



Present the 9th Annual

Land & Water Conservation Summit

Working together to protect our communities



Photo by Bruce Hooke

Woonasquatucket River, Providence, RI

Saturday March 10, 2012

7:45 AM - 4:30 PM

URI Memorial Union, Kingston Campus

The Rhode Island Conservation Stewardship Collaborative

Is proud to be a Sponsor of the 2012 Land and Water Summit

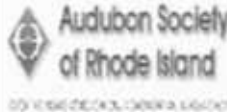
Working to advance the long-term protection and stewardship of terrestrial, aquatic, coastal, estuarine, and marine areas in Rhode Island that have been conserved by fee, easement, or other means.

Workshops at the Summit go a long ways toward helping Rhode Island's grass roots conservation organizations improve the stewardship of our protected land and waters.

Learn more about the Conservation Stewardship Collaborative by attending Workshop **3F** at the Summit or visit our website:
<http://www.ricsc.org>

Are you trying to find information about stewardship?

Visit our on-line Stewardship Library on the Land & Water Partnership Website: www.landandwaterpartnership.org/library.php



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2012 Land & Water Conservation Summit

- Coastal Institute
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- EcoRI
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- Rhode Island Housing's KeepSpace
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RI Land & Water Partnership

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, 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) and Meg Kerr (megkerr@cox.net).



Rhode Island

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The Land & Water Conservation Summit

9 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 sharing 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 conference 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”

2012 Mayor Lisa Wong: “Urban Conservation as a Redevelopment Strategy”



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Ninth 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.

*Find out more about Rhode Island Sea Grant’s research,
extension, legal, and education programs,
as well as events and publications, 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: Bob Marshall (Prudence Conservancy, 2011), 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), Charlotte 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: Eugenia Marks (Audubon Society of RI, 2011), Frank Matta (Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone, 2010).

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

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- A digital library with articles, collections and *Saving Land* magazine.
- Forums where our conservation experts answer your questions daily and you can contribute your ideas.

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

Rally 2012: The National Land Conservation Conference
Sept. 29 – Oct. 2, Salt Lake City, Utah

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.



RHODE ISLAND LAND TRUST COUNCIL



Background: 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 state. Collectively, **land trusts are preserving our heritage – the special places in our communities – as a legacy for future generations.**

Rhode Island’s land trusts are grass roots organizations that reflect the uniqueness and priorities of our communities. Only 7 Rhode Island land trusts have staff – the others are volunteer organizations. Dozens of people across the state volunteer hundreds of hours to protect and manage our communities’ most valued open space lands.

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.

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

Strategy: The Council strives to:

- promote state policies 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.

Support: The Council’s work is made possible by many of hours of volunteer time and expertise contributed by Council board members and land trust leaders from across the state. The Council’s work is funded by generous contributions from land trusts (our members), foundations, individuals and other organizations. **This support makes our work possible!**

- Audubon Society of Rhode Island
- Bafflin Foundation
- Conservation Stewardship Collaborative Endowment @ The RI Foundation
- Hazard Family Foundation
- Land For Good
- Land Trusts (Dues contributing members are listed on page 20)
- Prince Charitable Trusts
- Prospect Hill Foundation
- The Rhode Island Foundation
- RI Land Trust Council Board Members
- Sharpe Family Foundation/Julie & Henry Sharpe III
- van Beuren Charitable Foundation
- Woodcock Charitable Fund

Thank You to these foundations and organizations for supporting the Council this year!

For additional information on how you can support the RI Land Trust Council’s efforts:

Contact: Rupert Friday 401-932-4667 or by email at: rfriday@RILandtrusts.org

Visit our Website: WWW.RILandTrusts.org

The Coastal Institute
at
The University of Rhode Island



COASTAL
INSTITUTE

A neutral setting where knowledge is advanced, issues discussed, information synthesized, and solutions developed for the sustainable use and management of coastal ecosystems.

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Working in partnership with agencies, NGOs, elected officials, researchers, and the public to promote healthy wetlands, rivers, estuaries and oceans. We are proud to be a sponsor of the 9th Annual Land & Water Conservation Summit.



Where the land and water meet

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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 led the removal of 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 co-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 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 or call 401.874.6233



NATIONAL
 ESTUARINE
 RESEARCH
 RESERVE
 SYSTEM

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

For more information contact:

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

Email: jennifer@nbnerr.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, P.O. Box 9221, Providence, RI, 02940; or contact Dan Novak at 401- 397-4586 or at 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 2012, we are giving a **reusable ceramic mug** to everyone who attends **instead of providing bottled water and disposable coffee cups**. We have washed each mug so you can use it for water and coffee during the summit and reduce the volume of waste we produce.
- This year, we are partnering with EcoRI who is 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 once again 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 once again reducing the amount of paper used at the Summit this year by encouraging on-line registration and by eliminating the folders previously distributed to each participant.
- This year we asked Ronzio’s to use locally grown greens in the salad for lunch



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Keynote Speaker

Urban Conservation as a Revitalization Strategy

Lisa Wong *Mayor of Fitchburg Massachusetts*

In the central New England city of Fitchburg, the Nashua River was once so thick with pulp from the paper mills that it was possible to cross the river without sinking. Children walking to school would talk about the different colors of the river each day from the dyes used in the textile mills, and held their noses because of the stench. The Nashua was one of the nation's most polluted rivers by the mid-1960s. But over the past half century, it has made a remarkable comeback. It is now the focus of a watershed-protection effort that is a key part of the former manufacturing center's new economic redevelopment plan.

Since she took office in 2008, Mayor Lisa Wong has been committed to creating a healthy environment and a healthy economy. As the former head of Fitchburg's Redevelopment Authority, she started projects that focused on the revitalization of the river and the adjacent sites along its banks.

"When I see the river, I see possibilities," she says. "The river was such an important connector in Fitchburg's history, but it connected everyone's back yards, versus our front yards.... Now that it's cleaned up, we need to celebrate it."

Mayor Wong has found creative ways to finance her conservation goals by attracting funding from outside of the city, including partners such as the Trustees of Reservations, the North County Land Trust, the Nashua River Watershed Association, and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The city has protected and opened to the public more than 2,000 acres of watershed lands through a combination of state-funded purchases, institutional grants, and private donations.

The results are already showing. Private developers have purchased and are rehabbing mills along the river. Residents and visitors have returned to the river for hiking, fishing, and hunting. New parks along the river are now central focus points for community—farmers markets, movie nights, art festivals and more. All this has set the stage for a quality of life that continues to attract people and businesses to the city.



Program

7:45 – 8:30 Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 Welcome — Ballroom

Emcee: Judith Swift, URI Coastal Institute

Keynote — Lisa Wong, Mayor of Fitchburg, Massachusetts
“Urban Conservation as a Revitalization Strategy”

9:30 – 10:20 Organizations’ Meetings/Roundtable — Networking — Visit Exhibits

9:30 – 9:50 Business Meetings:

- RI Land Trust Council Business Meeting — Atrium I
- RI Association of Conservation Commissions Statewide Roundtable — Atrium IIB
(RIACC Roundtable continues to 11:30 as Workshop Session 1-J)

10:20 – 11:30 Session I Workshops

—Your choice from 10 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 10 offered – Descriptions on pages 23 & 25

12:55 – 2:30 Lunch & Awards

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

2:45 – 4:00 Session III Workshops

—Your choice from 10 offered – Descriptions on pages 27 & 29



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Workshops at a Glance

Session 1 (10:20 - 11:30am)			Session 2 (11:45 - 12:55pm)			Session 3 (2:45 - 4:00pm)		
A	Funders Panel 1 – Foundations	Funders Panel 2 – Government	How to Recruit and Motivate Volunteers					
B	Get More for Your Money: a Matrix Tool to Balance Program Impact & Cash Flow	Enhancing Your Outreach and Communications: Making a Bigger Impact with Small Changes	What's Holding You Back? Simple Actions to Improve Fundraising Success					
C	Assessing Your Trail: Is it Built to Last?	Toolkit for Holding a Successful Outing or Event	Geocaching 101					
D	Understanding Hydropower in RI	Understanding Rhode Island's Freshwater Access Laws	Assessing Stream Crossings for Fish and Wildlife Passage: The RI River and Stream Continuity Project					
E	Incorporating Climate Change Science in Land & Water Conservation Planning	Understanding Transportation Planning at the Local Level	Liability Issues for Land Trusts & Watershed Organizations					
F	DEM's Streamlined Permitting System for Restoration and Stewardship Projects	Anatomy of a Land Conservation Transaction	Stewarding Our Protected Lands: New Tools to Meet New Challenges					
G	How Do I Explain Watersheds to the Public? Water Education Tools to Use and Share	Invasives Today: What's Where, How Are We Doing, Who's Helping	Management to Sustain New England Grasslands					
H	Appraisal Management	Appraisal Roundtable Discussion	Google Earth Basics					
I	Land Conservation Strategies for Watershed Protection	Promoting Low Impact Development (LID) in RI Communities	Are Conservation Commissions Still Relevant?					
J	RI Association of Conservation Commissions Statewide Roundtable (continued)	Barrington Goes Green: An Environmental Mandate for the 21st Century	Understanding the RI Legislative Process and Developing "Green" Bills					

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.

Our daily decisions—from how we get to work, to where we live, to how we vote—affect Narragansett Bay's ecosystem in myriad ways.

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



**NARRAGANSETT BAY
ESTUARY PROGRAM**

To learn more about our program visit www.nbep.org

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

1-A. Funders Panel 1 – Foundations

Judith Swift – URI Coastal Institute – Moderator (jswift@uri.edu)

Keith H Lang – Champlin Foundations (klang.champlin@verizon.net)

Elizabeth Lynn – van Beuren Charitable Foundation, Inc. (ELynn@vbcfoundation.org)

Kristin Pauly – Prince Charitable Trusts (kpauly@princetrusts.org)

Jenny Pereira – Rhode Island Foundation (jPereira@rifoundation.org)

Claire Wheeler – New England Grassroots Environment Fund (claire@grassrootsfund.org)

Panelists will discuss grant making at community and family foundations that support Rhode Island organizations.

1-B. Get More for Your Money: a Matrix Tool to Balance Program Impact & Cash Flow

John Monroe – National Park Service (John_Monroe@nps.gov)

Following easy step-by-step directions, each participant will produce a first-draft Matrix Map of the relative impact and sustainability of their current operations. Then, using a case study we will demonstrate the analytical power of the Matrix Map tool to identify strategic choices, like where to cut and where to invest. This tool helps staff and volunteers to monitor (and increase) the bang of every budget buck.

1-C. Assessing Your Trail: Is it Built to Last?

Clare Cain – CT Forest and Park Association, Trails Stewardship (ccain@ctwoodlands.org)

Land Trusts and Conservation Commissions often find themselves not only as property stewards, but also as trail managers. In this workshop we will focus on how to assess the sustainability of your trail system, determine if your signage and infrastructure are sufficient and discuss how you can manage for appropriate trail uses. We will outline the small steps your group can take to significantly improve and enhance your trail system for the long term.

1-D. Understanding Hydropower in RI

Jonathan Petrillo – The Essex Partnership, LLC (jon@essexpartnership.com)

As the country moves towards sustainable energy, hydropower is an alternative to consider. Rhode Island's rivers have plenty of dams, but which are viable opportunities for hydropower and why? We will explore the basics of hydropower, the regulatory processes, and approaches to develop and operate projects that minimize ecological and social impacts to river systems. This session will help increase understanding of hydropower, provide an overview of the federal licensing process, and review some current RI initiatives where hydropower is being examined.

1-E. Incorporating Climate Change Science in Land & Water Conservation Planning

Joanne Riccitelli – South Kingstown Land Trust (Joanne.Riccitelli@sklt.org)

Christopher Damon – University of Rhode Island (cdamon@edc.uri.edu)

Don Robadue – University of Rhode Island (robadue@gso.uri.edu)

Kevin Ruddock – The Nature Conservancy (kruddock@tnc.org)

Climate change will affect the fauna and flora of Rhode Island and the way our ecosystems function. This presents a challenge for the land management community – will our portfolios of conserved lands adequately protect native biodiversity and critical ecosystem services? In this workshop, we will review how climate change will manifest itself in RI. We will present simple, practical strategies that land and water conservationists can implement now to assure that our protected lands will continue to support healthy ecosystems and our coastal communities will be resilient to climate change impacts.

The image shows a black and white photograph of a coastal landscape with a grassy foreground, a rocky shoreline, and a body of water in the background. Overlaid on the top left of the image is the Aquidneck Land Trust logo, which consists of a stylized 'A' followed by the text 'Aquidneck Land Trust'. To the right of the logo is the tagline 'Together, Saving the Island We Love' in a smaller, italicized font.

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- Foster Land Trust
- Gloucester Land Trust
- Hopkinton Land Trust
- Land Conservancy of North Kingstown
- Lincoln Land Trust
- Little Compton Ag. Conservancy Trust
- Mill Cove Conservancy
- North Smithfield Land Trust
- Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust
- Neutaconkanut Hill Conservancy
- Narrow River Land Trust
- The Nature Conservancy of RI
- Pawtucket Land Trust
- Prudence Conservancy
- RI Farm Bureau Land Trust
- Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust
- Sakonnet Preservation Association
- Smithfield Land Trust
- South Kingstown Land Trust
- Southside Community Land Trust
- The Westerly Land Trust
- Tiverton Land Trust
- Watch Hill Conservancy
- Warren Land Conservation Trust
- Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation

Workshops Session I *(continued)*

1-F. DEM's Streamlined Permitting System for Restoration and Stewardship Projects

Ron Gagnon – RIDEM, Customer and Technical Assistance (ron.gagnon@dem.ri.gov)

The regulations governing restoration and trail projects are often very complicated. Multiple permits are required and it is confusing and time consuming for watershed groups and land trusts to move through the regulatory process. RIDEM has created a new permitting team to help good projects move forward and provide technical assistance to local partner organizations. This session will review how the process was developed and implemented for most river restoration and other stimulus projects and then explain how the streamlined system works. A case study will be used to show how the system worked for a recent Rhode Island project.

1-G. How do I Explain Watersheds to the Public? Water Education Tools to Use and Share

Denise Poyer – Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association (denisep@wpwa.org)

How many of your constituents understand what a watershed is? Do they understand how groundwater and surface waters are connected? In order to support watershed-friendly policies, watershed residents and local decision makers need a basic understanding of hydrology and water quality. Denise Poyer, an environmental educator with broad experience will share effective educational strategies and interactive activities that you can immediately put to use in your watershed.

1-H. Appraisal Management

Tom Henry – T.W. Henry Real Estate Appraisals, LLC (twhenry@cox.net)

This workshop will discuss: determining what you want and need from an appraisal; the 4 types of appraisals and differences between them; making sure you have an appraiser qualified to meet your needs; taking ownership of the appraisal and telling the appraiser what you want; negotiating appraisals for the purposes you need; basic information for negotiating purchases and acquiring an appraisal that will meet the requirements of your funding partners as well as the IRS. We will focus on the partnership between the land trust and the appraiser to help make the process of acquisition and funding as efficient and economic as possible. Tom will share his knowledge gained from years as an appraiser for land trust projects and as a national reviewer of appraisals for NRCS.

1-I. Land Conservation Strategies for Watershed Protection

Ted Clement – Aquidneck Land Trust (tclement@ailt.org)

This workshop will focus on land conservation strategies for watershed protection. Aquidneck Land Trust, with assistance from Salve Regina University and Roger Williams University, completed a year-long mapping and prioritization study of all the remaining and threatened open space parcels within Aquidneck Island's seven primary watersheds. This study, its follow-up strategic land acquisition efforts, and other strategies, such as securing perpetual Conservation Easements on reservoir areas, will be carefully examined and discussed.

1-J. RI Association of Conservation Commissions Statewide Roundtable & Annual Business Meeting

This Roundtable Conference will begin with presentations by three conservation commissions (Charlestown, East Providence, and Richmond) highlighting examples of their successful local initiatives. This will be followed by a roundtable-like discussion, facilitated by an outside professional, about where environmental matters stand today. Specifically, the needs and future of local conservation commissions will be discussed - particularly in relation to the statewide role that RIACC could play. This roundtable will be a unique opportunity for commissioners to share with each other what's best in their practice; what's of most concern; and what key direction and trends they see at work in the State of Rhode Island. The Roundtable session will conclude with RIACC's Annual Business Meeting including year-end reports by the RIACC President and Treasurer followed by the nomination and election of officers.

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- 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
- Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

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

2-A. Funders Panel 2 – Government

Judith Swift – URI Coastal Institute – Moderator (jswift@uri.edu)

Caitlin Chaffee – RI Coastal Resources Management Council (CChaffee@crmc.ri.gov)

Sharon Marino – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sharon (Marino@fws.gov)

Michael Moorman – Natural Resource Conservation Service (michael.moorman@ri.usda.gov)

Ernie Panciera – RIDEM, Office of Water Resources (ernie.panciera@dem.ri.gov)

Lisa Primiano – RIDEM, Division of Planning and Development (lisa.primiano@dem.ri.gov)

Panelists will discuss grant opportunities available to watershed organizations, land trusts and conservation commissions from government sources. Panelists include the RI Department of Environmental Management (non-point source, land protection, trails), RI Coastal Resources Management Council (habitat restoration), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

2-B. Enhancing Your Outreach and Communications: Making a Bigger Impact with Small Changes

Judy Anderson – Community Consultants (andersonj@nycap.rr.com)

Small environmental organizations depend on community support more than ever. We are learning it is important to address the rapidly changing world of e-communications and websites as well as your communication strategy. Research is showing that nonprofits can make significant strides in donor loyalty by re-vamping their communications to take advantage of these new communication tools and enhancing the way they frame their work. This workshop will use examples to suggest upgrades to websites, e-newsletters, newsletters, update letters and online giving. In addition we will talk about how to establish a rhythm of communication throughout the year that will work for you and your community.

2-C. Toolkit for Holding a Successful Outing or Event

Helen Tjader – RILT Council & Acorn Nonprofit Solutions – Coordinator (helen@acornnpsolutions.com)

Jane Baumann – South Kingstown Land Trust (Jane.Baumann@sklt.org)

Denise Poyer – Wood Pawcatuck Wtrshd Assoc. & Richmond Rural Land Pres. Trust (denisep@wpwa.org)

This workshop will give you strategies for holding successful outings and events that will build your organization. We'll discuss how to: invite your members, attract new faces, increase your event turnout, excite attendees about your organization's work, and bring them back as volunteers and donors. The workshop will cover planning details to provide a safe, educational and enjoyable outing for everyone. Bring your toolkit questions!

2-D. Understanding Rhode Island's Freshwater Access Laws

Amy Kullenberg – Conservation Law Foundation (AKullenberg@clf.org)

Public access to coasts and waterfronts is important to all of us. Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Management Council has a well developed program to promote public access to coastal areas. But access to freshwaters is less well understood. This session will review Rhode Island's legal framework for freshwater access, looking at who has the rights to access rivers, streams, lakes and ponds and how local conservation groups can promote access and use of these valuable waterways.

2-E. Understanding Transportation Planning at the Local Level

Linsey Callaghan – Department of Administration Statewide Planning (Linsey.Callaghan@doa.ri.gov)

Eugenia Marks – Audubon Society of RI (emarks@asri.org)

Transportation infrastructure has a significant impact on the state's land and water resources – do you understand how roads, bridges, bike paths, sidewalks are planned and implemented statewide? This session will include an overview of Rhode Island's transportation planning framework and will then walk participants through the process communities follow when they propose transportation projects for federal funding through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is renewed every 4 years and the TIP for Federal Years 2013-2016 is now being developed. It is expected to be complete by June 2012, following committee recommendations and opportunities for public input.

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Workshop Session II *(continued)*

2-F. Anatomy of a Land Conservation Transaction

Bruce Payton – Gloucester Land Trust (municipal) (ri4ster@cox.net)

Trish Sylvester – Tiverton Land Trust (non-profit organization) (trishsylvester@cox.net)

This workshop will dissect your typical land conservation project and provide the details on: diagnosing the opportunity; evaluating the conservation options; cutting the deal; structuring the project; due diligence for a good outcome; wrapping up funding and making it through closing to fulfill your land trust's goals and objectives.

2-G. Invasives Today: What's Where, How Are We Doing, Who's Helping

David Gregg – RI Natural History Survey (dgregg@rinhs.org)

Get up to date on the invasive threat in Rhode Island. Find out which species are threatening which habitats, how survey and control efforts are going, and how to find resources that you can use at your land trust or in your backyard. The session will introduce the new dataset from the Forest Health Works Project, the latest pond and lake data, marine shore data, reports from neighboring states, and other up to the minute information.

2-H. Appraisal Roundtable Discussion

Tom Henry – T.W. Henry Real Estate Appraisals, LLC (twhenry@cox.net)

John Berg – The Nature Conservancy (jberg@tnc.org)

Do you have questions about appraisals for land conservation? Write them down and bring them with you to the Summit. Tom will answer questions submitted in writing at the workshop and share his knowledge from years of conducting appraisals for land conservation organizations and as a national reviewer of appraisals for NRCS. John will facilitate the session and will share his experience from years of contracting with appraisers and using appraisals for land conservation projects.

2-I. Promoting Low Impact Development (LID) in RI Communities

Jennifer West – Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (jennifer@nbnerr.org)

Scott Millar – RI Department of Environmental Management (scott.millar@dem.ri.gov)

This session will present an overview of the new Rhode Island Community LID Site Planning and Design Guidance Manual. The Manual provides communities with the specific guidance, case studies and economic justification they can use to revise their existing land use regulations to more effectively avoid and reduce the impacts of development to water quality, habitat and community character while helping to reduce municipal service costs, increase property values and preserve community character.

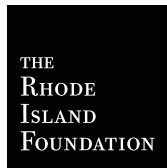
2-J. Barrington Goes Green: An Environmental Mandate for the 21st Century

Cynthia Fuller - Barrington Conservation Commission (CFuller@wilcoxandbarton.com)

In the 2009 revision of its Comprehensive Community Plan, the Town of Barrington made a commitment to incorporate energy efficiency and sustainability into its operations and management activities. Since that time, Barrington has made numerous changes to its infrastructure and operations to reduce energy use and improve energy savings, and has set for itself a target of a 10% reduction in energy use below 2009 levels by 2015 for municipal and school facilities. Ventures in energy production are being considered, including the use of wind, solar, and water energy to power municipal buildings. The Town is encouraging residents and businesses to adopt energy-conserving measures by advocating development that is supportive of walkability in its downtown business area and improving connectivity of green spaces to encourage bicycling. Changes to town ordinances are in place or underway to allow residential-scale wind energy systems, to encourage the use of cottage cluster housing, and to allow the residential raising of hens. Other activities are being developed to improve the environmental quality of Barrington's natural resources. This presentation will discuss how Barrington's leadership initiated these activities, identify the nuts 'n' bolts actions needed for implementation, reveal the challenges faced, and share the successes and plans for further actions.

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

3-A. How to Recruit and Motivate Volunteers

July Lewis – Audubon Society of Rhode Island (jlewis@asri.org)

Leslie Samayoa – Bank of America Environmental Network (leslie.v.samayoa@bankofamerica.com)

Conservation organizations often have lots of work to do and not enough paid staff to do it—if they have any paid staff! Volunteers are the solution, and the world is filled with volunteers ready and willing to do the work. But how do you recruit them for your organization? Share experiences and get ideas in this discussion that will explore what motivates volunteers and how you can tap into underutilized volunteer sources to accomplish your mission.

3-B. What's Holding You Back? Simple Actions to Improve Fundraising Success

Judy Anderson – Community Consultants (andersonj@nycap.rr.com)

Small and volunteer conservation organizations can be terrific at fundraising and involving their community. To do so, we need to make sure that those involved have the systems, technology, and techniques to really shine. In addition, growing your major donor program is now within reach when you create a strong monthly giving program. Using examples from other organizations, as well as research, this workshop will go explore: what the recession has taught us, and what it means for your organization; how to better engage your donors and potential donors; and tips for how to establish a strong, simple, monthly giving program.

3-C. Geocaching 101

Chris Kracik – Veteran Geocacher (bbwolf.3pigs@cox.net)

Calvin Taft – Geocacher (chtaft@charter.net)

Geocaching is a rapidly growing family oriented outdoor recreation activity. This workshop will explain: Geocaching basics; how some organizations use geocaching to raise their visibility within their community to attract new members and support; and how to use a geocaching event to get more people enjoying your protected lands or water trail. We will also discuss best practices for managing geocaching on land trust properties.

3-D. Assessing Stream Crossings for Fish & Wildlife Passage: The RI River & Stream Continuity Project

Kathryn Zuromski – RI Resource Conservation and Development (Kathryn.Zuromski@ri.usda.gov)

Amy Mocarisky – RI Resource Conservation and Development (amy.mocarisky@ri.usda.gov)

Culverts are structures that, when well designed, pass water, sediment, suspended debris (wood, etc.), and fish under roadways at stream-road intersections. Culverts that were not designed or installed correctly, or that have been intentionally or unintentionally altered, often prevent upstream and/or downstream fish passage. A single culvert can block fish from utilizing miles of stream habitat. Eliminating fish passage barriers is a very cost-effective approach to increasing habitat for fish. These same fish-blocking culverts often present maintenance, erosion, and flooding concerns because of their inability to transport flood water, sediment and other suspended debris downstream. Come learn how to inventory and assess culverts and then work with local landowners to eliminate these barriers.

3-E. Liability Issues for Land Trusts & Watershed Organizations

Jim Lee – Attorney General Office (jlee@riag.ri.gov)

It seems as if liability issues are always surfacing for our organizations. This workshop will discuss: what state legislation and case law protects land trusts, watershed organizations and conservation commissions from liability? Do our organizations still need liability and directors & officers insurance? What is our potential liability for: having trails that are open to the public; leading walks or outings on our trails or our properties; leading a canoe trip; allowing volunteers to use power tools such as a chain saw to create/maintain trails and for stewardship of protected lands; and allowing people to hunt on land trust properties. Jim will share his expertise gained from years defending Rhode Island from liability suits.

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Workshop Session III *(continued)*

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

Larry Taft – Cons. Stewardship Collaborative Coordinator & Audubon Society of RI (ltaft@asri.org)

This workshop will present the results of important new initiatives by the RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative (CSC). We'll present more examples of effective baseline documentation reports that should accompany every protected property. We will also present the newly prepared Rhode Island Ecological Community Atlas as well as other projects accomplished in 2011. We'll introduce exciting new CSC stewardship projects for 2012 and seek input for future initiatives. Bring your ideas—we want to hear them!

3-G. Management to Sustain New England Grasslands

Garry Plunkett – Tiverton Open Space Commission (gplunkett@cox.net)

Grasslands are beautiful natural communities that enrich the biodiversity of any landscape, but they are threatened all across New England as they succumb to development or successional dynamics. They are also challenging and expensive to manage. This workshop will review the history and ecology of grasslands, and then discuss the various management practices for sustaining them. Property managers of conservation grasslands are invited to participate and share their experiences.

3-H. Google Earth Basics

John Monroe – National Park Service (John_Monroe@nps.gov)

Google Earth allows ordinary people to create and share extraordinary presentations of geographic information. Using properties selected by the participants, John will demonstrate basic online features that are useful to board members and staff. Participants will leave with a one-page hand-out of basic Google Earth functions.

3-I. “Are Conservation Commissions Still Relevant?” The Current Economy, the Nature of Good Growth, and the Future of Municipal Commissions

Dan Novak – RI Assoc. of Cons. Commissions, W. Greenwich Cons. Commission (dnovak@etal.uri.edu)

In this high-involvement workshop, we will consider a brief overview of the environmental movement from the iconic earthrise photo to the rise in the 1970s of federal, state, and municipal environmental regulatory and review agencies to the waves of 1980s-90s activism, early 2000s self-critique, to more recent developments in our thinking (e.g. eco-design, green building, smart growth, conservation development, social justice issues, and synergetic design of truly healthy communities). We will consider what concrete directions and steps municipal conservation commissions can take to be ahead of the usual development curve in their communities, thus becoming integral partners and in sync with inspiring models of optimal growth.

3-J. Understanding the RI Legislative Process and Developing “Green” Bills

Michael A. Rice – University of Rhode Island; former State Representative (rice@uri.edu)

Although many initiatives undertaken to protect the environment and build green economies require changes to the state law, to many of us the process of creating a bill and getting that bill passed into law is a mystery. This session will focus on the legislative process in Rhode Island, including how a new environmental bill is created, finding a suitable sponsor for the bill, the role of the Office of Legislative Council, tracking the bill through the committee process, and doing all you can to work with legislators to make sure it becomes law. Examples of exemplary environmental legislation will be discussed in terms of how the initial bills were created, the role that legislative commissions had in formulating and vetting complex issues within the bills, and how the committee hearing process and stakeholder involvement was critical to their successful passage.



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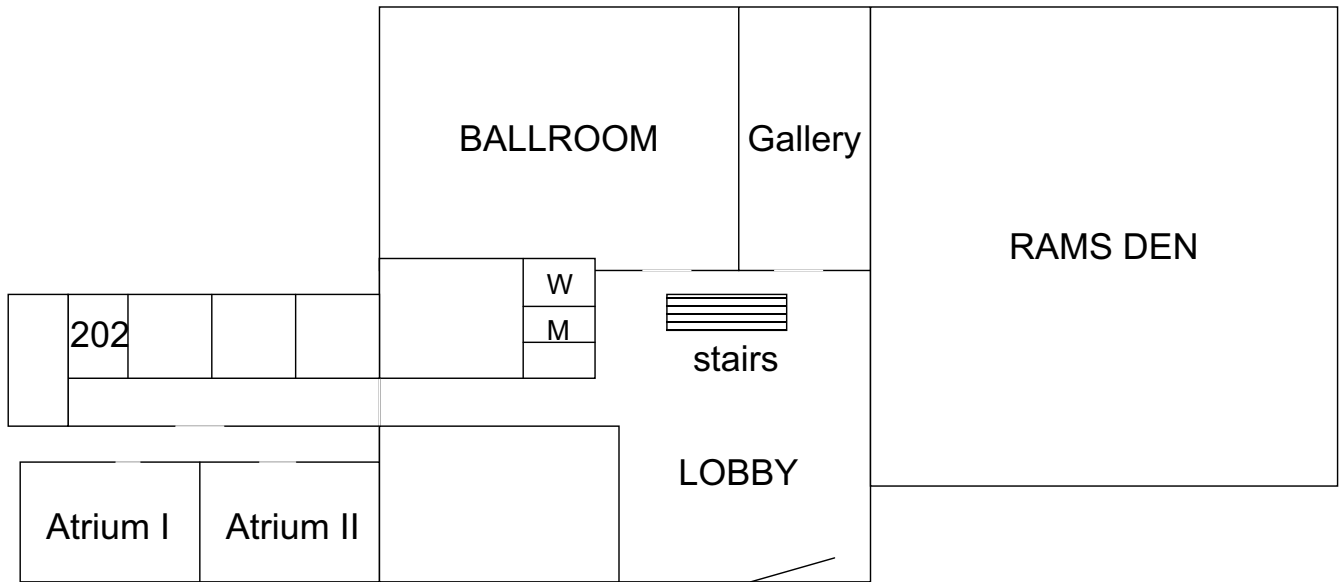
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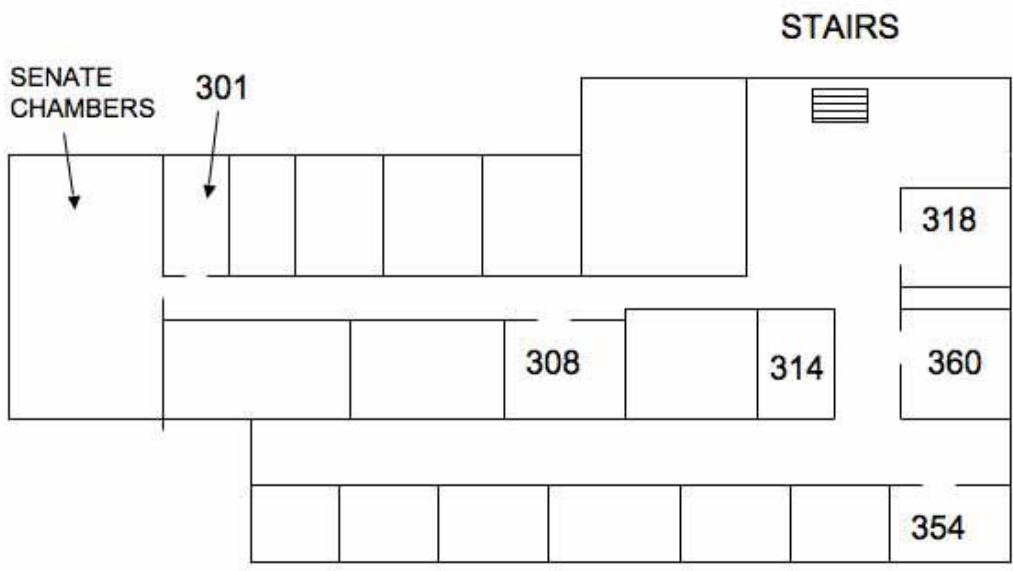
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