



# Site Lines

SPRING 2014

SOUTH KINGSTOWN  
LAND TRUST

Robinson Farm, Photo credit: Deborah Stallwood



## 2013 LAND PRESERVATION SUCCESS IN SOUTH KINGSTOWN

In 2013, SKLT added 76 acres of protected land to our holdings of over 2,600 acres in town.

We highlighted the gift of land and conservation easements from the Kitty Smith estate last summer, while December brought donations of two conservation easements and the fee interest on 45 acres of the historic Robinson Farm in Wakefield. Both conservation easement donations complement previously protected land in the same neighborhoods.

In the Matunuck Hills, Zin Kittredge donated an easement on 5.5 acres near Round Pond and Long Pond, which will help to ensure the lasting health of the rare plant species that make that area unique. This easement abuts another given to SKLT by Virginia Carter in 2004.

In the Kingston historic district, Revs. Daehler Hayes and Joy Utter donated an easement on 1.5 acres near two other easements in the village, thus limiting changes to the beautiful landscape of a scenic neighborhood

where zoning allows for very dense development. SKLT thanks these landowners additionally for contributing to our long-term stewardship fund – voluntary donations that recognize the responsibility SKLT shoulders when promising to protect land in perpetuity, which is the very essence of our work.

In Wakefield, the Bowers family gave SKLT the fee title to 45 acres of the Robinson Farm, an historically significant and scenic farm, right in the center of town and clearly visible from Wood Lane and Pond Street, that connects to our rural past. Very little will change as a result of the gift of fee title – the land will continue to be farmed as it has been, with no public access. Now SKLT has the responsibility to manage these fields in perpetuity – the unique mission of land trusts. SKLT is proud that the Bowers family entrusted this land to our care.

## GEAR UP FOR MONITORING DAY, MARCH 30

As the winter begins to recede and the days get a little longer, we at SKLT get ready for Monitoring Day. That's the day when we try to visit each of our 150+ properties to certify that there are no violations or other problems that need to be addressed. That's a tall order and it can't be done without the help of our loyal volunteers.

Every year for the past six years, we have asked for your help to monitor the land trust properties and you have responded. Some of you have favorite properties and have come to know them well. Other volunteers prefer to take on a new property each year, and that also is welcome. We need all of you to come out to the Barn on Matunuck Beach Road on **Sunday, March 30th at 1 pm** to help us get this important job done!

As a thank you for your work on that day, SKLT will provide dinner for all volunteers. You will be done with your work in a couple of hours and then return to the Barn for dinner at 5pm. If the weather



Monitor Mary Ann Scott at the Browning Woods Trail

cooperates, we'll enjoy a bonfire together after dinner where you can visit with other volunteers before calling it a wrap and heading home. This is always a great day and we welcome young and old, experienced and newcomers to come and visit one of the iconic properties that SKLT has conserved in perpetuity.

For those of you who know which properties you wish to monitor, you may call ahead and get your folders early, monitoring at your convenience. Please register at [jane.baumann@sklt.org](mailto:jane.baumann@sklt.org) or by calling Jane at 789-0962 ext. 1.

## HELP US BOOST SKLT'S MEMBERSHIP

SKLT set out last year to increase membership to 1,000 member families. We are on our way, but we need help from our existing members. If all of us were to enlist one new member, we would exceed our goal; if all of us were to bring in two new members, we would triple our current membership! If you need help to make that happen, stop by the office and pick up some of our literature. If you know your recruits like to hike, pick up some trail maps and deliver them to prospective members - or better yet, take them on a hike on one of our outstanding trails. Whatever help the SKLT office can provide, we will provide. Call and ask if you have something specific you think would motivate a friend or neighbor to want to join. Let's make 2014 the year SKLT membership reaches 1,000 strong. We will do our part, won't you do yours?

## SKLT RECEIVES DONATION FROM WWII GROUP

You never know where donations will come from! Recently, SKLT received a substantial donation from the crew members of the *USS Ira Jeffery*, a U.S. Navy vessel developed to combat German submarines in our coastal waters of the North Atlantic ocean. The ship was named to honor a young Navy officer killed in action at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1943.

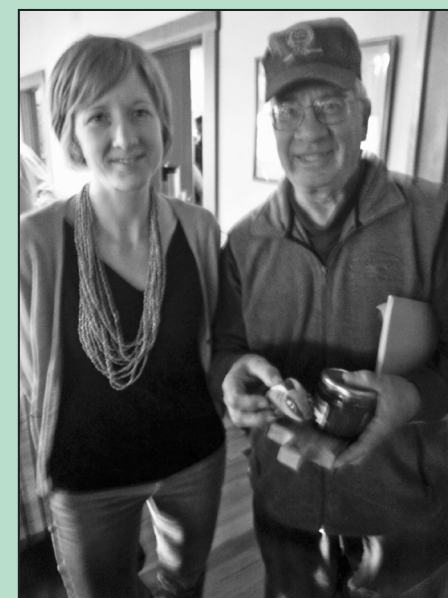
After the war, several crew members of the *Ira Jeffery* stayed in touch with one another and eventually formed a reunion group. The group began to find other crew members and invite them to the reunions held in various places where members of the group live. Their 20th reunion was held in Newport, RI and was hosted by Wayne Durfee, Treasurer of the group and donor of this gift to SKLT. The reunion itinerary included places of interest in and around Newport, including the Samuel E. Perry Grist Mill.



Four more reunions were held after the 20th, and then the group was forced to disband as there were so few members still active and able to attend. Durfee was asked to find a "worthy and suitable nonprofit organization" to receive those funds remaining in the treasury of the group. Considering the wonderful "up close and personal" experience the group shared at the Perry Grist

Mill during that 20th reunion, he decided that SKLT should receive this generous and touching gift for the "perpetual preservation of that rare working example of rural Rhode Island industry in the Colonial era, the Samuel E. Perry Grist Mill."

Thank you so much to Wayne and all the survivors of the crew of the *Ira Jeffery*! SKLT is honored to be the recipient of this donation.



When The American Chestnut Foundation held its annual meeting at the Barn last fall, they surprised Rudi Hempe, our volunteer chestnut orchard manager with a "squirrel award" for all his excellent work at SKLT's two chestnut orchards. He is shown here with Dr. Leila Pinchot, keynote speaker at the event.

Photo Credit: Jane Baumann



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

Thurs. Feb 27*	Film 'The City Dark,' 6 pm potluck, 7 pm movie
Sat. March 1, 15, 29	English Country Dances, 7:30 - 10:30 pm
Sat. March 8	RI Land and Water Summit, 8:30 am - 4 pm, URI
Sun. March 16*	Hike at Browning Woods, 1 pm
Sun. March 30*	Monitoring Day, 1 pm
Sat. April 12	English Country Dance, 7:30 - 10:30 pm
Sun. April 13*	SKLT Annual Meeting, 2 pm
Sun. April 27*	Hike at Crawley Preserve, 1 pm
Sat. May 3, 17	English Country Dances, 7:30 - 10:30 pm
Thurs. May 8*	Hike at Jones Camp trail, 5 pm
Sat. June 14	English Country Dance, 7:30 - 10:30 pm
Sun. June 15*	Hike at DuVal Trail, 3 pm

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

## COME TO SKLT's 2014 ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 13

The South Kingstown Land Trust will hold its 31st annual meeting at 2 pm on Sunday, April 13th at the Barn at 17 Matunuck Beach Road. After a short business meeting, the new Jonnycake Trail will be unveiled and dedicated. The trail will start at the Barn and weave its way to the Grist Mill pond just east of Moonstone Beach Road. As that pond is a winter haven for a variety of ducks, we hope to have a viewing platform in place in the near future. After the meeting and dedication, refreshments and beverages will be served. Please RSVP to [jane.baumann@sklt.org](mailto:jane.baumann@sklt.org). Weather permitting, after the meeting, we will hike the first phase of the new trail.



The site of the purple martin house at Weeden Farm will be the starting point of the new Jonnycake Trail. Photo credit: Clark Collins

## SKLT WELCOMES NEW EVERGREEN MEMBERS

Drawn to South Kingstown by the beautiful coastline and open space, Helen and Herb Behrens retired to Wakefield in 1996 from Glastonbury, CT, where they had lived for 50 years. Helen grew up in South Glastonbury when it was a farming community, mostly orchards and berry farms. Over the years, she watched as the farms were sold, and the orchards were replaced by subdivisions. South Glastonbury did not have a land trust.

When they settled in Wakefield, they were happy to see an active land trust preserving open space. So for the last 25 years they have been members and annual supporters of the South Kingstown Land Trust. When asked why they have been such generous supporters of SKLT, Helen replied, "nothing compares with the unspoiled, natural beauty of South Kingstown. It is certainly worth preserving, but it doesn't just happen by chance. It's great to see SKLT and its members and friends working so hard to keep South Kingstown special."

To continue their support after they are both gone, Herb and Helen named the South Kingstown Land Trust a beneficiary of Helen's IRA. With this act of thoughtfulness, they became members of **EverGreen**, SKLT's legacy society. Sadly in 2009, Herb passed away, but Helen continues to support the Land Trust.



Evergreen members Herb and Helen Behrens

Often the largest part of one's estate, a retirement fund is one of the best ways to make a charitable gift because of the ease of designating the beneficiary. Donating these assets to SKLT avoids potential double taxation under both income and estate tax provisions. The Land Trust can be named as a partial or contingent beneficiary of your retirement or pension plan.

**P**reserving land in perpetuity carries with it the responsibility of stewarding the land we have worked so hard to acquire. SKLT is proud to announce that some of our most visionary members have chosen to leave a legacy to protect this land by either making an outright gift of \$10,000 or more to the **EverGreen** fund, or by including the South Kingstown Land Trust in their estate plans.

Members of **EverGreen** provide the foundation for our long-term success. On behalf of future generations, we thank **EverGreen** members (including those who have chosen to remain anonymous) for their contributions to an enduring legacy. To discuss how your legacy can have a significant impact, please contact Anne O'Neill, Development Director at 401-789-0962 or [anne.oneill@sklt.org](mailto:anne.oneill@sklt.org).

## MILESTONES

...the opportunities of land...

With 2,600 acres to care for, SKLT has volunteer opportunities to suit just about anyone. Indoors and outdoors, physical and mental, active and passive, individual and group, the opportunities are plentiful.

Volunteering for the benefit your community is one of the best ways of feeling productive, connected and fulfilled. We are very fortunate in South Kingstown that quality of life has been something our community has kept in sharp focus. Preservation of our quality of life, by protecting our natural landscape and the places that define our town, is central to our work at SKLT.

Whether you are interested in land monitoring, stone wall rebuilding, trail maintenance, land clearing, posting boundaries, equipment maintenance, helping with events, recruiting new members, or taking photos, there is something for you. Look through our wonderful updated website to find out more about what SKLT has done and what we are doing now.

So, with spring on the way, it's time to shake off the winter doldrums and help your local land trust. Contact Anne at [anne.oneill@sklt.org](mailto:anne.oneill@sklt.org) to see what you might like.

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  
Ellen Grebstein  
Linda Green  
Kathleen Peterson Hahn  
Kevin McDonough  
Carolyn Moulthrop  
Peter Nunes  
Richard Youngken

### 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

## GIVE THE GIFT OF PERPETUITY!

Thinking of a green gift for the wedding or anniversary of someone? How about giving a year's membership in the South Kingstown Land Trust to the new bride and groom or the anniversary couple?

SKLT board member Linda Green did just that when she made a gift of a membership to her good friends Heather and Frank Breau at their wedding last summer.

If you would like to know more about how to do this, give Jane a call at the office, 789-0962 or at [jane.baumann@sklt.org](mailto:jane.baumann@sklt.org). We have a gift certificate ready to go!

Newlyweds Heather and Frank Breau  
in Lincolnville, ME  
Photo Credit: Linda Green



## 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

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## Site Lines



### COME TO THE BARN FOR A POTLUCK DINNER AND A MOVIE!

*The City Dark* (2011) is a feature documentary about the loss of the night sky. After moving from New York City to rural Maine, filmmaker Ian Cheney asks a simple question – do we need the stars?



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His journey takes him from Brooklyn to Mauna Kea, Paris and beyond. Exploring the threat of killer asteroids in Hawaii, tracking hatching turtles along the Florida coast, and rescuing injured birds on Chicago streets, the film unravels the myriad implications of a globe glittering with lights – including increased breast cancer rates from exposure to light at night and a generation of kids without a glimpse of the universe above.

Featuring stunning astrophotography and a cast of eclectic scientists, *The City Dark* is the story of light pollution and the disappearing stars. Come to the Barn on Thursday February 27th at 6 pm for a potluck meal, followed at 7 pm by the movie. Please RSVP to [jane.baumann@sklt.org](mailto:jane.baumann@sklt.org).

OPEN SPACE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE