



# Site Lines

SUMMER 2019

SOUTH KINGSTOWN  
LAND TRUST

## GREAT OUTDOORS CELEBRATION & AUCTION 2019

Have you ever been to a fundraising auction in a stuffy room with the hum of fluorescent bulbs and an array of items you'd rather pay to give away than take home, for a worthy cause that doesn't impact you directly? Well, now picture the opposite.

First, location, location, location... This event is held at the Barn at Weeden Farm, 17 Matunuck Beach Road. It's a celebration held outdoors overlooking restored stone walls and fields with unsurpassed beauty. You'll be surrounded by friends, new and old, eating delicious snacks with a tasty beverage in hand and fun to be had.

Those who like to ponder while snacking and sipping enjoy the Silent Auction of mini adventures, gift cards, plants, and all manner of treasures. The Live Auction is led by the spirited Louis Raymond, whose theatrical antics as auctioneer delight bidders and viewers alike.

Auction items include a day of sailing, a weekend



Ibbey Freeman bids on an item in the 2018 Auction. *Photo: Sophie Clode*

getaway, a round of golf, an afternoon of quahogging, memorable wine, bespoke furniture, and unique items. A listing of items will soon appear on the website: [sklt.org](http://sklt.org) and be updated through July.

This signature fundraising event supports the maintenance and care of over 2,860 acres throughout our community. With your help, SKLT protects our drinking water, supports local farmers, ensures habitat for the wildlife we love, and provides more than 13 miles of groomed trails through some of the world's most beautiful places. Come one, come all for a Celebration of the Great Outdoors. Tickets and sponsorships are available at [sklt.org](http://sklt.org).



The Silent Auction ready for excited bidding on textiles, artwork, liquor and wine, activities, gifts and more. *Photo: Cindy Sabato*



## THE PROMISE OF RESTORATION: MOVIE, Q&A, AND POTLUCK WITH CITIZEN ACTIVIST MARION STODDART

On Wed., June 5, join SKLT and the Narrow River Land Trust as we host Marion Stoddart, a citizen leader committed to a lifetime of grassroots

organizing and coalition building for positive social and environmental change. In the early 1960s, Marion Stoddart was a Massachusetts housewife and mother of three who decided to take on the impossible—cleaning up the Nashua River, which ran through her town and was then one of the most polluted rivers in America.

During her years of tenacious advocacy, Marion organized a massive citizen effort to rescue the river. She lobbied successfully for legislation, including the landmark Massachusetts Clean Waters Act. Continuing that record of success, she petitioned the Federal government for millions of dollars of promised funds

to fight the pollution—and won. Her dramatic success in mobilizing the community showed people that change was possible, even though they'd lost hope.

Today, thanks to the efforts of Marion and the Nashua River Watershed Association (the nonprofit she founded), the river is clean and restored. Yet, as Marion says, "The work will never be done. We will always need stewards and watchdogs to safeguard the health of the river for people and wildlife."

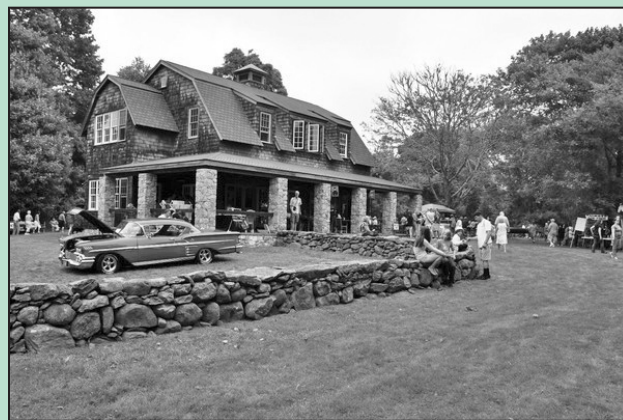
The program will include a showing of the brief documentary film, "Marion Stoddart: The Work of 1000" (2010), followed by a question and answer session with Marion. The film's vintage footage will resonate with many who recall the pollution of the Saugatucket River and will inspire those of us who strive to restore and protect the rivers and watersheds in our community. This FREE event will be held at the Barn, 17 Matunuck Beach Road at 7 p.m., preceded by a community potluck at 6 p.m. Reservations encouraged as space is limited. Please RSVP at [sklt.org/events-calendar](http://sklt.org/events-calendar).

## THE ANTIQUE CAR SHOW RETURNS, JULY 21!

Bob and Diane Smith's legacy includes operating the Samuel Perry Grist Mill, serving countless jonnycakes, and organizing a fabulous Antique Car Show. The tradition continues!

On Sunday, July 21, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., visit the SKLT Barn at 17 Matunuck Beach Rd to see an array of antique autos from 1980 and earlier. Car enthusiasts from around New England are invited to share and admire autos from ages past. Like the Grist Mill, they represent the technology and design of their times.

In addition to the cars, this fun event will also feature an old Aberdeen hand pump and a vintage fire engine! Enjoy live music, jonnycakes and great hospitality. Have an auto you're interested in registering? Contact Kevin McCloskey at 401-864-9312.





## THE HALE HOUSE 2019 SCHEDULE



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The Hale House, a South Kingstown Land Trust property at 2625 Commodore Perry Highway, announces its 2019 season. Hale House will be open from Friday, June 21 through Saturday, August 31. Guided Tours are held on Fridays and Saturdays, from 1-4 p.m. Friday afternoons feature croquet when the

weather is sunny, movies when the weather is rainy.

Artists are invited to paint on site Fridays & Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. As always, the Hale House offers a rich set of public programs and exhibits, hosted by the Matunuck Preservation Society and held at Hale House except as noted.

### **Paint and Palette - Art of Land and Sea Exhibit Opening and Reception**

Thursday, June 20, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Exhibit open:

Fridays & Saturdays, June 21 – August 31

### **Matunuck Fare**

Saturday, June 29, 5 – 7 p.m.

SKLT Barn, 17 Matunuck Beach Rd., Matunuck, RI

### **Jonathan McPhillips Plein Air Painting Demonstration**

Saturday, July 27, 1 – 4 p.m.

### **Opening The Oyster: African Amercian Foodways in Rhode Island Presentation by Robb Dimmick**

Friday, July 19, 7 p.m.

Limited seating; reservations suggested;  
donations appreciated

### **Field to Table Forage**

Saturday, August 3, 4 p.m.

SKLT Barn, 17 Matunuck Beach Rd., Matunuck, RI

Join Laura Orabone on a walk around the fields surrounding the SKLT Barn in Matunuck and learn which “weeds” are actually delicious and nutritious additions to your table.

### **Harley Bartlett Plein Air Painting Demonstration**

Saturday, August 24, 1 – 4 p.m.

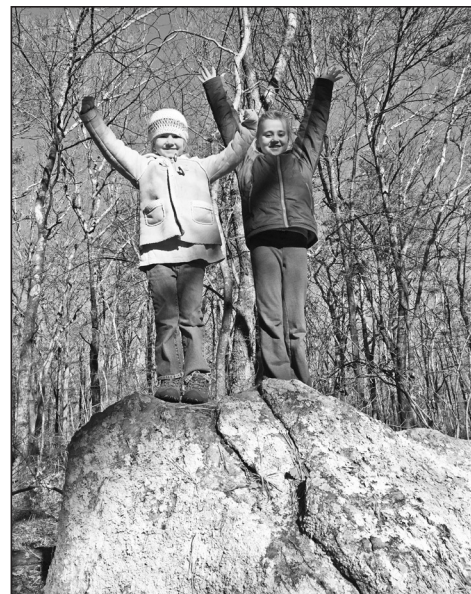
## THE CHARLESTOWN MORaine

Glaciers have come and gone over the last two million years. The most recent is the Laurentide ice sheet, a part of the great Wisconsin glaciation. This ice sheet originated in eastern Canada and spread to slightly south of Block Island. At the time of its maximum extent, about 22,000 years ago, sea level was about 350 feet lower than it is today, and the Atlantic shoreline lay near the continental shelf. The glacier left this area over 16,000 years ago.

As the ice sheet withdrew, it paused just north of Route 1 in South Kingstown. Although the glacier was still advancing, it was melting at the same rate as it was moving forward. Rock debris of all sizes, carried to the end of the paused glacier, was deposited in a great jumbled mass forming a 200-foot-tall end moraine. Called the Charlestown Moraine, this east-west ridge stretches across most of Rhode Island west of Narragansett Bay.

The DuVal Trail starts at the foot of the moraine, takes the hiker up and over a lumpy ridge and around kettle holes formed when remnant blocks of ice mixed with the moraine material finally melted. Browning

Woods Farm Trail and several other trails are good places to observe amazing glacial boulders. Weeden Farm, which lies on a gentle south-facing slope, is an outwash plain; here the glacial rocks have been picked up and arranged to form the stone walls. These walls also contain a self-guided geology tour. Brochures are available at the Robinson Street office or [sklt.org](http://sklt.org).



Rock from Charlestown Moraine at Browning Woods Trail during one of our HikeRx walks. Photo: Cesare Mitrano

~Doug McGovern, SKLT Land Operations Staff

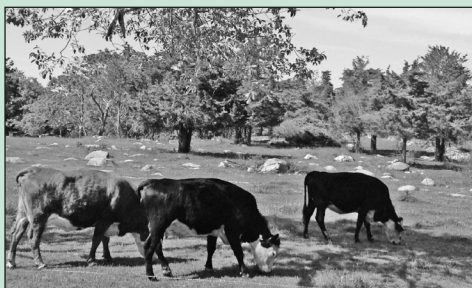
## SKLT HELPS FARMERS GO BACK TO SCHOOL

When the Farm Succession School offered by Land for Good, a New England nonprofit, came to Rhode Island this winter, SKLT was able to help two local farm families participate in this course. Some years ago, a coalition of Washington County land trusts received a grant to encourage landowners to consider preservation when making decisions about the future use of their land. SKLT stewards this grant, which covered the \$300-per-family cost of the Farm Succession School registration.

One of the farmers commented: "I got so much from the program, both in information and connections. The organizers and educators were so informed and so good at teaching. The format was a well-balanced mix of instruction, homework and participation. I'd recommend the training to every farm family."

Another said: "It was interesting to meet the other farmers, learn about their situations, share knowledge and get practical information that was helpful. We are trying to put things in place so the next generation can continue to sustain and maintain the property."

Hopefully, Land For Good will offer the course again. If so, SKLT will be happy to assist.



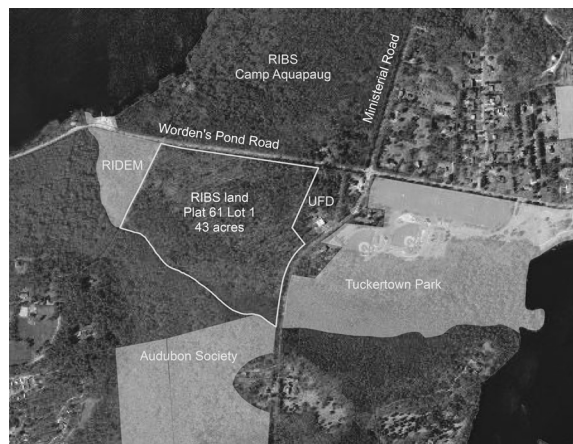


## TWO LAND PROTECTION PROJECTS UNDERWAY

### SKLT Ready to Acquire Boy Scout Land

Since March 2018, SKLT has been working to secure funding to purchase 43 acres of woodland from the Rhode Island Boy Scouts. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management awarded us early funding in Spring 2018. That summer, the South Kingstown Town Council voted to support the project. This year, SKLT received grants from the Bafflin Foundation in January and The Nature Conservancy and the Champlin Foundation in March, completing the funding.

We are now working on remaining documentation and will close on this important property as soon as we can. We also need to raise stewardship funds for trail building and ongoing management of this land.



Contact Mike Sherry at [masherry@aol.com](mailto:masherry@aol.com) or call the office if you can help.

~Joanne Riccitelli, Land Protection Director

### Potter Wood Needs Your Help!

For 85 years, the Kingston Improvement Association has cared for the 65-acre Potter Memorial Wood. With wooded trails, a little league field, basketball court, skating pond and other features, Potter Wood provides an amazing oasis amidst a sea of houses. The main entrance is on South Road, and a second access with limited parking is on Biscuit City Road, across from SKLT's Biscuit City Preserve.



Potter Wood, Photo: Joanne Riccitelli

Miss Mary LeMoine Potter left the Wood to the Kingston Improvement Association in 1933, with the clear intention the land would always benefit the village of Kingston. However, there is no legally enforceable restriction against subdivision or development of the land. So in 2018, the Kingstown Improvement Association board and membership voted to codify Miss Potter's intent by transferring a conservation easement to SKLT to ensure the land is preserved in perpetuity.

This preservation effort needs your support to be a success, and an \$18,000 fundraising effort, led by Kingston Improvement Association, is now in full swing. More than half the funds have been raised. Please consider helping us close the gap!

Send your fully tax-deductible gift to SKLT, 227 Robinson St, Wakefield 02879 with a note specifying the "Potter Wood project" or donate and read more at [KingstonImprovementAssociation.org](http://KingstonImprovementAssociation.org). Thank you!

~Joanne Riccitelli, Land Protection Director

## MILESTONES

Monitoring is simply the very best part of being SKLT. Every year, every property is walked and inspected to ensure that our conservation values and easements are being honored. Most properties need to be monitored in the winter before the vines leaf out and the swamp areas thaw, and it is such a gift to walk/trek/bushwhack through places with trails and places often visited only by wildlife.

Monitoring is also what separates land protected by a land trust from land that has a deed restriction. Deed restrictions expire and have no one to enforce them. SKLT is working with three landowners who thought their land was protected from development only to discover that any restrictions had long since expired.

Violations are uncommon, but they occur: yard waste thrown over a wall, abandoned camping gear, ATV & mountain bike incursions, removal of stone walls, a garage built over the line. SKLT funds the cost of the staff time to address and remediate the issues and the expense of carrying insurance for the more intractable problems.

Only with the support of our volunteer monitors and donations made to our stewardship reserve can SKLT honor the pacts we have made. Monitoring Day 2019 was a terrific success; volunteers ranged in age from 2 to 82, first-timers were paired with “old-timers” and we all returned to celebrate over a delicious lunch and a peaceful pause by the bonfire.

Summer 2019 is packed with events, opportunities and collaborations. If you have not done so, please share your email address for updates, invites, articles and photos. Our programs and events have been selling out and reaching capacity, so remember to sign up early. Then, unplug all your screens and head outside! I look forward to seeing you on a trail or at an event.



*Julia Fry Landstreet*

Julia Fry Landstreet, Executive Director

*The mission of the South Kingstown Land Trust is to protect and steward the natural resources, open spaces, and cultural landscapes for the benefit of our communities now and forever.*

## SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST

### Officers

President: Martha Day  
Vice President: Susan Seyfarth Lovejoy  
Secretary: Linda Green  
Treasurer: James Farrell

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Joanne Riccitelli  
Land Protection Director  
Clarkson Collins  
Land Management Director  
Michael Bontecou  
Land Operations Coordinator  
Doug McGovern  
Land Operations Coordinator  
Angela Brunetti  
Development 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 Design: Cindy Sabato

## 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! The South Kingstown Land Trust is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, so your donation is tax-deductible. 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

### 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 legacy gift to SKLT and qualify to be an EverGreen member through:

- ☐ Estate Plan      ☐ Trust      ☐ Other
- ☐ Please contact me about making a legacy gift.

### SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP:

This program allows our donors to easily establish and maintain their membership through a monthly, automatically recurring gift.

- ☐ I want to become a sustaining member at the monthly amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_. Please charge my credit card:

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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### OTHER SUPPORT

- ☐ I'm a landowner interested in preserving my land.
- ☐ My employer will match my gift. I've enclosed a matching gift form.

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Please make checks payable to: South Kingstown Land Trust, 227 Robinson Street, Wakefield, RI 02879*



## WE HAVE AN smile WISH LIST!

There's more than one way to give to the Land Trust! Consider a tax-deductible in-kind donation. From tick protection and sunscreen for staff and volunteers, to day-to-day office supplies, to materials for successful and eco-friendly events, and more, in-kind gifts help us out in so many ways.

And don't forget to add South Kingstown Land Trust as your Amazon Charity every time you shop on AmazonSmile- it really does work! You can find our wish list and AmazonSmile page at [smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0516985](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0516985).



SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST  
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WAKEFIELD, RI 02879

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Organization  
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## Site Lines



# Join Us For These UPCOMING SKLT EVENTS

Every 1st Sat	10 a.m.	All Ages Rx Hike, Browning Woods Trail
Thu, May 16	8:30 a.m.	3rd Thursday Hike, DuVal Trail
Wed, Jun 5	6 p.m.	The Promise of Restoration: Movie and Q&A with Marion Stoddart, and Potluck, the Barn
Thu, Jun 20	8:30 a.m.	3rd Thursday Hike, Browning Woods Trail
Sat, Jun 29	5 p.m.	Matunuck Fare, Hale House Lecture, the Barn
Thu, Jul 18	8:30 a.m.	3rd Thursday Hike, Thewlis DAR Trail
Thu, Jul 21	10 a.m.	Antique Car Show, the Barn
Sun, Aug 11	4 p.m.	Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction, the Barn
Thu, Aug 15	8:30 a.m.	3rd Thursday Hike, Crawley Preserve

For programs and events, please register online at [sklt.org/events-calendar/](https://sklt.org/events-calendar/) or call (401) 789-0962 x204.

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*OPEN SPACE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE*