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LAND & WATER CONSERVATION SUMMIT

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Saturday, March 7, 2020 — URI Memorial Union, Kingston Campus



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2020
RHODE ISLAND
LAND & WATER
CONSERVATION
SUMMIT

Agenda

- 7:45 – 8:30 Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 – 9:40 Welcome — Emcee: Judith Swift, URI Coastal Institute
Keynote: Dr. Mamie Parker
former Northeast Regional Director &
Assistant Director of Fisheries, US Fish & Wildlife Service
**“A Change in Climate — Preparing the Next Generation with Passion,
Inspiration & Excellence!”**
- 9:40 – 10:20 **Business Meetings (everyone invited); Network & Visit Exhibits**
9:45 – 10:05 Business Meetings (everyone invited):
- RI Land Trust Council Business Meeting — Atrium I
 - RI Association of Conservation Commissions Business Meeting — Atrium II
 - Watershed Organizations’ Meeting — Senate Chambers
- 10:20 – 11:30 Session I **Workshops** — Your choice from 10 offered
- 11:30 – 11:45 Break
- 11:45 – 12:55 Session II **Workshops** — Your choice from 10 offered
- 12:55 – 2:30 Lunch & Awards
- **Senator Jack Reed** — “An Environmental View From Washington”
 - Roundtable Discussions
 - Peter Merritt Award for Land Conservation
 - Blueways Stewardship Award
- 2:45 – 4:00 Session III **Workshops** — Your choice from 10 offered



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Join Vineyard Wind and the National Wildlife Federation at the Responsible Offshore Wind Development workshop and learn the details on where development will happen, how locations are determined, how much energy is available, key stakeholders, opportunities for public comment, permitting processes, and how to ensure wildlife and habitat are protected every step of the way.

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Rhode Island Land and Water Partnership

Grassroots organizations play a central role in conserving Rhode Island's waters, open spaces, farms and scenic landscapes. 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 grassroots organizations. The **RI Land & Water Partnership** is led by Meg Kerr and Rupert Friday in collaboration with partners from many conservation organizations.

The RI Land & Water Partnership recognizes that each community based conservation organization is unique, comprised of local advocates who understand the issues in their community and cultivate 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.

Through the years, the Partnership has demonstrated that local conservationists can learn and work together to strengthen land and water conservation throughout the state.

Each year, the **RI Land & Water Partnership** hosts the Land & Water Conservation Summit in March. The Summit's purpose is to help 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 contains 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 us your feedback:
Rupert Friday — rfriday@rilandtrusts.org
Meg Kerr — mkerr@asri.org

www.landandwaterpartnership.org

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Land & Water Conservation Summit

Seventeen years and counting....

The Land & Water Conservation Summit has been held yearly since 2004. The Summit 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 and latest ideas. The Summit, held in March, 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 held 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 Conservation Summit. The first Land & Water Conservation Summit was held at the North Kingstown High School. Partner organizations set up displays 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. 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 and 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*
- 2013 **Steve Archibald**—*Not a storyteller? Perhaps it's time to reconsider!*
- 2014 **Alvaro Sanchez Sanchez**—*Building Strong Green Economies Using Land & Water Conservation Strategies*
- 2015 **Peter Forbes**—*Innovation & Evolution in Conservation*
- 2016 **Collin O'Mara**—*Conservation in This Century; What America Can Learn from the Ocean State*
- 2017 **Eric Chivian, M.D.**—*Medical Models for Helping Us Understand Global Environmental Threats*
- 2018 **Gus Seelig**—*Building Community Through Conservation: Lessons from 30 Years*
- 2019 **David Vallee**—*Conservation, Meet Development: The Role of Land & Watershed Protection in Building Resilient Communities*
- 2020 **Dr. Mamie Parker**—*A Change in Climate – Preparing the Next Generation with Passion, Inspiration and Excellence!*

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Just Released: Narragansett Bay Watershed Economy Report



New study examines natural capital of Narragansett Bay Watershed. NBW covers over 1,700 sq. mi across Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Report analyzes sectors that provide economic benefit.

Download the full report at
<http://www.nbweconomy.org/>

Save the Date: 8th Annual Scott W. Nixon Lecture

Speaker: Dr. Jenna Jambeck,
University of Georgia

Date: March 26, 2020, 3:30 PM

Place: CI Auditorium at
Narragansett Bay Campus.

Jambeck is internationally recognized for research on plastic waste in the ocean.



Going Greener

Help us “green” the Summit!

Everyone is at the Land & Water Conservation Summit to talk about conservation — “talking the talk.”

With your help, the Summit is also “walking the walk” — with green practices for this annual event.

What we’re doing:

- This year, we are asking everyone who attends the Summit to bring a reusable travel coffee cup instead of providing bottled water and disposable coffee cups. We had many comments on our evaluations in recent years about not producing additional coffee mugs for the Summit and asking people to bring one with them. This reduces the volume of waste we produce at the Summit.*
- We are partnering with Green Energy Consumers Alliance to offset carbon emissions from the Summit with renewable energy. The electricity for this event has been matched by local, clean power.*
- We are reducing the amount of paper used at the Summit by encouraging on-line registration and by eliminating the folders previously distributed to each participant.*
- We asked University of Rhode Island Catering to support local farms by purchasing local fruit and using locally grown greens in the salad for lunch.*



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Historic New England
Hopkinton Land Trust
Land Conservancy of North Kingstown
Lincoln Municipal Land Trust
Little Compton Ag. Conservancy Trust

Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust
Narrow River Land Trust
Neutaconkanut Hill Conservancy
North Smithfield Land Trust
Prudence Conservancy
Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust
Sakonnet Preservation Association
Scituate Land Trust
Smithfield Land Trust
South Kingstown Land Trust
Southside Community Land Trust
The Nature Conservancy
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We Are in This Together!

*Rhode Island Land Trust Council
is the unified voice for land
conservation and preservation
of open space in Rhode Island.*

Supporting sensible public policy
at the Statehouse

Advocating for open space funding
from all sources

Spreading best practices
among land trusts from sources inside and outside of Rhode Island

Working with you, and for you,
on Conservation matters statewide...

Thank you for supporting the Council's work.



Rupert Friday — 401-932-4667 — rfriday@rilandtrusts.org

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environment, we cannot
sustain ourselves.*

Wangari Maathai

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For more information on private well water protection visit our web page: www.rivelltesting.org

Put the Youth Conservation League to Work at Your Land Trust.



www.asri.org/yocl/youth-conservation-league.html

Stop by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island booth for more information and enter to win one free work day in Summer 2020.



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Advancing Environmental Education Through Collaboration

RIEEA is a collaborative network of individuals and organizations committed to environmental education. Our membership includes:

**teachers • naturalists • environmental organizations • land trusts
educators from universities, recreation centers, and state, federal, and non-profit agencies**

...all working to protect, enrich and restore the world around us.

RIEEA has access to a range of resources and has proven ability to build strong partnerships across a variety of sectors necessary to successfully advance environmental literacy in Rhode Island.

Please visit **www.rieea.org** to learn more about our upcoming events, membership benefits, resource guide, monthly meetings, job postings, and much more.

The Land Trust Alliance is proud to support Rhode Island land trusts



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www.lta.org/webinars

Get online training from conservation experts with live webinars. Chat with instructors, ask questions and download handouts, all from your computer.

The Learning Center, tlc.lta.org

Find hundreds of sample documents, including policies from accredited organizations. Get personal responses to your specific conservation questions in the Ask An Expert forum.

The Learning Center is a service offered to Alliance-member land trusts, affiliates and individual supporters at the \$500 level and above.

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2020 RHODE ISLAND LAND & WATER CONSERVATION SUMMIT

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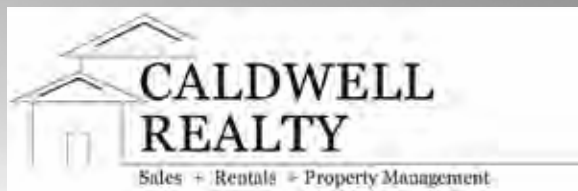
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Keynote: Dr. Mamie A. Parker

A Change in Climate — Preparing the Next Generation with Passion, Inspiration and Excellence!



Dr. Parker will discuss the need to reach the next generation with passion, inspiration and excellence as we address the challenges and opportunities related to changes in the land and water conservation community — the growing interest in protecting urban habitat, changing demographics and influencers, and increasing interest in the climate crisis and the need to adapt to the impacts from climate change.

About Dr. Mamie Parker:

Dr. Mamie Parker worked almost 30 years as a fish and wildlife biologist and executive for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She was Northeast Regional Director and then Assistant Director of Fisheries and Habitat Conservation and was the first African American to serve in these positions. Dr. Parker has played a key role in protecting the nation's waters from pollutants and invasive species. She has extensive experience in the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, coastal mapping, and wetland protection and restoration. As Head of Fisheries in the Service, Dr. Parker led staff and partners in developing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

Dr. Parker is an avid angler. She is a board member of the Chesapeake Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, Student Conservation Association, National Wildlife Refuge Association, Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment, and other organizations. She has received numerous awards recognizing her leadership and accomplishments.

Thank You to these Sponsors of the 2020 Land & Water Conservation Summit!

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Workshops at a Glance

	Session 1 10:20 – 11:30 am Descriptions — page 23–27	Session 2 11:45 am – 12:55 pm Descriptions — page 27–31	Session 3 2:45 – 4:00 pm Descriptions — page 31–35
A	Accounting for Anurans: A Look into the FrogWatch Citizen Science Program Senate Chambers	Urban Youth Lead the Way Room 318	New Tools and Opportunities for Volunteer Science in the Narragansett Bay Watershed Quinn 214
B	RI Bird Atlas 2.0: A Conservation Tool for Land Managers Atrium I	Using Storymaps to promote your Land Trust Properties or Town Conservation Areas Room 315	Art for Environmental Advocacy Senate Chambers
C	Transforming Neighborhoods with Nature Based Stormwater Projects Atrium II	Sharing Best Practices with the Providence Stormwater Innovation Center Quinn 104	Engaging Communities to Transform Urban Spaces with Green Stormwater Practices Room 308
D	Discover the Power of Questions for Fundraising & Strategic Planning Room 360	Fundraising That Matters – Major Gift Development for the Small Nonprofit Organization Room 360	Five Fresh Ideas for Building the Board You Need Room 360
E	Strategies for Building Public Support for Your Next Big Land Deal Room 314	Conservation Finance for Working Landscapes Room 314	Land Protection and Stewardship using the USDA NRCS Programs Quinn 103
F	How to Do a Land Conservation Project Room 308	Model Conservation Easement & Drafting Guidance Quinn 103	Using Aerial Imagery & RILTC's New Mapping Toolbox to Monitor Protected Lands Room 315
G	Accelerating Farmland Access: Farm Redevelopment and Farm Linking Ideas for Land Trusts Quinn 103	Understanding, Protecting and Expanding Rhode Island's Forest Resources Atrium II	Conserving Pollinators in the Landscape Room 318
H	Pollinators and Pesticides Room 318	Responsible Offshore Wind Energy Development Senate Chambers	The Fight Against Plastic Pollution Atrium II
I	Learning from the Providence Climate Justice Plan Room 315	Tackling Climate Change: Accelerating Municipal Resilience Through New Statewide Programs Atrium I	Balancing Renewable Energy Development with Land Protection Atrium I
J	Municipal Land Trust Roundtable Discussion Quinn 104	Land Stewardship Roundtable Room 308	Conservation Stewardship Toolbox from the RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative Quinn 104

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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—a dedicated “in the trenches” individual—who is making an outstanding contribution to land conservation in their Rhode Island community.

The Award honors the late Peter Merritt (1943–2000), a founding and dedicated Board member and second 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. 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.

Past recipients: Joe Pailthorpe (Cumberland Land Trust, 2019), Marilyn Grant (Hopkinton Land Trust, 2018), Sheila Mackintosh (Sakonnet Preservation Association, 2017), Ann Marie Aubrey (Smithfield Land Trust, 2016), Helen Tjader (Barrington Land Conservation Trust and Neutaconkanut Hill Conservancy, 2015), Garry Plunkett (Tiverton Land Trust, 2014), Sophie Lewis (South Kingstown Land Trust, 2013), Heather Steers (Sakonnet Preservation Association, 2012), 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: Keith Gonsalves (Ten Mile River, 2019), Ted Callender (Salt Ponds Coalition, 2018), Art Ganz (Salt Ponds Coalition, 2017), Lisa Aurecchia (Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, 2016), Denise Poyer (Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association, 2015), Judy Colaluca (Save The Lakes, 2014), Caroline Wells (Town of Warren, 2013), Paul Earnshaw (Buckeye Brook Coalition, 2012), Eugenia Marks (Audubon Society of RI, 2011), Frank Matta (Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone, 2010)



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Workshops – Session I 10:20 – 11:30 *choose from 10*

1.A Accounting for Anurans: A Look into the FrogWatch Citizen Science Program

Meg Warburton – Roger Williams Park Zoo (mwarburton@rwpzoo.org)

This workshop will focus on the Roger Williams Park Zoo's chapter AZA's FrogWatch. This voluntary program relies on citizen scientists to listen and identify the frog and toad species of Rhode Island in a site of their choosing. The workshop will highlight the processes of training and recruitment as well as community engagement. Find out how to become a FrogWatcher and bring this amazing program into your community!

1.B The Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0: A Conservation Tool for Land Managers

Charles Clarkson – RIDEM & University of Rhode Island (clarksonc@uri.edu)

Peter Paton – University of Rhode Island (ppaton@uri.edu)

Bird Atlases provide data on the distribution, abundance and long-term change of bird populations within a state. Because birds are effective indicators of environmental change, these metrics can be used to determine habitat health. Atlases are often used by conservation agencies to inform land management strategies. The first Rhode Island atlas, conducted from 1982-1987, recorded 164 breeding species. The second Atlas, conducted From 2015-2019, was one of the most comprehensive in North America. It is unique as the first atlas to survey bird's year-round use of habitats. Data was collected on the use of habitats by breeding, wintering and migrating birds. This enables modeling of the importance of these habitat types on an annual basis. Combined with detailed habitat mapping tools and advances in the use of NEXRAD radar, the current Atlas will be a valuable tool for conservation groups seeking to promote biodiversity through habitat management. The bird atlas will serve as the most comprehensive collection of information on Rhode Island birds to date. This workshop will review the current bird atlas, discuss the important conservation tools stemming from its completion and make recommendations on how conservation groups can utilize the atlas for land management.

1.C Transforming Neighborhoods with Nature Based Stormwater Projects

Steve Ricci – Groundwork Rhode Island (sricci@groundworkri.org)

Sara Churgin – Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District (schurgin.ericd@gmail.com)

Stormwater pollution from roads and parking lots is a big problem. But even small areas of impervious cover like home roofs and driveways contribute to stormwater pollution. This workshop will share how to create a homeowner outreach program that will result in successful residential stormwater retrofits. Presenters will include tips on how to discuss stormwater pollution with homeowners, how to implement projects that add to property values and how to overcome the unavoidable maintenance challenges.

1.D Discover the Power of Questions for Fundraising & Strategic Planning

Gayle L. Gifford – Cause & Effect Inc (gayle@ceffect.com)

There's a fundraising saying: "If you want money, ask for advice." But what does that really mean? Asking questions – and really listening to the answers – is a proven way to build awareness of your organization and support from your constituents, your community and your donors. It is essential to good strategic planning, fundraising, donor relations and partnership building. It is also a safe way to get your board members into the community as ambassadors and connectors for your organization. In this workshop, you'll learn different ways to ask questions. You'll receive practical tips and tools on how to identify who to talk to, samples of what to ask, advice on how to get the interview and finally, how to use all that information after you collect it.



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The **Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NBNERR) Coastal Training Program (CTP)** provides decision-makers with the science-based information and skills needed to address critical local resource management issues. Municipal staff and officials, designers, developers, engineers, landscape architects, attorneys, natural resource managers, non-profit conservation organizations and community groups all benefit from the program.

For more information please contact:

Jennifer West, CTP Coordinator
401-222-4700, x 7413 | jennifer.west@dem.ri.gov

www.nbnerr.org

Coastal Training Programs are designed to meet audience needs and range from participatory workshops to hands-on skills training. Topics include:

- Climate change
- Water quality
- Habitat protection
- Science communication
- Stakeholder engagement



NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE SYSTEM

1.E Strategies for Building Public Support for Your Next Big Land Deal

Laura Pedrick – Aquidneck Land Trust (lpedrick@ailt.org)

Gretchen Markert – Aquidneck Land Trust (GMarkert@ailt.org)

You've got your next land deal. Now, how do you raise the funds? We work hard to get a land deal in place. Then, we have to figure out how to raise the funds to close the deal. Come learn from two of your colleagues who put together grassroots plans that engaged the community and raised the funds by using low-cost, effective communications tools. Learn how they engaged existing and new constituents by using traditional methods such as house parties, direct mail and letters to the editor (in print!) as well as social media like Facebook, Instagram and other e-communications.

1.F How to Do a Land Conservation Project

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

This workshop will walk through the steps for doing a land conservation deal – from initial conversation with the landowner to recording final documents. We'll explore decision points along the way – easement or fee, donation or bargain sale, and does the land trust really want to protect this land forever? Discussion will include which documentation to prepare and when, and how that sometimes changes. Sample documents will be provided – including basic land protection info for landowners, checklist for land project process, and project summary sheets.

1.G Accelerating Farmland Access: Farm Redevelopment and Farm Linking Ideas for Land Trusts

Jennifer Fusco – Westerly Land Trust (jfusco@westerlylandtrust.org)

Sebastian Interlandi – Southside Community Land Trust (sebastian@southsideclt.org)

Many land trusts hold farmland that is not optimally managed. Whether for lack of resources, or staff time, everyone can probably think of a piece of land that they know of that would look a lot nicer with some vegetables growing on it. In this workshop, we will focus on how land trusts can prepare open spaces and make them available to farmers with a minimum of effort. We will discuss an RFP-Open House strategy for finding the right tenants, and lease development strategies for developing durable relationships and sustainable farms. Also, we will talk about some ways in which land trusts can get land in shape for new farmers without a lot of equipment, like using livestock to clear land. Participants are encouraged to come with their ideas for their own farmland access projects, and maybe you and your organization can start development of your next great project right here with us!

1.H Pollinators and Pesticides

Kelly Gill – Xerces Society (kelly.gill@xerces.org)

Emily May – Xerces Society (emily.may@xerces.org)

Pesticides are commonly used in urban and agricultural environments to kill invertebrate pests, diseases, and weeds. However, many pesticides - including insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides - harm pollinators and other beneficial insects. Their effects include removing important floral resources, causing subtle yet concerning effects on reproduction, navigation and memory and high-profile incidents when pesticides kill bees. Exposure to pesticides can also compound the effects of other stressors on pollinator populations, such as loss of habitat and exposure to pathogens and diseases. This workshop will review pesticides and their impacts on beneficial insects and present strategies employed to reduce and eliminate pesticide use on the landscape.

1.I Learning from the Providence Climate Justice Plan

Leah Bamberger – City of Providence (Lbamberger@providenceri.gov)

Court King – City of Providence (Cking@providenceri.gov)

Last fall, Mayor Elorza released Providence's Climate Justice Plan, one of the first reports that analyzes the root causes and effects of climate change through a justice lens. The plan was created in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Sustainability and members of the Racial and Environmental Justice Committee. It aims to create an equitable, low-carbon, and climate-resilient Providence through a comprehensive set of proposed policies and initiatives. This workshop will review plan development and describe the projects underway to implement the plan's strategies.



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1.J Municipal Land Trust Roundtable Discussion

Barbara Rich – Smithfield Land Trust (brich@barbararich.net)

Tom Rogers – Narragansett Land Conservation Trust (TERogers1@gmail.com)

How do you deal with Rhode Island's open meeting law and negotiate land conservation deals? How do you recruit and work with volunteers? What are the advantages of forming and working with a "Friends" group? How do you maintain good relations with the Town Council? How do you manage finances? What is the best way to contract with consultants? How your town can declare land trust properties, parks and other open space properties public trust properties to ensure their permanent protection. These are just some of the issues that municipal land trusts face that are different from independent non-profit organizations. Join this discussion with your peers from municipal land trusts. Come with your questions and share your land trust's strategies for success.

Workshops – Session II 11:45 – 12:55 choose from 10

2.A Urban Youth Lead the Way

Madeleine Aceituno – Blackstone Academy Charter School (maaceituno21@blackstoneacademy.org)

Brianna Balke – Blackstone Academy Charter School (bbalke@blackstoneacademy.org)

Alexa Carias-Flores – Blackstone Academy Charter School (acarias-flores21@blackstoneacademy.org)

Radia Janoudi – Blackstone Academy Charter School (rjanoudi21@blackstoneacademy.org)

Jocelyn Jimenez – Blackstone Academy Charter School (jjimenez21@blackstoneacademy.org)

Michelle Santos – Blackstone Academy Charter School (msanto21@blackstoneacademy.org)

Blackstone Academy Charter School students are actively engaged with their local communities. In 2018, students attended the Land & Water Summit. They returned in 2019 and led a highly acclaimed workshop showcasing youth led conservation projects. This year, a new class of students will share their energy and inspiration and challenge conservation organizations to partner with youth leaders in their communities.

2.B Using Storymaps to promote your Land Trust Properties or Town Conservation Areas

Pete Stetson – Envirothon (petestetson8@gmail.com)

Using the ESRI Storymap website, Land Trusts or Town Conservation Commissions can create maps of their properties (including trails) and showcase historical, environmental and/or use information about each property. Come learn more about the program and how to get involved with the statewide storymap competition. You can have middle and high school students create a storymap for your organization.

2.C Sharing Best Practices with the Providence Stormwater Innovation Center

Brian Byrnes – City of Providence Parks Department (bbyrnes@providenceri.gov)

Wenley Ferguson – Save The Bay (wferguson@savebay.org)

Sheila Dormody – The Nature Conservancy (sheila.dormody@tnc.org)

The Providence Stormwater Innovation Center leverages the City of Providence's investment of \$1.5 million in natural infrastructure in a concentrated area, Roger Williams Park. When fully operational, the Center will provide training and capacity building to stormwater professionals throughout the region, test innovative practices and assess the cumulative water quality impact of stormwater practices. This workshop will review plans and innovation underway at the Center and present what is been learned to date about green stormwater practices including tips for installation and maintenance.

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- Meals on Wheels of RI
- RI Agriculture Partnership
- RI Department of Environmental Management
- RI Marine Trade Association
- RI Renewable Energy Siting Partnership
- RI Saltwater Angler Association
- RI Sea Grant
- RI Chapter American Planning Association
- Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
- Narragansett Bay Watershed Counts

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2.D Fundraising That Matters – Major Gift Development for the Small Nonprofit Organization

David Allen – Development for Conservation (David@DevelopmentForConservation.com)

Effective, sustainable, built-for-the-long-haul organizations should be continually engaged in annual gift, major gift, and planned gift development activities, yet grant-writing, event management, and membership systems often seem more urgent and time intensive. As a result, major gift fundraising – building and sustaining relationships with individual donors – is too often left undone. This workshop will be a fast-paced, crash course in all things “major gifts.” We’ll look at motivations behind major gift decisions, where major gift development should fit in a well-rounded fundraising program, how to find major gift prospects, how to think creatively about and plan for cultivation activities, and the differing roles of staff and Board. This workshop is for both fund development staff and Board volunteers and is appropriate for all levels of fundraising experience.

2.E Conservation Finance for Working Landscapes

Reggie Hall – The Conservation Fund (rhall@conservationfund.org)

Frank Lowenstein – New England Forestry Foundation (flowenstein@newenglandforestry.org)

Benneth Phelps – Dirt Capital (benneth@dirtpartners.com)

The world of conservation finance is constantly evolving as practitioners experiment with private sector finance for conservation. Innovative finance is becoming more important as state and municipal funding for land conservation has decreased. This workshop will present innovative finance strategies that are being used in the conservation of working lands. During this highly interactive session, you will hear from peers and experts on some fresh ideas that they are working on to finance acquisitions as well as stewardship.

2.F Model Conservation Easement & Drafting Guidance

Steve Haire – Moore, Virgadamo & Lynch, Ltd. (shaire@mvlaw.com)

Conservation Easements (also called conservation restrictions) are a good way to protect the important environmental values of a property while keeping the property in private ownership. Good drafting of the conservation easement is critical to ensure permanent protection of the conservation values that the easement holder and property owner want to protect. The legal art of drafting a good conservation easement has evolved in recent years based on a growing history of their use and related court decisions. In addition, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules and decisions and interpretations have changed “best practices” for drafting a conservation easement for property owners who are donating an easement as a charitable contribution.

RI Land Trust Council worked with attorneys to develop a “model” conservation easement for use in Rhode Island based on a Connecticut model. The model easement is accompanied by commentary explaining each section of the easement and guidance about the language to use. This model easement reflects nationally recognized state of the art “best practices” for drafting an easement and has been modified to reflect Rhode Island’s conservation easement legal code. This workshop will present the Rhode Island model. It will help your land trust, municipality and your attorneys use best practices when you are working with a landowner to draft a conservation easement to protect their property. Steve Haire has many years of experience with land conservation law and adapted the Connecticut model conservation easement and commentary to Rhode Island.

2.G Understanding, Protecting and Expanding Rhode Island’s Forest Resources

TeeJay Boudreau – RI Dept. Environmental Mgmt. (TeeJay.Boudreau@dem.ri.gov)

Christopher Riely – Sweet Birch Consulting (christopher@sweetbirchconsulting.com)

Molly Henry – American Forests (Molly.Henry.CTR@dem.ri.gov)

About 56% of Rhode Island is covered by forest. Most of this land is privately owned, yet everyone benefits from the services forested lands provide – beautiful scenery, cooling, flood mitigation, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and clean water. Presenters will review forest resources in the state and actions that Rhode Island’s Department of Environmental Management takes to manage these important resources. The workshop will also provide an overview of recent studies that have estimated the economic value of forest lands and give a summary of current work underway to develop a suite of tools that help maximize the potential for urban forests to reduce the effects of climate change such as extreme heat and poor air quality and improve public health in underserved communities.

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2.H Responsible Offshore Wind Energy Development

Nicole DiPaolo – National Wildlife Foundation (DiPaoloN@nwf.org)

Nate Mayo – Vineyard Wind (nmayo@vineyardwind.com)

States across the region are working to seize the potential of offshore wind power -- the only utility-scale renewable energy resource within Rhode Island's reach. This workshop by representatives from National Wildlife Federation and Vineyard Wind will include updates on the region's progress towards responsible development, and the process for getting this untapped clean energy resource on our grid. Learn the details on where development will happen, how locations are determined, how much energy is available, key stakeholders, opportunities for public comment, permitting processes, and how to ensure wildlife and habitat are protected every step of the way. Now is the time to apply the Block Island Wind Farm's exemplary model for effective stakeholder engagement as we scale up this critical endeavor.

2.I Tackling Climate Change: Accelerating Municipal Resilience Through New Statewide Programs

Shaun O'Rourke - Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (SORourke@riib.org)

Gary Crosby – Town of Portsmouth (gcrosby@portsmouthri.com)

Kaela Gray – Town of South Kingstown (kgray@southkingstownri.com)

Kim Jacobs – Town of Barrington (kjcw@cox.net)

Bob Rulli – Town of Warren (brulli@townofwarren-ri.gov)

Lisa Pellegrini – Town of Westerly (lpellegrini@westerlyri.gov)

Over the past year, the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank and The Nature Conservancy facilitated the development of "Community Resilience Building" plans in 5 municipalities: Portsmouth, Westerly, Warren and Barrington and South Kingstown. These plans are being used to develop a pipeline of priority projects that will help increase community resiliency and lead to greater funding and advocacy. This workshop will provide an update on implementation of the state's Climate Resilience Action Strategy, Resilient Rhody and include a panel discussion of municipal leaders will describe local climate challenges, implementation success stories, and highlight priorities that emerged from the Municipal Resilience Program.

2.J Land Stewardship Roundtable

Alex Chuman – Aquidneck Land Trust (achuman@ailt.org)

Meg Lee – The Westerly Land Trust (mlee@westerlylandtrust.org)

Lightly structured and in an interactive format, this workshop will discuss hot stewardship topics such as easement monitoring and enforcement strategies, trail/property maintenance, using technology, landowner relationships and succession, working with volunteers, and more. Have a new project or a stewardship problem where you need feedback? Come prepared to share. This roundtable discussion will allow you to network with other land trusts experiencing similar stewardship issues.

Workshops – Session III 2:45 – 4:00 choose from 10

3.A New Tools and Opportunities for Volunteer Science in the Narragansett Bay Watershed

Courtney Schmidt – Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (Courtney.Schmidt@nbep.org)

Emily Shumchenia – E&C Enviroscapes (emily.shumchenia@gmail.com)

David McLaughlin – Clean Ocean Access (dave.mclaughlin@cleanoceanaccess.org)

Michael Bradley – University of Rhode Island (michael_bradley@uri.edu)

Katie DeGoosh-DiMarzio – RI Department of Environmental Management (katie.degoosh@dem.ri.gov)

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program will moderate a panel highlighting new research and technology supporting volunteer science. Panelists will describe two new surveys using imagery to examine the recovery of bay bottom ecosystems from nutrient pollution and map the status of salt marshes facing rising seas. Another will discuss a new method to assess potential sources of contamination to beaches that drive beach closures. Finally, we will emphasize the important role local residents play in reporting freshwater invasives, and discuss volunteer opportunities to educate boaters to check and clean their boats and gear. The panelists will describe how these new tools create a better understanding of Bay conditions and new opportunities for people to participate in management and monitoring actions that advance the health of waterways in Rhode Island.



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3.B Art for Environmental Advocacy

Melissa Guillet – 15 Minute Field Trips (melissaguillet27@gmail.com)

Learn how to teach complex environmental concepts through art and engage the community in dialogue and action plans. Participate in a variety of art projects including song, dance, costume design, and drawing, and connect them to topics such as climate change, carbon sequestration, erosion control, and even fish migration! Leave with ideas to develop programs for your organization to engage families, partner with schools and youth groups, and more.

3.C Engaging Communities to Transform Urban Spaces with Green Stormwater Practices

Alicia Lehrer – Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (alehrer@wrwc.org)

Amelia Rose – Groundwork RI (arose@groundworkri.org)

Climate change effects our most vulnerable communities with increased flooding, higher heat in summer, and more. Green Infrastructure (GI) uses soils and plants to capture and treat stormwater before it enters local waterways. It also “softens” urban hard structures and helps increase communities’ resilience to climate change through increasing shade, cleaning air, filtering stormwater into the ground, making neighborhoods nicer and more. This workshop will describe successful urban stewardship programs, which create economic opportunity for Rhode Island’s urban residents, and at the same time physically improve shared urban environments, especially in economically-distressed areas.

3.D Five Fresh Ideas for Building the Board You Need

David Allen – Development for Conservation (David@DevelopmentForConservation.com)

“The first criterion used for considering a new board member is often ‘known to someone on the current board.’ I think it should be ‘totally in love with the mission,’ instead.”

Thus begins an engaging workshop session where we examine every step of the board experience and explore succession planning and leadership development from the inside out. This workshop will present five fresh ideas for identifying, recruiting, training, and empowering the board you need – both now and into the future.

3.E Land Protection and Stewardship using the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs

Joe Bachand – USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (joseph.bachand@ri.usda.gov)

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

Brunilda Velez – USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (brunilda.velez@ri.usda.gov)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service implements the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) which includes the Agricultural Lands Easement Program (ALE) and the Wetland Reserve Easement Program. These programs can be used by land trusts, local and state governments, non-governmental organization, as well as private landowners, to place conservation easement on properties to protect agricultural lands, wetlands and forestlands. NRCS staff will review the program eligibility requirements and the application process to assist workshop participants in understanding the programs and their benefits. Staff from the South Kingstown Land Trust will speak about their experience using the ACEP ALE program.

3.F Using Aerial Imagery and RILTC’s New Mapping Toolbox to Monitor Protected Lands

Alex Chuman – Aquidneck Land Trust (achuman@ailt.org)

Greg Bonyng – University of Rhode Island (greg@edc.uri.edu)

New this year, the Rhode Island Land Trust Council is now providing support to land trusts that are interested in using online mapping tools to streamline their approach to easement monitoring. We’ll introduce this new program and step through an easement monitoring workflow using both loaner equipment and Esri ArcGIS Online mapping tools that are now available at no cost from the Council. Along the way we’ll use real-life examples to highlight new fantastically detailed statewide aerial photographs. These free high resolution aerials allow for remote monitoring that can be a substitute for on-the-ground site visits and allow land trusts to easily see land use changes in their service areas. We’ll also discuss the pros and cons of using aerials to supplement your monitoring program with examples from Aquidneck Land Trust’s own remote monitoring policy.

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3.G Conserving Pollinators in the Landscape

Kelly Gill – Xerces Society (kelly.gill@xerces.org)

Emily May – Xerces Society (emily.may@xerces.org)

Pollinators are essential to our environment. The ecological service they provide is necessary for the reproduction of over 85% of the world's flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world's crop species. Beyond agriculture, pollinators are keystone species in most terrestrial ecosystems. Fruits and seeds derived from insect pollination are a major part of the diet of approximately 25% of all birds, and of mammals ranging from red-backed voles to grizzly bears. Unfortunately, in many places, the essential service of pollination is at risk from habitat loss, pesticide use, and introduced diseases. This workshop will review the habitat needs of native pollinators and how each of us can act to improve habitat and protect pollinators on protected lands, yards and gardens and along roadsides in cities and towns.

3.H The Fight Against Plastic Pollution

Kevin Budris – Conservation Law Foundation (kbudris@clf.org)

Carol Hagen McEntee – Representative District 33 (South Kingstown, Narragansett) (rep-mcentee@rilegislature.gov)

Kate Weymouth – Barrington Town Council (kweymouth@barrinton.ri.gov)

Amy Moses – Conservation Law Foundation (amoses@clf.org)

Plastic pollution is a world-wide problem. We produced 8.3 billion tons of plastic between 1950 and 2015. Most of that—5.8 billion tons—was single-use plastic, and only 6% of that single-use plastic was recycled. The rest ended up in landfills, incinerators, and in our environment. Plastic bags—380 billion of which we use every year in the U.S.—and plastic bottles—481.6 billion of which were sold worldwide in 2018—litter our parks, clog our waterways, and burden cities and towns with clean up and disposal costs. In 2019, Governor Raimondo convened a taskforce to consider plastic pollution and craft solutions. Several pieces of legislation were introduced during the 2019 session including a bag ban bill sponsored by Representative McEntee. None of the bills passed, but local cities and towns are taking action to reduce plastic pollution. This session will provide an overview of the plastics problem, then highlight local progress and state legislation under consideration this session.

3.I Balancing Renewable Energy Development with Land Protection

Jerry Elmer – Conservation Law Foundation (jelmer@clf.org)

Sue AnderBois – The Nature Conservancy (sue.anderbois@tnc.org)

Booming solar development has caught the conservation community by surprise. This workshop will provide an overview of Rhode Island's policy landscape that supports renewable energy development, then discuss best practices for siting commercial scale solar projects. Presenters will discuss the roles energy off-takers, municipalities and the state legislature and agencies can play to direct projects to preferred locations like landfills and gravel pits and provide examples of successfully sited projects.

3.J Conservation Stewardship Toolbox from the “RICSC”

David Gregg – RI Natural History Survey & Conservation Stewardship Collaborative (dgregg@rinhs.org)

Peter August – University of RI & Conservation Stewardship Collaborative (pete@edc.uri.edu)

Scott Ruhren – Audubon Society of RI (sruhren@asri.org)

Deanna Phan – RI Youth Conservation League (deannabanaphan@gmail.com)

With innovative programs, better coordinated data, and guides and protocols, the Conservation Stewardship Collaborative helps you tackle bottlenecks that hamper responsible land stewardship. In this session, hear about CSC initiatives including the Youth Conservation League: what is it, how does it help with stewardship, and how can you bring it to your town? Also, hear about templates and other tools you can use to improve the baseline documentation of your land. What other CSC products are available to you? ...rare species data, invasive species strategies, maps and mapping, student interns, more. Stymied by a problem in meeting your stewardship responsibilities? Maybe there's a CSC tool to help you, or if there isn't we'd love to hear about the need. So bring ideas for future CSC projects and join in the discussion.

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RI Natural History Survey—

rare species, biodiversity inventory, invasive species

David Gregg (dgregg@rinhs.org)

RI Land Trust Council—

assistance on baseline docs., trail maps & blazing, policy

Rupert Friday (rfriday@rilandtrusts.org)

Youth Conservation League—

trail building, invasive management,
youth engagement

Scott Ruhren (sruhren@asri.org)

RI Wildlife Action Plan—

conservation priorities, planning assistance

Amanda Freitas
(amanda.freitas@dem.ri.gov)

How can the CSC help you
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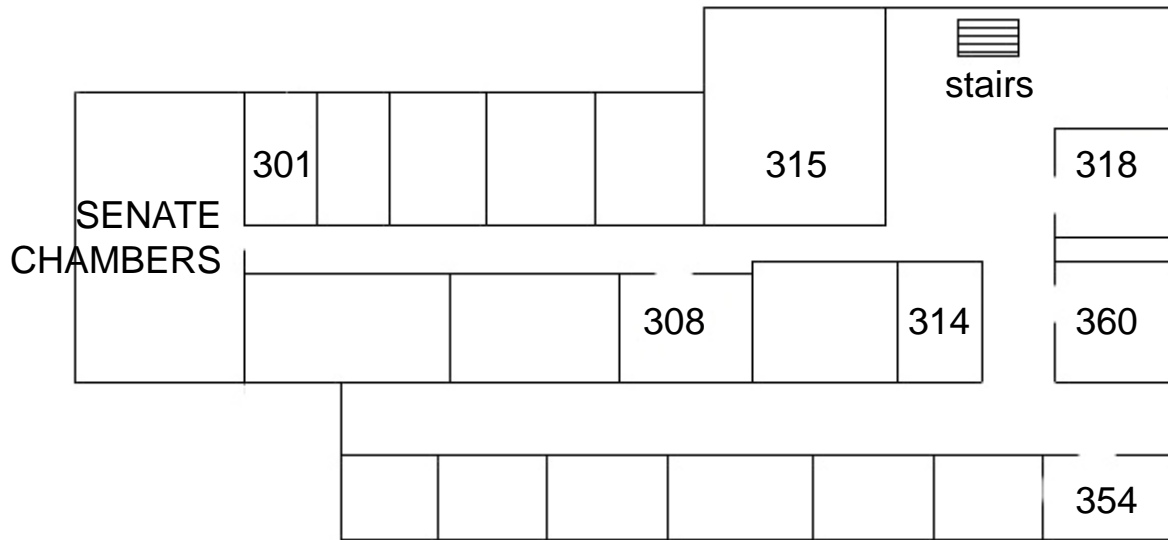


*Photos: RI Youth Conservation League, Sponsored by RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative.
For information on the 2020 YCL, Contact Audubon Society of RI, sruhren@asri.org*

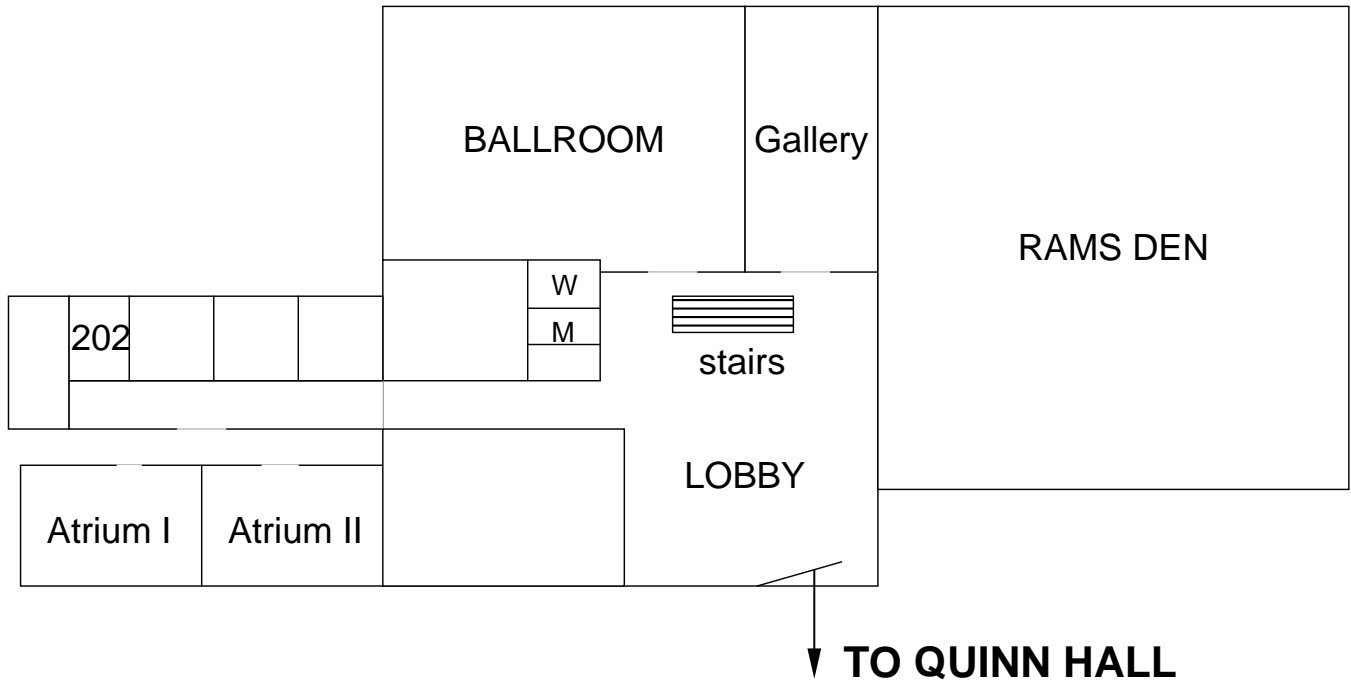
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