



Site Lines

Summer 2022  *Open Space Makes All the Difference*



Explore SKLT's 14+ Miles of Trails this Summer

Summer is a great time to enjoy a trail walk!

SKLT's trails traverse diverse terrain, soils, ecosystems, and landscapes offering opportunities for hiking, botanizing, watching wildlife, nature journaling, photography, plein air painting, dog walking, and meditation in an unspoiled natural setting.

Mountain laurels will be the first to wake from their slumber and then rosebay rhododendrons burst into bloom. Yellow warblers are already flitting through the trees and ovenbirds stalk the understory.

Browning Woods Trail is a 3-mile trail that traces a "lollipop" through 259 acres of pine-oak woods, forested wetlands, and the ruins of the historic Browning Farm. SKLT manages approximately ten acres for early successional habitat on the northern edge of the property where briers, raspberries and cherries produce nutritious fruits for wildlife.

The DuVal Trail system offers a cardiovascular workout over its 4.5 mile of trails connecting 274 acres of hilly and sandy glacial moraine. Huckleberry, pitch pine, laurels and oaks thrive on its ridges and hollows. Its highest point is over 240 feet above sea level just south of Sand Plains Trail.

One of our newest trails is at Alewife Brook Preserve on Wordens Pond Road. The 1.1-mile trail system skirts the edge of the forested swamp along the Alewife Brook, an unspoiled natural watershed. If you listen carefully, you may hear singing hooded warblers and be lucky to catch the sight of one!

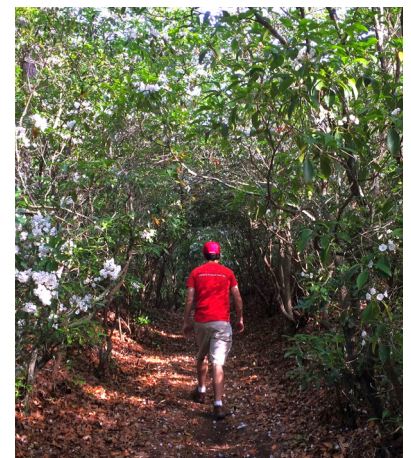
Finally, explore family friendly Tefft Historical Park Trail, accessible from stairs next to the William C. O'Neill (South County) Bike Path in between Ministerial and South Roads. This beautiful 30-acre property boasts deep history with two historic cemeteries, hilly terrain, and trail improvements recently completed by Eagle Scouts.

URI's Tick Encounter Resource Center, uri.edu/tickencounter, provides great just-in-time information if you find yourself wondering how to avoid picking up any hitch hiking ticks on your walk.

Visit our website to download trail maps, get directions to trailheads, or sign up for a Second Friday Guided Hike at sklt.org.

Let us know what you see when you visit SKLT's trails by submitting a trail observation form at sklt.org/land-we-protect/trail-observations-form.

Happy hiking!



MILESTONES

“My oh my, what a day for a picnic?” This quote was printed on my child’s cereal bowl with a scene from the classic children’s book The Wind in the Willows. The summers of my youth saw me outside exploring, digging, riding, swimming or curled up in a dark corner of a steamy house escaping into the pages of a good book. In the summer more than any other season, the bounty of nature is narrated in my head by adventures, magical creatures, farm fields, and fragrant woods found in books.

Board member, Ted Watson, has installed The Birdwatchers on the Thewlis Woods Story Walk. Bring a child or go by yourself and you will enjoy birdwatching in a whole new way. We are eagerly awaiting the hatching of the osprey at Weeden Farm – there are many around town, what a great conservation success story.

We have highlighted SKLT tenant farmers on a later page. I encourage everyone to take advantage of all the incredible produce local farmers make available to us. We’re disappointed there’s no funding in next year’s state budget for farmland protection. Hopefully it will be included in future bonds.

The RI Land Trust Council plays an active role in educating our legislators on the benefits of protected land, if you are interested in learning more, the Council’s 19th Annual Land and Water

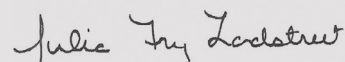
Summit will be held from July 14th to July 16th at the URI Memorial Union and sites in South County. Open to the public and professionals alike, it is an amazing information resource, and it is not too late to sign up at landandwaterpartnership.org

The staff and board are delighted to be planning an in person *Great Outdoors Celebration and Auction*. This event is always a treat, and Poppy’s comedic talents have taken the Auction to a new level of hilarity. Every year we sell out, so please get your sponsorship and/or tickets soon.

Last, but hardly least, help me welcome our new staff members Kevin Nelson and David LaRocque. While new to the staff both are familiar faces to many. Their experience and talents were put to work right away – and just in time.

SKLT is lucky to work in a community that highly values well-stewarded protected open space. Grab a good book, head out to a trail, enjoy locally grown food, and know how much we all appreciate protected open space.

In gratitude,



Julia Fry Landstreet
Executive Director



SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST

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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 natural resources, open spaces, and cultural landscapes for the benefit of the community, now and forever.



The Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction 2022

The *Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction* on Sunday, August 7th invites you to re-ignite the magical feeling engendered by acres of rolling farm fields, darting sparrows, and cool ocean breezes surrounded by family, friends, and neighbors with cocktails in hand.

Local comedian Poppy Champlin is returning to serve as auctioneer for the live auction. Her comedic talents will keep the crowd in stitches with her hilarious style of improv meets auctioneering for each of the unique items and fun experiences.

This year, you'll have the chance to win a cocktail party for 20 catered by Tom's Market, a kayaking adventure for four, a sunset cruise on Worden's Pond and much more. A full list of the live and silent auction items will be posted to the website at sklt.org in July.

Live music will be in the air as you bid on Silent Auction items, sample an array of delicious hors d'oeuvres and stop by the bar for a wine, beer, or cocktail.



The great outdoors is always worth celebrating. But this year, the SKLT community has even more to celebrate. Since we gathered last August, the Land Trust has protected over 100 additional acres of open space, blazed a new trail, restored crucial wildlife habitat, and much more.

These accomplishments and the positive momentum created for the community are all thanks to you, our devoted supporters.

Stay tuned for invitations by mail. Sponsorships are available at sklt.org.

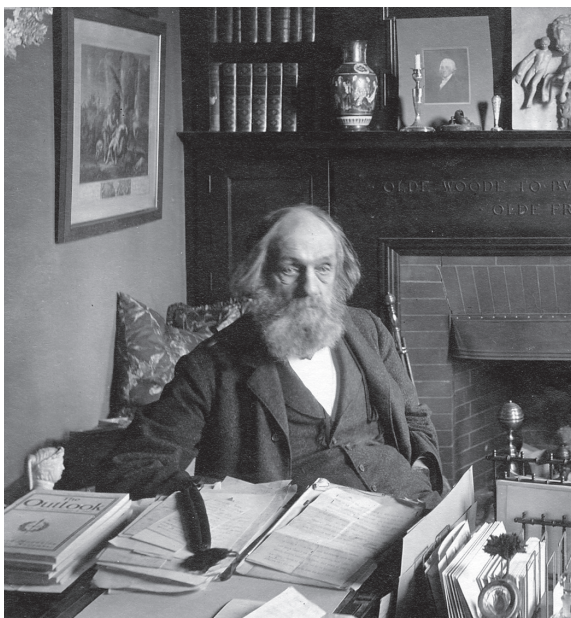


Hale House Tours & Events Return this Summer

South Kingstown Land Trust would like to wish a happy 200th birthday to Edward Everett Hale, who was born on April 3, 1822 and died on June 10, 1909. Hale was a famous American author, historian, and Unitarian minister. SKLT is proud to own and preserve the Hale Family's summertime home, now known as the Hale House. Built in 1873, it served as the family gathering place for decades and became the center of a vibrant summer colony.

The Hale House opens on June 16th for the 2022 season! Visitors can book a guided tour by advance reservation on select Fridays and Saturdays through August. Call 401-830-4677 to make a reservation. There is no charge, but a \$5 per person suggested donation to help offset the costs of providing tours.

The Hale House's summer programs begin with an Open House on June 16th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Neighbor and SKLT Board Director Elise Torello has become well known for her wonderful wildlife camera trapping captures around Matunuck. She will share a video presentation, *Matunuck Hills Safari!*, featuring the diverse animal populations in our backyards. You are sure to be surprised at the variety of animals the cameras have found. Check out the videos on her YouTube channel at "Elise Torello".



Edward Everett Hale in the Hale House library ca. 1890s

The theme for the summer Saturday series is "South County Crafts" and the following programs will be held at the Hale House on Saturdays from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- July 23: **Hand-Hewn Whales & Mermaids**
by Kevin McCloskey
- August 6: **Looms & Weaving**
by the Rhode Island Weaving Center
- August 20: **Chair Caning**
by Liz Hellewell

Stay tuned for more information on the Hale House Facebook page and new website, halehouser.org.

Special thanks to the Matunuck Preservation Society for all their hard work managing and programming the Hale House.



Kevin Nelson joined SKLT with robust knowledge of our land protection efforts due to his 32 years as a Planner for the R.I. Department of Administration's Division of Statewide Planning.

He served as a Supervising Planner for 12 years, assisting municipalities in the development of local comprehensive plans and overseeing reviews of various projects and grants for consistency with State and local plans.

Over the course of his career, many of his duties have been connected to environmental issues. These include serving on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Natural Heritage Preservation, the R.I. Resource Conservation & Development Council's Environment and Water Quality Committee, the R.I. Rivers Council, the R.I. Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission, the R.I. Trails Advisory Committee, and the R.I. Recreational Resources Review Committee. He also served as a technical advisor to the State Conservation Committee and as staff to the R.I. Greenways Council.

Kevin was a member of the Galilee Salt Marsh Restoration Team for which he received a Certificate of Appreciation from Coastal America. In addition to his professional experience, Kevin has served as a Vice-President for both the R.I. Wild Plant Society and the Environment Council of R.I.

Kevin is excited get to know the SKLT family. Your emails are welcomed at kevin.nelson@sklt.org.

Community Informs SKLT's New Strategic Plan with Survey

As the Land Trust embarks on its new strategic plan for 2022 and beyond, the best way to serve you and the entire community was to find out what you think!

A short survey was launched through the SKLT e-mail newsletter, social media channels, website, and trailhead posters. We received hundreds of thoughtful responses which will directly inform the new strategic plan from board decisions to everyday operations.

Survey highlights include:

- 98% found land conservation and public access to be very important or extremely important
- 77% found protecting open space, wildlife habitat, and drinking water to be extremely important
- SKLT events found most interesting were Lectures (76%), Open Houses (61%), the Great Outdoors Celebration (59%), and Guided Hikes (57%) but 72% indicated time/other commitments as barriers

Explore Your Local Trails this Summer on a Guided Hike

Guided Hike at Browning Woods Trail

Friday, July 8th (9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)

Explore thriving habitat on a 2.5 mile hike that travels by the historical stone walls and foundations of Browning Woods Farm. You'll be sure to hear raucous birdsong, find some wildlife tracks, and learn more about the landscape of this 259-acre property.



Guided Hike at Tefft Historical Park Trail

Friday, August 12th (9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)

Join the first Guided Hike at SKLT's newest trail tucked in between the South County Bike Path and the Tefft Hill neighborhoods. The meandering 1.1-mile trail passes by cemeteries and foundations from the historic Tefft Farm in a now peaceful wooded setting.



Harvest Full Moon Hike at Weeden Farm

Friday, September 9th (9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)

Take a walk under the glow of September's Harvest Moon on the trails beside Weeden Farm's thriving agricultural fields. You'll learn the history of Weeden Farm, listen for owls and other nocturnal wildlife, and enjoy s'mores by the campfire.



Annual Members' Meeting



Sunday, September 11th (3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Calling all members! Flock to the Barn to celebrate SKLT's progress and recognize outstanding volunteer contributions.

Jon Dodd, marine biologist and executive director of the Atlantic Shark Institute, will be giving an exciting talk on his recent shark research using cameras, acoustic receivers, and tags.



The Grind Never Stops

The tender loving care from volunteers and staff continues at the **Samuel Perry Grist Mill** on Moonstone Beach Road in Matunuck.

Thanks to volunteers Rob Lyons, Rick Guilbert, and Jeff Burns, two new bridges have been built and installed across the sluice channel to allow for easier access and maintenance of the sluice which is crucial to the mill's operation.

Stay tuned for an announcement about a Grinding Day this summer!

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

SKLT Maintains Active Agriculture with Farmland Leases

Support your community's farmers by buying fresh, locally grown produce, flowers, and more from Farmer's Markets and select grocery stores.

SKLT Farm Tenants:

Back Rhode Flower Farm
Carpenter's Farm
Chris & Kristina's Market Garden
Ed Duffin
Michael Gross
Bob Knowles
Luckyfoot Farm
Marigold Rhode
Matunuck Oyster Bar
Taylor Olson
Poblano Farm
Twinflower Apiary
George & Karen Whaley

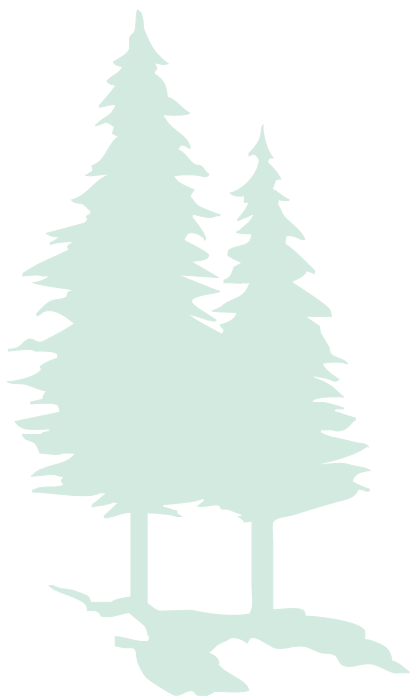


Carpenter's Farm baling straw on one of their leased fields at Weeden Farm.



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/event-tickets

| | | |
|------------|---------------|---|
| June 25 | 9 - 11 a.m. | 7 Rivers Festival Guided Hike, <i>Alewife Brook Trail</i> |
| July 8 | 9 - 11 a.m. | Guided Hike, <i>Browning Woods Trail</i> |
| July 14-16 | Varies | Land & Water Conservation Summit, <i>URI</i> |
| Aug 7 | 4 - 6:30 p.m. | Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction, <i>The Barn</i> |
| Aug 12 | 9 - 11 a.m. | Guided Hike, <i>Tefft Historical Park Trail</i> |
| Sept 9 | 6 - 8 p.m. | Full Moon Hike, <i>Weeden Farm Trail</i> |
| Sept 11 | 6 p.m. | Annual Meeting, <i>The Barn</i> |
| Sept 14-17 | Varies | Land Trust Alliance Rally, <i>New Orleans, LA</i> |
| Oct 14 | 9 - 11 a.m. | Guided Hike, <i>DuVal Trail</i> |

FOLLOW US ON:



Not on the SKLT email list?
Contact us at info@sklt.org