



7th Annual Rhode Island

## Land & Water Conservation Summit

...Working together to protect our communities

**Saturday, March 27, 2010 7:45 am – 4:30 pm**  
URI Memorial Union, Kingston Campus

This day-long conference provides Watershed Council, Land Trust, Conservation Commission board members, staff, volunteers, Municipal Commission Members and others interested in land and watershed conservation with the information, skills and connections you need to be effective.

Choose from **32 Workshops** offered during the Summit

**Network** with RI Conservation Leaders ♦ **Visit Exhibits** ♦ **Learn** how to be more successful

### Program

- 7:45 – 8:30 Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 – 9:30 **Welcome** - Emcee: Peter August, URI Natural Resource Science Dept.  
**Keynote** - **Tom Horton**, Award Winning Author, Chesapeake Bay Biographer  
**Saving the Chesapeake Bay's Land & Water:**  
Lessons learned after 25 years
- 9:30 – 10:20 **Business Meetings - Networking - Visit Exhibits**  
9:30 – 9:50 Business Meetings: - RI Land Trust Council  
- RI Association of Conservation Commissions
- 10:20 – 11:30 Session I **Workshops** – *Your choice from 11 offered*
- 11:30 – 11:45 Break
- 11:45 – 12:55 Session II **Workshops** – *Your choice from 11 offered*
- 12:55 – 2:30 Lunch & Awards  
Peter Merritt Award & Blueways Stewardship Award
- 2:45 – 4:00 Session III **Workshops** – *Your choice from 10 offered*

**Registration: Early Registration Ends March 5**

\$40 on or **before** March 5      \$ 55 after March 5      **includes Lunch**

**Register On Line:** [www.landandwaterpartnership.org](http://www.landandwaterpartnership.org)

# Workshops at a Glance

|          | <b>Session 1</b> 10:20 – 11:30 am  | <b>Session 2</b> 11:45 am – 12:55 pm   | <b>Session 3</b> 2:45 – 4:00 pm   |
|----------|--|--|---|
| <b>A</b> | <b>Monitoring Aquatic Invasive Species in Rhode Island’s Coastal Waters</b>                        | <b>River Restoration &amp; Dam Removal – Challenges &amp; Opportunities</b>                                | <b>Developing Access Sites on your River – Design to Implementation</b>                           |
| <b>B</b> | <b>Understanding Historical and Ceremonial Landscapes &amp; Artifacts - <u>Part 1</u></b>          | <b>Understanding Historical and Ceremonial Landscapes &amp; Artifacts - <u>Part 2</u></b>                  | <b>Private Well Water Protection &amp; Testing</b>  |
| <b>C</b> | <b>Baseline Documentation &amp; Management Plans for Conservation Lands: Using a RI Protocol</b>   | <b>Amending Conservation Easements: How to Carefully Adjust to a Changing World</b>                        | <b>Leasing Your Protected Farmland for Agricultural Use</b>                                       |
| <b>D</b> | <b>The Comprehensive Plan &amp; Zoning: Lessons for Conservation Commissions</b>                   | <b>Greening the Big-Box: Lessons Learned in Challenging Development</b>                                    | <b>Rhode Island Conservation Easement Guidance Manual</b>   |
| <b>E</b> | <b>Using Flood Insurance Rate Maps to Identify Potential Conservation Areas within Floodplains</b> | <b>Planning for Climate Change: Current Science, Future Scenarios &amp; Tools for Adaptation</b>           | <b>GIS - Guided Tour of New &amp; User-Friendly Maps on the Internet</b>                          |
| <b>F</b> | <b>Resolving User Conflict &amp; Resource Damage on Trails</b>                                     | <b>Invasive Plants: How to Kill Them</b>   | <b>How To Be An Effective Conservation Commission</b>   |
| <b>G</b> | <b>LTA On-Line Learning Center: Tools to Advance Land Trust Excellence</b>                         | <b>Municipal Land Trust Roundtable</b>   | <b>The RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative: Knowledge and Tools to Inform Land Stewards</b> |
| <b>H</b> | <b>RI Water Allocation Program: Defining Equitable Water Use &amp; Availability</b>                | <b>Sustainable Landscape Management Techniques for Water Quality Improvement &amp; Resource Protection</b> | <b>Mediation - Options for Productive Conflict Engagement</b>                                     |
| <b>I</b> | <b>Compost &amp; the Future of Rhode Island</b>  | <b>Effective Communications and Media Relations</b>  | <b>Using Your Budget to Tell Your Story</b>   |
| <b>J</b> | <b>Organizing Your Community to Address Conservation Issues</b>                                    | <b>Organizational Governance - the Board’s Critical, Challenging &amp; Changing Role</b>                   | <b>How To Make People Respond To Your Direct Mail</b>   |
| <b>K</b> | <b>Meet the Funders</b>  | <b>Developing a Major Donor Campaign</b>   |   |

Lead Sponsor for 2010 Land & Water Summit: **Bank of America** 

**1-A. Monitoring Aquatic Invasive Species in Rhode Island’s Coastal Waters**

*Kevin Cute – Coastal Resources Management Council*

A presentation will be given on the first-year results of the CRMC’s volunteer monitoring program for aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Rhode Island’s coastal waters. To provide some general background on AIS, federal, regional, and state initiatives that address the problem will also be discussed. Attendees will have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the tools and methods used by CRMC’s volunteer monitors during field sampling activities. Preserved specimens collected by volunteers will be also available for inspection.

**1-B. Understanding Historical and Ceremonial Landscapes & Artifacts – Part 1**

Note this is a two session workshop.

*Paul A. Robinson, PhD – RI Historic Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHP&HC)*

*Doug Harris – Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office*

*Alan Leveillee RPA – Public Archaeological Laboratories (PAL)*

The Native American landscape is an intricate and important part of our state’s history and it is still being discovered in the many features that lie hidden in our landscape. This double session presentation features a special showing of the film, “Hidden Landscapes” with three of the most well versed men in the field explaining the nature and meaning of these amazing treasures. Don’t miss this great opportunity to hear from and ask questions of these experts and to better understand the importance of both protecting and preserving these finds.

**1-C. Baseline Documentation & Management Plans for Conservation Lands:  
Using a Rhode Island Protocol**

*Scott Ruhren – Audubon Society of Rhode Island*

This workshop will present the newly developed Rhode Island protocol for conducting resource inventories, preparing baseline reports and management plans for conservation lands. It will also identify sources of data for these purposes. The protocol was developed by Audubon Society of Rhode Island with funding from the RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative. The RI protocol is available on the Stewardship Collaborative website: [http://www.ricsc.org/Projects/Docs\\_2009/CSC\\_BDIP.pdf](http://www.ricsc.org/Projects/Docs_2009/CSC_BDIP.pdf)

**1-D. The Comprehensive Plan and Zoning – Lessons for Conservation Commissions**

*Sam Shamoan, AICP – Shamoan Planning, LLC*

This workshop will describe the key elements of a community’s Comprehensive Plan, with an emphasis on Open Space. Learn how Conservation Commissions can contribute to an effective comp plan being developed or updated in their respective communities. In the second part of the workshop, learn how zoning ordinances are constructed and written and what commissioners need to understand about them.

**1-E. Using Flood Insurance Rate Maps to Identify Potential Conservation Areas within Floodplains**

*Janet Freedman – Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association (RIFMA)*

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for the National Flood Insurance Program identify risky areas for development, and require that new development within these areas be built to minimize losses during floods. The maps are great for quickly identifying floodplains in your community. This workshop will discuss the importance of conserving, rather than developing the floodplain; how to read a FIRM; where to get a FIRM; future floodplain mapping initiatives; and how FIRMs can be used for prioritizing acquisition of conservation areas.

**1-F. Resolving User Conflict and Resource Damage on Trails**

*John Monroe – National Park Service - Rivers & Trails Program*

Do you have conflicts to resolve among visitors to your trails and conservation lands? How can you maximize use of your trails while protecting the land and waters? This workshop will share best practices from around the country and lead a discussion of your burning questions and issues.

## **1-G. LTA On-Line Learning Center: Tools to Advance Land Trust Excellence**

*Ethan Winter – Land Trust Alliance (LTA)*

This interactive workshop will show you how to access the LTA Learning Center and use it to build a stronger land trust and save more land. The suite of information available include: Discussion Forums, Courses, the Library (formerly LTAnet) and much more. Emphasis will be placed on a companion website, *Pathways to Accreditation*, specially designed to walk land trusts through the process of preparing for accreditation while providing resources you can use along the way.

## **1-H. Rhode Island's Water Allocation Program: A Policy Defining Equitable Water Use and Availability**

*Ken Burke – Water Resources Board*

*Kevin Flynn – Department of Administration Division of Planning – invited*

The RI Water Resources Board is the state agency charged with allocating the state's water resources. Balancing competing demands for water supply is a daunting task. This workshop will describe the Board's new water allocation policy that will ensure that Rhode Island's water supply is carefully managed today so we can have water supply for economic development and flow in our rivers and streams for future generations to enjoy.

## **1-I. Compost and the Future of Rhode Island**

*Greg Gerritt – Urban Agriculture Task Force and ProsperityForRI.org*

A discussion of the critical importance of getting all the food waste in RI out of the waste-stream; what it will take to do that including the role of conservation organizations and land trusts; and how compost will revitalize Rhode Island.

## **1-J. Organizing Your Community to Address Conservation Issues**

*Meredith Lee – Toxics Action Center*

Watersheds and protected lands are often threatened by new development like commercial sprawl and industrial expansion and by the legacies of past development which have left us with contaminated land and sediments. Your members and your community are an important tool for addressing these challenges. Come learn how to plan and execute a grassroots campaign using the power of your community.

## **1-K. Meet the Funders**

*Representatives from 12 foundations, corporations, and agencies – see list below*

Have you ever wished you could ask a foundation leader a question? ... or ask them for coaching on how to best present a project proposal when you are seeking funding? Here is your chance for representatives from your organization to meet face to face with representatives from Foundations, Corporations and Agencies that make grants to Rhode Island's conservation community. During this session, organizations will have an opportunity to describe your work or how you plan to make a pitch to a funder to get feedback on how you might make your pitch more effective. Participants who register for this workshop will receive additional information on the funders who are represented and will be asked to sign up for five eight-minute sessions with selected funders. We will try to give each organization 2 or 3 of their top five to meet with. Please note that we will be signing up one representative from each organization for these short sessions with funders. Priority for this workshop is for watershed organizations, land trusts and conservation commissions and only by pre-registration before March 19.

|   |  |                                  |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Bank of America                             | Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) | Rhode Island Foundation          |
| The Champlin Foundations                    | New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund   | Third Sector New England         |
| Citizen's Bank                              | Prince Charitable Trusts                     | US Fish & Wildlife Service       |
| Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) | RI Department of Environmental Management    | van Beuren Charitable Foundation |

**2-A. River Restoration and Dam Removal – Challenges and Opportunities**

*Brian Graber – American Rivers*

*Rachel Calabro – Save the Bay*

Dam removal is a proven restoration technique that is being used widely in other New England and Mid-Atlantic states. This session will highlight some successful projects and what made them possible. We will provide a context for understanding dams in the Rhode Island landscape and give you the steps and guidance to develop a dam removal project. Learn what it takes to accomplish this seemingly monumental task and some of the ways dam removal can be more widely applied here in Rhode Island.

**2-B. Understanding Historical and Ceremonial Landscapes & Artifacts – Part 2**

Note this is a two session workshop. See Workshop 1-B for description.

**2-C. Amending Conservation Easements: How to Carefully Adjust to a Changing World**

*Ted Clement – Aquidneck Land Trust*

The process for carefully amend Conservation Easements is critical to the protection of natural resources in a changing world and the long-term viability of Easements. This workshop will discuss: model Conservation Easement amendment policies and clauses; the law related to amendments; and real amendment cases handled by the Aquidneck Land Trust.

**2-D. Greening the Big-Box: Lessons Learned in Challenging Development**

*Dr. Caroly Shumway – Valley Alliance for Smart Growth*

The Valley Alliance fought a 5-year battle to address environmental concerns at the largest proposed big-box development in Rhode Island. The retail project, proposed for a rural northern RI town, was adjacent to the second most diverse pond for dragonflies in the state. As a result of our effort, the project, recently approved, now has the most advanced stormwater system in the state and other environmental safeguards. This session will feature policy and strategic lessons learned for conservation commissions and environmental groups who confront developmental challenges of their own.

**2-E. Planning for Climate Change:****Current Science, Future Scenarios and Tools for Adaptation**

*Pam Rubinoff – RI Sea Grant*

*Peter August – University of Rhode Island*

*Caitlin Chaffee – Coastal Resources Management Council*

*Kathleen Wainwright – The Nature Conservancy*

We are all aware that the global climate is changing. How will this affect our approach to land and water conservation on a local scale? What will the future look like in Rhode Island? Join us for a summary of the most up-to-date information on climate change and its effects such as sea level rise and changes to weather patterns. Learn about climate change projections, as well as tools and resources that can help your organization plan for future scenarios and incorporate climate change adaptation into its programs. Participate in a discussion of how organizations are currently addressing this issue, and what additional tools and information are needed. A panel of experts from the conservation, research and regulatory communities will be on hand to gather feedback and answer your questions.

## **2-F. Invasive Plants: How to Kill Them**

*David Gregg – RI Natural History Survey*

*Hope Leeson – RI Natural History Survey*

*James Barnes – RI Natural History Survey*

How do you actually fight specific invasive plants? The workshop will provide practical, step-by-step instructions for killing the most annoying invasive plants including barberry, autumn olive, Japanese knotweed, annuals, and aquatics. With attention to equipment, timing, herbicides, and likelihood of success, we will review the pluses and minuses of the major control tactics such as pulling/cutting/mowing, "cut-and-paint", foliar spray, and more. Specialized tools will be demonstrated.

## **2-G. Municipal Land Trust Roundtable**

*Roy Najecki – Gloucester Land Trust*

*Les Crandall – The Westerly Municipal Land Trust*

*Ann-Marie Ignasher – Smithfield Land Trust*

*Steven Wright – West Greenwich Land Trust*

Municipal land trusts have a unique set of issues, challenges, and opportunities. Join this discussion to share the strategies that helps your land trust to be effective and ask others for suggestions on your most pressing challenges. Discuss: budgeting processes, funding sources, interactions with town council, working with municipal departments (department of public works) and staff, managing buildings and properties that you own, getting volunteers, etc.

## **2-H. Sustainable Landscape Management Techniques for Water Quality Improvement and Resource Protection**

*Kate Venturini – University of RI Outreach Center*

Understand the latest sustainable landscape management recommendations for managing stormwater and conserving natural resources on residential lots in Rhode Island through the practice of landscape site inventory and the incorporation of landscape site analysis findings into landscape design; incorporation of Low Impact Development (LID) practices to treat runoff volumes from impervious surfaces; design and installation of native plant systems; and incorporation of the latest sustainable landscape maintenance practices.

## **2-I. Effective Communications and Media Relations**

*Chip Young – URI Coastal Institute*

*Peter Lord – Providence Journal*

Learn how to communicate with the media and public to gain more visibility and support for your organization or issue. Learn what the media needs from you, and how you can provide it.

## **2-J. Organizational Governance - the Critical, Challenging and Changing Role of the Board**

*Deborah Linnell – Third Sector New England*

Boards of directors are the volunteers and staff of many small conservation organizations. What are the board's critical roles? How does the board grow and change as the organization develops? And how can board members help their organizations adapt to these challenging times?

## **2-K. Developing a Major Donor Campaign**

*Jon Howard – Cause & Effect*

*Anne Garnett – Consultant*

What does it take to move up from grassroots donations to substantial gifts from individuals, family foundations and businesses in your community? This workshop will show you how to estimate your current capacity for major gifts and project your potential new income. We'll lay out the steps from prospect identification and cultivation through the "ask" and, most essential, regular, loving stewardship of your most generous supporters. Attendees will receive our free practical guides and worksheets.

## **Workshops – Session III      2:45 – 4:00**

### **3-A. Developing Access Sites on your River – Design to Implementation**

*Chris Fox – Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association*

*John Monroe – National Park Service River and Trails*

We want people to enjoy our waterways but too many of our rivers are difficult or unsafe to access. Developing access sites is challenging but can be done! This workshop will share WPWA's experience developing river access sites, highlighting both their successes and lessons learned. We will also discuss design specifications developed for water trails throughout the country.

### **3-B. Private Well Water Protection & Testing**

*Alyson McCann – University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension*

The University of Rhode Island's Cooperative Extension Water Quality Program and the Rhode Island Department of Health have provided private well water testing and protection education to Rhode Island residents for a number of years. This session will discuss some results of these educational efforts and review what steps private well owners have taken to protect their families and their drinking water. We will also explore what more can be done to educate residents about private well water protection and testing throughout our communities.

### **3-C. Leasing Your Protected Farmland for Agriculture**

*Kathy Ruhf – Land for Good*

*Pat McNiff – Casey Farm, Historic New England*

Once you have protected farmland, how do you keep it in production? How do you craft a lease that works for both the land trust and a farmer? And how do you find the right farmer? This workshop will help you think about how to successfully lease the farmland that your land trust has protected to keep it in production and manage it as a working landscape.

### **3-D. RI Conservation Easement Guidance Manual**

*Peter Ruggiero, Esq. – Ruggiero, Orton & Brochu (The Manual's Author)*

Are you working with conservation developments? This workshop will explain how conservation easements are drafted, reviewed, put into action, and effectively enforced to ensure that conservation parcels in these developments remain protected in perpetuity. Topics include: ownership and management of conservation parcels; developing, writing and recording conservation easements; and monitoring and insurance considerations. Copies of the new Manual will be available to session participants.

### **3-E. GIS - Guided Tour of New & User-Friendly Maps on the Internet**

*Greg Bonyngne – URI Geospatial Extension Program*

Google Maps and Google Earth are easy and effective tools for creating and sharing geographic information online. This presentation will introduce the basics of how to use these tools, and demonstrate how to access a variety of useful maps via the Rhode Island Digital Atlas.

### **3-F. How To Be An Effective Conservation Commission**

*Donald P. Gagnon – RI Association of Conservation Commission (RIACC) &  
Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC)*

Because of growing environmental concerns, the state saw fit to establish city and town conservation commissions, but the enabling legislation stopped short by making them 'advisory' bodies only. Commissions can still, through consistency and credibility, serve a key and influential role in city and town development through a number of sound strategies and positive actions. This workshop will demonstrate how following very structured yet basic steps and by applying local knowledge, commissions can help set the tone for responsible and well designed development and become a respected partner in local community planning.

**3-G. The RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative:  
Knowledge and Tools to Inform Land Stewards**

*Peter August –RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative Coordinator &  
URI Dept. of Natural Resources Science*

The RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative has developed a number of resources to support the land stewardship needs of the conservation community. These include a protocol for performing baseline inventories of properties, a web-based information repository of stewardship resources, an updated database of protected lands in RI, information on detecting and controlling invasive species, and proactive development of legislative initiatives to assist the land protection community. Furthermore, the Collaborative has embarked on a suite of exciting new projects for 2010. These include stewardship instructional podcasts for trail development and signage, case studies for baseline inventories, establishing a classification for RI ecological communities, and information on invasive species control. Please attend this session and share with the CSC your land stewardship needs and challenges.

**3-H. Mediation - Options for Productive Conflict Engagement**

*Victoria Moreno-Jackson – Community Mediation Center of Rhode Island*

Are you stalled or stumped by challenging relationships with land owners, councils, boards, citizen groups, or other organizations? Discover new options for getting unstuck through 3<sup>rd</sup> party neutral services. Also learn about options for increasing your capacity for productive conversations through customizable training options from the Community Mediation Center of Rhode Island.

**3-I. Using Your Budget to Tell Your Story**

*Claire Wheeler – New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund  
Bart Westdijk – New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund*

This workshop will give participants useful budgeting practices, templates and tools with an emphasis on building and using a budget that demonstrates the significance of your work. We will practice writing effective budgets and using those budgets to manage your work throughout the year, and hope to debunk the myth that budgets are just a scary set of numbers. This interactive session is geared towards small, volunteer-driven groups with limited budget experience.

**3-J. How To Make People Respond To Your Direct Mail**

*Jim Amspacher – Direct Mail Director for the Fund for the Public Interest 2002-2008*

Good writing is essential, but the text of your letter is not the first thing that your members look at when they get your appeal, and it's not the last thing they consider before writing a check. Find out how people react to your direct mail from the time they first see the envelope to the moment when they decide to contribute and learn a few tips for increasing your response rate.

**Thank You:**



**Lead Sponsor - 2010 Land & Water Summit**



# Registration Form

## Rhode Island Land & Water Conservation Summit

**Saturday, March 27, 2010**

Location: URI Memorial Union, Kingston

REGISTER ON LINE:  
[www.landandwaterpartnership.org](http://www.landandwaterpartnership.org)

Registration Cost (includes lunch and breaks):

**Early Registration before March 5: \$40      After March 5: \$55**

=====

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Land Trust \_\_\_\_\_ Watershed Council \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation Commission \_\_\_\_\_ (check all that apply)

I am a: Board Member/Trustee \_\_\_\_\_; Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_; Staff \_\_\_\_\_; Other \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  Please PRINT CLEARLY

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

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please add my name to the Land & Water Partnership mailing list? \_\_\_\_ Yes; \_\_\_\_ No

*The Land & Water Partnership does NOT sell or otherwise share our mailing or email list.*

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

**Session I**

**Session 2**

**Session 3**

\_\_\_\_\_ Also check Box for session 1K:  \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount Enclosed (\$40.00 before March 5; \$55.00 after March 5): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Refund Policy: registrations may be cancelled until March 19 for a fee of \$5. No refunds after March 19.*

**Please submit your registration before March 5 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  
PO Box 633  
Saunderstown, RI 02874**

REGISTER ON LINE:  
[www.landandwaterpartnership.org](http://www.landandwaterpartnership.org)

**Questions/Information? Contact:**

Rupert Friday, land conservation liaison email: [rfriday@rilandtrusts.org](mailto:rfriday@rilandtrusts.org); 401-932-4667

Don Gagnon, conservation commission liaison email: [riacc@cox.net](mailto:riacc@cox.net); 401-769-4309

Meg Kerr, water conservation liaison email: [megkerr@cox.net](mailto:megkerr@cox.net); 401-714-2313