



Site Lines

FALL 2013

SOUTH KINGSTOWN
LAND TRUST

SKLT ROLLS OUT OUR 2013 FALL CALENDAR

As the weather turns cooler, thoughts turn to hiking our beautiful trails. We're offering a guided hike on Thanksgiving weekend, but in the meantime, stop by our office on Robinson Street to pick up trail maps, or download them at sklt.org.

On Sunday, October 13th, we're offering the **first local showing of a heartfelt documentary** made by SKLT member Victor Del Regno, who will be on hand to speak with us. "Till Then" is a emotional movie about his parents' lives during World War II. Potluck appetizers will begin at 6 pm, followed by the movie at 7 pm. *See the article on the back cover.*



with the signing and reading of a proclamation. Then the sluice gates will open, grinding will begin,

and Jonnycakes will be served to all in attendance. For those who have never experienced a grinding, know that it's an experience not easily forgotten. The RI white flint corn is ground with no electricity, just the way it was done 300 years ago. No sign up is

required - just show up and enjoy!

On Saturday, November 30th at 2 pm, on a hike themed 'Burn off Turkey Day,' Clark Collins and Michael Bontecou will show off the newest SKLT trail in the DuVal trail network. We can't think

of a better way to conclude Thanksgiving weekend. *See article on page 2 for more on this beautiful area.* Please register with Jane at jane.baumann@sklt.org.



On Sunday, October 27th, at 10 am, join us for a **grinding at the Samuel E. Perry Grist Mill** on Moonstone Beach Road to commemorate "Jonnycake Days in Rhode Island." Governor Lincoln Chafee is expected to kick off the festivities



Photo: Anne O'Neill

ORGANIC FARMERS TAKE NOTE!

SKLT is offering a lease opportunity on a 10-acre portion of the former Hollis Tucker farm on Tuckertown Road for a potential organic farming or gardening operation. The lease area is located on the north side of Tuckertown Road, a half a mile west of the corner of Post Road and Tuckertown Road - denoted as Parcel II on the map. Because SKLT acquired the property in 1996 to protect the aquifer supplying drinking water to Wakefield and the surrounding area, we do not allow pesticides.

The land is entirely cleared, and until recently, was rented by Greenview Farm, which still leases other land on the site. The soil is flat to gently rolling and is USDA classified as Enfield Silt Loam 60% and Hinckley 40%. Adjacent areas are being used for organic farming and American chestnut tree research orchards. Water service is available along the street frontage.

Conservation easements covering the property allow agricultural and conservation uses, installation of fencing, cutting and removal of invasive plants, installation of agricultural irrigation facilities and moveable equipment shed.



If interested, please contact SKLT Land Management Director Clarkson Collins at 401-783-4999 or clark.collins@sklt.org.

SKLT's NEW JONES CAMP TRAIL TAKES SHAPE

One of our most exciting summer projects is the extension of the DuVal trail system onto the recently received Jones Camp lands to the west of the Polly's Loop trail. SKLT Land Management Coordinator Mike Bontecou's connoisseur's appreciation and fine touch with brush clearing machinery, along with GPS help from Douglas McGovern, has created a spell-binding, adventurous walk through the tumbling terrain of Perryville's glacial recessional moraine.

The pathway through the hill is, if anything, even more striking than the existing trail, and leads through a forest of white oak, hickory, and mature white pine with a blueberry and huckleberry understory, to the shores



Jones Camp Trail

Photo: Clark Collins

of Bullhead Pond, a kettle pond.

SKLT invites members to inaugurate the trail at a walk on Saturday, November 30 at 2 pm. We are grateful for the bequest of these 44 acres from the estate of Virginia Jones, whose love of the quiet beauty of this area moved her to protect it in perpetuity.

FOREST STAND AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS EXPANDED AT BROWNING WOODS PROPERTY

This summer and fall, SKLT continues our forest environment improvement efforts by clearing undesirable and overcrowded forest growth in the 250+ acre Browning Woods and adjacent Kenney Properties. These lands host the popular Browning Woods Trail, set amidst hundreds of acres of mixed hardwood forest, wetlands and streams that protect water quality in Worden's Pond and Pasquisset Pond in Charlestown.

With the funding and guidance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, we have been able to hire professional forest consultants, develop habitat enhancements for such ground-nesting birds as ruffed grouse and woodcock, install plantings to benefit

pollinators, and hire loggers to carry out clearing work.

Hikers on this trail will notice a new four-acre thinning area on the southeast side of the loop trail, and a new half-acre clearing to accentuate the historic background of the old Browning Homestead, which once stretched from Worden's Pond to Block Island Sound. Further along the loop, hikers will see another four-acre patch clearing with brush piles for habitat enhancement and a six-acre thinning completed last year. These amendments, though perhaps a bit rough looking at first, will improve the health and biological diversity of this beautiful expanse of woodland.

URI Watershed Watch Director and SKLT Trustee Linda Green talks about water quality at Yawgoo Pond during this summer's guided hike on SKLT's trail there.



Photo: Clarkson Collins

SKLT REGISTERS FOR ACCREDITATION

After a few years of quiet preparation, SKLT has officially registered with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and will submit an accreditation application in October 2014. Since the Land Trust Alliance began formalizing its Standards & Practices document to help guide land trusts' operations, SKLT has been working to improve our operations to emulate best practices around the country. We've learned a lot about how other groups do their work and have some great stories to share with others as well. Later in the process, we will announce an opportunity for public comment on our application here and on our website: sklt.org. In the meantime, we're all working hard to present SKLT's wonderful accomplishments.

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

- Oct. 12 & 26 English Country Dances, 7:30 - 10:30pm
- October 13* Film 'Till Then', 6pm potluck apps, 7pm movie
- October 27 Grinding at the Grist Mill, Moonstone Beach Rd, 10am
- Nov. 9 & 23 English Country Dances, 7:30 - 10:30pm
- November 30* Hike at Jones Camp new loop, 2pm. Park at DuVal trailhead

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



ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN SKLT!

SKLT has launched a membership drive to increase our ranks to 1,000 members. Outside the door at 227 Robinson Street, we have placed a tree showing the current membership of the organization at just under 800 members/families. Everyone is invited to come into the office and sign on, and as new members are added, new leaves will be placed on the tree to indicate our growing membership. Just recently, we've added two more leaves representing 10 more members.

Over the past 30 years, SKLT has preserved more than 2,600 acres of land in South Kingstown, all of which must be cared for in perpetuity. SKLT's mission "to conserve and protect the natural resources and open spaces of our town for the enduring benefit of our community" requires commitment from our members, board, staff, and people in the community who care about preserving South Kingstown for generations to come.

If each of you, our members, brings in one new member, we will meet our goal in no time. Please help us by asking a friend, neighbor or someone you think might be interested in our work to join. Thank you for doing your part in our membership drive. Check the board outside the office to see how we are doing!



Photo: Deb Stallwood

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE RALLY RETURNS TO RI

For the first time in a decade, the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) national training event, Rally, will be back in Providence in September 2014. The last time Rally was held in the Ocean State, SKLT hosted a field trip to the Barn in collaboration with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services,

and we hope to showcase some of our work again this year. SKLT will be part of LTA's host committee.

Meanwhile, SKLT staff Joanne Riccitelli and Clarkson Collins made the trip down to New Orleans to take part in Rally 2013. We're very excited about having this national event in our backyard again soon.

GREAT OUTDOORS CELEBRATION & AUCTION

On Sunday, August 11th, the South Kingstown Land Trust hosted our annual Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction at the SKLT Barn. Noted garden designer and horticulturist Louis Raymond of Renaissance Gardening was again our spirited and witty auctioneer. Thanks to his humor, enthusiasm, and incredible skills, we were able to net more than \$53,000 to support preservation and stewardship of open space.

Dining experiences, boating and vacation adventures and works by local artists were all part of the auction. A perennial favorite over the past few years has been a half-day sail on Narragansett Bay aboard *Cinderella*, a 35' Concordia sloop owned and restored by Will Cummer. *Cinderella* offers the lucky high bidder and guests a fast and



exciting sail.

Thank you to all - guests, donors, buyers, and organizers alike - who made this annual celebration a huge success!

TAX-SAVVY SUPPORT FOR SKLT TO ROUND OUT 2013

Appreciated Securities and Stock

Gifts of stock and other securities are always welcome at SKLT. Gifts of securities such as stocks, mutual fund shares or other appreciated assets can be a great tax-efficient method for making a gift to the South Kingstown Land Trust. In most instances, the donor can take a tax deduction for the full market value of the gift and avoid any capital gains tax.

It is important that the SKLT office is notified prior to every stock transfer, in order for us to accurately identify, allocate, and acknowledge your gift.

To make a stock gift to the Land Trust or to discuss how to do that, please call Anne O'Neill at 401-789-0962 or anne.oneill@sklt.org for transfer instructions.

IRA Charitable Transfer

An IRA Rollover can also be a great way to support SKLT and save you money at tax time.

- The legal provision to make charitable contributions out of one's retirement account is still operative in 2013, "only through the end of the year."
 - If you are (or will be) 70½ or older in 2013, you can contribute up to \$100,000 by **direct transfer** from your IRA to SKLT.
 - Your contribution will not be counted as income, nor will it be tax-deductible.
 - Transfers count towards the required minimum distribution for the year.
 - This provision applies only to IRAs, while 401(k) plans are not eligible.
- Consult with your tax advisor before making a gift from your IRA.

MILESTONES

The preservation of land is an important piece of the fabric of our community. That fabric is woven between the land and the lives of the people of the town. These connections are all around us – we see many examples in our work at SKLT.

SKLT was fortunate to receive 44 acres of the Jones Camp property at Bullhead Pond in Perryville. This gift was made possible through the generosity of Virginia Jones, Doc Jones' daughter, and her heir, Maude Bivins. SKLT is currently completing a new trail extension from the DuVal trail into the Jones Camp property.

During college, I cut firewood at the Jones Camp with one of my high school friends who was the caretaker there, and I came to know the property quite well. It is a truly beautiful landscape.

During a conversation with Bob Smith about the property, Bob recounted that his mother told him that Doc Jones, who started the original South County Hospital, delivered Bob on January 4, 1926. Bob was the first boy born at the hospital. The first girl was born 12 minutes before Bob!

Last year, Bob and Diane, who acquired the Samuel E. Perry Grist Mill many years ago, gave this historic landmark to SKLT. Their generosity and desire to preserve the property and traditions of the past are part of the fabric of our community.

Through the preservation process, I frequently learn of these connections. As I visit properties and talk with the people who care about them, I learn more each day about the fabric of our community.

Please visit these places

- the Grist Mill – grinding on Sunday, October 27th
- the new Jones Camp trail – guided hike on Saturday, November 30th
- SKLT's other trails – whenever you wish!

Download maps at sklt.org and add to the fabric.

Sincerely,



Mike Sherry



Like SKLT on Facebook!

Another way to keep in touch with SKLT events and projects is on Facebook. If you use Facebook, please 'like' us!

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: Paul Schurman
 Treasurer: James Farrell
 Assistant Treasurer: Charles Lewis
 Secretary: Sophie Page Lewis

Trustees

Edward Cimilluca
 Martha Day
 Linda Green
 Kathleen Peterson Hahn
 Kevin McDonough
 Carolyn Moulthrop
 Peter Nunes

Staff

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

CLARE BAILEY HAD A ZEST FOR LIFE!

Clare Bailey was an exceptional person of tremendous intelligence, warmth, and humor who lived life to the fullest. She had a myriad of interest and passions, sparkle, and an adventurous spirit. Along with her many beloved friends and family, SKLT was saddened when Clare passed away in August.

She had been a long-time supporter, believing in our mission to conserve and protect the natural resources and open spaces of South Kingstown for the enduring benefit of our community. In 2012, she included SKLT in her Living Trust and became a member of EverGreen, SKLT's legacy society.

EverGreen supporters have made a very special, lasting commitment to the community by naming SKLT in their estate plans or by making an outright gift of \$10,000 or more to SKLT. "I am happy to do this much for the important and vital cause of preserving and cherishing our beloved South County," she said at the time.



A true champion of our cause; we thank you Clare. Thanks also to all who sent us donations in Clare's memory! We accept and appreciate memorial gifts made in honor of our members.

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



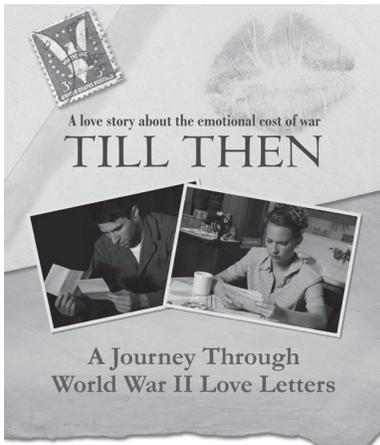
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 WAKEFIELD, RI 02879

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**“TILL THEN – A JOURNEY THROUGH
 WWII LOVE LETTERS”**



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The 2013 RI Film Festival featured this World War II documentary produced and directed by South Kingstown resident and SKLT supporter, Victor Del Regno. In it, Del Regno discovers the untold truth about his parents’ relationship during World War II from a box of old letters found in a dark, damp garage. This starts him on a five-year journey halfway around the world to a small island in the South Pacific, where his father had served as a WWII Navy Seabee, and then back to his hometown of Nyack, NY.

“I wanted to tell my parent’s story, and leave a legacy to them, our children, the greatest generation, and everyone still separated by war today. I also wanted people to realize the emotional cost of war and the sacrifices made for our freedom, not just by the soldiers, but by their loved ones at home, too,” he said.

Join us at the SKLT Barn for this very moving documentary on Sunday, October 13th. BYOB and potluck appetizers on the porch at 6 pm, followed by the film at 7 pm. Seating is limited. RSVP to jane.baumann.skl.org. A \$5/ person donation to SKLT is appreciated.

Del Regno
 PRODUCTIONS
 PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY VIC DEL REGNO
 DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND EDITED BY CHRIS SIMMONS
 NARRATED BY PETER KESLER
 HELEN PLAYED BY ARHELLE KOOK. ANDY PLAYED BY MICHAEL BORGES.
WWW.TILLTHENMOVIE.COM

OPEN SPACE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE