



Site Lines

SUMMER 2012

SOUTH KINGSTOWN
LAND TRUST

SUCCESS AT THE BUD BROWNING FARM

After 6 years of trying to find a way to preserve the Bud Browning Farm, the project has at long last closed successfully, setting a new standard for cooperation in land protection among federal and town agencies, SKLT and neighbors and friends. Many people have helped protect this land, and we at SKLT are very grateful for this widespread community support.

In all, SKLT received nearly \$144,000 from 97 donations by friends and neighbors ranging in size from \$10 to \$30,000. The impressive total well exceeded our goal of \$125,000. We'll be celebrating this wonderful achievement with a party at the Barn on Thursday, July 19th at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP to joanne.riccitelli@sklt.org.

Because the farm has important farmland soils and is near other protected land, the project qualified for funding from the federal government. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm and Ranchland Protection Program provided the majority of the funding at \$280,000. After private donations were added to the mix, the South Kingstown Town Council approved SKLT's application to the town's Open Space Bond Fund, providing the \$50,000 gap funding we needed to fully fund the purchase of the conservation easement on these 16 acres.

Now the 'For Sale' signs are gone, the brush is starting to be cleared by the new landowner, and the farm is becoming a busy and productive place once more. Thanks to all!!



© Carol Ansel

BE A ROCK STAR

Come help restore the stone walls around Weeden Farm with SKLT staff and volunteer rock stars – this summer, every Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to noon, on nice days.

Credit: Carol Ansel



SKLT TAKES OWNERSHIP OF GRIST MILL

At SKLT's Annual Meeting in April, Bob and Diane Smith signed over the title to the Samuel E. Perry Grist Mill in Perryville, formerly known as Carpenter's Grist Mill. Nearly 100 people witnessed the historic occasion, and then sampled jonnycakes made from white flint corn ground at the mill by the Smiths. Bob & Diane will continue to



Perry Relatives

Credit: Richard Hinchliffe

operate the mill as long as they wish, paying \$1 per year rental to SKLT, so Bob quipped: "I put aside a twenty."

In May the Smiths invited SKLT friends and members to the mill for a grinding, including members of founder Samuel Perry's family, pictured here. We'll let our members know by email when the Smiths schedule another grinding – send us your email if you want to be notified.

BISCUIT CITY — THE TALES AND TRAILS CONTINUE

For the past three years, SKLT has concentrated restoration efforts on the lovely 12-acre Biscuit City property. Its many attractions include the historic ruins of the old Biscuit City mill, the mill pond with its ducks and turtles, walking trails through a stately ash, oak and grey birch forest, a perennial cold-water spring and stream, the old spring house that once supplied the Village of Kingston's drinking water, and a mysterious hillside cavern whose origins and purpose are obscure.

Some believe the caverns are remnants of a prehistoric Native American settlement, while others conclude it's an ice house used to store mill supplies, since the mill's upper stories are said to have had as many as 60 residents. A minister who tended numerous graveyards noted its close resemblance to crypts used for keeping the bodies of those who died in winter for burial after the frost passed, making it particularly suited for Halloween festivities. But who knows? Those massive blocks that have been buried into the earth for generations haven't revealed their secret past.

With so many interesting attractions on the site, SKLT has committed to improving and restoring public access, protecting the heritage of the mill and the cultural history of the little neighborhood that once surrounded it, and managing the stream, pond and woodlands for wildlife habitat preservation. We are delighted to have historian Katherine Long as a partner in discovering and documenting the history of the site and submitting a request for designation on the National Register of Historic Places. We also thank volunteers from Kingston Congregational Church, URI, the Prout School and others who have helped in trail maintenance. Much of the financial support for our reconstruction efforts have come from the Mary LeMoine Potter Fund whose originator actually owned this property. This year we are taking on more invasive plant removal and more trail enhancements.

Come visit this unique, out-of-the-way idyll off Biscuit City Road. Download the trail map on our website at www.skl.org. If you'd like to help maintain the trails, email clark.collins@sklt.org.

CELEBRATE LAND TRUST DAYS ACROSS RHODE ISLAND

The RI Land Trust Council has finalized plans for the first statewide Land Trust Days celebration! For six weeks beginning August 10th, land trusts across the state will hold events open to the public, beginning with a launch at Neutaconkanut Hill in Providence. Neutaconkanut, once a ski slope, is said to have fabulous views of the entire city. Anyone interested in climbing the hill that morning should check the website, rilandtrusts.org for directions.

On opening day, SKLT will partner with The Nature Conservancy in a walk to the Brewster camp on Cedar Swamp Pond in the Matunuck Hills. This beautiful spot was once the enclave of the painter Anna Brewster and has recently been restored to its former charm and is only open to the public on special occasions.

On August 22nd, SKLT Trustee Doug McGovern will lead a hike around the restored stone walls of Weeden Farm, discussing the rocks found in the walls and their origins. Afterward, we're hosting a hot-dog roast over the open fire pit in the yard of the Barn. This is a great opportunity for the whole family. The event will be held rain or shine, unless the rain is a deluge!



Weeden Farm

Credit: Carol Ansel

Finally, SKLT will host the closing ceremony at the Barn on Sunday, September 23rd in the afternoon. All the participating land trusts and their members will be invited to share in stories from our first-ever Land Trust Days. There will be live music, another walk, food, a slide show and maybe more! Please put these events on your calendar and join us when you can. All the events, and directions to them, will be on a calendar at the Land Trust Council website: rilandtrusts.org.

LAND PRESERVATION BOND ISSUE SET FOR NOVEMBER

The budget adopted by the RI General Assembly puts a \$20 million "Environmental Management" bond on this November's ballot (as Question 4) for voter approval. The proposal includes \$9.5 million for land conservation. This is a modest proposal and less than the real funding needs for land conservation. However, it is responsible while still providing some funding so that the state's land conservation programs can continue investing in - and growing - our outdoor economy. The \$20 million bond for "Environmental Management" is broken down as follows:

<i>State Farmland Protection Program (ALPC)</i>	<i>\$4.5 million</i>
<i>Local Open Space Grants</i>	<i>\$2.5 million</i>
<i>State Land Acquisition Open Space</i>	<i>\$2.5 million</i>
<i>Local Recreation Grants</i>	<i>\$5.5 million</i>
<i>Historic/Passive Parks</i>	<i>\$1.0 million</i>
<i>Narragansett Bay & Watershed Restoration</i>	<i>\$4.0 million</i>

Special thanks go to Rupert Friday, executive director of the RI Land Trust Council, for all his work in shepherding this legislation through both houses of the legislature on behalf of all land trusts in the state. We will need your help to build grassroots support this fall. We will keep you advised.



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

July 25	Coastal Conservation lecture (see pg 8), 6 – 8pm*
August 10	Brewster Camp hike – register for details
August 12	SKLT Auction, 4 – 6:30pm – get tickets in advance!
August 22	Weeden Farm hike and hot dog roast, 5pm*
Sept. 15, 29	English Country Dances, 7:30 - 10:30pm
Sept. 23	RI Land Trust Days closing event, 3pm

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



SKLT WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEES

At our annual meeting on April 29th, SKLT welcomed three new board members and one returning member. As exciting as it is to have new members on board, it is bittersweet to say good-bye to three long-standing and highly valued former trustees.

Jim Aukerman and Chris Little, long our resident attorneys, retired from the Board, along with Carl Sawyer, our agronomist par excellence. All three have contributed valuable time and expertise for many years, and we are sorry to see them leave. President Mike Sherry presented each with a parting gift and heartfelt thanks from all the Board and staff.

But each retirement allows for a new Trustee's tenure to begin, and with the world of experience our new members bring with them, everyone looks forward to their contributions.

Trustee Ed Cimilluca and his wife Carol have lived in South Kingstown since 1975. Ed has been an avid gardener and supporter of open space since coming to Rhode Island from New Jersey where they raised their family. Ed serves on the SKLT Investment Committee and brings over 40 years of investment expertise from his work at Lehman Brothers, Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, and Ing Furman Selz. Ed also serves on the South County

Hospital Board where he runs the Investment Committee.

Trustee Martha Day, our new resident real estate attorney with a practice here in Wakefield, grew up in the Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts, where the signs of "The Trustees of Reservations" first piqued her interest in open space. Her family made frequent visits to Adirondack State Park where they have owned land for four generations. As a food-and-resource-econ-major-turned-attorney with a practice focused on real estate matters, Martha says she is glad to be of service when it comes to the land and conservation.

Trustee Linda Green is an ardent proponent and supporter of volunteer monitoring. She has been Program Director of the University of Rhode Island Watershed Watch Program, a scientist-led volunteer monitoring program, since its inception in 1988. With over 350 volunteers intensively monitoring over 270 sites from salt to fresh water, the program promotes active volunteer monitoring, offers informal educational outreach and generates virtually all of the state's lakewater quality monitoring data. She holds a B.S. in Natural Resources and an M.S. in Resource Chemistry, both from the University of Rhode Island.

Finally, we welcome back returning former Board member Anne O'Neill, who has readily resumed her job as auction chair, for which we are all grateful.

GREAT OUTDOORS CELEBRATION AND AUCTION

On Sunday, August 12th, the South Kingstown Land Trust will host its eighth annual Great Outdoors Celebration & Live Auction from 4:00 to 6:30 pm at the SKLT Barn in Matunuck. The honorary chair for this year's celebration is Troy West, a long time SKLT supporter.

This festive event will feature local artists, delicious dining experiences, water-based adventures, and several wonderful surprises to support land protection in South Kingstown. Louis Raymond of Renaissance Gardening will again be our entertaining auctioneer, and as always there will be delicious treats and cooling beverages for everyone to enjoy.

Among the unique items up for auction will be a 16-family Purple Martin birdhouse, replicating the SKLT Barn designed and built by the URI Master Gardeners, and a lighted nautical chart. Perennial favorites, such as a week in Tuscany, a Gibby Ferry framed painting, a Matunuck Oyster Bar party for 20, and a half-day sailing adventure on Narragansett Bay will also be on the auction block.

We are grateful for the generosity and support of the following sponsors of this year's event: Allen's Seed, James V. Aukerman & Associates, LLC, Babcock & Helliwell Insurance, Blackerby & Associates - Private Wealth Advisors, Centreville Bank, Clark Farms, Coastal Properties, Coldwell Banker, Crosstown Press, Martha Day & C.N



Fiddleheads in early spring 2010 Credit: Karen Joy Asher

Hetzner, Lila Delman Real Estate, Chris Gaffney & Karen Kames, William Gallogly Esq., Peter & Kathleen Hahn, John & Carol Howland, Howard Johnson, Inc., JHD Painting, Ocean Mist, SmithCo Oil Service, South County Steel, John & Carroll Tickner, Universal Fire Arms Ltd., Troy West RA - NCARB Contemporary Architecture, Winter Family Foundation.





MILESTONES

What the preservation of the Browning Farm means to me... Most everyone remembers where they were and what they were doing when President Kennedy was assassinated. For me, it was cutting and splitting wood for the old Boston Herald stove that Mrs. Isabel Browning (Bud's mother) had in her kitchen. The stove had not yet been converted to kerosene and the warmth of that stove heated the house as well as cooked the food.

From my earliest memories, Bud was always a family friend and present in my life. He was always giving me animals to raise. Ducks, pigs, chickens, quail, geese, chipmunks, skunks, raccoons, crows, lambs, cows - you name it and Bud provided it. I was always amazed that my parents allowed this! We lived off Succotash Road and I would walk through what is now South County Hills to the Browning Farm to tend many of the animals. Bud taught me how to handle guns and all about hunting. He taught me how to operate a backhoe and bulldozer. Bud and the farm were central to my growing-up and developing an appreciation for South Kingstown and especially the villages of East Matunuck and Matunuck.

The Browning Farm has been and is a special place for me and now it will be a special place for generations to come.

Many thanks to everyone who worked for the preservation of the Browning Farm.

Regards,

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
VICE PRESIDENT: PAUL SCHURMAN
TREASURER: CHARLES M. LEWIS
SECRETARY: SOPHIE PAGE LEWIS

TRUSTEES

EDWARD CIMILLUCA
MARTHA DAY
JAMES FARRELL
LINDA GREEN
KATHLEEN PETERSON HAHN
KEVIN McDONOUGH
DOUG MCGOVERN
CAROLYN MOULTROP
PETER NUNES
ANNE O'NEILL
CARROLL TICKNER

STAFF

NESSA RICHMAN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JOANNE RICCITELLI,
LAND PROTECTION DIRECTOR
CLARKSON COLLINS,
LAND MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR
JANE BAUMANN,
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
MIKE BONTECOU,
LAND OPERATIONS 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 DESIGNER, CINDY SABATO, VOLUNTEER



NESSA RICHMAN IS SKLT's FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After many years of successful conservation of South Kingstown's open space, sensitive ecosystems, working farms, and forest land, SKLT has selected Nessa Richman to lead our work into the future. She joined the staff in early July.

Nessa has worked in the natural resources field since 1993, first as a VISTA Volunteer with the nonprofit Sustainable Food Center in Austin, Texas, followed by managerial and analytical positions with various environmental nonprofit organizations. Most recently, she founded a successful Washington, D.C.-based consulting group with such clients as state and national organizations, land grant universities, and government agencies.

Raised in South Kingstown, Nessa's interest in environmental issues was inspired by environmental science and ornithology classes with Mr. McEneaney at SK High



School. She later earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Economy of Natural Resources from UMass-Amherst and a Master of Public Policy degree from Harvard University.

✂ — — — — — ✂ — — — — — ✂ 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



SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST
227 ROBINSON STREET
WAKEFIELD, RI 02879

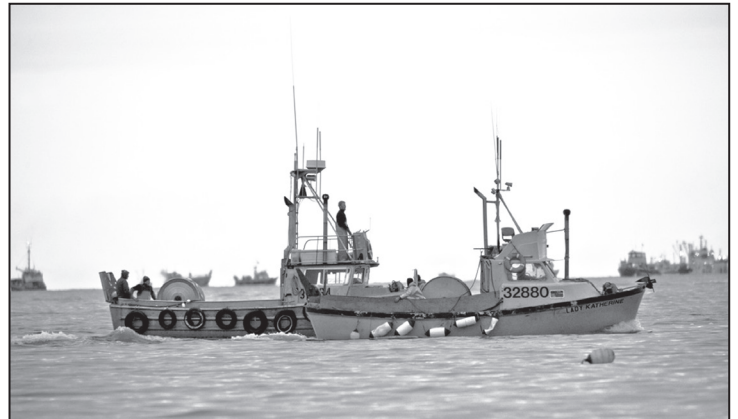
Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wakefield, RI
Permit No. 132

Site Lines



COASTAL CONSERVATION LECTURE, JULY 25TH

8 Come to the Barn for a lecture by Professor Heather Leslie, cosponsored by The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island. Dr. Leslie will discuss how the emerging science of human-environment connections is changing how we develop solutions to marine conservation challenges in New England and elsewhere. A Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology at Brown University, her research focuses on the ecology, policy, and management of coastal marine ecosystems. Her current work focuses on the effects of multiple stressors, particularly those linked with climate change, on coastal ecosystem dynamics. Her interest in human-environment linkages currently involves the tourism and fisheries services of the northern Gulf of California, Mexico.



The event will begin at 6pm with potluck appetizers – inspired by the sea! Be creative! Please let us know if you can attend – [rsvp to jane.baumann@sklt.org](mailto:jane.baumann@sklt.org).

OPEN SPACE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE