



# Site Lines

Summer 2025  Open Space Makes All the Difference



## Safety First: Game of Logging

SKLT recently hosted the Game of Logging training with Northeast Woodland Training. It was an eye-opening experience that helped staff improve their skills in chainsaw safety and forest management—key tools for stewarding the land responsibly. The emphasis on safety-first practices was especially valuable, reminding all that protecting people and ecosystems go hand in hand.

The training gave SKLT staff the chance to connect with folks from other land trusts, the Audubon Society, and The Nature Conservancy. Swapping stories and sharing strategies offered new tools and insights they'll carry into their own work—and pass along to SKLT's growing network of volunteers.

And as our region faces more frequent storms and unpredictable weather patterns, these skills become even more important. Wind events and heavy rain can bring down trees, block trails, and limit access to the very places we work to protect. Being able to respond quickly and safely means we can keep trails open, maintain access to critical habitats, and support climate resilience on the ground—not just in planning documents, but in real time.

This kind of hands-on training builds more than muscle memory. It builds readiness. It prepares us to act, to adapt, and to care for the land in every season—even the difficult ones. Stewardship means being there after the storm, tools in hand, ready to clear a path forward.

**-- Thomas P. Meyer**



We're always learning—and that's what makes this work exciting. Want to get your hands dirty and be part of it? Come join us for Volunteer Day every Tuesday at 9 a.m. at Weeden Farm. [Thomas.meyer@sklt.org](mailto:Thomas.meyer@sklt.org)

# Milestones

Cold waters + warm days and a mystical layer of fog rolls across the fields and their tidy rows of corn seedlings. Hooray for spring, the soaring osprey, tiny rabbits in the hedgerows and fresh shad for dinner.

Join me in welcoming Tasha Sussman Moss and Martha Day to our staff. Members will have the chance to attend the Annual Members Meeting on Sunday, June 22. We will thank Clarkson Collins, Art Gold, Ellen Grebstein, and Ralph Riccio for all their contributions as they roll off the board before we hear from Elizabeth Herron. Water quality impacts everything and the importance of citizen science grows daily. It will be an exceptional meeting.

A new Strategic Plan was finalized last week. SKLT's mission to protect and steward land in perpetuity for the benefit of community is at the core. Most goals will be seemingly invisible to our members, but they will support SKLT's ability to defend the properties from encroachments, trespass, etc.; they support active agriculture; they will help secure and steward the funds necessary to support over 3,000 acres; they will allow for the community to safely and joyfully access open space.

So delighted to be rolling out the GATOR program. As many of you know, my father was in a wheelchair, it's a great sadness to me when mobility is what prevents accessing wild spaces. If you or someone you know has mobility issues and would love a farm tour, I encourage you to sign up.

Planning the Great Outdoors Celebration and Auction is well underway. Sponsorships are still available; tickets will go on sale in June.

Many thanks for the many ways you contribute.

Open space truly makes all the difference...

In gratitude,



Julia Fry Landstreet  
Executive Director



## South Kingstown Land Trust

### Board of Directors

Heather Mae Breau, *Chair*  
Barbara Margolis, *Vice Chair*  
James Farrell, *Treasurer*  
Elise Torello, *Secretary*

Clarkson Collins, Ann Gardner  
Arthur Gold, Ellen Grebstein  
Kevin McCloskey, Susan Merrick  
Tim Meyer, Ralph Riccio  
Andrew Scherer, Ted Watson

### Directors Emeriti

Linda Green, *Director Emerita*  
Sophie Page Lewis, *Director Emerita*  
Susan Seyfarth Lovejoy, *Director Emerita*  
Michael Sherry, *Director Emeritus*

### Staff

Julia Fry Landstreet  
*Executive Director*  
Thomas Prescott Meyer  
*Land Management Director*  
Tasha Sussman Moss  
*Development & Outreach Coordinator*  
Martha Day  
*Stewardship Compliance 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](http://sklt.org)

**Email:** [info@sklt.org](mailto:info@sklt.org)

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**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 2025

SKLT's Great Outdoors Celebration & Auction is back and better than ever! Join us on **Sunday, August 10th** at 4:00 p.m. as we toast to summer, celebrate open space, and come together for an evening of fun, food, and (mostly) friendly bidding.

Thanks to the generosity of our community and sponsors, this year's auction will feature a dynamic mix of local treasures, unique experiences, and artisan goods. Want a sneak peek? Think a Sunset Cocktail Cruise on Worden Pond, delicate local blown glass, a private plane to Nantucket—and that's just the beginning.

Held within the historic stone walls of the Woodcock Campus and overlooking 100 conserved acres at Weeden Farm, the setting is pure South Kingstown. Changes this year include welcoming Michael Salvatore, Jr., as auctioneer. We will also enjoy mouthwatering appetizers from West Bay Gourmet and the generous service of Dennis Brown and his team, serving beer, wine, and cocktails.

Your donations and attendance support the stewardship and protection of thousands of acres of land—boosting climate resilience, safeguarding wildlife habitat, and preserving the character and beauty of our region for generations to come.

We can't wait to celebrate with you. Mark your calendars for **August 10th**, and stay tuned for invitations in the mail. **Sponsorship opportunities are available at [sklt.org](https://sklt.org).**

Let's raise a glass (and a paddle) to open space!



Images from GOC 2024

## Hop In: Operation GATOR is Here!



We're rolling out something special—literally. **Operation GATOR** is South Kingstown Land Trust's brand-new program that allows more community members to experience our protected properties—no hiking boots required.

Thanks to a Champlin Foundation grant, support from our Great Outdoors Celebration donors, and a generous discount from local John Deere supplier Howard Johnson, Inc., we're thrilled to offer guided utility vehicle tours of Weeden Farm.

Led by SKLT staff, these small-group rides happen on the **2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.** Each **1-hour tour** offers an up-close look at our land conservation work, the history of Weeden Farm, and ongoing stewardship projects. It's also a chance to hear stories, ask questions, and savour the beauty of protected open space.

Operation GATOR is a small but meaningful step toward greater access and inclusion on SKLT land, designed for people with mobility limitations but open to all. We believe everyone deserves the chance to connect with nature—this program helps make that possible.

### Key Details:

When: 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

3 participants per ride

Free (advance registration required)

[SKLT.org/news/gator](https://sklt.org/news/gator)

## SKLT EverGreen Legacy Society

The EverGreen Legacy Society is the South Kingstown Land Trust's bequest giving program—created for those who want to leave a lasting impact through their will or estate plans. This kind of legacy reflects your lifelong values by protecting the places you love.

We're gathering input to grow and strengthen this important program. Our goal is to ensure you—and your financial advisors—have the resources and confidence to make thoughtful decisions about the future.



Please scan the **QR code** to complete our brief survey—your feedback will help shape the future of the EverGreen Legacy Society.

To all current EverGreen members—thank you. Your foresight ensures South Kingstown's natural beauty and cultural heritage remain protected for generations to come.

Questions? Reach out to Julia Landstreet at [julia.landstreet@sklt.org](mailto:julia.landstreet@sklt.org)



# SKLT's Annual Members Meeting

Join us at The Barn for our Annual Member's Meeting on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m as we recognize the incredible contributions of our volunteers, reflect on a year of conservation wins, and look ahead to what's next for South Kingstown Land Trust.

Highlights of the business meeting include:

- Recognition of outgoing and incoming directors
- Review of the financials and by-law amendments
- A look at SKLT's impact from Executive Director, Julia Landstreet

The brief business meeting will be followed by a special presentation by **Elizabeth Herron**, Program Director of URI Watershed Watch.

In her talk, **Why Monitoring Matters**, Herron will share insights from 35 years of community-powered science—and how it's helped protect South Kingstown's rivers, ponds, and coastal ecosystems.

Ever wonder why the pond gets choked with weeds or algae, making kayaking tricky, or whether it's safe to swim or eat local oysters? Monitoring helps us understand and care for the ecosystems we rely on.

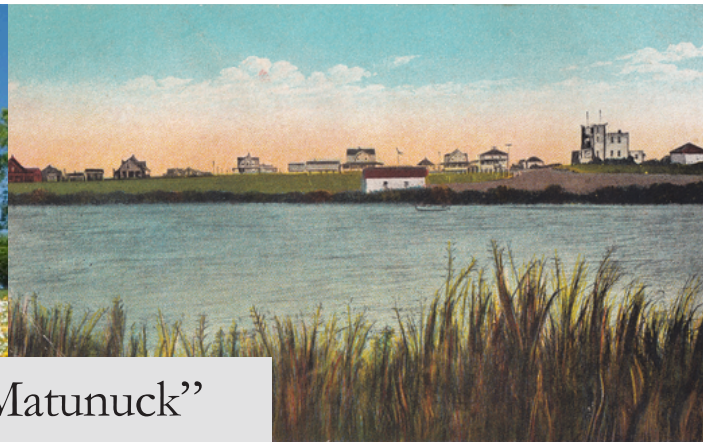
**Please note:** Active SKLT membership and advance registration are required, space is limited.



Elizabeth Herron



The Hanna Meter at URI Watershed Watch, used to measure pH



## Summer at Hale House: "Marketing Matunuck"

Perched in the Matunuck hills with views of farmland and sea, The Hale House has long welcomed summer visitors.

This season, it opens its doors on June 18 with a new exhibit: "**Marketing Matunuck**," which traces the rise of summer homes, hotels, and vacation culture in South County through vintage postcards and memorabilia. Built in 1873 for author, abolitionist, and minister Edward Everett Hale, the house reflects his deep love for the area—with coastal views, leafy woodlands, a kettle pond, and a historic boathouse still standing today.

Managed by the Matunuck Preservation Society and protected by the South Kingstown Land Trust, Hale House invites you to explore the history and charm of Matunuck's past.

### Exhibit Hours & Events:

Opening Reception: Wednesday, June 18  
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

### Open Hours

Wednesdays, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
June 25 – August 27  
or by appointment  
[halehouserier@gmail.com](mailto:halehouserier@gmail.com)

Full schedule of events available at:  
[halehouserier.org](http://halehouserier.org)

Postcard courtesy of South County History Center

## Programs & Events

### Welcome Days

Wednesday: June 11, July 9, August 13th, September 10  
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

So... what does SKLT do? Our board members are eager to give you a tour and answer your questions. Join us for a fun, one-hour walk around the Woodcock Campus at Weeden Farm. We'll hit the Barn, Welcome Center, Tractor Shed, and more!

Light refreshments. Big charm.

Free, but spots fill fast—register ahead: [sklt.org/events](https://sklt.org/events)



### Guided Hike at DuVal Trail

Friday: June 6, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Walk through tunnels of bursting pink and white flowers from the trail-side mountain laurel found throughout the DuVal Trail System on this roughly two-mile guided hike. We will be listening for birds and keeping an eye out for interesting plants, mushrooms, and signs of wildlife.

Free. Registration is required.

Inclement weather cancels. All ages welcome. Please no dogs.

### Guided Hike at Potter Wood and Biscuit City Trails

Friday: July 4, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Trek through the beautiful meadow and woodland of the Kingstown Improvement Association's Potter Wood before crossing the street to Biscuit City Trail. You'll visit the historic mill foundations and pond and be on the lookout for interesting trees, plants, and wildlife.

Free. Registration is required.

Inclement weather cancels. All ages welcome. Please no dogs.



### Guided Hike at Alewife Preserve

Friday: August 1, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Join us for this 1.0-mile loop that winds through classic RI oak and pine forest, and past wetlands rich with mountain laurel and red maple. A haven for wildlife and over 50 bird species, the preserve also protects a key local aquifer.

Free. Registration is required.

Inclement weather cancels. All ages welcome. Please no dogs.

# Join Us in Preserving Open Space in South Kingstown

Your support for open space preservation strengthens our organization and invigorates our work. Join or renew your membership, make a general donation, or become an EverGreen member! SKLT is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, so your donation is tax-deductible. **Thank you!**

## 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 LEGACY SOCIETY

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*

## Welcome to The South Kingstown Land Trust

### Tasha Sussman Moss, Development and Outreach Coordinator



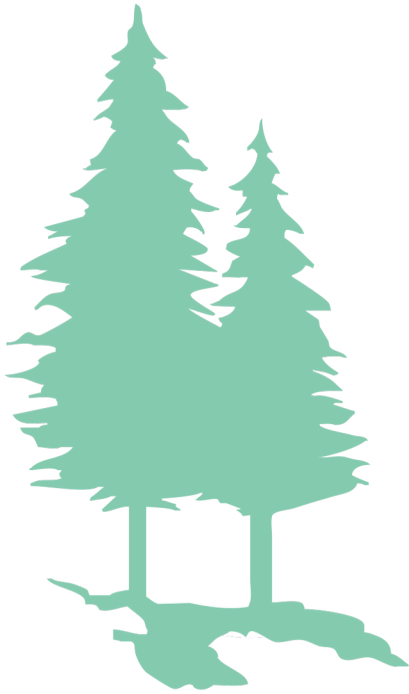
Tasha joined SKLT in April with a background in environmental studies and public policy—and a lifelong love for Rhode Island's coast. A South County native and graduate of American University, she focused her studies on coastal resilience and how climate change is reshaping both ecosystems and the communities that depend on them—blending her passion for environmental protection with her deep connection to her home state. Now stepping into Matt's role, she's ready to roll up her sleeves and get to work.

Off the clock, you'll likely find Tasha out on a trail with a camp stove in tow or tracking down the next quirky roadside attraction—always up for an adventure and inspired by the places she helps protect.



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](https://sklt.org/event-tickets)*

June 6	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Guided Hike, <i>DuVal Trail</i>
June 11	4:30 p.m.	SKLT Welcome Days, <i>The Barn</i>
June 22	3 p.m - 5 p.m.	SKLT Annual Members' Meeting, <i>The Barn</i>
July 9	4:30 p.m.	SKLT Welcome Days, <i>The Barn</i>
July 14	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Guided Hike, <i>Biscuit City &amp; Potter Wood Trails</i>
August 1	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Guided Hike, <i>Alewife Brook Preserve</i>
August 10	4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	The Great Outdoors Celebration and Auction, <i>The Barn</i>
August 13	4:30 p.m.	SKLT Welcome Days, <i>The Barn</i>
September 3 -6		LTA RALLY, <i>Cleveland, OH</i>
September 5	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Guided Hike, <i>Browning Woods Preserve</i>
September 10	4:30 p.m.	SKLT Welcome Days, <i>The Barn</i>

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Not on the SKLT email list?  
 Contact us at [info@sklt.org](mailto:info@sklt.org)

