



*Present the 8th Annual*

# Land & Water Conservation Summit

*Working together to protect our communities*



*Photo courtesy of DocWoodPhoto.com*

Saturday March 26, 2011  
7:45 AM - 4:30 PM  
URI Memorial Union, Kingston Campus

THE  
RHODE  
ISLAND  
FOUNDATION

**Please join the Foundation and Save the Bay  
for a special presentation,**

*"Diversity and the Environmental Movement"*

Featuring:

**Marcelo Bonta**

**Executive Director and Founder**

**Center for Diversity & the Environment**

**When: Friday, April 15th at 9:30 a.m.**

**Where: The Rhode Island Foundation  
One Union Station, Providence**

**Space is limited! To reserve your seat, please contact Jenny Pereira  
at [jpereira@rifoundation.org](mailto:jpereira@rifoundation.org) or 401-427-4052.**

*Marcelo is the founder of the Environmental Professionals of Color and the Center for Diversity & the Environment, a national organization based in Oregon that works to racially and ethnically diversify the U.S. environmental movement by developing leaders, diversifying institutions, and building community.*

**Visit [www.rifoundation.org](http://www.rifoundation.org) for more information.**

*15<sup>th</sup> Annual RINHS  
Ecology Conference:*

Science and Management of  
Salt Ponds and Coastal Lagoons

Thursday, April 28, 2011

Quonset O Club

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[www.rinhs.org](http://www.rinhs.org) for registration information



R H O D E I S L A N D  
  
NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY  
Providing Ecosystem Science and Information

Keynote: Judith Weis, Rutgers University  
Invited & contributed papers, posters and displays,  
moderated discussion, RINHS annual awards.

*Sponsored by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service RI Refuges and USDA-NRCS*

Participate in the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Rhode Island  
Statewide Historic Preservation Conference

**Destination Block Island:  
Tourism and Community  
in a Historic Place**

Saturday April 30

with additional programs on Friday + Sunday

Organized by the Rhode Island  
Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

[www.preservation.ri.gov/conference](http://www.preservation.ri.gov/conference)



# **Thank You to these sponsors for the Summit!**

## **Lead Sponsors**

**Hazard Family Foundation**

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## **Additional Sponsors**

**Coastal Institute**

**Narragansett Bay Estuary Program**

**Narragansett Bay Research Reserve Coastal Training Program**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Rhode Island Sea Grant**

**Whole Foods**

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## **Displays and Vendors**

### **2011 Land & Water Conservation Summit**

- American Chestnut Foundation
- Audubon Society of RI
- Bank of America
- Blackstone River Coalition
- Coalition for Transportation Choices
- Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.
- Grow Smart RI
- Keepspace, Rhode Island Housing
- Land Trust Alliance
- Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
- Narragansett Bay Research Reserve
- Narrow River Preservation Association
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Neutaconkanut Hill Conservancy
- New England Grassroots Environmental Fund
- Pavers By Ideal
- Peoples Power and Light
- RI Flood Mitigation Association
- RI Land Trust Council
- RI Resource Conservation and Development Council
- RI Sea Grant
- RI Natural History Survey – Forest Health Works Project
- Roger Williams Zoo
- Save our Lakes
- The Great American Rain Barrel Co.
- URI Activities Supporting Management of Early Successional Habitat





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[www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov)

**Simply e-mail, call, or visit our office to find  
out which programs best fit your conservation  
needs.**

[NRCSInfo@ri.usda.gov](mailto:NRCSInfo@ri.usda.gov)

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Warwick, RI 02886

# RI Land & Water Partnership

[www.landandwaterpartnership.org](http://www.landandwaterpartnership.org)

Grassroots conservation organizations play a central role in protecting Rhode Island's waterways, open spaces, farms and historic vistas. Rhode Island is fortunate to have over 45 land trusts, a dozen watershed organizations and numerous conservation commissions that rely on the expertise and passion of hundreds of volunteer conservation leaders. Since 2004, the RI Land & Water Partnership has worked to build the capacity and foster connections between these dedicated grass roots organizations. The RI Land & Water Partnership is led by the RI Land Trust Council and the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program with assistance from the RI Association of Conservation Commissions and representatives from other leading conservation organizations.

The RI Land & Water Partnership recognizes that each local organization is unique, comprised of local advocates who understand the issues in their community and foster local support for their conservation work. The Partnership also recognizes that grassroots conservation organizations have much in common – each organization faces similar land and water conservation issues and has similar governance, public relations and other administrative activities. The Partnership sponsors programs that foster learning and collaboration among conservation leaders throughout the state and region. Through the years, the Partnership has demonstrated that local conservationists can learn and work together to strengthen land and water protection throughout the state.

Each year, the RI Land & Water Partnership hosts the **Land & Water Conservation Summit** in March complemented with a suite of **workshops** throughout the year on both technical conservation issues and organizational development. The Summit and workshops help to build the skills and foster connections that local conservation leaders need to be more effective.

The Partnership's **web site**, [www.landandwaterpartnership.org](http://www.landandwaterpartnership.org), stores a wealth of information from past summits and workshops. The website is also home to an **on-line library of resource materials** created in collaboration with the RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative. This is a web-based collection of "how to" information to support land and water conservation stewardship. The library includes land stewardship tools including information on baseline documentation, easement monitoring, management of invasive species, and habitat restoration strategies; watershed stewardship tools including information on Blueways (water trails) and water quality monitoring; and tools for organizational support.

Please check it out and send your feedback to the Partnership's leaders:  
Rupert Friday ([rfriday@rilandtrusts.org](mailto:rfriday@rilandtrusts.org)) and Meg Kerr ([megkerr@cox.net](mailto:megkerr@cox.net)).



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*A few of the groups we've worked with:*

Aquidneck Land Trust

Barrington Land Conservation Trust

Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

Rhode Island Land Trust Council

Rhode Island Land and Water Partnership

Westerly Land Trust

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Women's Voices for the Earth

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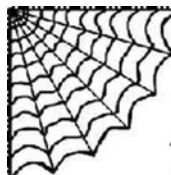
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# The Land & Water Conservation Summit

## 8 years and counting....

The annual **Land & Water Conservation Summit** is the Land & Water Partnership's flagship event. The Summit has been held every year since 2004 and is possible because dozens of conservation leaders and experts in organizational development (fundraising, board development, public relations) are willing to spend their Saturday to share their expertise with their colleagues and friends. The Summit is held in March as promises of spring are in the air and is widely acknowledged as Rhode Island's go-to meeting for workshops and networking with other grassroots conservation leaders.

**Where we started:** Rhode Island's land trusts have come together at an annual conference since 1999. In 2004, the RI Land Trust Council invited watershed organizations and conservation commissions to join the conference and created the RI Land & Water Summit. The first Land & Water Summit was held at the North Kingstown High School. Partner organizations were encouraged to bring displays, which were set up in the school's atrium. Lunch was served in the school cafeteria. The energy and enthusiasm for this joint conference was terrific.

In 2005, the conference was moved to the URI Memorial Union where it has remained. The Summit has grown into the state's premier conservation event, attracting over 300 conservation leaders from Rhode Island and neighboring New England states for a day of learning and networking.

**Summit Keynote Speakers** – Each year we recruit a keynote speaker for the Summit who can provide summit participants with timely information and inspiration for continuing our work together.

### **Our roster of keynote speakers and their topics:**

**2004 Gus Seelig:** “Keys to the 15 year Success of the VT Housing & Conservation Program”

**2005 Peter Forbes:** “The Soul of the Land - Nurturing Our Emotional Connections to Our Communities, Landscapes and Watersheds and Telling Stories that Celebrate These Relationships”

**2006 Jeff Milder:** “Using Development to Support Conservation - How to Leverage the Real Estate Market to Help Fund Conservation Projects”

**2007 Richard Greenwood:** “Powerful Currents - A Historical Perspective on Rivers and the Making of Rhode Island”

**2008 Gina McCarthy:** “No Child Left Inside”

**2009 Tom Wessells:** “Reading the Forested Landscape - A Natural History of New England”

**2010 Tom Horton:** “Saving the Chesapeake Bay's Land & Water - Lessons Learned after 25 years”

**2011 Steve Sloan:** “Connecting People to Place and Your Conservation Mission”



# Sea Grant

## Rhode Island

*“Science Serving Rhode Island’s Coasts”*

*Is delighted to serve the Rhode Island Land & Water Partnership*

### **Eighth Annual Land and Water Conservation Summit**

Rhode Island Sea Grant works in the state, the region, and beyond to discover answers to issues affecting coastal resources and the people who depend on them. Rhode Island Sea Grant has a 40-year history of funding coastal and ocean research as well as running high-quality outreach and education programs that address the needs of resource managers and users.

*For more information on Rhode Island Sea Grant’s Research,  
Outreach and Education Programs  
visit our website at:*

**<http://seagrants.gso.uri.edu>**



# Land & Water Conservation Awards

## Peter Merritt Award for Land Conservation

### **Awarded by RI Land Trust Council**

The Peter Merritt Award for Land Conservation is given to recognize a volunteer who demonstrates outstanding dedication to land conservation in their community.

The Award honors the late Peter Merritt (1943 - 2000), a founding and dedicated Board member and 2nd president of the Aquidneck Land Trust. Peter worked ceaselessly to establish a vision for land conservation on Aquidneck Island and to marshal the Island's citizens, municipalities and financial resources toward implementing that vision. He was an eloquent, articulate spokesperson for the need—and the immediacy of the need—for sustainable land conservation on the Island. Peter advocated for open space preservation tirelessly. Wherever he was, his enthusiasm and persuasive arguments were a catalyst for action that changed our landscape forever. Peter is described as one part visionary, one part organizer, and one part trench negotiator. Yet, Peter was always the first to give credit and praise to others for the land trust's accomplishments that he so often led.

We celebrate Peter's spirit and enthusiasm with this Award in his honor. This award recognizes dedicated "in the trenches" individuals who are making an outstanding contribution to land contribution in their Rhode Island communities.

Past recipients are: Julie Sharpe (Narrow River Land Trust and other land trusts, 2010), Linda Steere (Narrow River Land Trust, 2009), Karen Saucier (Cumberland Land Trust, 2008), Larry Anderson (Sakonnet Preservation Association, 2007), harlotte Sornborger (Barrington Land Conservation Trust, 2006), Harvey Perry (The Westerly Land Trust, 2005), Bob Kimarx (Barrington Land Conservation Trust, 2004), Kate Smith (West Bay Land Trust, 2003) and Bob Hawksley (Glocester Land Trust, 2002).

## Blueways Stewardship Award

### **Awarded by the Rhode Island Blueways Alliance**

The mission of the Rhode Island Blueways Alliance is to develop a water trail network linking Rhode Island's rivers, lakes and ponds to Narragansett Bay and to use the trail to promote safety, conservation, recreation and economic development. The Blueways Stewardship Award was created in 2010 to recognize an individual who exemplifies dedication to the stewardship and conservation of Rhode Island's rivers, lakes and coastal waters. The Blueways Stewardship Award is given to an individual who has the respect of their peers and who has notable accomplishments in watershed management in any of the following areas:

- water quality monitoring and protection,
- development of trails on water
- promoting land use that protects waterways,
- working to make connections between watershed conservation and their community.

Past recipients are: Frank Matta (Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone, 2010).

## It doesn't end here... Keep learning after the conference!

Get the most current and authoritative land conservation information you need, any way you like it: **Online, in print** and **in-person**.

### [www.lta.org/webinars](http://www.lta.org/webinars)

No matter where you are, take a webinar to access the latest information from community experts.

### <http://learningcenter.lta.org>

Online Learning Center\* with a digital library and forums moderated by expert land conservation practitioners to answer your questions.

### [www.lta.org/publications](http://www.lta.org/publications)

Expand your library with the Alliance's *Standards and Practices Curriculum* – available in book or downloadable formats.

### [www.lta.org/rally](http://www.lta.org/rally)

Rally 2011: The National Land Conservation Conference  
October 13-16, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

A unique opportunity where 2,000 conservation leaders gather to teach, learn and inspire each other.

\* The Learning Center is a service offered to Alliance member land trusts, partners and individual members at the \$250 level and above.



## Thank You!

### These Land Trusts are Supporting the RI Land Trust Council This Year with a Dues-Contribution (2010-2011 fiscal year)

- Aquidneck Land Trust
- Barrington Land Conservation Trust
- Block Island Conservancy
- Block Island Land Trust
- Charlestown Land Trust
- Cumberland Land Trust
- Foster Land Trust
- Gloucester Land Trust
- Hopkinton Land Trust
- Land Conservancy of North Kingstown
- Lincoln Land Trust
- Mill Cove Conservancy
- N. Smithfield Land Trust
- Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust
- Prudence Conservancy
- RI Farm Bureau Land Trust
- Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust
- Sakonnet Preservation Association
- Smithfield Land Trust
- South Kingstown Land Trust
- The Westerly Land Trust
- Tiverton Land Trust
- Watch Hill Conservancy
- Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation
- West Greenwich Land Trust
- Westerly Municipal Land Trust

# RHODE ISLAND LAND TRUST COUNCIL



The Rhode Island Land Trust Council - established in 1999 - is a coalition of the state's land trusts – community based organizations formed to protect land that preserves the open spaces, natural areas, working farms, forests, watersheds, drinking water supplies, and scenic and historic landscapes that define the character of our communities and our state. Collectively, land trusts are preserving the special places in our communities to ensure that our heritage will still be there as our legacy for future generations.

Land Trusts in Rhode Island are grass roots organizations that reflect the uniqueness and priorities of their communities. Only 7 Rhode Island land trusts have staff – the others are volunteer organizations. Dozens of people across the state dedicate 100's of hours of their time to preserve and manage our communities' most valued open space lands.

**Mission:** Foster a sustainable land conservation movement in the State by supporting the missions and operations of land trusts and providing a forum for their effective cooperation.

**Strategy:** The Council strives to:

- promote state policy and initiatives that support land trusts and land conservation;
- foster collaboration and the exchange of ideas, information and technical expertise; and
- increase land trusts' capacity to preserve land and manage the land that they are protecting.

The RI Land Trust Council is governed by a Board elected at the annual Business Meeting held during the Land & Water Conservation Summit. Board members represent the geographic and organizational diversity of land trusts around the state. The Council's work is made possible by generous contributions from land trusts, individuals, organizations and foundations.

## **Thank You! To These Foundations and Organizations for Supporting the RI Land Trust Council This Year:**

- Audubon Society of Rhode Island
- Conservation Stewardship Collaborative Endowment
- Conservation Stewardship Collaborative Matching Grants
  - Mr & Mrs. Dudley A. Williams
  - Peter August
- Hazard Family Foundation
- Helen Walker Raleigh Tree Care Trust Fund
- Land Trusts (Dues contributing members are listed on facing page)
- Prince Charitable Trusts
- RI DEM - Division of Agriculture
- The Rhode Island Foundation
- RI Land Trust Council Board Members
- Sharpe Family Foundation/Julie & Henry Sharpe III
- van Beuren Charitable Foundation
- Woodcock Charitable Fund

**For additional information on the RI Land Trust Council:**

Contact: Rupert Friday 401-932-4667 or by email at: [rfriday@RILandtrusts.org](mailto:rfriday@RILandtrusts.org)

**Visit our Website: [WWW.RILandTrusts.org](http://WWW.RILandTrusts.org)**

# It's a year to celebrate!

40 years of Rhode Island Sea Grant  
40 years of the Coastal Resources Center  
50 years of URI's Graduate School of Oceanography  
and 10 years of the Coastal Institute



COASTAL RESOURCES CENTER  
University of Rhode Island

...and counting, as we work together to promote healthy wetlands, rivers, estuaries and oceans



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[www.ci.uri.edu](http://www.ci.uri.edu)



# NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM



**Who We Are:** The mission of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program to protect and restore Narragansett Bay’s ecosystem by developing action-oriented partnerships, providing technical assistance to stakeholders, and providing sound science to inform management and policy decisions. NBEP is one of 28 National Estuary Programs established by the Clean Water Act, with oversight by EPA. The program is managed collaboratively by a 14-member Management Committee comprised of watershed stakeholders from both Rhode Island and Massachusetts, including federal and state agencies as well as non-governmental partners. NBEP’s geographic focus is the Narragansett Bay Region, which includes the Bay itself as well as its 2000-square-mile watershed in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts.

**Current Priorities:** NBEP focuses its work in areas where its funding and expertise can leverage significant results for the Bay ecosystem. Current program initiatives include:

Estuarine Science for Management: NBEP developed and continues to lead the most comprehensive boat-based program for monitoring dissolved oxygen in Narragansett Bay, closely coordinated with other federal, state and university-based monitoring and research programs, such as the Bay Window and NOAA’s coastal hypoxia modeling efforts. We’re engaged in an innovative program to monitor macroalgae (seaweed) in order to better assess the effectiveness of state and federal investments in wastewater treatment. With federal, state and non-governmental partners, we’re developing ecological indicators for Narragansett Bay, and played a key role in organizing and managing recent “rapid assessment surveys” of invasive species in the Bay.

Ecosystem Restoration: Since our first attempts to plant eelgrass in the Bay in 1995, NBEP has been a regional leader in habitat restoration. With the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, R.I. Dept. of Environmental Management and other partners, we developed the largest wetland restoration project ever completed on Narragansett Bay—the 40-acre Town Pond project in Portsmouth, R.I. NBEP leads a project to remove the obsolete Pawtuxet Falls Dam in Warwick and Cranston, R.I., which will help restore Narragansett Bay’s commercial and recreational fisheries, while reducing damaging property flooding along the lower Pawtuxet River. We’ve been a leading advocate for urban environmental restoration, and are now working with the City of Providence to restore water quality in the ponds of Roger Williams Park. In Somerset, Mass., we recently completed a salt marsh restoration in partnership with Mass. Division of Ecological Restoration.

Community-Based Stewardship: NBEP hosts the R.I. Land and Water Summit, the state’s leading forum for grassroots environmental action, and developed several statewide projects to provide watershed councils and other small environmental organizations with administrative tools and support. NBEP co-hosts the annual Land & Water Conservation Summit and organizes technical workshops throughout the year. NBEP provides volunteer and financial management support to grassroots organizations. Through participation in the R.I. Blueways Alliance, we are developing a water trail network that links recreational users and conservationists throughout the Narragansett Bay Region. NBEP is a member of the Coalition for Water Security working for sustainable water use and of the Coalition for Transportation Choices which promotes safe and sustainable transportation practices.

Information for Ecosystem-Based Management: NBEP organized a collaborative effort to develop “Our Shared Future,” an interstate plan for the Narragansett Bay ecosystem which integrates stakeholder goals with agency priorities. “Our Shared Future” builds on “Currents of Change,” the most comprehensive report to date on status and trends of the Bay ecosystem, which NBEP completed in 2009. NBEP publishes the electronic Narragansett Bay Journal, reaching thousands of readers with this leading publication devoted to the Bay ecosystem.

**To learn more about the NBEP, visit [www.nbep.org](http://www.nbep.org) or call 401.874.6233**



The **Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NBNERR) Coastal Training Program (CTP)** serves coastal decision-makers within the Narragansett Bay watershed. Trainings provide science-based information and skills needed to address critical, local resource management issues. Municipal staff and volunteers, designers and developers, landscape architects, engineers, attorneys, and non-profit organizations such as watershed councils and land trusts all benefit from the trainings.

**Coastal Training Programs** focus on issues such as:

- *Conservation Development*
- *Conservation Easements & Open Space Mngt*
- *Conservation Design/Greenspace Mapping*
- *Low Impact Design*
- *Riparian buffer restoration*
- *Groundwater supply*
- *Invasive Species*

The Coastal Training Program enhances coordination, collaboration and communication among other trainers and educators in the Narragansett Bay watershed.



Programs are delivered as seminars, hands-on skill training, participatory workshops and lectures. **Participants share experiences and network in a multidisciplinary setting.**

**Partnerships** are key to the success of the CTP in implementing quality trainings and products. **Grow Smart RI** recently helped create an online community calendar. Land use and water-resources related workshops, conferences, and other events around RI and in nearby MA and CT are listed here:



[www.communityconnectionri.org](http://www.communityconnectionri.org)

**For more information contact:**

**Jennifer West, CTP Coordinator**  
PO Box 151, Prudence Island, RI 02872

**Email:** [jennifer@nberr.org](mailto:jennifer@nberr.org)  
**NBRR Phone:** (401)-683-6780, ext. 6;  
**DEM Phone:** (401) 222-4700, ext. 7413



**Audubon Society**  
of Rhode Island

# *Rhode Island Association of Conservation Commissions*



The Rhode Island Association of Conservation Commissions (RIACC) is a non-profit, grassroots organization devoted to fostering cooperation and coordination of municipal conservation commissions on a regional and statewide basis. Realizing that conservation commissions often work in earnest but in isolation from each other, RIACC was developed to fill an important niche in Rhode Island's conservation community by creating an avenue whereby the state's municipal conservation leaders can come together to address common concerns, develop best management practices, and speak with one voice to collectively address the environmental issues which impact every community.

Since its inception, RIACC has been representing these commissions while working with kindred organizations and public agencies to address a host of environmental issues that directly affect our local communities and clearly reflect our global situation. The association functions as a catalyst to state and local lawmakers enacting stronger conservation legislation (e.g., the 2004 Environmental Advocacy Act GLRI Chapter 45-51). RIACC works to educate, empower, and network Rhode Island's conservation commissions in their mission to advise and act locally in building sustainable communities through developing environmentally sound land, water, and resource policies, and encouraging eco-inspired innovation in technology and development generally.

For further information, mail: RIACC, PO Box 6631, Providence, RI, 02904; or contact Dan Novak at 401- 397-4586 or at [dnovak@etal.uri.edu](mailto:dnovak@etal.uri.edu).





# Going Greener - Help us “green the Summit!”

Everyone is at the Summit to talk about conservation – “talking the talk”. And with your help, the Land & Water Conservation Summit is also “walking the walk”-- putting green practices in place for this annual event.

## The changes we are making include:

- In 2011, we are once again giving a **reusable insulated cup** to everyone who attends **instead of providing bottled water and disposable coffee cups**. We have washed each reusable cup so you can use your cup for water and coffee and reduce the volume of waste we produce.
- This year, we are partnering with EcoRI who are coordinating the **composting of our waste from lunch**. EcoRI is assisted by our partners at Ronzio’s who have purchased compostable plates and utensils.
- This year, we are also partnering with People’s Power & Light to **offset carbon emissions** from the Summit **with renewable energy**. The electricity for this event has been matched by local, clean wind power. Through the New England Wind Fund, People’s Power & Light is able to provide the financial support needed to secure contracts for wind projects. It is the only tax-deductible clean energy option in Rhode Island available to all residents and businesses. (Contact People’s Power & Light at 401-861-6111 for more information).
- We are reducing the amount of paper used at the Summit this year by eliminating the folders previously distributed to each participant.

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# Keynote Speaker

## Connecting People to Place & Your Conservation Mission

**Steve Sloan** *The Trustees of Reservations, Greater Boston Regional Director*

Steve has worked with Trustees since 1997, and as Greater Boston Regional Director he oversees 43 properties, including woodlands, farms, historic houses, designed parks, and coastal islands. Steve will share The Trustees' programs and strategies for reaching new audiences. He will also describe The Trustees' efforts to nurture a more resilient landscape by undertaking a variety of large-scale habitat restoration projects, including field, salt marsh, and coldwater stream restorations.

Founded in 1891, The Trustees is the oldest regional land trust in America, working to protect landscapes and landmarks in Massachusetts. The Trustees is working to broaden their impact and audience to increase their long-term effectiveness and positively impact more communities. They are increasing their work in Massachusetts' cities, embracing new partnerships, expanding agricultural programming, and committing to becoming carbon neutral by 2017.



# Program

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**7:45 – 8:30 Registration & Continental Breakfast**

**8:30 – 9:30 Welcome - Ballroom**

Emcee: Peter August, URI Natural Resource Science Dept.

**Keynote — Steve Sloan, Boston Director - Trustees of Reservations  
Connecting People to Place and Your Conservation Mission**

**9:30 – 10:20 Business Meetings - Networking - Visit Exhibits**

**9:30 – 9:50 Business Meetings:**

- RI Land Trust Council — Atrium I

- RI Association of Conservation Commissions — Atrium IIB

**10:20 – 11:30 Session I Workshops**

—Your choice from 9 offered – Descriptions on pages 19 & 21

**11:30 – 11:45 Break - Networking - Visit Exhibits - See page 1 for listings**

**11:45 – 12:55 Session II Workshops**

—Your choice from 9 offered – Descriptions on pages 23 & 25

**12:55 – 2:30 Lunch & Awards**

— **Senator Sosnowski** – Chair, Environment & Agriculture Committee

— **Representative Handy** – Chair, Environment & Natural Resources Committee

— **Peter Merritt Award & Blueways Stewardship Award**

**2:45 – 4:00 Session III Workshops**

—Your choice from 9 offered – Descriptions on pages 26 & 27



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# Workshops at a Glance

	<b>Session 1</b> (10:20 - 11:30am)	<b>Session 2</b> (11:45 - 12:55pm)	<b>Session 3</b> (2:45 - 4:00pm)
A	Restoring Urban/Suburban Watersheds Using a New Approach to TMDLs	Working with Communities to Tackle Stormwater	Dams in an Era of Climate Change
B	Appraisals for Land Conservation	Conservation Easement Basics	Partnerships in Protecting Farmland
C	How are We Doing with Cesspool Phase Out?	Who Owns Our Water?	Summer is Coming: How are our Beaches doing?
D	Preserving Historic & Conservation Values in Developed Landscapes	Managing Hunting on Protected Properties	Stewarding Our Protected Lands: New Tools to Meet New Challenges
E	Drawing out the Art in Earth/Creative Partnerships between Artists & Environmentalists	Working with Communities to Redesign Streets so They Make Sense!	Fish are Living in Our Rivers & Bay: Are They Safe to Eat?
F	Forest Stewardship on Protected Lands	Managing Habitats for Wildlife: Case Studies & Curiosities	Wind Power & Land Conservation
G	Affordable Housing & the Environment	Public Access to Waterways	Facilitating Collaboration among Conservation Commissions
H	Art of the Schmooze (Fundraising Workshop - part 1)	Grassroots Fundraising Workshop - part 2)	Establishing a Bequest Society
I	What Makes a Great Board Meeting?	Zero-based Budgeting: Aligning Finance & Mission	GIS – Introducing the Community Resource Inventory

# The Narragansett Bay Watershed is...

Home to 2 million people in 100 cities and towns. It is 1,707 square miles in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. There are 2,800 miles of rivers, 44,000 acres of lakes and 122,880 acres of estuary/bay.

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The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program works in partnership with state and federal agencies, businesses and local organizations to...



*Understand and explain water quality and water use*



*Promote access and use of natural resources*



*Restore our natural ecosystems*



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# Workshops - Session I (10:20 - 11:30)

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## 1-A. Restoring Urban/Suburban Watersheds using a New Approach to TMDLs: Implementing the First Impervious Cover TMDL in the Nation

*Chester Arnold – University of Connecticut*

In 2007, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection issued the first Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in the country based on impervious cover—for a watershed that drains the majority of the University of Connecticut campus. The TMDL was developed as a way to deal with “urban stream syndrome”—streams compromised by a synergistic mix of urbanization-related impacts. What does an “IC-TMDL” mean? Can a technically based pollutant accounting system be successfully wed with a general landscape indicator, or is it a recipe for disaster? This talk will relate the status, findings, and results to date of the ongoing Eagleville Brook “IC-TMDL” project. In addition, there will be a discussion of lessons learned, successes, pitfalls, and future prospects for the use of this strategy in urbanizing watersheds in CT, RI and elsewhere.

## 1-B. Appraisals for Land Conservation

*George Mason – Little Compton Agricultural Conservation Trust (moderator)*

*Tom Henry – T W Henry Real Estate Appraisals*

*Mike Kern – Scotti and Associates*

What do appraisers need from land trusts before they appraise a property? What are the different approaches appraisers use to determine how much properties are worth and why do different funders need different approaches? What information should land trusts request from appraisers and what should land trusts request of potential sellers to ensure property appraisals are accurate? What is the relationship between the land trust and the appraiser and how can land trusts use the appraiser as a resource? How is appraising a conservation easement different from appraising a property for outright purchase? What does enhancement value mean, how is it evaluated and what does this mean to the land trust’s bottom line? What should a land trust look for when they get an appraisal report? What advice should land trusts give property owners about appraisals for donations? These are some of the questions that this panel will discuss. Be sure to bring your appraisal questions.

## 1-C. How are We Doing with Cesspool Phase Out?

*Ernie Panciera – RI Department of Environmental Management*

RI DEM estimates that there are up to 50,000 cesspools in Rhode Island. A cesspool is any buried chamber that receives sewage from a building for disposal into the ground. Cesspools do not treat sewage and can contaminate groundwater and nearby waterways. The Rhode Island Cesspool Act of 2007 mandated that all cesspools located within 200 feet of the inland edge of the coastal shoreline feature bordering a tidal water area must be abandoned and the home upgraded with a new onsite wastewater treatment system or connected to available municipal sewer lines. The Act also required cesspools located within 200 feet of public wells or within 200 feet of drinking water reservoirs to be replaced. This session will review progress to date on implementation of the Cesspool Act of 2007 and will highlight areas where local conservation organizations can provide assistance. In addition, an overview of local onsite wastewater management in RI will be provided.

## 1-D. Preserving Historic and Conservation Values in Developed Landscapes

*Scott Comings – The Nature Conservancy*

*Val Talmage – Preserve Rhode Island*

An easement is an effective way of ensuring that properties with historic values as well as conservation values are protected. This workshop will give examples of how easements on historic and scenic properties have been used to achieve a positive outcome for protecting community character and the environment. Based on our experience we will discuss the pros and cons of using easements to protect historic structures and features on the land.

## GROUP FACILITATION AND EVENT MANAGEMENT



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# Workshops Session I *(continued)*

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## **1-E. Drawing the Art out of Earth/ Creative Partnerships between Artists and Environmentalists**

*Ana Flores – Ecological artist and principal of Earth Inform Studios*

*Eugenia Marks – Audubon Society of Rhode Island*

*Alicia Lehrer – Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council*

How can the language of art and the perspective of artists be useful in interpreting the lands we conserve and attracting new audiences? This hands on workshop begins with lessons in the art of drawing and an introduction to the environmental art movement and artists. The second part of the workshop will feature a panel discussion with representatives from local environmental groups who've collaborated successfully with environmental artists. Local and national projects combining art and ecology will be presented as models and inspiration for future partnerships, as well as necessary guidelines for choosing artists and seeking funding.

## **1-F. Forest Stewardship on Protected Lands**

*Bruce Payton – Gloucester Land Trust*

*Marc Tremblay – Land Management Services*

*Tim Mooney – The Nature Conservancy*

Managing forest properties may include active management to implement your forest plan, improve forest health, manage habitats, etc. Forest management may generate revenue for your organizations. We will share examples of forest management implemented on protected lands and discuss “how to” strategies and ways to avoid pitfalls. Panelists are a municipal land trust chair/DEM forester, a forest consultant and TNC preserve manager.

## **1-G. Affordable Housing & the Environment**

*Harvey Buford – Hopkinton Conservation Commission (moderator)*

*Steve Ostiguy – Church Community Housing; and Howard Walker – Hopkinton Planning Board*

The state's Affordable Housing law and comprehensive permit process has initiated a range of development projects that would not be possible under normal town regulations. Some are models of environmental protection and design with sophisticated solutions to meeting the needs of low and moderate income families. Yet other proposals attempt to use the law to disregard environmental protections. This workshop will share Sandywoods Farm development in Tiverton as a demonstration of how to work with the right developer to achieve housing solutions respectful of the environment. We will also discuss how to effectively address proposals that disregard the environment.

## **1-H. Art of the Schmooze (Fundraising – Part 1)**

*Robbie Samuels – Trainer [www.RobbieSamuels.com](http://www.RobbieSamuels.com)*

Attend this interactive, fast-paced and fun workshop to learn the foundational skills related to relationship building. Forming and cultivating relationships is at the heart of any successful fundraising campaign, volunteer drive, committee effort or community building activity. This workshop will benefit anyone that wants to sharpen their in-person networking skills: community members, seasoned fundraisers, board members, grassroots organizers and anyone that wants to create welcoming community spaces. Both introverts and extroverts will learn practical tips on ways to engage someone in a conversation, keep it rolling, exchange information and wrap up, along with many other important techniques to cultivate and grow new networks. Attend Part 2 – Workshop 2H “Grassroots Fundraising” - to put these new skills to work raising funds for mission-driven organizations. (Attendance at both sessions encouraged but not required.)

## **1-I. What Makes a Great Board Meeting?**

*David Karoff – Consultant*

Board meetings are an essential part of any organization's work. However, for many, they're not always optimally productive, and they're often boring, or even painful. That's not necessary. We'll talk about developing good communications systems to ensure the best use of precious board meeting time, from setting the agenda to the role of the Chair. There will be time for questions about your organization's meetings.

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# Workshop Session II (11:45 - 12:55)

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## 2-A. Working with Communities to Tackle Stormwater

*Peter Coffin – Blackstone River Coalition*

Stormwater is a major source of pollution to our rivers, lakes, ponds and Bay. And it is a difficult problem to address. All of us who drive cars, walk our dogs (without a handy poop-bag), take our kids to feed the geese, live in homes with septic systems or cesspools, care for our lawn with fertilizer and chemicals, etc. are part of the problem. The Blackstone River Coalition has created a 4-part program to address stormwater by working with: businesses through “In Business for the Blackstone”; local decision makers on ordinances and zoning that minimize stormwater; developers on LID implementation; and homeowners on best practices for the home. This session will highlight this successful program, providing you with strategies that can be implemented in your local watershed.

## 2-B. Conservation Easement Basics

*Ted Clement, Esq. – Aquidneck Land Trust*

This workshop will provide a basic overview of Conservation Easements. Definitions, key legal underpinnings, important components of a strong Conservation Easement (Conservation Easement, Legal Description, Baseline Documentation Report, Management Plan, etc.) and other fundamental matters, such as the due diligence process that should occur prior to acquiring a Conservation Easement, will be examined. We’ll also discuss important aspects of easements for working farmland. Active participation will be encouraged.

## 2-C. Who Owns our Water?

*Claire Wheeler – New England Grassroots Environmental Fund*

*Sheila Dormody – Clean Water Fund, Coalition for Water Security*

Water is a shared resource that we often take for granted. But as we consider water use and conservation and our increasingly limited groundwater resources, we need to consider the important question, “Who owns our Water?” What is the legal framework for water rights? And what are the roles that communities play in the conversation? The New England Grassroots Environmental Fund is convening conversations around water rights throughout New England and the Coalition for Water Security is working with stakeholders in RI to ensure we manage our water today with tomorrow’s needs in mind.

## 2-D. Managing Hunting on Protected Properties

*Brian Tefft – RI Department of Environmental Management*

*Tom Rawinski – USDA Forest Service*

*Bruce Payton – Gloucester Land Trust*

Permitting hunting on land protected by land trusts can be an important and necessary management strategy for achieving conservation objectives, practicing good land stewardship and for promoting public use of protected open spaces. This workshop will discuss the need and benefits of permitting hunting on protected land and will discuss strategies to help land trusts manage hunting on their properties. Rhode Island’s growing deer population, in particular, is a major concern affecting our forests’ ecology, public health (Lyme disease), public safety (auto strikes) and nuisance (property damage). Managed hunting is an effective means for helping to maintain sustainable deer population levels and improving forest health. The workshop will encourage and provide land trusts with some of the information needed to manage hunting on their protected lands.



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# Workshop Session II *(continued)*

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## **2-E. Working with Communities to Re-Design Streets so they Make Sense!**

*Abel Collins – Sierra Club RI*

We are addicted to our cars and increasingly we are living in communities that only support automobile transportation. The Coalition for Transportation Choices, AARP and Sierra Club RI are working to promote Complete Streets — streets that welcome walking, biking and public transportation as well as cars. Ingredients that may be found on a Complete Street include: sidewalks, bike lanes, special bus lanes, comfortable and accessible transit stops, frequent crossing opportunities, pedestrian signals, good lighting, curb extensions, and more. A Complete Street in a rural area will look different from one in an urban area, but both are designed to balance safety and convenience for everyone using the road. This session will review the basic components of complete streets and will summarize campaigns on-going in Rhode Island to promote complete streets. Participants will leave with the tools needed to advocate for streets that make sense in their communities.

## **2-F. Managing Habitats for Wildlife: Case Studies and Curiosities**

*Scott Ruhren, Ph.D. – Audubon Society of Rhode Island*

Habitat management for wildlife is both challenging and rewarding. Every managed acre is unique and the species that are attracted and thrive vary. In fact, the results are sometimes quite surprising. This workshop will introduce management practices with an emphasis on grasslands and pitfalls as well as some options for financial support for projects.

## **2-G. Public Access to Waterways**

*Mike Rubin – RI Attorney General's Office*

Ever drive by a beautiful pond, stream, beach or shoreline where you would like to canoe or fish and wonder what your access rights might be? This workshop will give advice on how to investigate whether public access rights exist to these waterways and how to document and permanently establish these rights. Mike will discuss the legal theories behind shoreline access and administration of these laws.

## **2-H. Grassroots Fundraising (Part 2)**

*Robbie Samuels – Trainer [www.RobbieSamuels.com](http://www.RobbieSamuels.com)*

This engaging coaching session focuses on getting past the fear of asking and how to avoid some common mistakes. Learn an easy way to sort through contact lists and build a strong prospect list based on the 3 Cs of fundraising: capacity, connection and commitment. Learn specific language for how to make a strong ask, based on the relationship-building tips you learned in Art of the Schmooze (Workshop 1H), and ten tips that will make your next fundraising plan a success. “If you are afraid to ask for money, kick yourself out of the way and let the cause talk.” (Attendance at Workshop 1H is encouraged but not required.)

## **2-I. Zero-based Budgeting: Aligning Finance and Mission**

*Katharine Estes – Certified Public Accountant*

In using the zero-based approach an organization identifies essential functions and costs, and thus is budgeting from its core. This is a useful tool for keeping finances focused on mission and avoiding “budget creep” (retaining programs and costs because they have always been there, not because they are key to achieving organizational goals.) After discussing this method for setting a framework for the budgeting process we will also discuss how historical information and fundraising projections inform the process.

# Workshop Session III (2:45 - 4:00)

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## 3-A. Dams in an Era of Climate Change

*Rachel Calabro – Save the Bay*

*Q Kellogg – University of Rhode Island*

Rhode Island's rivers and streams are crossed by some 600 dams. Most of these dams were constructed before 1900 for water supply, industrial mill use, power supply and recreation. Today these aging dams create safety, liability and environmental hazards concerns for every community in the state. As New England continues to see weather extremes, both wet and dry, dams can make some problems worse, but can also store much needed water in reservoir systems. Many dams are also historic and create impoundments that are valued community resources and rare wetland habitats. This session will review the questions and trade-offs facing community leaders, conservation groups and policy makers throughout the state as they consider the future of their dams.

## 3-B. Partnerships in Protecting Farmland

*Joanne Riccitelli – South Kingstown Land Trust*

*Mike Moorman – USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service*

This workshop will use the Carpenter Farm, as a case study to describe how land trusts can protect working farms. We will discuss the step-by-step process for: negotiations with the landowner; partnering with NRCS and Federal and State funding programs for farmland protection; raising matching funds; the roles and responsibilities of land trusts; project timing; and what the federal and state programs need. We will discuss how farmland easements need to differ from conservation easements in order to sustain the economic viability of farms once they are protected. SKLT has worked with NRCS to protect many farms and over 300 acres of farmland.

## 3-C. Summer is Coming -- How are our Beaches Doing?

*Amie Parris – RI Dept of Health*

*Lauren Russo – RI Dept of Health*

Rhode Island Beaches are one of the largest tourist attractions in the state. Preserving the health of these beaches is critical to our economy and public safety. The Department of Health Beach Program maintains a rigorous monitoring schedule to ensure our waters are safe and healthy for swimming. In this session learn how the Beach Program manages over 115 fresh and saltwater beaches throughout the state. Current projects including pet waste, urban beaches, and winter water use will also be discussed in detail. Attend this session to learn what the state is doing and what you can do to help improve water quality at our beaches.

## 3-D. Stewarding Our Protected Lands: New Tools to Meet New Challenges

*Larry Taft – Conservation Stewardship Collaborative & Audubon Society of RI*

This workshop will present the results of important new initiatives by the RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative (CSC). We'll present simple and clear examples of effective baseline documentation reports that should accompany every protected property. We will also have the very first public showing of a new series of YouTube videos that provide instruction on best practices in invasive species management and land stewardship. We'll introduce exciting new CSC stewardship projects for 2011 and seek input for future initiatives. Bring your best ideas – we want to hear them!

## 3-E. Fish Are Living in Our Rivers and Bay – Are They Safe to Eat?

*Greg Gerritt – Friends of the Moshassuck,*

*Bob Vanderslice – RI Department of Health*

*John Torgan – Save the Bay*

Our urban rivers are coming back to life. Last spring, we saw herring swimming through Waterplace Park and up fish ladders into the Woonasquatucket River. We have made huge progress cleaning up our rivers and improving habitat so fish can survive, even thrive. How clean are these fish and who is eating them? This session will discuss what we know about our fishery, what contaminants are of most concern and how to communicate about eating the fish we can now catch.



# Workshop Session III *(continued)*

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## **3-F. Wind Power and Land Conservation**

*Garry Plunkett – Tiverton Open Space Commission (moderator)*

*Karina Lutz – People’s Power & Light*

*Dan Mendelsohn – Applied Science Associates*

*Charlie Vandemoer – US Fish & Wildlife Service*

Is your land trust or municipality considering opportunities for wind energy? What if the farmer wants to put up a wind turbine on the farm you want to protect (or have protected)? Maybe you want to protect a property that seems perfect for wind energy and you want to explore the potential ... for revenue to support your stewardship work ... or to generate renewable energy for its environmental benefits. What are the issues and considerations you need to know? This workshop will discuss how to evaluate opportunities for wind energy and present the US Fish & Wildlife Service’s adopted guidelines for wind turbine siting. As the number of wind turbines in our landscape increases, there is an ever increasing amount of information and misinformation about wind energy systems. Thus, siting and development, even for the best of projects, has become a more difficult and often contentious issue. The panel will discuss the facts, fiction, and their experience and recommendations.

## **3-G. Facilitating Collaboration Among Conservation Commissions**

*Susan Korte – What Grows On in Rhode Island, Providential Gardener*

Come to this listening & demo session and share your ideas about how Conservation Commissioners can help each other. What opportunities are there for conservation commission collaboration across town/city lines that would benefit your community? What information resources do you find useful in your commission work? Brainstorm collaborative possibilities, see a demo of an easy-to-use online tool, the RIACC Forum that can streamline effective communication, and get an overview of the extensive resources regarding conservation in Rhode Island.

## **3-H. Establishing a Bequest Society**

*Claudia Swain – South Kingstown Land Trust*

Perpetuity! How do we plan responsibly for the future? During these economically challenging times, a bequest society will aid your organization to embrace the challenge by engaging your most loyal members. You do not need to have any other skills other than an enduring belief that protecting open space is worth continuing into the future. Come and learn all you need to know to get started in protecting the future of your organization.

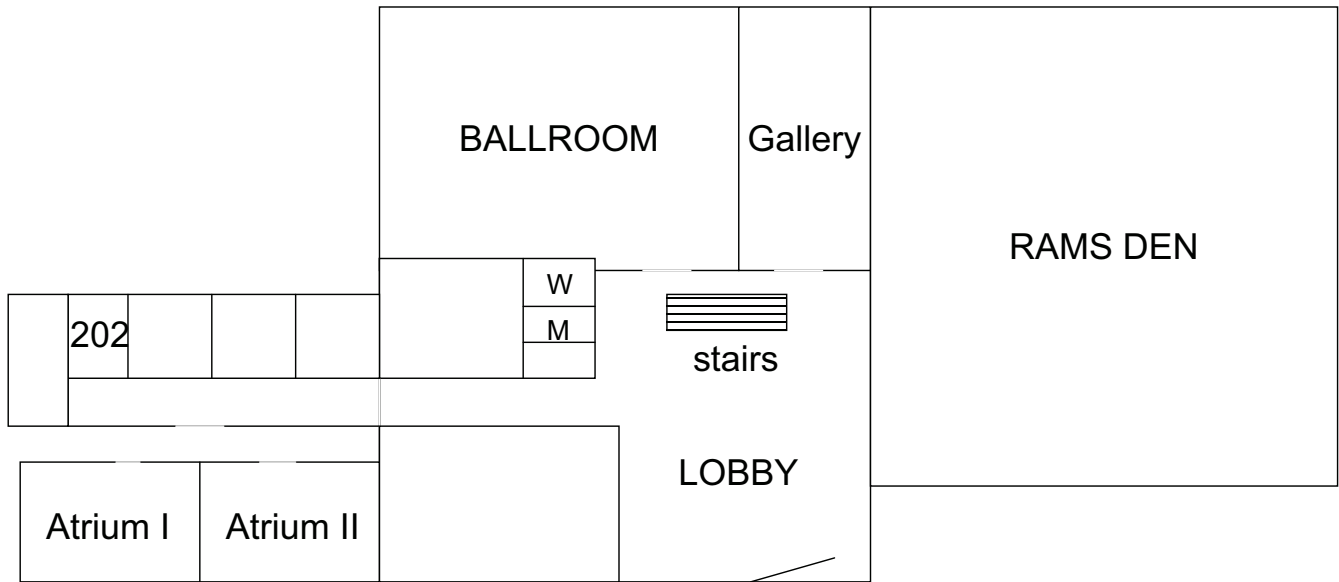
## **3-I. GIS – Introducing the Community Resource Inventory**

*Greg Bonyngé – URI Geospatial Extension Program*

*Lorraine Joubert – URI Cooperative Extension NEMO*

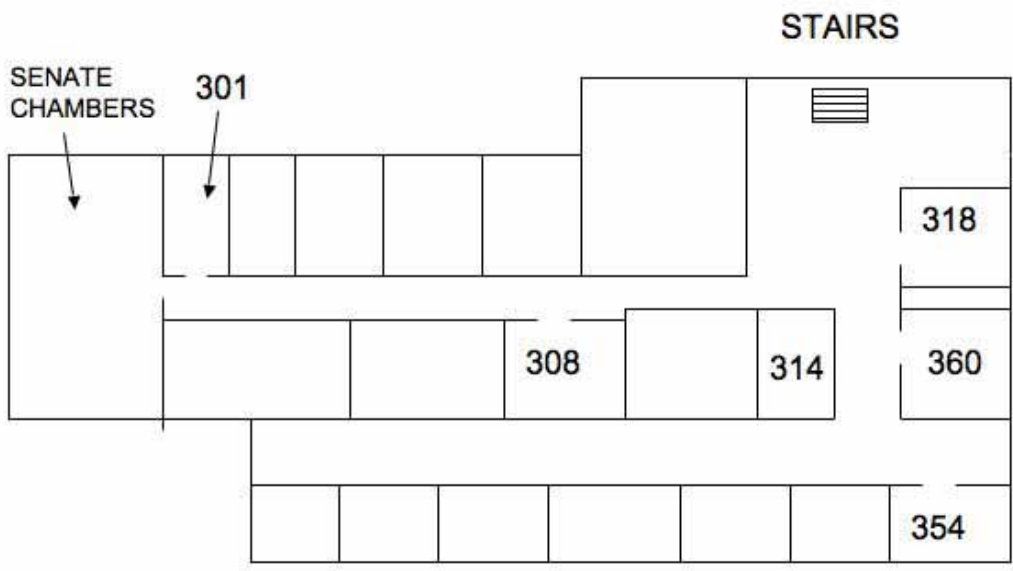
Tools for building customized online maps are getting easier and easier to use! This presentation will focus on a new information resource available to the Rhode Island conservation community via the Rhode Island Digital Atlas: the Community Resource Profile. Intended to showcase the best available data from the Rhode Island Geographic Information System (RIGIS) consortium, these profiles are a simple way to quickly learn about your community, setting a unique context for more informed land-use and conservation decisions.

# *Notes*

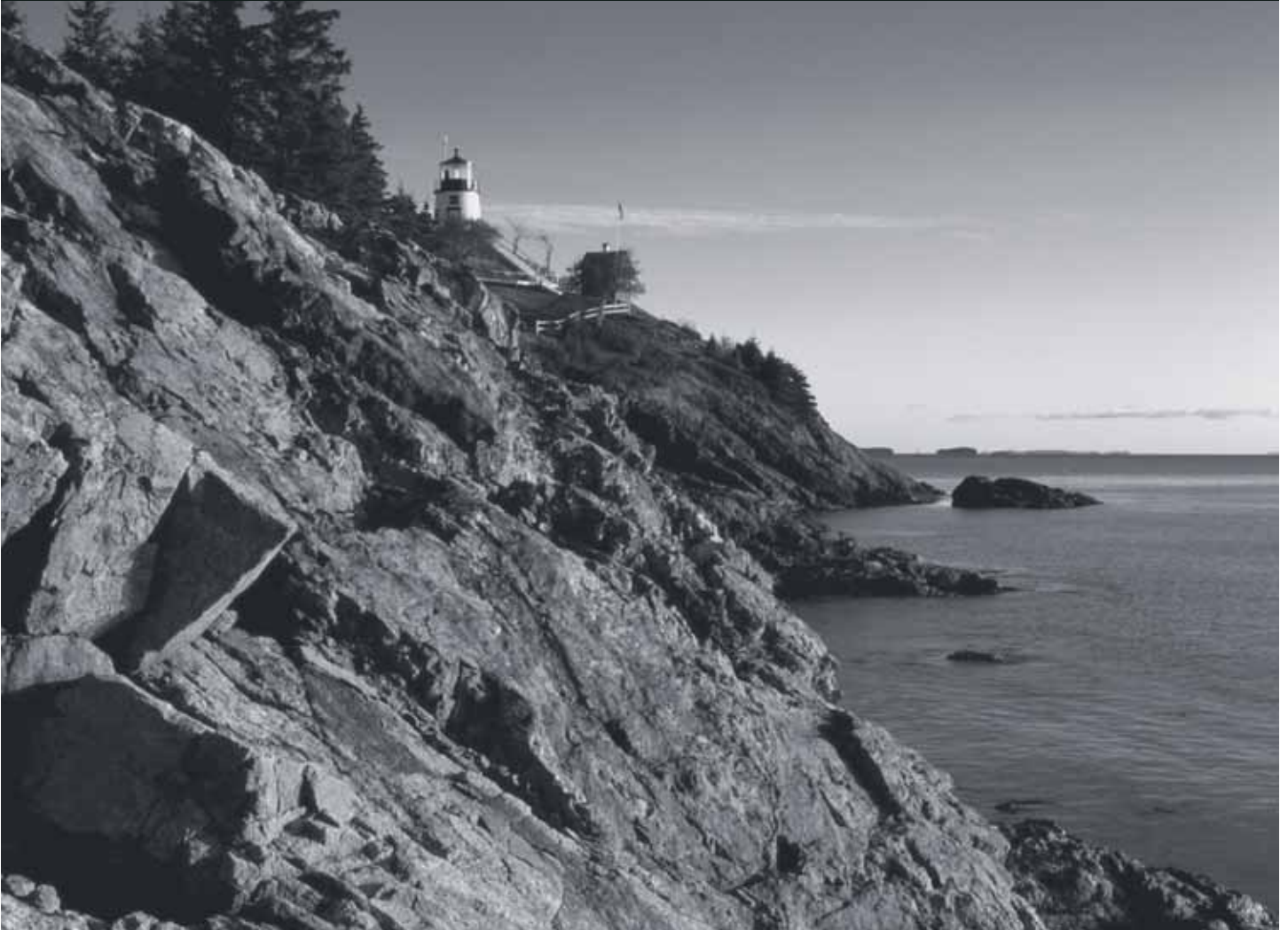


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