



Site Lines

Summer 2021  Open Space Makes All the Difference



The Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction 2021

Picture this: It's a perfect summer afternoon in Matunuck and the sun is getting low. You're surrounded by family, friends, and neighbors, embraced by beautifully restored stone walls beside the iconic SKLT Barn. You take a sip of your cocktail, overlook the 100 breathtaking acres of Weeden Farm, and you realize your support is making the preservation of this beautiful open space possible.

South Kingstown Land Trust is proud to announce the *Great Outdoors Celebration and Auction* is back for 2021 in its original fun-filled form. The beloved live auction returns with comedian Poppy Champlin on the mic, putting the crowd in stitches as she auctions off unique items and fun experiences. This year, you'll have the chance to win a weekend getaway at Point Break Cottages, a quahogging tour and seaside lunch, a kayaking adventure for four, and much more. A full list of the live and silent auction items will be posted to the website at sklt.org and be updated through July.

Live music will be in the air as you sample the diverse array of delicious hors d'oeuvres and stop by the bar for a wine, beer, or cocktail served with close attention to COVID protocols.

Although we had a blast at the COVID-safe drive-thru event last summer, the SKLT staff is super excited to truly gather our community together again this year to celebrate the enchanting open spaces of South Kingstown during a time when we've never appreciated them more.

The *Great Outdoors Celebration* is SKLT's flagship fundraising event and directly supports the ongoing protection and stewardship of the nearly 3,000 acres of open space in our care. With your help, the Land Trust's tireless efforts to protect open space and cultural landscapes, maintain 14 miles of trails, and restore wildlife habitat will continue to succeed.

Tickets and sponsorships are available at sklt.org



MILESTONES

With vaccinations in our arms the South Kingstown Land Trust is delighted to keep our masks in our pockets and welcome summer 2021. Programs, parties, and property management projects are all scheduled and poised to expand or contract as COVID dictates. Please review the list of volunteer opportunities and sign up to come “play” with us.

Due to CDC restrictions in April, we limited attendance at the ribbon cutting ceremony to campaign donors and the contractors, but, please, I encourage everyone to come and visit The Woodcock Campus at Weeden Farm. It is beyond exciting to have our staff, equipment, and event space in a single location. The view over the fields from the office is truly the picture worth a thousand words when it comes to explaining our mission.

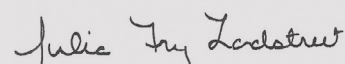
If you follow our social media posts, you know Tyler and Matt hit the ground running. We are delighted to host Lucianna for the summer and experience first-hand the talented students from URI. So great to work with such a wonderful team.

August 29, 3:00 PM will be our Annual Meeting. We are currently planning on in-person at the Barn. Pete August will share his tireless enthusiasm and discuss climate resiliency. We have said our good-byes and expressed our gratitude to board members Jeanine Silversmith and Caroline Wilkel. Charlie Kelley has been proposed and his board service will be up for member confirmation at the annual meeting.

On a related topic, Martha Day has stepped down and Linda Green has been voted on as our Board Chairperson. Words cannot express the commitment and drive embodied in these women. Such a gift to have so much wonderful community leadership and support.

Thank you for your generous support of our mission.

In gratitude,



Julia Fry Landstreet
Executive Director



SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST

Officers

Chairperson: Linda T. Green
Vice Chairperson: Susan S. Lovejoy
Secretary: Anne B. Richardson
Treasurer: James Farrell

Directors

Jessica Bradley
Heather Mae Breau
Clarkson Collins
Martha Day
Ellen Grebstein
Charles Kelley
Kevin McCloskey
Timothy Philbrick
Elise Torello
Ted Watson

Directors Emeriti

Charles Lewis, Director Emeritus
Sophie Page Lewis, Director Emerita
Michael Sherry, Director Emeritus

Staff

Julia Fry Landstreet
Executive Director

Tyler Maikath
Land Management Director

Joanne Riccitelli
Land Protection Director

Michael Bontecou
Land Operations Coordinator

Matt Eldridge
Marketing & Development Coordinator

Address

17 Matunuck Beach Road
South Kingstown, RI 02879
401-789-0962

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
and by appointment

Website: sklt.org

Email: info@sklt.org

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.



SKLT Preserves the Stories of the Land

SKLT strives to connect the community to the land in our care. At Browning Woods, access has been created with a beautiful trail system meandering through the woods. Last year, the South County Garden Club generously provided funding for us to work with local botanist Elizabeth Dickson to conduct a plant inventory. She worked with board member Ellen Grebstein to create and place informative plant identification signage along the trail.

If you've hiked the Browning Woods Trail, you've likely walked past the foundations and beautiful stone walls that are the remaining remnants of when the Browning family held this land and built Woods Farm over nine generations starting in the mid-1600's. Our files contain a portion of a fascinating family journal passed down through the generations describing to the best of family lore the buildings, gardens, and orchards that once made up the thriving New England farm.

A portion of the journal reads, "The house which was built by Samuel Browning...stood on the right of Shannock Road and about a half mile from it. It was a large gambrel roofed old-fashioned one-story house framed of hewed white oak and clapboarded with the long clapboards now seldom seen. The windows had four rows of six by eight panes of glass. ...The smokehouse was southeast of the house in the dooryard under a white sweeting tree. ... The barn was northwest of the house. It was built of heavy white oak timber. ... There were about four acres of orchards... Various kinds of apples...also butternuts and walnuts, grew in these orchards. ... A large, cultivated cherry tree grew north of the barn. ... Two small gardens were north of the house. On the north side of the east garden grew old-fashioned red roses. ... Cranberries grew in the bogs which extended across the entire width of the farm."

Thanks to two different scouts on their path to Eagle, two remaining foundations have been cleared and are prepped for the next phase of stewardship.

We continually seek information about the properties in our care, their history, geology, flora, fauna et al. A new form has been added to our website at sklt.org/supportsklt/trail-observations-form. Please take the time to visit and log what you see when you visit a trail. If you have information or treasured remembrances about a property now in our care, we would love to hear them and add them to our files for future generations.



SKLT Protects Farmland on Queen River

SKLT is happy to report that we have closed on 9.5 acres of farmland on Glen Rock Road in West Kingston, preserved by landowners Barbara Hendrick and John Hendrick Jr. The landowners retain ownership of the land and will continue to grow hay there, but the development of the land is forever limited to one house, by a conservation easement. The newly conserved land contains an active hayfield, an oak forest along the Glen Rock Reservoir portion of the Queen river, a shallow wetland near the road, and prime and statewide important farmland soils. The Queen river has been designated a National Scenic River.

Landowner Barbara Hendrick said: "This land has been in my family for 60 years and I am overjoyed that it will be preserved for my lifetime and the lifetime of my children and grandchildren. Preserving this land, and the many creatures that reside here, is something I am proud of and I'm grateful to the SKLT."

SKLT received funding for the project from the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the RI Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission (ALPC). This project is another example of the great partnership that SKLT enjoys protecting farmland with these agencies. The landowners contributed the remainder in a bargain sale.

"DEM is pleased to support the conservation of the Hendrick property," said RI Department of Environmental Management Director Janet Coit. "This important project has it all – prime farmland soils, frontage on the pristine Queens River, and located in an important conservation corridor. Fantastic!"

– Joanne Riccitelli, Land Protection Director

Introducing SKLT's Summer Intern... Lucianna Faraone Coccia



My name is Lucianna Faraone Coccia and I am a graduate student at URI in the Master of Environmental Science and Management program. I am focusing my studies on wetlands, watersheds, and ecosystem science. I come from a creative background and as an artist I use trash I find in public spaces to create what I call "green art." Though this has been a wonderful and fulfilling way for me to advocate for the environment, I am very excited to be expanding my love of nature into the world of land conservation. I have lived in cities for the last several years, and recently moved back to Rhode Island. I am so grateful for the open spaces here and for places like South Kingstown Land Trust who work to protect them. I am looking forward to the opportunity to learn and grow at the land trust, and to participate in stewarding the land here in Rhode Island.

– Lucianna Faraone Coccia, Intern



Work in Progress: Yawgoo Pond Trail & Biscuit City

Yawgoo Pond Preserve is a beautiful 100-acre conservation area in West Kingston. Featuring a diversity of upland and wetland habitats as well as the Chickasheen and Mud Brooks, its nearly 2-mi. long trail system offers a wilderness experience though located just a short distance from South County Trail. Like all our trails, we know that it has been a welcoming sanctuary during the pandemic. Unfortunately, we have had to temporarily close the trail while in negotiation with our neighbor, as a portion of the trail crosses their property. We greatly look forward to reopening the trail as soon as possible.

Please check our website (sklt.org) for updates.

In other, happier news, SKLT has continued its partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to restore riparian buffer plant communities at Biscuit City Preserve. During the month of May, SKLT's land management staff and volunteers have been planting at Biscuit City Preserve. With local plants from Morningstar Nursery and Blue Moon Farm Perennials, we planted cranberry viburnum, silky dogwood, sweetshrub, blue flag iris, black chokeberry, and more. These plants add diversity to the existing plant community, stabilize the soils along the pond and stream bank, and are of wildlife and pollinator interest. Thank you to our volunteers for their hard work, and to NRCS for their funding and technical assistance!

– Tyler Maikath, Land Management Director

Hale House 2021

After closing the Hale House last season for the safety of our visitors and docents, the Matunuck Preservation Society is delighted to announce that they will be re-opening for the 2021 season! Built as a guest house on Weeden Farm, the Hale House was a summer refuge for the Edward Everett Hale family who enjoyed hiking, canoeing, tennis, baseball, and swimming in Matunuck. This year's exhibit will include highlights from photographs taken in 1902 of the Hale and Weeden families summering in Matunuck. While there are many written accounts in diaries and letters of the two families enjoying these pastimes, this is the only extensive visual record known to exist.

Hale House visitations are by appointment only and begin at the start of summer. To book a visit, please call 401-830-4677



Annual Members' Meeting



**Sunday, August 29
3 - 5 p.m.**

Calling all members!

You're invited to South Kingstown Land Trust's 2021 Annual Members' Meeting to celebrate the outstanding progress of the organization in the past year and recognize the many volunteer contributions.

Pete August, Professor Emeritus of the URI Department of Natural Resources Science and Chair of the Napatree Science Advisors, will be giving a fascinating talk on the importance of climate resilience and how it relates to conservation work in South Kingstown.

Celebrate R.I. Land Trust Council's "Land Trust Days" with SKLT

Guided Bird Walk at Great Swamp

Thursday, September 16 – 9 - 11 a.m.

Join a special edition of SKLT's Third Thursday Guided Hikes at Great Swamp Management Area in partnership with the R.I. D.E.M. We'll tour through the diverse habitats of Great Swamp with an eye out for unique migratory bird species returning south for the winter. This fun walk will also highlight the plants, trees, and conditions that create thriving wild-life habitat.



Harvest Full Moon Hike at Weeden Farm

Monday, September 20 – 7 - 9 p.m.

In the days before tractor lights, the full Harvest Moon in September helped farmers to gather their crops despite the diminishing daylight hours. We'll use the beautiful glow of September's Harvest Moon to illuminate the trails beside Weeden Farm's thriving agricultural fields on a special guided hike at twilight. We'll discuss the history of Weeden Farm, listen for owls and other nocturnal wildlife, and more.



Can you find the *RIWalks Challenge* hay scented fern sculpture on the Alewife Brook Trail?

South Kingstown Land Trust has joined the RI Land Trust Council's *RIWalks Challenge* by installing one of the 30 nature-inspired steel sculptures on the Alewife Brook Trail.

The initiative encourages kids and families to get outside, visit RI land trusts, and complete a scavenger hunt to find as many sculptures as possible. The cute steel creatures were designed by an artist from the Steel Yard in Providence.

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

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 _____

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 _____

OTHER SUPPORT

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

Please make checks payable to: South Kingstown Land Trust, 17 Matunuck Beach Road, South Kingstown, RI 02879

Volunteer with South Kingstown Land Trust

SKLT needs your help!

Weekly Thursday morning workdays (9 - 11 a.m.): Invasive plant removal, trail work, wildlife habitat enhancement, etc. Register in advance to receive location and details. info@sklt.org.

SKLT Trail Ambassador: Greet trail visitors, give them maps, answer basic questions, invite them to become members, and refer them to staff by giving them a business card when there is more they want to know.

Litter Patrol: Clean up trash at assigned SKLT properties once a month throughout the year.

Boundary Marking & Monitoring: Work with staff to identify and mark property boundaries. (Skills required)

Ecologist: Conduct inventories of plants and habitats. (Skills required)

Office: Greeting visitors during office hours (Monday - Thursday, 9am - 4pm). Scanning/archiving land protection materials. Prep and labeling for bulk mailings, invitations and newsletters.

Event and Program: Event and program staffing including check-in, general hosting duties, parking

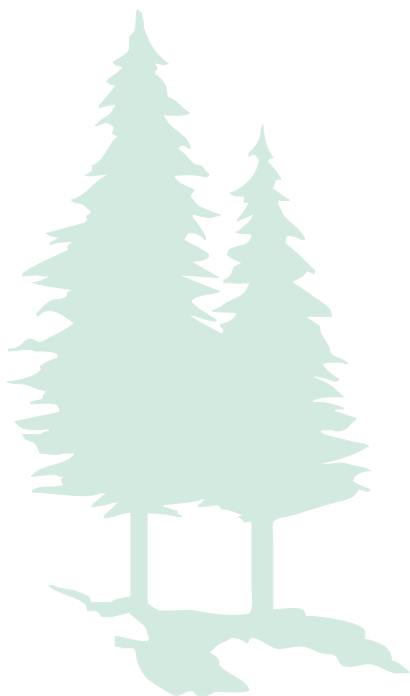
To volunteer, fill out the Volunteer Sign Up Form at sklt.org/supportsklt/volunteer-opportunities





SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST
17 MATUNUCK BEACH ROAD
SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI 02879

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Join Us at an Upcoming Program or Event

Please register for all programs and events in advance at sklt.org/events-calendar

July 15	9 – 11 a.m.	Guided Hike, Crawley Preserve Trail
August 8	4 - 6:30 p.m.	<i>Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction</i> , Weeden Farm
August 19	9 - 11 a.m.	Guided Hike, Browning Woods Trail
August 29	3 - 5 p.m.	Annual Meeting, The Barn at Weeden Farm
September 16	9 - 11 a.m.	Guided Bird Walk, Great Swamp Management Area
September 17	4 - 6 p.m.	EverGreen Members Event
September 20	7 - 9 p.m.	Harvest Full Moon Hike, Weeden Farm

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Land Trust



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Not on the SKLT email list?
Contact Matt at matt.eldridge@sklt.org