



A TASTE OF MATUNUCK FOR SKLT VOLUNTEERS

On May 4th at the Barn, the South Kingstown Land Trust treated its volunteer stewards and major donors to a sampling of the fruits of all our labors. This event was designed to celebrate the benefits and productivity of our working lands and to point out the exciting opportunities that land stewardship can provide.

Bob and Diane Smith made crispy, lacy jonnycakes made from flint corn grown by Stuart Sherman on protected land and ground in the Carpenter Grist Mill on Moonstone Beach Road. Steve and Kate Siravo brought spicy salsa made from tomatoes grown on SKLT-owned land on Tuckertown Road where they lease two acres. Craig and Emily Totten from Greenview Farm, which SKLT helped to protect, brought fresh field greens, beets with goat cheese and raspberry jam. Four hunters who have permission to hunt on SKLT land brought incredible goose and venison dishes, including goose stew and venison steak. Spud Mack, who has cows that pasture on SKLT's Bayfield Farm,



brought spicy sausage. Perry Raso from Matunuck Oyster Company supplied amazing, sweet oysters.

This first-ever event was attended by over 70 hard-working SKLT volunteers and major supporters. It was one way for SKLT to thank our dedicated supporters!

Open Space Makes All the Difference



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

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



Site Lines

SUMMER 2008

**SOUTH KINGSTOWN
LAND TRUST**

LOOKING FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES THIS SUMMER?

SKLT welcomes volunteers this summer! For more details on any projects that interest you, please contact clark.collins@sklt.org at 783-4999, or cell 575-7525.

Stone wall restoration at Weeden Farm in Matunuck

On Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 9-11 am starting on June 3, people who admire old New England stone walls can learn the basics and develop skills in this traditional art form. Our volunteers and staff have restored a half mile stretch of fieldstone walls along Matunuck Beach Road over the past two summers. This year we will target the length of two more fields. This kind of work is suited to people in their teens to over seventy because there is a wide choice of roles to play - brisk physical exercise in placing stones, operation of hand tools and equipment, puzzle mastery in choosing the right shaped rock for each space, and attention to quality and detail to finish a job that will be publicly admired for decades. All of this happens in a beautiful historic landscape where cool ocean breezes are common. SKLT will provide gloves, light refreshment, and snack and a souvenir SKLT t-shirt. If the scheduled times are inconvenient for you, please call to see if there is another time.

Elimination of invasive plants, particularly autumn olive, bittersweet, and Japanese barberry

On Wednesday, June 11 from 9 am until noon, help eliminate invasive plants at the scenic old Biscuit City Mill Pond on Biscuit City, Springdale and Higgins Roads in Kingston. Exotic invasive plants can out-compete native vegetation and change the ecological balances in our landscapes. This last session at Biscuit City Mill Pond will focus on cutting out autumn olive, Japanese barberry and Euonymus (aka burning



Clarkson Collins photo

Stone wall restoration project at Weeden Farm.

bush). Please bring lopping shears, work gloves, and bug repellent. Cold refreshments will be provided. Please meet at the site.

Help Monitor Properties owned by SKLT

Could you help SKLT by adopting a property to monitor on an annual basis? On Sunday, June 29 at 3 pm at the Barn, our Stewardship Director Clarkson Collins will host a meeting to train volunteers to be stewards for open space lands - one of the most critical roles that Land Trust members can fill in the effort to preserve and protect our natural heritage. You will become intimately involved with the flora and fauna of protected land of your choice by visiting and recording conditions on site, at your own schedule. As a steward you will be invited to presentations on natural resource issues held at the Barn throughout the year.

COME WALK IN THE MATUNUCK HILLS



Claudia Swain photo

DuVal Trail Walk in May

Clark Collins will lead another trail walk on Sunday July 20 at 4pm at SKLT's Robert Strange property in the Matunuck Hills. This will be a rare treat to learn about the hydrologically isolated and unusual coastal plain ponds located in a beautiful and undeveloped part of our town. This property is not open to the public for hiking, but on occasion we offer guided walks to these properties that support rare plants, which are best protected by minimizing human access. Please register by calling Clark at 783-4999 or email him at clark.collins@sklt.org. Registrants will be instructed on where to meet.

SKLT'S "GREAT OUTDOORS PARTY" COMING IN AUGUST

On Sunday August 10th SKLT presents the "Great Outdoors Party" from 4 to 6:30 pm at the SKLT Barn. This fun and festive event, featuring a live auction of art, adventures and antiques, will celebrate the Land Trust's saving 2,350 acres of beautiful South Kingstown land and will raise funds to support land acquisition and preservation of the South Kingstown landscape. Working to maintain the rural quality of our town is of the utmost importance in this time of continued development pressure.

We wish to thank our honorary chairs Charlie and Lindsay Coolidge and the following generous businesses who have already committed to sponsoring the "Great Outdoors Party":

- Applied Radar Inc.
- Arnold Lumber
- James V. Aukerman & Associates
- Coastal Properties
- Little Medeiros Kinder Bulman & Whitney P.C.
- P. Schurman Contractors
- South County Steel

If you would like to add your company's name to the list of sponsors, please contact Claudia Swain at 789-0962. In return for your generous sponsorship, your company will be recognized on the SKLT website, in the program and during the event. Again, thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to seeing all of you there! Look for your invitation in the mail in early July. Tickets will be \$20 per person.



Printed on recycled paper.

SKLT MEMBER STORIES

Thanks to new member Ruth Leonard, who learned about SKLT at our first English Country Dance in April. She so enjoyed the Barn and the beautiful fields, just beginning to wake from the long winter, that she decided to join. Her contribution was made in memory of her beloved nephew Mike. She has agreed to let us share her note with you:

"...The day that I sent in my membership, I did it in remembrance as a positive ripple effect in honor of my nephew Mike who had died two years earlier to the day in Iraq. So my membership...has more meaning since it was done to preserve land for future generations but in honor of someone dear to me."

Thank you, Ruth, for sharing your story with us! We are happy to have you as a new member.

Thinking about giving to the land trust? We think we have the most generous members anywhere! One of our new members asked if

he and his fiancée might name SKLT as the recipient of their wedding gifts. We gratefully accepted and we most heartily thank James Verinis and Shayna Cohen, currently of Brooklyn NY for their generosity. They will be married in June in South Kingstown and will become summer residents. Welcome! James commented:

"I fell in love with South County as soon as I learned to drive and could borrow my mom's car to come up from New Haven and surf Matunuck. You can say that I have been trying to move to South Kingstown for more than 20 years. Shayna and I went to college in Providence and have each spent a lot of cherished time in rural Rhode Island. We now are working on our largely wooded lot, preparing it for when we can become permanent residents. So while now we are summer residents, we have more dedicated plans."

JOIN US IN PRESERVING OPEN SPACE IN SOUTH KINGSTOWN

SKLT is 25 years old this year! It is thanks to the dedication of our supporters that we have been able to save and preserve over 2,350 acres of beautiful land here in South Kingstown. Your commitment to open space in South Kingstown continues to strengthen the organization and makes future purchases possible! Join or renew your membership for 2008, or make a general donation toward our land protection efforts today! SKLT is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, so your donation is tax-deductible. And 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+

GENERAL DONATION

I'm already a current member, but I would like to make a general donation. Please accept my check in the amount of \$_____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

- ☐ I am a landowner interested in preseving my property.
- ☐ Please send information about naming SKLT in my will.
- ☐ 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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year the South Kingstown Land Trust celebrates its twenty fifth year of preserving the things that make South Kingstown a special place. Whether you were born here, moved here, or just like to visit, you share that sense of place. During its first 25 years SKLT has been able to protect approximately 2350 acres. These lands include many farms, fields, and vistas that you see every day and more than likely take for granted that they will always be there to enjoy.

The growing challenge going forward is to effectively manage these properties in perpetuity. In addition to caring for all the land we've protected, there are other challenges that our growing organization faces, such as ongoing work to meet national accreditation standards and our extensive annual financial audit. To meet these needs, we have steadily added equipment and staff. Office operations, equipment acquisition and maintenance, land clearing, trail creation and maintenance, invasive plant removal, stone wall rebuilding, continued land acquisition projects and a host of other activities keep staff and volunteers busy.

SKLT is growing quickly and we are thoughtfully trying to prepare for the future, but we acknowledge a sense of urgency. Our new development director is hard at work launching our new legacy society, EverGreen, for members and friends who will choose to remember the Land Trust in their financial planning. We look to those who cherish our sense of place to remember the Land Trust's role in preserving our town.

By the time our next newsletter arrives at your door this fall, we hope to have closed on the Ferrick project in Green Hill and will be able to report on several additional parcels of property which will be forever protected from development. There will be more news about these additions to our growing acres of preserved land in the days ahead.

On behalf of the trustees and staff I wish to thank each and every one of you who remembers SKLT with a donation, a volunteer work day, attendance at an event, or just by telling a neighbor about the good works of this fine organization.

Michael A. Sherry, President

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
Margaret Munroe
Peter Nunes
Sally Olsen
Anne O'Neill
Carl Sawyer
Paul Schurman
William Wallace
Virginia Lee, Trustee Emerita

Staff

Joanne Riccitelli,
Land Protection Director
Clarkson Collins,
Land Management Director
Claudia Swain,
Development Director
Jane Baumann,
Finance & Development Assistant

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

SKLT ANNUAL MEETING AND PHOTO CONTEST

Do you have a favorite scene that summarizes the natural beauty of South Kingstown? Grab your camera, and enter your favorite photo into our first ever Photo Contest!

The South Kingstown Land Trust is proud of the 'sense of place' that is South Kingstown. To celebrate our diverse habitats and vistas, we are encouraging amateur photographers to enter their favorite South Kingstown photographs into our photo contest and show. All photos will be displayed at SKLT's Annual Meeting at the SKLT Barn on Sunday September 28. Any amateur photographer of any age may enter.



Fields at Weeden Farm

Format/Restrictions: All photos must be 8" x 10" and matted in standard white mattes and unframed. Framed photos will not be accepted. Photos may be in color or black and white. There must not be any writing on the front of the photo or matting. Photos may not be computer enhanced. Photos must be taken in South Kingstown. Each contestant is limited to 3 entries. SKLT will not insure the entries received or be responsible for any loss or damage of the entries.

Registration: On a piece of paper affixed securely to the back of the matte, please print your name, telephone number, e-mail address, the camera, film, and print type, the subject matter of the photo, and the approximate date and exact location where it was taken. There is a \$10 per photo entry fee. Make checks payable to SKLT.

Deadline: Photos must be received by September 8, 2008. Send photos and entry fee to South Kingstown Land Trust, 313 Main St. Suite C, Wakefield, RI 02879. For more information about the photo contest or SKLT, please call Claudia at 789-0962.

Exhibit: Photos will be judged by a panel for first, second, and third place winners. Also, photos will be judged by everyone who visits the show on September 28 to determine the 'People's Choice' award, which will be awarded \$100. All non-winning photos should be picked up before October 12th, or you may provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All photos not picked up by October 15th become the property of SKLT. Winning photos may be reproduced and displayed by SKLT.



Happy 25th Birthday South Kingstown Land Trust!

Save These Dates in 2008!

Tues. & Sat. June 3 - Aug. 30	Stone Wall Restoration @ Weeden Farm, 9 - 11 am
Wed. June 11	Invasive Species work @ Biscuit City Mill Pond, 9 am-Noon
Sun. June 29	Land Stewardship Workshop @ SKLT Barn, 3-5 pm
Sun. July 6	Perryville Days @ Perryville locations & SKLT Barn
Sun. July 20	Trail Walk @ Matunuck Hills, 4 pm (registration required)
Sun. August 10	Great Outdoors Party @ SKLT Barn, 4-6:30 pm
Mon. Sept. 8	Deadline for submissions to Photo Contest
Sun. Sept. 28	SKLT Annual Meeting and Photo Contest @ SKLT Barn, 4 pm

JOIN SKLT AT PERRYVILLE DAYS THIS JULY 6

Get out your old buggy, put on your best bib and tucker and your fanciest hat, and come to the Third Annual Perryville Days celebration on July 6, 2008. In the good old summertime, what could be better than an outing, complete with antique auto parade, to showcase the bygone days of Perryville!

The day will kick off at 10 am with registration of the antique and vintage autos taking place at the Church center on Post Road in Perryville. A welcome ceremony will take place at Pitcher's garage right down the street following registration.

Parade line-up will take place at the Grist Mill on Moonstone Beach Road at 11:30. The mill will be in full operation, grinding the flint corn into the wonderful meal used to make those famous jonnycakes, which will be available later in the day at the SKLT Barn on Matunuck Beach Road.

The parade route will wind down Moonstone Beach Road, and end at the Land Trust Barn, where the afternoon's activities will take place. Don Bousquet has agreed to participate and will make an award to his "favorite" auto. A fancy hat contest will also be held and prizes awarded.



Inside our Barn will be exhibits, great food, period costumes, a look backward at Perryville and so much more. On the porch, enjoy great music from the Perryville Country Band!

We look forward to seeing you all at the celebration, which will benefit SKLT's Trail Stewardship program, and showcase the beautiful Weeden Farm.

SKLT INTRODUCES NEW LEGACY SOCIETY: EVERGREEN



EVERGREEN

EverGreen is a group of South Kingstown Land Trust supporters who have made an enduring commitment to their community by naming SKLT in their estate plans or who have made an outright gift of \$10,000 to SKLT for the future.

Becoming an EverGreen member demonstrates a profound commitment to SKLT's mission and assures its financial stability.

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.

EverGreen members have a keen sense of the impact that saving open space will have on future generations of those that live in or visit this area. We are grateful to those who share this vision for South Kingstown.

To recognize their commitment and to keep EverGreen members informed about our latest challenges and achievements in our pursuit of protecting the sense of place that is South Kingstown, we will provide them with the following:

- Certificate of membership and membership pins
- Our newsletter, *Site Lines*
- Updates on latest developments through *EverGreen Notes*
- Exclusive field trip invitations
- Special event invitations
- Educational seminar invitations
- Recognition, with permission

Thank you to all of our EverGreen members for your dedication to protecting the open spaces of South Kingstown for the enduring benefit of our community, and for your foresight in providing for its future.

If you've included the South Kingstown Land Trust in your will or estate plan, please let us know—we would like to welcome you, even if you wish to remain publicly anonymous.

For additional information about EverGreen, please contact Claudia Swain at our Main Street office at 401-789-0962.

NEW FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP

With the recent creation of the Rhode Island Conservation Stewardship Collaborative (RICSC) comes an opportunity for local land trusts to bolster their stewardship capabilities. In January 2008, the Sharpe family created an endowment at the Rhode Island Foundation for the RICSC which will be used to advance stewardship of conservation areas across the state. The fund will be directed by the RICSC which consists of representatives from the RI Land Trust Council, The Nature Conservancy, RI Department of Environmental Management, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, University of Rhode Island, RI Natural History Survey and US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Most importantly, an anonymous donor has pledged up to \$1 million as a Conservation Stewardship Challenge Match. Every gift of \$1000 or more to the CSC Endowment at the

Rhode Island Foundation will be matched dollar for dollar by the Challenge Match in a donation back to the conservation organization of the donor's choice. When making a gift to the RICSC fund, a donor would specify which local conservation organization he or she wants to support, such as South Kingstown Land Trust, and that group will then receive a gift from the Challenge Match in the same amount, essentially doubling the donor's gift.

This is a great opportunity not only to support statewide work on solving management and stewardship issues but to bolster the capability of your local land trust as well. See www.ricsc.org for more information.