all donated original paintings that were eagerly snapped up by a bidding crowd. Another popular item was the garden cart filled with plantings from local nurseries. A new feature this year was a game which challenged participants to identify SKLT hiking trails. Congratulations to Rich Clark who nailed it!

The auction's success depends on supporters who want to see open space protected in South Kingstown and on our advocate and friend, Auctioneer Louis Raymond, whose wit and heart encouraged significant bidding and a great time. The final item was a call for support to close on a "Gator," a



Photo: Claudia Swain

rugged all-wheel-drive vehicle that will make trail work and stone wall improvements projects much easier to accomplish. Our most sincere thanks to all who made this such an incredible event for SKLT!

This year's generous sponsors included Pacesetters: Troy West/Claudia Flynn and Chris Gaffney/Karen Kames; Trail Blazers: Applied Radar Inc., South County Steel, P. Schurman Contractors, Coastal Properties, Lila Delman, James V. Aukerman & Associates LLC, Little Medeiros Kinder Bulman & Whitney PC, Hogan and Hogan, and anonymous supporters.

MILESTONES

The hot, sunny summer has left us, and we approach the beautiful fall days with both a sense of anticipation and a little wistfulness for the season that is now over. SKLT had a very busy summer, but there is little time to reflect on what is past, as there is still so much left to do before year's end. At this writing we are finalizing our auction results and extending our thanks to everyone who worked on that effort. It was a wonderful success and brought SKLT over \$42,000. We hope you were there to enjoy the day.

The rhythm of the land trust quickens as the fall begins. We are preparing for Monitoring Day on November 7th, ever grateful for our volunteers as they take to the fields and forests to report on the condition of our properties. With over 130 properties, we can no longer handle all the monitoring with our staff alone - we need your help.

We are offering more hikes and a movie, *FRESH*, this fall. Our English country dances continue every other Saturday night at the Barn. Some of our staff and Board will be attending the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Hartford, CT next month to learn more about issues from climate change to preparing for accreditation.

Soon we will begin plans for our annual end-of-year campaign. That is our opportunity to reflect on achievements from this year, and set priorities for next year. It is a time for the SKLT Board and Staff to assess the results of our efforts and make plans for the future. As always, you are a key part of that future – our success comes only with your loyal and steadfast support. We plan to continue to earn that respect by persevering in our efforts to preserve South Kingstown's special places for generations yet to come. Thank you for the part you play in our success.

Michael A. Sherry

Michael A. Sherry, President

COME TO THE BARN FOR *FRESH*!

SKLT members Eugenie and Ron Maine have made it possible for us to show you the movie *FRESH*, on Wednesday, December 1st at 7 pm. Produced and directed by Ana Sofia Joanes, the 72-minute film about efforts across the country to bring fresh, locally grown food to more and more people celebrates the farmers, thinkers and business people across America who are re-inventing our food system. Each has witnessed the rapid transformation of agriculture into an industrial model and confronted the consequences: food contamination, environmental pollution, depletion of natural resources, and obesity. Forging healthier, sustainable alternatives, they offer a practical vision for our food and our planet.

We invite everyone to contribute to a potluck meal at 6 pm, featuring as much locally grown ingredients as possible! We suspect our members will excel at this! See you at the feast and the movies!

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
Vice President: Paul Schurman
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Jane Baumann,
Membership Coordinator
Mike Bontecou,
Land Operations 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

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK

Here's a novel way to give to SKLT. Helen and Tom Rowe-Drake felt they had received enough ties, shirts and scarves at Christmas and birthdays to last them the rest of their lives. So Tom asked his brother-in-law to donate to SKLT in lieu of any future gifts. The brother-in-law agreed, and we are now the happy recipients of those gifts. Helen admits the secondary benefit to this arrangement is that the SKLT also sends the thank you note! As a quid pro quo, Helen and Tom now support her brother's choice of charity in lieu of gifts as well. It's a splendid way to support our efforts, and we encourage all of you who don't need one more thingamajig this holiday season to ask loved ones to donate to SKLT in your name.

The Rowe-Drakes are shown here with one of their 29 llamas. In the coming year, we'll share with you all we learned about llamas on a recent visit to their farm in West Kingston.



Photo: Joanne Riccitelli

✂ — — — — — ✂ 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
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Site Lines



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TODD MCLEISH LECTURE IN JANUARY

Plan ahead for a real treat on a cold evening! On January 19, natural history writer Todd McLeish will discuss some of New England's most threatened marine life in a presentation based on his latest book, Basking with Humpbacks. He'll tell stories about the life cycle, research, and threats facing basking sharks, leatherback turtles, humpback whales, horseshoe crabs, wolffish and other creatures, while also sharing his adventures with biologists who study these species. Come to the Barn at 6 pm to share a light dinner (\$7 donation), and the program will begin at 7 pm. Please RSVP by email to jane.baumann@sklt.org.



Open Space Makes All the Difference