

RHODE ISLAND LAND TRUST COUNCIL

Rhode Island Rivers Council



Rhode Island Association of Conservation Commissions



Present the 2nd Annual

Land & Water Conservation Summit

... Working together to protect our communities

Saturday, March 12, 2005 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

URI Memorial Union, Kingston Campus

Cost: Early Registration \$25 before March 1 After March 1: \$40

(includes lunch and breaks)

Program

- 8:30 - 9:00 Coffee and Registration
- 9:00 Welcome - Peter August, URI Coastal Institute
- 9:05 - 9:35 **Updates on Rhode Island Legislation**
Senator Susan Sosnowski, Chair, Senate Environment & Agriculture Committee
Representative Eileen Naughton, Chair, House Environment Committee
- 9:40 - 10:00 **Business meetings:**
RI Land Trust Council
RI Rivers Council
RI Conservation Commissions
- 10:10 - 11:20 Session I – Workshops – Your choice from 10 offered
- 11:20 - 11:35 Break
- 11:35 - 12:45 Session II – Workshops – Your choice from 10 offered
- 12:45 - 2:00 Lunch & **Keynote Address – The Soul of the Land – Peter Forbes**
Successful land & water conservation depends on nurturing our emotional connections to our communities, landscapes and watersheds and telling stories that celebrate these relationships.
- 2:10 - 3:30 Session III – Workshops – Your choice from 8 offered
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Attend 3 Workshops of Your Choice from over 25 Offered during the Summit

Workshops at a Glance 2005

Session 1		Session 2	Session 3
A	Public Relations Part 1	Public Relations Part 2	Web Site Development Made Easy
B	Board Development	Land Trust Standards and Practices & Impacts of Federal Laws on Land Trusts	Storytelling as a Force for Change
C	Conservation Easement – Part 1 The Basics	Conservation Easements – Part 2 Advanced Issues	Baseline Documentation and Monitoring for Conservation Easements
D	Passing Local Bonds for Land Protection	Landowner Contact: Creating the Foundation of a Successful Conservation Program	Linking Water Use to Local Decisions
E	Managing Public Access to Protect Land & Developing Partnerships with Community Schools	Watershed Protection Through Forest Stewardship	Protecting & Restoring Riparian Buffers and Headwater Streams
F	Engaging Communities to Visualize Alternative Futures for Rivers: Conceptual Renderings and Charrettes	Regional Priority Setting for Land Protection	RI's 2004 Housing Act – What Land & Water Conservation Advocates Need to Know
G	Restoring Migratory Fish to Rhode Island's Rivers and Streams	Stormwater Phase II – How to Get Involved at the Local Level	Wetlands Protection
H	Beyond Bake Sales: Raising Money from Foundations	How to Get Federal Farm Bill Funding for Land Protection and Restoration	Growing the Gift: The Interplay of Land Gifts and Major Cash Donations
I	Using Community Volunteers to Monitor Watershed Conditions – Part 1	Using Community Volunteers to Monitor Watershed Conditions – Part 2	
J	Building Partnerships with Developers – How to Interact with a Complex Process	Building Partnerships with Developers (continued)	

Directions: University of Rhode Island – Memorial Union – Kingston Campus

From Providence and the North: Take I 95 South to RI Route 4 Exit 8. Note: this is a left Exit. Continue on Route 4 until it ends when it merges into US Route 1 South. Continue on US Route 1 South to the red light at the intersection with Route 138 West. Turn Right on Route 138. Follow Route 138 to Kingston. The 2nd Red Light on 138 is at Upper College Road. Turn Right on Upper College Road. Follow signs to parking for the Land & Water Conservation Summit.

From the East: Take Route 138 West over the Newport and Jamestown bridges to US Route 1. Take Route 1 South to Route 138 West. Follow Route 138 West to Kingston and the University. At the 2nd Red Light on 138, Turn Right on Upper College Road. Follow signs to parking for the Land & Water Conservation Summit.

From the West: Take Route 138 East to Kingston. Turn Left on Upper College Road. Follow signs to parking for the Land and Water Conservation Summit.

Workshops - Session I

1-A. Public Relations - Part 1

- Chip Young – URI Coastal Resources Center
- Rick Schwartz – The Rhode Island Foundation

Seasoned public relations professionals, Chip Young and Rick Schwartz will lead this two part workshop covering how to develop a communications/outreach strategy, how to hone and deliver your message to a variety of audiences, and how to work effectively with the media.

1-B. Board Development

- Claudia Staniszewski – LISC (Local Initiative Support Corporation)

Strong, committed and contributing boards are key to the success of small non-profit organizations like Watershed Councils and Land Trusts. This workshop will cover how to attract and build board members who actively participate in and build your organization.

Claudia Staniszewski, Program Officer for LISC Rhode Island, has extensive experience working with non-profits in both the environmental and housing sectors.

1-C. Conservation Easements - Part 1 The Basics

- Ted Clement, Esq. Director Land Protection, Aquidneck Land Trust & Co-Chair of Lawyers for Land Trusts

This workshop will provide a basic overview of conservation easements. Definitions, key legal underpinnings of conservation easements and key components of a strong conservation easement will be explained. The Conservation Easement, Legal Description, Baseline Documentation Report, Management Plan, etc. This workshop will also discuss the due diligence process that should occur prior to acquiring a conservation easement and other issues. Active participation will be encouraged.

1-D. Passing Local Bonds for Land Protection

- Steve Alfred – South Kingstown Town Manager,
- Ann-Marie Ignasher – Smithfield Land Trust, President RI Land Trust Council
- Terry Sullivan – The Nature Conservancy

Learn the steps and strategies necessary to get a local open space bond passed. Steve will discuss South Kingstown's process for passing an open space bond and the issues that organizations need to consider and "how tos" for working with your municipality. Terry will share lessons learned from his extensive experience on undertaking a community campaign to secure public conservation funding.

1-E. Managing Public Access to Protected Land & Developing Partnerships with Community Schools

- Lawrence Taft – Director of Properties, Audubon Society of Rhode Island
- Tracey Hall – Senior Education Specialist, Audubon Society of Rhode Island

The Audubon Society has been managing land for conservation and public access since 1923 and is the largest private holder of conservation land in RI. With 14 refuges open to the public The Society's refuge system provides passive recreation and educational opportunities, for the public at large and also for thousands of school children and community groups each year. This workshop will discuss strategies for managing public access and use of your organization's protected lands. The second half of the workshop will discuss a case study of the Audubon Society working with a Community School to develop a walking trail.

Workshops - Session I - continued

1-F Engaging Communities to Visualize Alternative Futures for Rivers: Conceptual Renderings and Charrettes

– Karen Pelto – Massachusetts Riverways

In the spring of 2003, Riverways facilitated a “conceptual rendering” process in the lower Neponset River to visually represent technical aspects of fish passage and ecological restoration alternatives and elicit feedback on uses and plans for the river. The renderings combined the skills of an engineer familiar with river geomorphology and restoration with the artistic vision of a landscape architect and, when used in an inclusive community process, stimulated public dialogue about recreation in and along the river and identified an additional fish passage alternative, a partial breach and rock-ramp combination. Currently, Riverways is working with the University of Massachusetts at Amherst on an environmental literacy project to capture the qualitative but no less important social values of people who live, work, and recreate in the lower Neponset River. We will use this foundation of understanding to design, convene, and conduct a series of small discussion groups to effectively inform watershed residents about fish passage, river ecology, and water and sediment quality as well as involve them in the evaluation of alternatives for ecological restoration and cleanup of contaminated sediment.

1-G Restoring Migratory Fish to Rhode Island's Rivers and Streams

– Tom Ardito – Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

Rhode Island's rivers and streams once supported large spring "runs" of migratory salmon, herring and shad. These “anadromous” species spawn in fresh water, and mature and spend most of their adult lives in salt water. The construction of dams throughout the state in the 18th and 19th centuries led to severe declines in historic fish runs. Today, federal, state, local and non-profit organizations are working in partnership to restore fish passage on many of our rivers. DEM has determined that there are at least 41 streams with potential for fish run restoration in the Narragansett Bay Watershed (RI and MA). This session will introduce current river restoration projects, demonstrating how fisheries are restored and how local organizations can participate in the process.

1-H Beyond Bake Sales: Raising Money From Foundations

– Linn Perkins Syz – New England Grassroots Environment Fund

Ready to step into the world of grantwriting to raise some funds for your community organizing needs? Learn the basics of the grantwriting process: Researching foundations for possible funding; initial contact with foundation staff; grant guidelines and why you should pay attention to them; the grant application; supporting documents - what to include and not include; and grant reports.

1-I Using Community Volunteers to Monitor Watershed Conditions - Part 1

– Linda Green – URI Watershed Watch

– Elizabeth Herron – URI Watershed Watch

Watershed stewardship requires an understanding of current water and land conditions. Watershed councils can assess watershed conditions using data collected by other organizations, but often need more information than is readily available. Throughout the country, watershed organizations fill this gap by organizing and training citizen scientists as volunteer watershed monitors and watershed stewards. URI's Watershed Watch program is Rhode Island's premier volunteer based water quality monitoring program. Linda Green & Elizabeth Herron will teach participants the fundamentals of designing and implementing a successful watershed monitoring program. Participants will be introduced to basic water quality measurements and the information needed to get started.

1-J Building Partnerships with Developers – How to Interact with a Complex Process

Note: This panel discussion is 2 sessions long

– Kevin Flynn - Panel Moderator

– William R. Landry, Blish and Cavanagh

– Chris Duhamel, DiPrete Engineering

– Thomas McNulty, Mac Construction

– William Gates, Gates Landscaping

– William Wright

This session will provide a dialog between developers and conservationists. Panelists will discuss land development and will explore how conservationists and developers can work together to create better developments. Panelists representing development interests will describe the long and complex land development process and discuss how local involvement can be strengthened. The conservationists will explain how they can provide valuable input to developers. Together, the developers, conservationist and audience will discuss how local regulations can help or hinder our efforts to protect the environment during the development process.

Workshops - Session II

2-A Public Relations - Part 2 – continued from Part 1

- Chip Young – URI Coastal Resources Center
- Rick Schwartz – The Rhode Island Foundation

2-B Land Trust Standards & Practices & Impacts of Federal Laws & Policies on Land Trusts

- Mary Pope Hutson – Vice President, Land Trust Alliance

Learn the latest news from the Senate Finance Committee and the Internal Revenue Service that affects land trusts and conservation easements. This workshop will include a detailed review of the most critical 2004 revisions to Land Trust Standards and Practices (S&P) and how your Land Trust can implement them. The workshop will include a discussion of the many recent changes in nonprofit law and review of the tools available to help land trusts implement the S&P revisions. The Land Trust Alliance revised Land Trust Standards and Practices in 2004 to reflect best practices in the field and the newest in federal law and policy.

2-C Conservation Easements - Part 2 Advanced Issues.

- Ted Clement, Esq.

This workshop will build upon "Conservation Easements - Part 1 The Basics." It will focus on a number of hot and potentially thorny issues including amending conservation easements and issues raised in IRS Notice 2004-41. Active participation will be encouraged.

2-D Land Owner Contact: Creating the Foundation of a Successful Conservation Program

- Kevin Essington – The Nature Conservancy

How should you approach landowners about land protection? When should you contact them? What should you tell them? What should you ask about? Kevin will share strategies for landowner contact gained through ten years of land protection work. Kevin is Director of the Pawcatuck Borderlands Project for The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island and Connecticut and previously was Executive Director for the Montezuma Land Conservancy in Cortez, Colorado.

2-E Watershed Protection through Forest Stewardship

- Chris Modisette – Southern New England Forest Consortium
- Thomas Worthley – UCON Cooperative Extension
- Richard Blodgett – Providence Waters
- Marc Tremblay – Consulting Forester

Forests are the most protective land use for watersheds, aquifers, and groundwater supplies that provide the bulk of our clean drinking waters. As the number of working forest lands for sale continues to rise, land trusts and watershed organizations increasingly find themselves asking how to develop a stewardship/land management plan for properties they own or hold easements on. This workshop will explore how land trusts and watershed organizations can use forest stewardship/management to protect watersheds.

2-F Regional Priority Setting for Land Protection

- Joanne Riccitelli – South Kingstown Land Trust

Nine land trusts in the Washington County Land Trust Coalition worked together during 2004 to identify and map regional priorities for conservation. This workshop will describe the Coalition's step-by-step process towards identifying these priorities. This is the first regional plan to identify specific protection priorities for land trusts in South County. The Coalition expects this plan to provide guidance to the land trusts in their near-term protection activities. 'Protecting the Priority Natural Resources of South County', built upon RIDEM's South County Greenspace Project and was supported by the RI Foundation and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Workshops - Session II - continued

2-G Stormwater Phase II – How to Get Involved at the Local Level

– Christopher D’Ovidio – Conservation Law Foundation

The RIDEM’s Phase II stormwater program regulates stormwater discharges from most Rhode Island municipalities. Regulated municipalities must submit an application to obtain coverage under the RIDEM General Permit. By submitting an application the municipality is agreeing to develop, implement and enforce a storm water management program (SWMP) designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable. The six minimum measures that the municipality must address in their SWMP are: Public Education and Outreach, Public Involvement/Participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Site Runoff Control, Post Construction Runoff Control and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping. This workshop will describe the program requirements, review the status of applications and provide local conservation organizations with information on how to get involved in the development of their local SWMP.

2-H How to Get Federal Farm Bill Funding for Land Protection and Restoration

– Joe Bachand – Natural Resource Conservation Service

– Vicky Drew – Natural Resource Conservation Service

Learn how your organization can apply for Federal Farm Bill funding for: developing **conservation plans** for managing your land resources; **conservation easements** to preserve land in agricultural and grassland uses; and **habitat restoration** to enhance and restore native wildlife habitats that have been degraded, altered, or eliminated as a result of agriculture, urban & residential development, and changes in land use. Programs include:

- Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)
- Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
- Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)

2-I Using Community Volunteers to Monitor Watershed Conditions - Part 2

continued from Part 1

– Linda Green – URI Watershed Watch

– Elizabeth Herron – URI Watershed Watch

2-J Building Partnerships with Developers – Continued

– Kevin Flynn - Panel Moderator

– William R. Landry, Blish and Cavanagh

– Chris Duhamel, DiPrete Engineering

– Thomas McNulty, Mac Construction

– William Gates, Gates Landscaping

– William Wright

Workshops - Session III

3-A Web Site Development Made Easy

– Kevin J. McDonough – South Kingstown Land Trust and RI Land Trust Council Boards and

– Kevin Patrick McDonough – IT Engineer and URI graduate in Computer Engineering

This seminar will de-mystify the process for getting your organization onto the information super-highway. Learn why having an Internet presence is important to the growth and success of your organization. Discover low cost alternatives to a glitzy site. Avoid the pitfalls of those who spend thousands of dollars developing sites with little traffic. This course will assist you in getting started without a huge investment and without a computer engineering PhD. Course pre-requisites: Visit www.LTA.org and search land trust websites from around the country to familiarize yourself with what exists.

3-B Storytelling as a Force for Change

– Peter Forbes – The Center for Whole Communities

This workshop looks at the power of how we tell our stories of land and watershed conservation in a way that gives more power and benefit to the life of our communities.

Workshops - Session III – continued

3-C Baseline Documentation & Monitoring for Conservation Easements

– Carol Lynn Trocki – consulting conservation biologist and previous Stewardship & Trail Manager for Aquidneck Land Trust.

This workshop will discuss the information that should be prepared as baseline documentation for a conservation easement, best practices for conservation easement monitoring, and the benefits of creating management plans for conserved properties.

3-D Linking Water Use to Local Decisions

– Kathleen Crawley – Rhode Island Water Resources Board

– Ariana Johnson – Rhode Island Economic Policy Council

The quantity and location of water demand depend more on the pattern of land development than on any other factor. Each day, municipalities make decisions on how land is developed, decisions that impact future water supply and demand. While more refined information is being developed on water availability and demand in the state, it is often not incorporated into these local planning activities. This workshop will highlight several perspectives on the connection of these two issues and introduce local efforts aimed at creating a stronger link between them. Speakers will include representatives from local municipalities and water suppliers.

3-E Protecting and Restoring Riparian Buffers and Headwater Streams:

– Scott Millar – DEM Office of Sustainable Watersheds

– Fred Presley – DEM Office of Sustainable Watersheds

Riparian buffers, the area of land adjacent to streams and rivers and other open water bodies, are essential to the ecology of aquatic systems. Shoreline vegetation plays an essential role in water quality protection as well as providing essential wildlife habitat. Headwater streams, small and seemingly insignificant waterways, are also critical components of a healthy riverine system. Throughout the country, watershed advocates are working in partnership with state and federal agencies to protect riparian buffers and headwater streams. DEM's Scott Millar and Fred Presley will talk about Rhode Island's riparian buffer and headwater stream protection and restoration efforts, highlighting how local conservationists can protect these critical areas in their watersheds.

3-F RI's 2004 Housing Act -- What Land & Watershed Conservation Advocates Need to Know

– Scott Wolf – Grow Smart Rhode Island

– Sheila Brush – Grow Smart Rhode Island

How can Rhode Island meet its affordable housing needs without sacrificing community character or endangering natural resources? This workshop will answer your questions about the current affordable housing legislation and application review processes and suggest mutually beneficial partnership opportunities for land and watershed conservation and housing interests.

3-G Wetlands Protection

– Charles Horbert – DEM Office of Water Resources, Freshwater Wetlands Program

Wetlands are important ecological systems. This session will introduce participants to the basics of wetlands functions and values, and then discuss the programs in place to protect Rhode Island's freshwater wetlands. This is a great opportunity for to learn about wetland legislation, permitting, and protection in general from these very experienced individuals.

3-H Growing the Gift: The Interplay of Land Gifts and Major Cash Donations

– James A. Roehm CFRE – Gift Planning Officer, Lifespan Hospitals; Past President, Planned Giving Council of RI and member of Land Conservancy of North Kingstown.

The process of securing a donation of land is similar to securing a major cash donation. Learn about the interplay of steps to take to secure major gifts from individuals.

Registration Form
Rhode Island Land & Water Conservation Summit
. . . . Working together to protect our communities

Saturday, March 12, 2005

Location: URI Memorial Union, Kingston

Registration Cost: Early Registration \$25 by March 1 or After March 1: \$40
(includes lunch and breaks)

Rhode Island Land & Water Conservation Summit Registration Form

Registration fee for conference is \$25.00 per person before March 1; or \$40 after March 1
this includes breaks and lunch

Name _____ Telephone Number _____

Affiliation _____

Land Trust _____ Watershed Council _____ Conservation Commission _____ (Check One)

Address _____ Email _____

(Note: we need email addresses if possible so that we can send you a parking pass for the University.)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please enter the letter "A – J" of your first choice workshop for each session:

Session I _____ Session 2 _____ Session 3 _____

(This will help us know how many people will attend each session and schedule rooms.)

Amount Enclosed (\$25.00/before March 1 \$40.00 after March 1): \$ _____

Please submit your registration before March 1st if possible.

Please submit a separate registration for each person attending the Summit.

Make checks payable to: Land & Water Partnership

Mail registration and checks to:

RI Land & Water Conservation Summit
c/o RI Land Trust Council
159 Waterman Avenue
Providence, RI 02906

If you or your organization wants an **advertisement** in the Summit Program, Contact Greg Gerritt by February 3. Greg's phone number is: 331-0529

If your organization wants an **exhibit** at the Summit, Contact Greg Gerritt before February 19.