



# Site Lines

FALL 2016

SOUTH KINGSTOWN  
LAND TRUST

## LEARN ABOUT ENDANGERED SPECIES PRESERVATION AT ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO

Children and adults of all ages delight in a trip to the Zoo. Observing wildlife sparks an appreciation for animals, many of which are threatened or endangered. Many zoos, including our own Roger Williams Park Zoo (RWPZ), are also committed to protecting animals in their natural habitat. One way these organizations carry out this work is through hands-on projects in sites across Rhode Island and beyond.

More than 20 years ago, RWPZ joined the American Burying Beetle Repopulation Project and quickly became the sole breeding facility for this insect. The beetle is an important invertebrate known as “nature’s recycler” and was recently designated the state insect of Rhode Island. RWPZ brought the beetle back from the brink of extinction and now serves as the national headquarters for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan for this species.

Conservationists estimate that up to one half of all amphibian species face possible extinction. As a participant in the FrogWatch U.S.A. program, RWPZ trains “citizen scientists” each year to monitor frog populations across the state, collecting data that contribute



Photos: Roger Williams Park Zoo



greatly to the conservation of potentially threatened amphibian species.

By providing facilities, supplies, and expertise, RWPZ is helping to maintain and reproduce a genetically diverse captive population of New England cottontail rabbits for reintroduction into select sites in the New England area.

Lou Perrotti, RWPZ’s Director of Conservation Programs, will present these conservation projects and others on Thursday, October 27 at the Barn. We will start with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. and the program will begin at 7 p.m.

## EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE!

Come out to Main Street on Friday, November 11 at 10 a.m. to cheer on SKLT in the South Kingstown Veteran’s Day Parade. We’re honored to join veterans, military, civic organizations, and local officials in the annual parade to recognize and honor our United States Veterans. We are asking members to walk with us in the parade. Please contact Jeanine at [jeanine@sklt.org](mailto:jeanine@sklt.org) or at 789-0962 ext. 1 to learn more.



## VOTE YES FOR QUESTION 6!

On November 8, Rhode Islanders have a chance to once again show our support for land conservation and the environment. Question 6 on the ballot is a \$35 million Green Economy Bond referendum, which includes \$8 million for land conservation, split evenly between the Local Open Space Grants Program and R.I. Department of Environmental Management's land protection program. The Green Economy Bond also funds other programs with demonstrated track records: stormwater management, brownfield cleanups, and local recreation grants to create and develop parks, and bike paths.

For 30 years, Local Open Space Grants have made it possible for land trusts and municipalities to protect the special places in our communities. These grants have helped protect more than 160 properties and more than 10,000 acres, including 1,000+ acres with SKLT. Without the Green Economy Bond, the Local Open Space Grants



Program will be without funding for the first time since it began in 1985.

World class parks and protected open space are the foundation for over 40,000 jobs in the state's tourism and outdoor recreation industries, which generate more than \$3.32 billion annually for the state's economy. State bond funds for local open space and recreation grants are critical "seed funding" for protecting the special open spaces in our communities. Every state dollar

is matched by \$2-3 in additional investments from local governments, federal programs, foundations and private contributions. Land conservation is an investment that increases in value over time.

Visit [www.yeson6ri.com](http://www.yeson6ri.com) for additional information about the Green Economy Bond. Demonstrate your support for land conservation and other programs that protect Rhode Island's environment: **Vote YES on Question 6 – Green Economy Bond!**

## JANUARY MOVIE NIGHT:

From Oscar-nominated director Markus Imhoof comes a moving film about the issue that bees, worldwide, are facing: extinction. For more than 15 years, colonies

of bees have suffered decimation all over the planet, but the causes remain largely unknown. With superb photography and fascinating tales of both small family beekeepers and industrialized honey farms, *More Than Honey* takes an in-depth look at honeybee colonies on four continents. Come see this 95-minute film on Thursday, January 26 at the Barn. Potluck dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the movie will begin at 6:15 p.m.



Eagle scout Ben Perry (2nd from right) from Troop 138 West Kingston organized the construction of two kiosks for SKLT, including this one shown at the Biscuit City property. Photo: Ellen Grebstein



## NATIVE FOREST UNDERSTORY EMERGES FROM STEWARDSHIP WORK AT BISCUIT CITY

Before protection by SKLT, non-native invasive plants began to encroach upon the Biscuit City Preserve with a suite of plants that often shade out native plant communities and, over time, take over spaces where native plants formerly thrived. Stewardship activities have been underway for the long-term protection of this area, and the native forest understory has begun to return. During site visits in early spring, we saw a number of woodland wildflowers growing where invasives had previously dominated. Among them, the white baneberry (*Actaea pachypoda*), Solomon's seal (*Smilacena racemosa*), Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema atrorubens*), Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), early meadow rue (*Thalictrum dioicum*) and white wood aster (*Aster divaricatus*).

Suzanne Enser, of The Conservation Cooperative, was contracted to organize stewardship efforts at Biscuit City, and has coordinated a number of volunteer stewardship workdays since spring. One chilly Sunday morning in May, Girl Scout Cadet Troop 860 helped remove garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*).

As the Scouts worked toward their Naturalist Legacy Badge, Enser explained the value of controlling invasives on conservation lands and in our own backyards to promote native species diversity. Burning bush, aka winged euonymus, is native to China. It was introduced to the U.S. in the mid-1800s as an ornamental plant for landscaping, and, unfortunately continues to be sold by nurseries despite its invasive nature. Garlic mustard, a relative newcomer in Rhode Island, competes with native plants by aggressively monopolizing light, moisture, nutrients, soil and space. Wildlife species that depend on native plants are deprived of essential food resources when garlic mustard replaces them.

In late June, we focused on removing burning bush seedlings. With temperatures



Suzanne Enser, Joanne Labelle, Aiden Plante, Andrew Pratt Photo: Will Pratt

soaring, volunteers Joanne Labelle, her grandchildren, Andrew and Will Pratt, and their friend, Aidan Plante, helped Enser gingerly tug, dig and remove seedlings.

In late July, a crew from the R.I. Youth Conservation League came with loppers, shovels and trowels in hand and worked alongside Land Management Director Clark Collins and Enser to remove invasive seedlings and re-sprouting euonymus.

SKLT is grateful to the many volunteers who help to ensure the lands we have conserved are protected in perpetuity. Finally, we are beginning to see the true native forest understory... through the trees.



Girl Scout Cadet Troop 860: Ulla Kymlander, Stella Gockenbach, Kaitlyn Niro, Madeleine Carret, Adriana Abby and Suzanne Enser Photo: Martha Curley



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

Sunday, October 16	Grist Mill Grinding, Moonstone Beach Rd., 1 p.m.
Thursday, October 20	Denali Pint Night to benefit SKLT, Wakefield Mall, 6–8 p.m., \$5
Thursday, October 27	*Endangered Species Conservation, 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. program
Saturday, November 5	All Ages Hike, 10 a.m., Browning Woods trail
Tuesday, November 8	Vote YES on Question 6: Green Economy Bond
Friday, November 11	*SK Veterans Day Parade, march with SKLT, Main St., 10 a.m.
Saturday, November 26	*Stars, Stories & S'Mores, 6-8 p.m.
Saturday, December 3	All Ages Hike, 10 a.m., Browning Woods trail
Thursday, January 26	*Movie: <i>More Than Honey</i> , potluck 5:30 p.m., movie 6:15 p.m.

For information on the English Country Dances held at the SKLT Barn, go to [kingstonenglishcountrydance.org/](http://kingstonenglishcountrydance.org/).

\*Please register at [Jeanine@sklt.org](mailto:Jeanine@sklt.org) or call 789-0962 ext 1



Engage with us:  
SouthKingstownLandTrust



## SKLT JOINS PARKRx INITIATIVE

SKLT is pleased to announce that we are participating in an exciting pilot initiative of the R.I. Land Trust Council designed to encourage people of all ages to improve their health and wellness by spending more time outside. A growing body of research shows that time in nature significantly improves physical, mental, and emotional health, especially in children. ParkRx (Park Prescriptions) gives local healthcare providers a simple and effective tool to inspire their patients to get outside and enjoy the many benefits that outdoor activity bring.

Through ParkRx, doctors “prescribe” time outside as a way to encourage a healthier lifestyle. The “prescription pad” also includes suggestions for how to find parks and trails for hiking, biking, paddling, and other recreational activities. As part of the pilot program, SKLT will be offering a guided walk on our Browning Woods Trail at 10am on the first Saturday of every month. Our first events are already scheduled for Saturday, October 1, November 5, and December 3. Kids and leashed dogs are welcome—please join us!

As your healthcare provider I recommend you:

- ☐ Go outside and play
- ☐ Take a walk
- ☐ Go on a treasure hunt
- ☐ Ride a bike (wear a helmet)
- ☐ Get fresh air
- ☐ Go to the playground

Refills: *Unlimited*

CHILD SIGNATURE

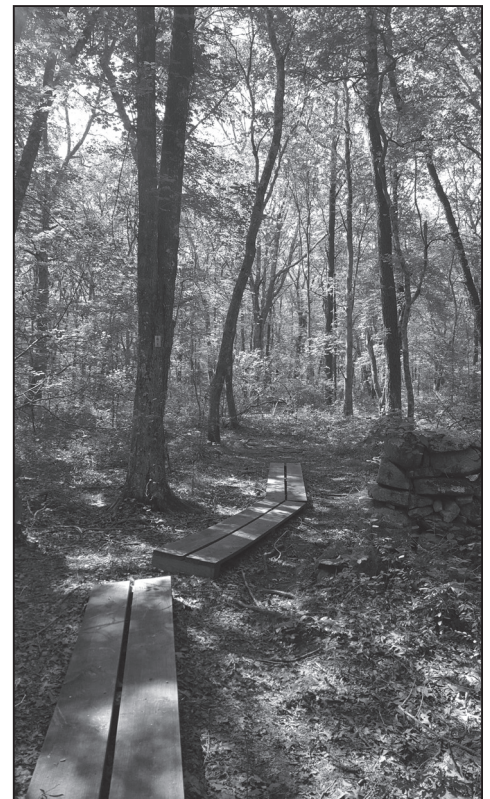


Photo: Jeanine Silversmith



## GREAT OUTDOORS CELEBRATION & AUCTION

On Sunday, August 14, more than 140 people enjoyed SKLT's annual Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction. Thanks to Louis Raymond's humor, enthusiasm and incredible skills as our auctioneer, we were able to net more

than \$44,000 to support our mission of preservation and stewardship of open space. Thanks to all who participated - sponsors, guests, volunteers, and the many generous auction donors and buyers.

Photos: MaryAnn Scott



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## ROUND OUT 2016 WITH TAX-SAVVY SUPPORT FOR SKLT

An IRA Rollover can be a great way to support SKLT and save you money at tax time. Included in the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 is the permanent extension of the Charitable IRA Rollover. This allows individuals to make charitable gifts from their individual retirement accounts (IRAs) tax free in 2016 and beyond.

- Gifts of Appreciated Stock or other securities can be a great tax-efficient method for making a gift to SKLT. To do so, please contact Anne O'Neill at 401-789-0962 x3 or [anne.oneill@sklt.org](mailto:anne.oneill@sklt.org).
- IRA Charitable Transfer can also be a great way to support SKLT and save you money at tax time. If you are 70½ years or older, you may transfer up to \$100,000 directly from an IRA to a charity. Your transfer must come directly from your plan administrator to the charity, and this transfer may count toward your required minimum distribution.
- Corporate Matching Programs may allow donors to double or triple their gifts to SKLT. Contact your employer's human resources department to find out if your company participates in an employee matching gift program. Some employers even match retiree's gifts.

The South Kingstown Land Trust's accomplishments are possible because of your support. The annual fund ensures that we can complete ambitious projects that will benefit South Kingstown for generations to come. Our land conservation work, stewardship of our protected properties, community programs and activities would not be possible without your support.



## MILESTONES

### *Welcoming Julia Fry Landstreet*

At our annual meeting, I introduced our revamped strategic plan, formulated by our Board of Trustees in response to the challenges of managing the properties we now hold in perpetuity, which number almost 160 and continue to grow. A critical part of that plan was the decision to hire an Executive Director to head the South Kingstown Land Trust.

Having successfully achieved recognition as an accredited land trust this year, we are now eager to roll up our sleeves and embark on some new endeavors, including education outreach to the community and developing partnerships with conservation groups which share our values. We believe we have found the dynamic and versatile leader we were looking for in Julia Fry Landstreet.

Julia has roots in Westerly, where she recently purchased a home and plans to move next month, after wrapping up her work in Nashville, Tennessee. She brings extensive experience and enthusiasm to SKLT, having served as the Executive Director for Nashville Civic Design Center, on the Board of Directors for Friends of Warner Parks in Nashville, and chair of the Natural Resource committee for this 3,100 acre urban park. She has also been an elected official, community organizer, conservation activist, naturalist and educator.

The Board of Trustees looks forward to introducing Julia to our membership. We know that she is excited about learning who we are and what we treasure as members of SKLT. Please keep your eyes open for an announcement of the date for a reception to welcome Julia to the South Kingstown Land Trust.



Sincerely,

*Martha Day*  
Martha Day, 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: Martha Day  
Vice President: Susan S. Lovejoy  
Secretary: Linda Green  
Treasurer: James Farrell

### Trustees

Heather Mae Breau  
Edward Cimilluca  
Ellen Grebstein  
Sophie Page Lewis  
Kevin McDonough  
Timothy Philbrick  
Carl Sawyer  
Michael Sherry  
Richard Youngken  
Charles Lewis, Trustee Emeritus

### Staff

Joanne Riccitelli,  
Land Protection Director  
Clarkson Collins,  
Land Management Director  
Michael Bontecou,  
Land Operations Coordinator  
Anne O'Neill,  
Development Director  
Jeanine Silversmith,  
Membership 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

## GET READY FOR WINTER – FIREWOOD FROM SKLT!

Get a good deal on seasoned firewood and help SKLT at the same time! As a result of our land management work, SKLT has firewood for sale. The wood is mostly oak and maple, and available either split or unsplit. Lengths vary – there's something for every need. The price

is \$50 for unsplit wood or \$100 for split wood for a standard pick-up truck load. Call Michael Bontecou at 742-4515 for directions and times to pick up.



Photo: Claudia Swain

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## ✂ — — — — — ✂ — — — — — ✂ 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 want to: ☐ Join ☐ Renew at the following level:

- ☐ Individual ..... \$30      ☐ Family..... \$50
- ☐ Steward ..... \$100-\$249
- ☐ Guardian ..... \$250-\$499
- ☐ Conservationist ..... \$500-\$999
- ☐ Benefactor ..... \$1000-\$2,499
- ☐ Protector ..... \$2,500-\$4,999
- ☐ Preservationist ..... \$5,000-\$9,999
- ☐ Founders Club ..... \$10,000+

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### GENERAL DONATION:

I'm already a member, but I would like to make an additional donation 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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*If you would prefer to receive **Sitelines**  
via email, please let us know!*

*Sitelines*



## SKLT EVENTS THIS FALL

**GRIST MILL GRINDING:** After a hiatus of over a year, the Samuel E. Perry Grist Mill will be grinding again on Sunday, October 16 at 1 p.m. View the mill in operation and enjoy johnnycakes afterwards!

**PINT NIGHT AT DENALI:** Stop by Denali in the Wakefield Mall for Pint Night starting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 20. There will be beer, wine, snacks, and a raffle. Your \$5 donation will benefit SKLT as Denali will donate \$25 back to the land trust for every person who attends (up to 100 people). Be one of the first 50 people to arrive and get a free pint glass!

**STARS, STORIES, AND S'MORES:** On Saturday, November 26, Scott MacLean from the Frosty Drew Nature Center & Observatory will have telescopes and eyepieces that will help us check out the night sky. Poppy Champlin, a veteran comic from Wakefield with a sharp wit and fantastic improv skills will delight us with stories for everyone. And we'll enjoy delicious s'mores! The fun runs from 6-8 p.m. at the SKLT Barn. Hope you can join us!



*OPEN SPACE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE*