



Site Lines

Fall 2022  Open Space Makes All the Difference



Damsels & Dragons: Research Measures Habitat Health

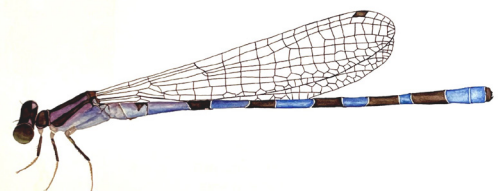
Dragonflies and damselflies are harbingers of summer – they are brilliantly colored aerial acrobats, seen flying over fields, roads, water, almost everywhere. They are feeding and mating and, in late summer, some are migrating.

Dragonflies and damselflies, aka odonates (Class Insecta: Order Odonata), have humble beginnings as eggs and then underwater larvae, where they spend most of their lives. The larvae are drab, lacking the bright colors of their adult counterparts and are voracious predators of other aquatic animals. The amount of time spent as nymphs can vary, but generally it is a one-year cycle. When the time comes, the nymph crawls out of the water, and clings to a suitable support. The teneral adult is soft and cannot fly. It will pump body fluids through its body and wings and harden slightly before taking its maiden flight to the upland. Both the aquatic and upland habitat are equally important for the complete life cycle of an odonate.

Until recently, there was little information about odonates in RI. This lack of information was significant because odonate abundance and diversity can be used to measure the health of a wetland. This led to the beginning of the RI Odonata Atlas (RIOA) started in 1998, continuing until 2004. During that study, more than 1,100 locations were sampled, ultimately documenting 139 different species, each ranked from “ubiquitous” to “restricted.” This past summer we began a two-year follow-up study, the RI Rare Odonate Species Surveys funded by RIDEM. The purpose of this project is to update old records, and to address conservation issues, especially for those species deemed rare based on their distribution and abundance rank. Species that were targeted include those found in coastal plain ponds, rivers, streams, bogs, and marshes.

The Matunuck Hills in South Kingstown is home to many coastal plain ponds, some of which are on SKLT property. We appreciate the opportunity, granted by SKLT, to survey these ponds for rare odonates in 2023. When we start surveying again next spring, we will be looking for three Northeast endemic damselflies, the scarlet bluet, pine barrens bluet, and little bluet. Three dragonflies, the spatterdock darner, comet darner, and common sanddragon, may also be present. Keep your fingers crossed!

by Nina Briggs, Field Scientist & Illustrator of *Dragonflies & Damselflies of RI*



Top to bottom: Common Sanddragon (dragonfly), Comet Darner (dragonfly), and Little Bluet (damselfly) illustrations by Nina Briggs

MILESTONES

A “best” thing about working with a land trust is the changing of the seasons. The ospreys have long since departed, migratory flocks are passing over the fields at Weeden, the goldenrod are alive with bees, and leaves are beginning to change color.

Summer of 2022 was dry and sweaty, but the Great Outdoors Celebration and Auction was cooled by a stiff breeze off the water and filled with hilarity and good cheer provided by auctioneer Poppy Champlin and our many generous supporters who savored the yummy food and drinks and bid on the many fabulous, donated items and experiences. We all enjoyed an opportunity to celebrate the countless contributions Michael Bontecou (and Dot) made to SKLT, come visit the plaque on the wall of the tractor shed!

Tyler Maikath submitted his letter of resignation in order to work with MA DEM. After a summer of mowing, I know he will enjoy working from home. Best of luck in his new endeavor, we look forward to seeing him at member events.

Board member Ralph Riccio has picked up the reins on the weekly volunteer workdays. We are moving them to Tuesday mornings. Combining a time for coffee and fellowship and time to do the critical fieldwork needed. If interested, reach out to me or Matt Eldridge and we will add you the weekly e-blast.

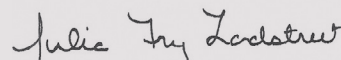
If you find something awry on a trail or property, we appreciate you letting us know. This summer we were alerted to an abandoned sofa in a parking lot (annoying,) and we always want to know if something has fallen on a trail. You can fill out the report on our website or contact one of us in the office.

Fall 2022 brings the return of Potluck suppers before our speakers. Two great speakers are lined up and I hope you are able to make a reservation and attend. Programs are free for members, the suggested \$10 gift for non-members can be put towards the cost of a membership.

Behind the scenes staff and board are hard at work on the updated Strategic Plan. Special thanks to members, supporters, volunteers, and landowners who completed the survey, your input and feedback helps us better serve our community.

Enjoy the beauty you have helped to protect!
Happy Fall.

In gratitude,



Julia Fry Landstreet
Executive Director



SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST

Board of Directors

Linda T. Green, *Chair*
Ellen Grebstein, *Vice Chair*
Anne B. Richardson, *Secretary*
James Farrell, *Treasurer*
Heather Mae Breau
Clarkson Collins
Arthur Gold
Katherine Long
Susan Seyfarth Lovejoy
Kevin McCloskey
Timothy Philbrick
Ralph Riccio
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

Kevin Nelson
Land Protection Director

Matt Eldridge
*Marketing & Development
Coordinator*

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



Annual Members' Meeting Recap

2021 was another banner year for the South Kingstown Land Trust, thanks to the many people who contributed generously of their time, talent, and treasure. It seems a bit odd to recap a year nine months later, but it's a fun reminder of everything the staff, board, and membership were able to accomplish.

Everyone enjoyed a chance to gather, socialize, and make new friends before Linda Green, Board President, called the meeting to order. Anne Richardson, Board Secretary, shared the minutes from last year in advance and they were accepted by those present. Susan Seyfarth Lovejoy, Chair of the Nominating Committee, thanked outgoing Board members Jessica Bradley and Charles Kelly for their invaluable service and proposed nominees Arthur Gold and Ralph Riccio who were voted on and welcomed with great enthusiasm.

Jim Farrell presented a synopsis of the FY 2021 Financials. SKLT continued its practice of sound fiscal management and successful fundraising. Katharine Estes, CPA, was present at the Annual Meeting. After more than 20 years Katharine is stepping back from preparing SKLT's 990 and conducting our Audit. Her rigorous analysis has contributed to the organization's financial health and stringent practices. Thank you, Katharine, for your exacting standards, meticulous attention to detail, great sense of humor, and passion for protected land.

Julia Landstreet, Executive Director, shared images and facts from the year. Some of the highlights are outlined here. This presentation concluded with the announcement of a new Volunteer of the Year Award. Steve O'Brien was the unanimous pick from current and former staff. Just this August Steve helped with the thankless job of facilitating parking for the Auction, and through the years he has been an integral part of the stonewall restoration project, countless hours of monitoring, and a willingness to be a strong back and cheerful face for numerous other sweaty tasks.

The business portion of the meeting was followed by a fabulous presentation by SKLT member and neighbor Jon Dodd. Jon, Executive Director of the Atlantic Shark Institute, presented on their conservation work to study and protect the sharks found in our waters. He shared details of the various research practices, partners and equipment the group is using. The Institute is working collaboratively with scientists and citizens to study and protect this critical apex species.



Jon Dodd with an acoustic receiver that monitors tagged sharks

2021 Highlights

- ☑ **Ribbon Cutting & Completion of Woodcock Campus**
- ☑ **Retirement of Joanne Riccitelli & Michael Bontecou**
- ☑ **Land Protection Projects Completed:**
 - Conservation Easements**
 - + 9.5 acres of farmland in Kingston
 - + 4 acres of woodland in Kingston
 - + 63 acres comprising Potter Wood in Kingston
 - + 5.14 acres of woodland/riparian buffer in Matunuck Hills
 - + 24.66 acres of farmland in Curtis Corner
 - Fee Ownership**
 - + .92 acres in Green Hill
 - + 13.85 acres of woodland/riparian buffer in Kingston
- ☑ **Events & Programs: 12**
- ☑ **Major Work Days: 5**
- ☑ **Guided Hikes: 9**
- ☑ **Trail Maintenance Volunteer Hours: 400**
- ☑ **Eagle Scout Projects: 8**

Welcome Art & Ralph to the SKLT Board of Directors



Arthur "Art" Gold – Art Gold is a watershed hydrologist with a research focus on water quality and river flow regimes. His work combines field and lab analyses with geographic information systems (GIS) to extend insights from individual sites to the watershed scale.

He serves as major professor and supervises students in URI's Master of Environmental Science and Management program. Along with his students and colleagues, he has published more than 130 refereed journal articles. In addition to creating the URI Coastal Fellows program, his teaching responsibilities include an undergraduate course in Watershed Hydrology and a graduate course in Ecohydrology.

His international work includes a five-year appointment as a senior advisor on watershed research for the United Nations. Among his national activities is his appointment to the Environmental Modeling subcommittee of EPA's Science Advisory Board.

Art is married to Marion Gold. They have resided in RI for almost 40 years and raised two sons. He is an aspiring naturalist and enjoys hiking, canoeing, and paddle boarding. His favorite hike in RI is Ell Pond, including the Long Pond overlook, and his favorite hike in SK is Yawgoo Pond.



Ralph Riccio – Ralph was born and raised in Cranston, Rhode Island. He is happily married to Maggie for 45 years. Together they have two adult children and three grandchildren. They bought a home in South Kingstown in 1997 and permanently moved to Matunuck in 2005.

Ralph's background includes 14 years in Hospitality management, 20 years in the Fire service retiring as a Rescue Captain, owner of several rental properties, proprietor of a successful small business, and is now retired from full time employment and is currently working as a per diem Traffic Constable for South Kingstown.

Past and presently, Ralph has volunteered as past President for the Rhode Island Hospitality Association, past Treasurer for the Cranston Permanent Firefighters Relief Association, past President for the Matunuck Community Association, and presently serves on the MCA's board.

Ralph's hobbies include gardening, hiking, fishing, hunting, and wine making.

Perry Grist Mill Earns Prestigious Historic Preservation Award

The Samuel E. Perry Grist Mill will receive the Community Impact Award at Preserve RI's Rhody Awards for Historic Preservation on October 23rd, 2022.

"The Land Trust ... honors the Mill's past while continuing its remarkable ability to bring community together," said Preserve RI in an announcement of the award winners. "This rare survivor of a bygone agricultural era attracted supporters from all over the community. Volunteers provided labor and contributed materials to restore the mill building and water course, making the historic grist mill functional once again."

Learn more and get ceremony tickets at preserveri.org.





Preserving South Kingstown's 250+ Cemeteries and Burial Grounds

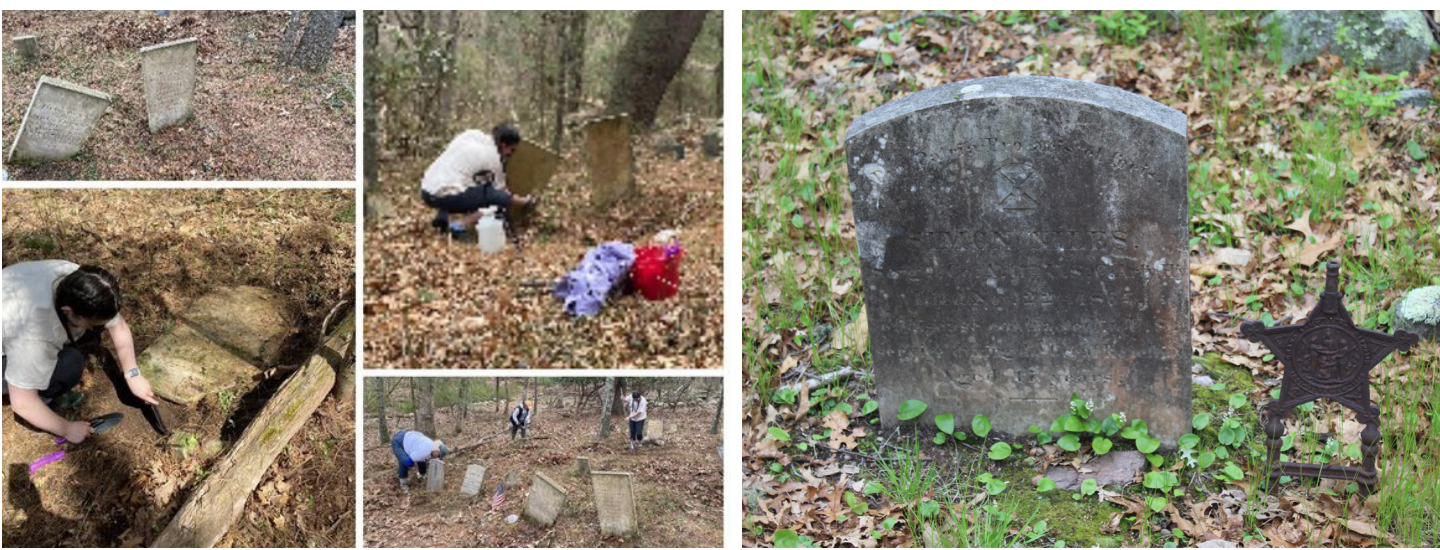
As I drive down the back roads of Rhode Island, from the corner of my eye, I glimpse a white historical cemetery sign peeking through the trees. My car comes to an immediate stop, I grab my dog, jump out of the car, climb over the rock wall, and push through the overgrown brush all so that I can take a minute or twenty to quietly survey the grounds and ask myself, "Who were these people? What stories would they tell of their lives, their families, their hopes, and their dreams?"

South Kingstown's 250+ cemeteries and burial grounds are among the most valuable of the town's archaeological and historic resources. They are evidence of settlement patterns, burial practices, cultural and religious influences, economic development, social relationships, and genealogy. Each one invites us to travel back in time to meet some of the brave souls who experienced triumph and tragedy while carving out a life in southern Rhode Island. And in many cases, are the only reminder of the famous and not-so-famous people that called South Kingstown home.

Unfortunately, South Kingstown's burial grounds and cemeteries are one of the town's most fragile resources. Today nearly 50 of the town's cemeteries are considered "lost", among them are the final resting places of war heroes, founding families and local legends. However, with the help of organizations like the South Kingstown Land Trust and other local historical organizations, there is still time to increase awareness and highlight the importance of historic cemeteries as sources of South Kingstown pride.

by Debbie Suggs, Washington County Member of the Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission

Join Debbie at the Barn on Tuesday, October 25th at 6 p.m. for "Lives Less Ordinary," a lecture about the history of the unique individuals interred on SKLT properties and their impact on the nation's history.



Volunteers from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) restoring Tefft Historical Park Cemetery in Spring 2022.

The headstone of Simon Niles, sgt. in the 11th U.S. Colored Infantry, buried in 1865 near today's Tefft Historical Park Trail.

Upcoming Lectures: Potlucks are Back!



“Lives Less Ordinary” Historical Cemeteries Talk with Debbie Suggs
Tuesday, October 25th (6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) Potluck at 6 p.m.

In addition to natural resources and open spaces, SKLT preserves cultural landscapes, including historical cemeteries dating back to the late 17th century. Join Debbie Suggs as she talks about many of the unique individuals interred on Land Trust properties and their impact on South Kingstown, Rhode Island and the nation’s history.



Rehab & Release: Saving Injured Wildlife with Kristin Fletcher
Monday, November 7th (6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) Potluck at 6 p.m.

Have you ever found an injured or orphaned wild animal and weren’t sure what to do?

Learn firsthand from the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island’s Executive Director Kristin Fletcher, who will explain how to work with the Clinic’s staff to assess different situations and help save wildlife.

Upcoming Guided Hikes

Guided Hike at Browning Woods Trail

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

Frolic through fallen leaves on a 2.5-mile hike that travels through a thriving wetland before ascending to wooded uplands where you can view the historic stone walls and foundations that make up the remains of the Browning Woods Farm homestead.



Guided Hike at Crawley Preserve Trail

Friday, December 9th (9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

Hike along the serene Sandy’s Brook and through diverse forest habitats as autumn turns to winter at Crawley Preserve. You’ll be on the lookout for wildlife tracks as well as interesting trees, stone foundations, and other features of the landscape.



Volunteers Open House



Tuesday, November 29th (5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

Free, registration encouraged

Grab a friend and stop by the Barn to to learn more about the variety of opportunities to volunteer and make a difference in protecting and stewarding open space.

Current volunteers are also invited to spread their enthusiasm and receive well deserved praise (and snacks and drinks!)

You’ll find which opportunity is best for you, removing invasive plants, picking up litter, working events, or stamping envelopes.

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 _____

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

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.

Ways to Support SKLT



Set us up as your AmazonSmile charity!

Or 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 eco-friendly events, and more, in-kind gifts help us out in so many ways.

You can find our AmazonSmile page at smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0516985



Vote for South Kingstown Land Trust through Target Circle's Community Giving Program!

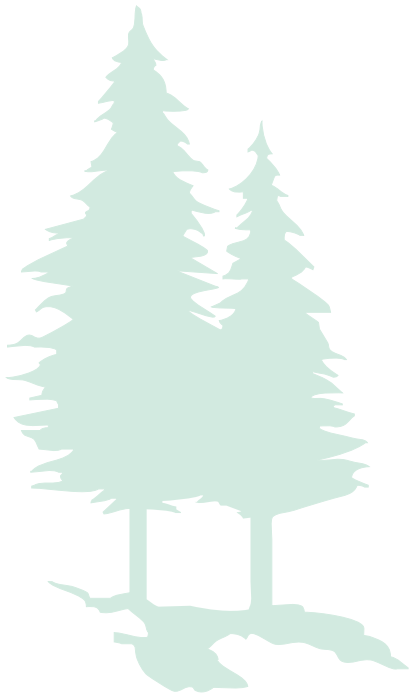
Target's Community Giving Program allows members of their loyalty program, Target Circle, to cast votes to direct Target's charitable giving among participating Nonprofits. Learn more at target.com/circle

Voting period ends December 31, 2022.



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

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Wakefield, RI
 Permit No. 132



Join Us at an Upcoming Program or Event

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

Oct. 22	9 a.m.	Guided Hike with SK Parks & Rec., <i>Alewife Brook Trail</i>
Oct. 25	6 - 8 p.m.	“Lives Less Ordinary” Historical Cemeteries Talk, <i>The Barn</i>
Oct. 25, Nov 1	9 a.m.	Volunteer Work Days, <i>Locations TBD</i>
Nov. 7	6 - 8 p.m.	“Rehab & Release” Wildlife Clinic Talk, <i>The Barn</i>
Nov. 8	9 a.m.	Volunteer Work Day, <i>Location TBD</i>
Nov. 11	9 - 11 a.m.	Guided Hike, <i>Browning Woods Trail</i>
Nov. 15, 22, 29	9 a.m.	Volunteer Work Days, <i>Locations TBD</i>
Nov. 29	5 - 7 p.m.	Volunteers Open House, <i>The Barn</i>
Dec. 6	9 a.m.	Volunteer Work Day, <i>Locations TBD</i>
Dec. 9	9 - 11 a.m.	Guided Hike, <i>Crawley Preserve</i>
Dec. 13, 20	9 a.m.	Volunteer Work Days, <i>Locations TBD</i>

REMINDER: PLEASE WEAR BLAZE ORANGE WHEN HIKING

FOLLOW US ON:



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