Building Now Protecting Forever - the South Kingstown Land Trust community has made this dream a reality. The dream of raising $1,000,000 to provide the home base and resources for the stewardship and maintenance of the properties in our care and community we serve has been realized. This capital campaign is a monumental accomplishment for our organization and none of it would have been possible without your support. THANK YOU.

A $100,000 matching gift offered this fall was met and surpassed. Three donors made additional contributions in order for every gift to be matched dollar for dollar. Gifts large and small came from near and far. It is clear many cherish the beauty and sense of place found only in South Kingstown. This incredible outpouring resulted in over $225,000 being added to the total and bringing us to our goal.

SKLT launched the public phase in January 2020. At the time of the public launch, we were well on our way with restricted funds in place and made the decision to begin construction on the buildings. As time has passed and COVID has insinuated itself throughout, supply chains have been disrupted, costs have vacillated, and various teams of subcontractors have had to pause as members of their crew were exposed to infection. A significant hurdle to the timeline has also been National Grid. The project is still without electrical service as we go to print. But we have been able to manage costs and make changes that will help us better serve the community. If all stays on track (and we get electrical service) we anticipate being in by April Fool’s Day.

Many donors restricted their gifts to the Clarkson A Collins Stewardship Fund and many others were moved to become members of the EverGreen Society and committed to make legacy gifts to ensure future stewardship. You can read more about the Society and hear from our newest EverGreen member further in the newsletter. In the short term I encourage you to visit our website, sklt.org, and see a partial listing of the campaign donors.

Julia Fry Landstreet

A complete report of the campaign and donors will be generated and shared at a later date in a separate document.
MILESTONES

Open space makes all the difference became much more than a tag line for many. The land and being outside became everybody’s safe space and source for solace, beauty, and engagement. SKLT trails are busier than ever, thus we have installed an inaugural StoryWalk and are seeking to expand parking and enhance signage at multiple trails.

Working in small groups and from behind a zoom screen the SKLT staff, board and community accomplished much in 2020. I encourage you to read the list of those who donated to our general operations and then study the incredible impact their gifts of time, talent, and treasure had for the community. So many impactful gifts.

I am so proud that despite incredible adversity SKLT staff and board continued to work with landowners, stakeholders, members, farmers, youth, etc. to provide excellent service, advice, and programs. I am also proud so much was accomplished “behind the scenes” from the enormity of applying for reaccreditation to the creation of an illustrated land protection guide for landowners. Not to mention countless sticks moved off trails, letters sent, and governance tasks attended. Thank you, Angela, Joanne, Michael, Rose, (Doug), and our fabulous board members.

It is with mixed emotions I share that Angela Brunetti has resigned as our Development Coordinator effective the end of February in order to begin her new role as Executive Director for the Charlestown Land Trust. Congratulations and you shall be missed.

2021 has arrived as fraught as 2020 has concluded but the natural beauty of this community and our commitment to its care remains enduring with your steadfast and generous support. Thank you.

Julia Fry Landstreet

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.
A photo from c.1896 shows a Black woman standing in front of a house near the entrance to SKLT’s Biscuit City Preserve. It is a rare testament to a period in Biscuit City’s history when the area supported a thriving community of people of color. Judge Elisha Reynolds Potter purchased the site in 1866 and used the half-dozen houses and decommissioned mill as residences for his servants and their families. Many, if not all, were of African, African American, or Native American heritage. By 1882 the area acquired the nickname “Biscuit City,” possibly a tongue-in-cheek reference to the large number of residents. However, by the time the water company acquired the lot in 1923, the buildings had crumbled and the residents dispersed. Published histories of Biscuit City skip over this period, and references in contemporary newspapers vanish. Only the photo, brief descriptions in a handful of unpublished manuscripts, and government records remain to tell the story of this forgotten community.

From this scant evidence, is it possible to identify the woman in the photo? Potter family members owned the house in the background (which is still standing), so she is likely one of their tenants. From contemporary accounts we learn that Jane Hull, a “celebrated character” who “claimed descent from a long line of African Royalty,” lived in the house pictured at one time. A physical description notes that she was “tall and straight” and wore glasses. Our woman has no glasses but she holds a cane, suggesting she is elderly. Jane Hull would have been around 75-80 when the photograph was taken. Census records list her as a servant living in various households and, by 1885, as a laundress living on her own. She worked for the Potter family, washing their clothes in the mill pond and cleaning their house. Her life cannot have been easy; we’re told she was subject to “fits of rage in which she [was] certainly nearly insane.” There is no birth or marriage certificate, only one for death in 1898 of “paralysis.” And there the record goes silent. Whoever the woman in the photo, she must stand for all the Jane Hulls whose stories we will never know. 

Katherine Long

An SKLT volunteer since 2001, Katherine Long is researching the Biscuit City site for a National Register of Historic Places nomination.
2020 Open Space Circle

**FOUNDER’S CLUB - $10,000+**
- Anonymous
- Bafflin Foundation
- James & Hope Farrell
- Fox Family Charitable Foundation
- Christopher S. Gaffney & Karen Kames
- Carolyn A. Griswold
- Laura Harris
- Charles & Cornelia Lewis
- Leon & Sharon Moulder
- Parsons Kellogg, LLC
- Susan Duvall Phipps
- Judith Rector
- The Rhode Island Foundation
- Michael A. Sherry & Jan Anthony
- Janice Sieburth*
- Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Woodcock
  * deceased

**PRESERVATIONIST- $5,000-$9,999**
- Anonymous (3)
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Blakely
- Edward & Carol Cimilluca
- Martha Day & C.N. Hetzner
- Ellen & Lawrence Grebstein
- Linda & Howland Green
- William Harvey
- Donald Kaull
- Mr. Daniel Levinson
- Mrs. Julia McGovern
- Anne B. Richardson & Jamie Robertson
- Mr. & Mrs. Albert Sherman
- Mr. & Mrs. Austin C. Smith
- Carolyn Summers
- Lynn & Dan Summers
- Superior Septic Service, Inc
- Truscott Partners, LLC

**PROTECTOR- $2,500-$4,999**
- Anonymous
- Clarkson Collins & Marcie Cummings
- Jon & Joan Dodd
- Lisa Fiore
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Holt
- John & Carol Howland
- Julia & Bev Landstreet
- Raymond B. Langton & Jane A. Nash
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Leeson, Jr.
- Cornelia Lewis
- Sophie Page Lewis
- Susan Seyfarth Lovejoy
- Tim & Jodi Meyer
- Janet Ostro
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul Pyne
- David Rector
- Paul Rector
- William & Sandra Rosen
- South County Dermatology
- Elise Torello & Bill McCusker
- Dr. Caroline S. Wilkel

**BENEFACTOR- $1,000 - $2,999**
- Amica Companies Foundation
- Anonymous
- Mrs. Helen Behrens
- Jeffrey & Brooke Bertholf
- Susan Besse
- Amanda & Shane Best
- Michael & Holly Bontecou
- Dr. & Mrs. Michael Bradley
- Neil & Lisa Brandon
- Mr. & Mrs. David A. Brown
- Douglas & Gwynne Campbell
- Deborah & Wight Carreau
- Peter & Karin Conopask
- Mr. & Mrs. Charles Coolidge III
- Alicia Cooney & Stephen Quigley
- Mrs. Patricia Crowley
- The Cummings Family
- Phoebe Cutler & Desmond Smith
- Gail & David DeMarco
- Mr. Robert M. Fetzer & Ms. Rosanne Zimmerman
- Erin Finn
- Stephen & Evelyn Firshein
- Sylvia & Pierce Gardner
- David Goss & Julia Taylor
- Greg Hanna Charitable Fund
- Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Griffin
- Mr. & Mrs. William R. Harris
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Heyman
- Inglenook LLC
- Max Kaplan
- Elizabeth Kroll
- Michelle Peach Lang & Corey Lang
- Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Letcher
- Darcy Magratten & James Estes
- Martha Day, Attorney at Law
- Gail Matthews
- Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin W. Mc Cleary
- Mark & Denise Meiklejohn
- Mr. John W. Mills III
- David & Carolyn Meiklejohn
- Jane O’Leary
- Tim & Claudia Philbrick
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Rakauskas
- Mr. John Richardson
- Bishop & Mrs. Hays Rockwell
- Kathleen & Fred Schultz
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul Schurman
- Kevin & Anita Shearan
- Jeanine & Ian Silversmith
- Chris & Ruth Smith
- Jennifer & Roger Smith
- Dr. & Mrs. James L. Smythe
- South County Garden Club
- William Taft
- John & Carroll Tickner
- Maura Travers
- Mr. & Mrs. Randolph Watts
- Westerly Community Credit Union
- Dr. Eric Widmer & Dr. Meera Viswanathan

Photo: Larry Grebstein
2020 Donors & Grants

CONSERVATIONIST-$500-$999
Air Flow Inc.
Anonymous (2)
Karen & Richard Black
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond J. Bolster II
Ms. Jody Brown &
Mr. Richard Stanton
Drs. Gloria & Ian Callard
Mr. & Mrs. Duncan H. Cocroft
Marilyn & Jerry Cohen
Paula & Jason Dayton
Lee & Karyn Duckworth
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel DuVal
Eric & Jessie Eisendrath
Tony & Betty Faella
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Farley
Yvonne Federowicz
Ellie Ferguson
Ruth Finch
Liz Freeman & Roland Coates
Gardner Realty, LLC
Ron & Linda Gardrel
Dr. Robert W. &
Elaine Guimond
Diane Harrington
Mrs. Pam Heller
Ms. Beverly Hodgson &
Dr. John Leventhal
Megan & Dawson Hodgson
Steve & Onnie Hoffmann
Hon. & Mrs. Gilbert Indeglia
Dr. David Katzen &
Ms. Barbara Binder
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Keenan
Charles Kelley
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth N. Kermes
Drs. Ethan Hillary Kisch &
Helene Kisch-Pniewski
Laura Kline
Christopher & Michelle Little
Katherine Long &
George Bertholet
David Manoni
Martone Construction & Restoration
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin McCloskey
Santiago Mejia &
Aurora Farewell
Daniel & Susan Merrick
Patricia Moore & Guy Geoffroy
Pam & Keith Perelman
David & Isabel Pollack
Mr. & Mrs. John Powers
Henry & Jan Rines
Amy Rippe
Eric & Sharon Rose
Cindy & Ed Sabato
Timothy Schaffner &
Anne Maley-Schaffner
William Sherman
Shorline Properties Inc.
Vincent J. Siravo Jr
Mr. & Mrs. Sherwood Small
Susan & James Stone
Steven Sweeney &
David Goetsch
Target Circle
Linda Tucker &
Richard Hodgson
Meredith & Robert Voltaggio
Mr. Edward Watson, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Barry Wepman
Roy Zoern &
Michael Gallagher
Arthur & Marcia Campbell
Drs. Kathleen Carney-Godley &
Rick Godley
Mr. David Carpenter
Christine & Jon Cass
Deborah & William Catone
Sarah Chambers
Lisa Churchville &
Skip Carlin
Christina Clayton
Pamela Connell
Barbara Crane
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cranston
Mr. Karl Dillmann
Mr. Clive L. DuVal
Mr. & Mrs. William Edmonds
Mr. Richard E. Egerton, Jr.
Ellen & Kurt Elmstrom
Lloyd Feinberg &
Betsy Marcotte
Catherine Ferguson
Ms. Cheryl Foster &
Mr. Colin McCullough
Katie Frost
Glenn & Leslie Gazzolo
Bridget & Tom Gilchrist
Arthur & Marion Gold
Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Greenfield
Mr. Bert Hess
Lucy Hodgson &
Cervin Robinson
Ann Holmes
Janet Innis
Lise Iwon
Sandra Kenney &
Stefano Lavinio
Virginia & Paul Kenny
Elizabeth Kneiper
Linda Kortick
Drs. Harold &
Gaytha Langlois
Bob Leonard &
Elisa Wybraniec
Mr. George Loomis &
Ms. Lorraine Joubert
Catherine Ludlam
Maggie Lukiewicz
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Marge
Christian &
Margaret McBurney
Douglas & Galen McGovern
Mary & Bob McGurl
Mr. & Mrs. David McNab
Judy Mendelsohn
Susanne Menden-Deuer &
Tatiana Rynearson
Nathaniel & Eleanor Merrill
Sue & Dennis Mittendorf
David & Barbara Monaghan
Mr. & Mrs.
Christopher Moroney
Margaret & Kevin Munroe
Mr. Michael Mutschler &
Ms. Rosemary Galiani
Laura Nardi & Mike D’Antonio
Jim & Anne O’Neill
Joseph Orlando &
Diane Fournaris
Mrs. Laurence W. O’Rourke
Mark & Lorraine Parsons
Patagonia Action Works
Linda & Staunton Peck
Ms. Joan Peckham &
Mr. Brian Jepson

GUARDIAN- $250-$499
Anonymous (3)
BankRI
Sarah Barclay
Baud Builders, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Bean
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Benson
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Bibb
Jeff Bluestein &
Margit Conopask
Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Braun
Angela Brunetti
Tom & Antonia Bryson
Edward Buzzi &
Susan Clasby
2020 Accomplishments

2020 was a year unlike all others. Despite adversity SKLT staff, board, and volunteers accomplished much with donor support for the benefit of our environment, community, and organization. The partial list below outlines the 2020 impact of donor support.

Land Management:
- Alewife Brook Preserve Trail: Created mile long trail, trailhead kiosk and signage, parking lot, updated trail map
- Perry Grist Mill: Exterior renovation, sluice repair, creation/installation of granite steps, lifting and cleaning millstone
- Trail visitation and required maintenance increased dramatically
- Comprehensive plant list for Browning Woods, and creation/installation of signage for select plant material along trail
- Nine ongoing research projects: habitat, flora, and fauna possible because of protected land

Land Protection:
- 4 active conservation easement projects – 133.5 acres
- 2 active fee projects – 18.8 acres
- 6 successful grant applications for 4 projects
- Generated an illustrated easy to read landowner informational brochure on land protection highlighting the need for land stewardship funds with infographic on stewardship

Member Services/Programs:
- Revamped newsletter
- 2,000 trail maps printed and distributed
- Bird list for all trails - generated from RI Bird Atlas 2.0, posted on website
- Full moon hike, bird hike, affordable housing symposium, speaker/potluck, ten guided hikes, two grist mill tours, creation/installation StoryWalk
- Speaking/presentations: Land and Water Summit, Arbutus Garden Club, South Kingstown Rotary
- Re-vamped Great Outdoors Celebration - record number of sponsors (thank you)
- Successful Zoom Annual meeting

Internal Systems:
- Sustainable practices: Paperless confirmations for donations and electronic newsletters
- Re-Accreditation application submitted

COVID19:
- No pause in services, no trail closure, no related changes to staffing, no instances of related infection due to SKLT negligent practices, successfully monitored 170 protected properties
- Successfully applied for PPP loan, awarded $53,900.00
- Successful transition to Zoom format for all board, staff, and committee meetings

Volunteer Projects:
- Monsignor Clarke students planted trees at sculpture trail
- BSA Troop 1 and Troop 44 Three eagle scout projects
- Weekly community workdays at Biscuit City
- Youth clean-up at Alewife Brook Preserve
- Three sisters garden at Grist Mill

Internal Activities:
- Celebrated Clarkson’s retirement with a festive dinner and the naming of the Clarkson A Collins Stewardship Fund
- Clarkson Collins was awarded the RILTC Peter Merritt Award
- Land and Water Summit - all staff attended
- LTA Rally 2020 - all staff attended
- Four staff members attended professional develop seminars and programs through-out the year

Build Now Protect Forever:
- Launched capital campaign, 2nd in history of organization: Generated and distributed collateral material, held public launch event, continued solicitations
- Tractor Shed: completed and under budget
- Welcome Center/Offices: Significant COVID-19 related obstacles, progress slow but only positive feedback from community
- $100,000 matching grant successfully completed, an additional $12,800 raised to match gifts dollar for dollar
- Build Now Protect Forever total campaign goal achieved
2020 Donor Impact Map

Below are the locations in our town donor support impacted in 2020 – above and beyond annual monitoring and stewardship.
Thank you!
please accept our apologies and contact Angela Brunetti at 789-0962 x204 with changes.

We have made every effort to be accurate with our recognition. If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please accept our apologies and contact Angela Brunetti at 789-0962 x204 with changes. Thank you!
IN MEMORIAM/IN HONOR

In Memory of Bob, Scout & Chelsea
Marilyn Cunningham

In Memory of Katharine Bontecou
Katharine Bontecou
Charitable Trust

In Memory of Kathleen Dwyer
Peggy Benz

In Memory of Paula Fiore
Carol Pilkington

In Memory of Roger Freeman
Liz Freeman & Roland Coates

In Memory of Greg Hanna
Greg Hanna Charitable Fund

In Memory of Bill Harvey
Lynn & Dan Summers

In Memory of Ward Harvey
Lynn & Dan Summers

In Memory of Mabel S. Hempstead
Linda Green

In Memory of Jim MacWilliam
Christian Furey

In Memory of Laurence W. O'Rourke
Mary & Tom Heyman
Mary O'Rourke

In Memory of Barbara Peckham
Linda & Howland Green

In Memory of Margaret Mary Rafferty
James & Maureen McInerney

In Memory of Col. Anthony Tokarz, USMC
Dr. Caroline S. Wilkel

In Memory of Mrs. Audrey H. D. Trowbridge
Clarckson Collins & Marcie Cummings
Marilyn Palmer Helmholz
Peter & Margaret Lacouture
Nicole Nomr

In Memory of Leroy Whitford
Mary Thielscher

In Memory of Helen D. Wilkel
Elizabeth Wilkel

In Honor of Michael Bontecou
Pierce & Sylvia Gardner

In Honor of Edward & Carol Cimillo\u2026
Linda & Staunton Peck

IN KIND DONORS

Beautiful Day
Belmont Market
Michael & Holly Bontecou
BSA Troop 44, Troop 1
Cardi's Furniture
Carpenter's Farm Stand
Martha Day & C.N. Hetzner
James & Hope Farrell
Linda & Howland Green
Landscape Creations
David LaRocque
Lauren Lawder
Liberty Cedar
Cindy & Mark Love
Kevin McCloskey
Pier Liquors
PrintSource

Randall Realtors
Rosemarie Russo
Jeanine & Ian Silversmith
South County Sand & Gravel
Superior Septic Service, Inc.
Sweenor Builders, Inc
Whalers Brewing Company
Dr. Caroline S. Wilkel
The beauty of RI may be natural; however, the preservation of that beauty lays squarely on our shoulders. Spending time at the Jersey Shore taught me what we would never want to see happen to our little corner of paradise. The most important difference in these, and other places with such natural beauty, is the density and commercialization that is allowed to proliferate unfettered and destroy the very thing that attracted people there in the first place.

Call me selfish, but I want to think of the open spaces and natural beauty of South Kingstown as existing into perpetuity. That takes a lot of time, money, and effort as the forces of capitalism bear down to turn it into the latest condo development or waterpark attraction. What a sin that would be. We’ve all seen it happen elsewhere.

Being a part of ensuring that future generations are able to experience this very special place on earth seems like a great choice to make when thinking about where money would be best spent after I am gone. It’s a good way to pay it forward. It’s simple and will provide much needed funding for those working so hard to ensure the preservation of open spaces here in our little world of South Kingstown. Judy Bucklen

This past year has increased awareness of the importance of life and remembrance of those who have passed. EverGreen members of the South Kingstown Land Trust have a vital vision and acknowledge the necessity of protecting and preserving open space in our town forever, that is in perpetuity. Become an EverGreen member and you will be remembered and thanked by those who follow you on our trails, enjoying unspoiled habitat and contributing to our humanity. Caroline Wilkel

### EverGreen Members:

- Anonymous (2)
- Ira & Karen Asher
- Jim & Karin Aukerman
- Clare Bailey*
- Helen & Herb* Behrens
- Bob Blakely
- Zenas Bliss
- Jim & Susie Bowers
- Heather Breau
- Judy Bucklen
- Ian & Gloria Callard
- Mark & Diane Cantwell
- Leslie Chouinard
- Clarkson Collins
- Eliza Collins
- Albert Darbey
- Martha Day
- Donna Dexter
- Jim Farrell
- Eric Harrah*
- Tracy Heffron
- Janet Innis
- Eve Krzyzanowski
- Charles & Cornelia Lewis
- Sophie Page Lewis
- Chris & Michelle Little
- Kevin &
  - MaryLee McDonough
- Jeff & Pam Mead
- Henry & Nod Meyer*
- Chris Ogden & Linda Fusilier
- Anne & Jim O'Neill
- Tom & Helen Rowe Drake
- Paul & Barbara Schurman
- MaryAnn Scott
- Mike Sherry & Jan Anthony
- Janice & John Sieburth*
- Douglas Smith
- Daisy Smythe
- Carroll Tickner
- Ted Watson
- Eric Widmer &
  - Meera Viswanathan
- Caroline Wilkel
- Arden Wood
- Ken & Dottie Woodcock
  - *Deceased
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
□ Individual .......... $30  □ Family .......... $50
□ Steward ........................................ $100-$249
□ Guardian ........................................ $250-$499
□ Conservationist ............................... $500-$999
□ Benefactor ...................................... $1,000-$2,499

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 ________________________________

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

Name ________________________________
Address ______________________________ City ______________ State ______ Zip _______
Phone ________________________________ E-mail ________________________________

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

We’re on AmazonSmile!

Did you know you can still “give” to SKLT without making an outright donation? Set us up as your AmazonSmile charity! Or even 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. You can find our wish list and AmazonSmile page at smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0516985
Programming

Out of caution and concern, our traditional guided hikes and programming will remain on hold. We encourage you to visit a new trail or enjoy the StoryWalks at Thewlis Woods! In response to visitor requests the stories will be periodically updated so visit the trail or sklt.org to check out what is currently offered. Our next story will be “The Snowy Day” by Ezra Jack Keats.

“We appreciate your preserving valuable properties AND making them available to the public with the excellent trails.” -Steve & Tina

REMINDER: PLEASE WEAR BLAZE ORANGE WHEN HIKING!

Not on the SKLT email list? Contact Angie at angela.brunetti@sklt.org
She’ll take care of you!