





12th Anniversary!!!!

Land & Water Conservation Summit

....Working together to protect our communities

Saturday, March 14, 2015 7:45 am – 4:30 pm URI Memorial Union, Kingston Campus

This day-long conference provides you with the information, skills and connections you need to be more effective! Who should attend? Watershed Councils', Land Trusts' and Conservation Commissions' board members, staff, volunteers, and others interested in land and watershed conservation in your community.

Choose from 27 Workshops offered during the Summit

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

Agenda						
7:45 - 8:30	Registration & Continental Breakfast					
8:30 – 9:30	Welcome - Emcee: Judith Swift, URI Coastal Institute Keynote - Innovation & Evolution in Conservation Peter Forbes - Author, Photographer, Farmer, Co-Founder Center for Whole Communities					
9:30 - 10:20	Organizations' Business Meetings - Networking - Visit Exhibits					
9:30 – 9:50	RI Land Trust Council Business Meeting RI Association of Conservation Commission Business Meeting					
10:20 – 11:30 11:30 – 11:45	Session I Workshops – Your choice from 9 offered Break					
11:45 – 12:55	Session II Workshops – Your choice from 9 offered					
12:55 - 2:30	Lunch & Awards					
Governor Gina Raimondo - Welcome						
Briefing on General Assembly Environmental Issues						
- Senator Susan Sosnowski – Chair - Environment & Agriculture Committee						
- Representative Art Handy - Chair - Environment & Natural Resources Committee						
Peter Merritt Conservation Award & Blueways Stewardship Award						
2:45 - 4:00	Session III Workshops – Your choice from 9 offered					

Registration: Early Registration Ends February 27

\$45 before February 27 \$60 after February 27 includes Lunch

Register On Line: www.landandwaterpartnership.org

Workshops at a Glance

Download workshop descriptions at: www.landandwaterpartnership.org

	Session 1 10:20 – 11:30 am	Session 2 11:45 am – 12:55 pm	Session 3 2:45 – 4:00 pm	
Α	Two Easy Steps to Better Board Meetings	Re-imagining Conservation as Building Community	Re-imagining Conservation as Building Community (repeated)	
В	Volunteer Fish Monitoring: It's Shockingly Good!	Managing the Competing Demands on Water Resources: Balancing Water Supply & Stream Flow	Improving Water Quality Throughout Rhode Island by Phasing Out Cesspools	
С	Renewable Energy: Decoding the Current Programs and Understanding Future Strategies	Resilient RI – Engaging Local Government in Mitigation and Resilience	Green Infrastructure: Strategies for De-paving & Greening Our Communities	
D	Adventures on the High(er) Seas: Tools & Case Studies for Coastal Climate Change Resilience	Rhode Island's Salt Marshes – Strategies for Adapting to Climate Change	What's the Plan? Managing RI Solid Waste the Next 25 Years	
E	And Now Hear This! How You Can Make a Difference in Your Town	Statewide Setback Standards for Wetlands & Onsite Waste Treatment Systems: Taskforce Report & Legislation	Creating a Strong Collaboration Between RIDEM & Conservation Commissions: Streamlining the Flow of Information	
F	The New Way of Doing Business: A Guided Tour of the 2014 Updated Rhode Island Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Handbook	How Secure is Your Town's Open Space Land? Strategies to Make Sure They Are Protected	Preserving Cultural and Tribal Identity: Diagnostic Toolkits and Preservation Strategies	
G	Monitoring Your Land Trust's Protected Properties	Talking to Landowners About Protecting Their Property	Stewarding Our Protected Lands: Information and Resources to Help Practitioners	
Н	Grazing Protected Lands to Manage Invasives & Grasslands & Support Local Agriculture	Forest Gardening & Growing Edibles on Conserved Woodlands	Building & Maintaining Trails in Areas with Wetlands	
	Managing Community Expectations & Perceptions to Protect Your Organization's Reputation	Mastering, Managing & Measuring Social Media: Strategies for Amplifying Grassroots Action	RI Wildlife Action Plan & You: Land Conservation & Management Decision-making Tools	

Thank YOU!! to these Lead Sponsors:

RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative



RHODE ISLAND BAYS, RIVERS, & WATERSHEDS COORDINATION TEAM

Hazard Family Foundation









Keynote Address – Peter Forbes

Innovation and Evolution in Conservation

How do we help to make conservation last 100 years, 500 years, 1,000 years? The biggest challenge for conservation today is how to innovate to bring fresh perspectives and new tools that make relationship to place more relevant and rewarding for more people so that our great efforts at conservation last forever. Hear from Peter Forbes how conservationists everywhere are stepping up to more fully meet their communities, playing a richer role in helping neighbors to re-connect to land through how they live, work, eat and play.

Workshops – Session I 10:20 – 11:30 (choose from 9)

1-A Two Easy Steps to Better Board Meetings

John Monroe - National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program

Do you wish your organization had more productive and efficient meetings? In this interactive session, you will learn how to implement the first two steps: a list of "leave with" items to begin the meeting and a pair of questions to conclude. Simple, yet powerful. You'll learn and practice so you can try them at your next board (or any) meeting.

1-B Volunteer Fish Monitoring – It's Shockingly Good!

Alicia Lehrer - Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council Denise Poyer - Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

We protect water quality so fish and wildlife can thrive. But is there a way to get even more familiar with the life in our rivers and streams? Are even our urban, industrialized rivers full of life? How can we find out? Over the past 2 years, the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council and the Wood-Pawcatucket Watershed Association have developed and tested a fish community monitoring program for volunteers. This session will show you how to get in the water with the backpack electroshocker, collect and identify fish, and share the information with your stakeholders!

1-C Renewable Energy: Decoding the Current Programs and Understanding Future Strategies Jerry Elmer - Conservation Law Foundation

Expanding renewable energy is critical to Rhode Island's climate mitigation strategies. But to many of us, the programs are mysterious and opaque. Distributed generation, net metering, renewable energy fund, PACE, EERMC, what does it all mean? This workshop will decode the secret language of renewable energy and highlight priorities for moving the program forward in 2015.

1-D Adventures on the High(er) Seas: Tools and Case Studies for Coastal Climate Change Resilience

Janet Freedman - Coastal Resources Management Council

Wenley Ferguson - Save the Bay

Caitlin Chaffee - Coastal Resources Management Council

There are an increasing number of tools available to communities and conservation organizations for identifying present and future hazards due to climate change. This session will give a brief introduction to a few of these tools (shoreline change maps, the sea level rise inundation viewer, and the SLAMM maps) and then highlight projects where the tools were helpful in the project selection and design. The projects in progress or completed by CRMC, Save the Bay and The Nature Conservancy include green or hybrid green/gray infrastructure for coastal adaptation to erosion hazards and sea level rise; thin layer deposition to increase elevation in rapidly changing salt marshes; and creation of a living shoreline in the Narrow River.

1-E And Now Hear This! How You Can Make a Difference in Your Town

David Flanders - South Kingstown Conservation Commission John Marsland - Blackstone River Watershed Council Kevin Cleary - Burrillville Conservation Commission

We often hear about success stories on TV, radio or as headlines in the newspaper. But most of the time the details of how these success stories came about are never heard. Join leaders from two conservation commissions and a watershed group who will share their secrets, their successes and their failures. Projects ranging from a successful pilot project which involved planting containerized trees set back on private property, trail construction, and invasive species management to a program that adopts land from the RI DOT will be shared. This is your chance to learn from experts on how you can do the same in your organization and in your town.

1-F The New Way of Doing Business: A Guided Tour of the 2014 Updated Rhode Island Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Handbook

J.Eric Scherer - Southern Rhode Island Conservation District Brian Lafaille - RI Department of Environmental Management

Think all soils are the same? Not true. You will be introduced to the updated *Rhode Island Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook* and learn how it can be a useful 'tool' in your efforts to maintain and defend the natural environments you protect. Three years in the making, this Handbook contains 'state of the science' control measures and other tools for use by both practitioners and others who have responsibilities to protect soil and water quality in their towns. Learn how this guidance document was developed, how it fits into today's regulatory processes, and which soil erosion and sediment control measures have been newly added or updated.

1-G Monitoring Your Land Trust's Protected Properties

Carol Lynn Trocki - Consultant

Once your organization has protected land with a conservation easement or by fee acquisition, annual monitoring is critical to ensure the long term protection of the property and its conservation values. This workshop will discuss best practices for annual monitoring along with basic steps that your organization can take to begin an annual monitoring program now even if you don't yet have all of your baseline information in place. We will discuss the monitoring guidance (handbook) developed for the RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative, provide templates of monitoring forms, and share a variety of examples of how different land trusts have successfully tackled this important annual effort.

1-H Grazing Protected Lands to Manage Invasives & Grasslands and Support Local Agriculture

Geoff Beresford - Cattle Farmer

Garry Plunkett - Tiverton Land Trust

Protected pastures, hayfields, other grasslands are one of the most difficult stewardship challenges. These areas are susceptible to invasive plants especially if they are managed by late season mowing to protect ground nesting birds. Done properly, rotational grazing can be an effective tool against invasive species — without using herbicides. It also supports local agriculture, improves soil, and can help to return conservation land to a traditional, cultural use. This workshop will explain the hows, whys and results of rotational grazing as done at Tiverton Land Trust's Pardon Gray Preserve for two years.

1-I Managing Community Expectations & Perceptions to Protect Your Organization's Reputation Chuck Allott - Aquidneck Land Trust

Chip Young - CY Communications & ecoRI News

When your organization protects a property, residents in your community have differing perceptions and expectations about how the property is protected and what is permitted. Some community residents may not support land conservation. This workshop will discuss two land conservation projects on Aquidneck Island, community and landowner understandings about the properties that were protected, conflicts that arose about future use of those properties, and the impact these conflicts had on Aquidneck Land Trust's reputation. We'll discuss communication strategies to help establish realistic community expectations about the use of protected properties and to ensure that your organization is prepared to address conflicts when they arise.

Workshops – Session II 11:45 – 12:55 (choose from 9)

2-A Re-imagining Conservation as Building Community (this workshop is repeated Session III A) *Peter Forbes - Keynote Speaker*

During this interactive workshop, Peter and participants will answer important questions together: who are conservationists within their communities? How is conservation perceived? Who's in our circle and not, and why? What impacts our relationships now? What are you already doing that stretches your conservation group toward community conservation? What does this work ask of us as leaders? How might your organization's dominant story need to evolve to help you be more relevant and in service to more people?

2-B Managing the Competing Demands on Water Resources: Balancing Water Supply & Stream Flow

Ken Burke - RI Water Resources Board

Alisa Richardson - RI Department of Environmental Management

Rhode Island's Department of Environmental Management (DEM) developed a streamflow depletion method (SDM) that promotes the continued existence, diversity and health of the state's native wildlife and plant species. The Rhode Island Water Resources Board used this data and years of water use and availability information to develop water availability estimates that consider municipal and water supply jurisdictions as a foundation for new management strategies. WRB is using water availability estimates to help regulate the proper development, protection, conservation and use of the water resources of the state. This session will describe how DEM created the SDM, and WRB's progress in policy and regulation development for the water resources of the state.

2-C Resilient RI – Engaging Local Government in Mitigation and Resilience

Tricia Jedele - Conservation Law Foundation

Fred Presley - Town of West Warwick

Pam Rubinoff - URI Coastal Resources Center

In 2014, the Legislature passed the Resilient RI Act. The Act sets targets for greenhouse gas reduction and codifies the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) that Governor Chafee established by Executive Order. It is exciting to have state agencies working together on climate issues, but the realities of climate change – rising seas, intense rain storms, heat emergencies – affect local communities and require a response from local government. This session will review the Resilient RI Act, discuss what the law has put in place, and will then review climate issues from the local perspective of W. Warwick, Newport and N. Kingstown.

2-D Rhode Island's Salt Marshes – Strategies for Adapting to Climate Change

Wenley Ferguson - Save the Bay

Rhode Island's salt marshes provide the nursery and spawning habitats that support an \$81 million commercial fishery and \$208 million recreational fishery. More than half of the state's salt marsh habitat has been lost, and salt marshes are increasingly degraded by rising seas. Throughout the state, restoration scientists are partnering with local advocates to restore marshes and prepare them for more rapidly rising seas. This session will review the current condition of the state's marshes and then highlight promising strategies for marsh adaptation.

2-E Statewide Setback Standards for Wetlands & Onsite Waste Treatment Systems: Taskforce Report & Legislation

Nancy E. Letendre Esq. -Mason & Associates, Inc. Lorraine Joubert - URI Cooperative Extension NEMO

Learn how proposed legislation creating single statewide standards for wetland and onsite waste treatment systems (OWTS) buffers may affect wetlands protection in your community and what you can do to influence decision making. Under the Rhode Island Regulatory Reform Act (RI General Law 42-64.13-10), RIDEM was charged with drafting this legislation by January 31, 2015 to address recommendations of the Legislative Task Force (final report at http://www.planning.ri.gov/). We will review key findings of the Task Force and describe the legislative process to date. This is an informal session with ample time to discuss the potential implications of this bill and how you can get involved.

2-F How Secure is Your Town's Open Space Land? Strategies to Make Sure They Are Protected

Kimberly I. McCarthy, Esq. - Monastery Preservation Alliance & Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP David R. Westcott - Mason & Associates Inc.

Paul A. Roselli - Burrillville Land Trust

Rhode Island is full of parks, hiking trails, recreation areas, ponds, river access, beaches and scenic vistas. These special places give Rhode Island its very own unique sense of place helping to build our economy and creating healthy environments for us and our children. But are those places protected from private development or from towns or cities who see these places as vacant and free land? Will they be there ten, twenty or thirty years from now? Community planners, land trust leaders, conservation commissions, concerned citizens, property holders all have a stake in making sure these places are protected with easements and protective covenants that will stand the test of time. This workshop will illustrate success stories and stories that weren't so successful and demonstrate how properly documented and recorded easements can be your best defense in preserving those areas that help maintain our state's identity.

2-G **Talking to Landowners About Protecting Their Property**

Reggie Hall - Conservation Fund

This workshop will discuss the "how tos" of talking with landowners about protecting their land. Once your land trust has established your conservation priorities, how do you approach landowners that have properties that are important to your land trust's priority conservation goal(s)? How do you set up the first meeting/introduction, if you don't know the landowners? What do you discuss during the first meeting? Who should be there from your land trust? This workshop will discuss strategies along with realistic expectations and timeframes – sometimes it takes years of landowner cultivation before a property is protected.

2-H Forest Gardening & Growing Edibles on Conserved Woodlands

Christopher Riely (moderator) – Providence Water & RI Land Trust Council Chris English - Revive the Roots Julius Pasav - Yale School Forests

Land trusts and other mission-driven organizations protect woodlands that are not suitable for hay and row crops but provide a good opportunity for growing nuts, fruits, mushrooms, berries, and other crops. Tree and forest floor crops generally require a longer planning horizon for growers. Cultivating a garden that mimics a natural forest can help restore the ecosystem. Farmers, entrepreneurs, and community groups are looking for land where they can grow these crops. Land trusts can be an ideal partner because the land is permanently protected and benefits from a long term stewardship plan. Forest edibles are an opportunity for your land trust to help your community sustain local agriculture and grow fresh produce. This workshop will share how the Smithfield Land Trust's and Yale-Myers Forest (in northeastern Connecticut) land is being used to grow nut trees along with other examples of establishing an edible forest garden, cultivating shiitake mushrooms, and planting understory crops.

2-I Mastering, Managing & Measuring Social Media: Strategies for Amplifying Grassroots Action Amanda Brayman - Worldways Social Marketing Julianna Lagno - Worldways Social Marketing

Grassroots organizations harness the power of individuals to make a collective difference in the world. Amplifying that impact through social media can be intimidating, especially since the digital world is everchanging. Now, more than ever, digital relevance and communication through social channels are important factors in achieving the tipping point of change. In this focused workshop, we will help you to understand and master the digital future of your work. We will share our Social Impact Pyramid, a systematic approach to planning, managing and getting the most measurable impact out of your digital presence with limited resources.

Workshops – Session III 2:45 – 4:00 (choose from 9) Re-imagining Conservation as Building Community (this workshop is a repeat of Session II A) 3-A Peter Forbes - Keynote Speaker

During this interactive workshop, Peter and participants will answer important questions together: who are conservationists within their communities? How is conservation perceived? Who's in our circle and not, and why? What impacts our relationships now? What are you already doing that stretches your conservation group toward community conservation? What does this work ask of us as leaders? How might your organization's dominant story need to evolve to help you be more relevant and in service to more people?

3-B Improving Water Quality Throughout Rhode Island by Phasing out Cesspools

Brian Moore - RI Department of Environmental Management

Topher Hamblett - Save the Bay

Eugenia Marks - Audubon Society of RI

Cesspools, buried chambers that receive sewage from homes or businesses, provide no treatment and pollute nearby waterways. In 2007, the Legislature passed the Cesspool Act which mandated that all cesspools located within 200 feet of the inland edge of the coastal shoreline feature bordering a tidal water area, or within 200 feet of public wells, or within 200 feet of drinking water reservoirs be abandoned and the home upgraded with a new onsite wastewater treatment system or connected to available municipal sewer lines. RI DEM estimates that there are approximately 25,000 total cesspools throughout the state. Legislation has been introduced for the past several years to mandate removal of the remaining cesspools when a home is sold. Come learn about this issue and brainstorm ways grassroots organizations can help get legislation passed in 2015.

3-C Green Infrastructure: Strategies for De-paving & Greening Our Communities

Chuck Allott - Aquidneck Land Trust

Walter Burke - Town of Bristol

Shannon Brawley - RI Nursery and Landscape Association

Green infrastructure is suddenly the rage, but haven't we been talking about rain gardens for years? What has changed? This session will highlight Rhode Island's poster child for green infrastructure, the transformation of Bristol Beach and the water quality improvements that have resulted. The conversation will then turn to the future of green infrastructure, highlighting the development of the 21st century workforce needed to transform the landscape and exploring the role of land trusts and others in the long term maintenance of our future green spaces.

3-D What's the Plan? Managing RI Solid Waste the Next 25 Years

Lauren Carson - Clean Water Action

Donna Kaehler - Town of Cumberland

What's in the RI 2014 Solid Waste Management Plan? Where will our waste go in 20 years? How can we increase recycling and composting now? Millions of dollars are spent each year by cities, municipalities, the state and the private sector to manage municipal solid waste. Are we ready for the time when the Central Landfill is full? The current update to the Solid Waste Management Plan of 2007 is charged to insure that the State of Rhode Island has a comprehensive and coordinated plan to provide cost effective and environmental compliant waste management and recycling services for residents, businesses, industry, and municipalities. But what's in the Plan? This workshop will review the 2015 RI Solid Waste management Plan and highlight the successes and opportunities for Rhode Island's producer responsibilities programs. We will focus on new ways that our cities and towns that are working locally on innovative programs to reduce their waste and extend the life of the Central Landfill.

3-E Creating a Strong Collaboration between RIDEM & Conservation Commissions: Streamlining the Flow of Information

Board Members - RI Association of Conservation Commissions Lisa Primiano - RI Department of Environmental Management

Collaboration is the key to successful land and water protection strategies. Often the mechanics of collaboration are complex and difficult to maintain so most organizations shy away from active collaborative efforts. Can we streamline the flow of problem solving, increase effective reporting that the state requires, manage projects efficiently by using shared information between RIDEM and RI Conservations Commissions, while at the same time increasing capacity by using highly skilled resources from both the state and municipal level? Several RI Conservation Commissions have been working with RIDEM Cathy Sparks and Lisa Primiano about strategies for strengthening their working relationship. This workshop provides an opportunity for more Conservation Commission members to participate in this exciting collaboration.

3-F Preserving Cultural and Tribal Identity: Diagnostic Toolkits and Preservation Strategies

Doug Schwartz - New England Antiquities Research Association Doug Harris - Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Land and water preservation organizations sometimes acquire or manage properties where Native American historic and ceremonial features in the form of stonework are most frequently encountered due to cultural imperatives. Two presentations will take place during this workshop. First, Doug Schwartz will discuss recognition and the contexts in which these artifacts are likely to be found and methods of differentiating these structures from agricultural artifacts. Preservation strategies will be examined, on the parcel and municipal levels. Second, Doug Harris will present the emergence of New Tribal Historic Preservation Research Frontiers. Within the last decade, two declarations from Elder Medicine People of the Narragansett Indian Tradition have prompted work on new frontiers of research in Tribal Historic Preservation that is now acknowledged by Army Corps and BOEM. This presentation will discuss the cutting edge implications of these new frontiers in Tribal Historic Preservation research including the evolving diagnostic "toolkits" for identifying and preserving ancient cultural features.

3-G Stewarding Our Protected Lands: Information and Resources to Help Practitioners

Julie Sharpe - Conservation Stewardship Collaborative

Peter August - University of Rhode Island

David Gregg - RI Natural History Survey

This workshop will present the results of projects by the RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative (CSC) in 2014 that should assist land conservation organizations of all types in their urgent stewardship responsibilities. Projects to be discussed include invasive species management activities, the work of the Youth Conservation League, state policy initiatives, new resources for producing baseline documentation and management plans for protected properties, and upcoming changes of the Land & Water Resource Library. The session is a great opportunity to discuss the challenges of stewardship with your colleagues and to offer ideas for future CSC initiatives.

3-H Building & Maintaining Trails in Areas with Wetlands

Roy Najecki - Glocester Land Trust & RI Land Trust Council RIDEM Wetlands Staff - invited Scott Rabideau - Natural Resources Services

Are you contemplating a trail that may go through a wetland, or do have property with existing trails through wetlands? What you need to know about what you should do when you are maintaining existing trails and establishing new trails? What to look for when you are designing trail routes so that you can avoid wetlands. What funding, professional, and regulatory resources are available to help you? How to apply for trail grants – step by step. This workshop will also discuss the revised rules of the Fresh Water Wetlands Act, when you need a wetlands engineer, engineering drawings, and permits from DEM.

3-I RI Wildlife Action Plan & You: Land Conservation & Management Decision-making Tools Amanda Freitas - RI Natural History Survey

The RI Wildlife Action Plan (RI WAP) contains a lot of great information to help land trusts and municipalities protect wildlife and habitats in your community. This workshop will take you through some of the tools that have been developed for the 2015 RI WAP to help you prioritize land acquisition and management goals. Topics will include assessing threats to wildlife and habitats, existing conservation mapping and how to use it, and prioritizing invasive species management. We'll save time for discussion of additional needs your organization might have. We'll also discuss how the WAP Community Liaison can help your organization with important habitat conservation questions and decisions!

Registration Form Rhode Island Land & Water Conservation Summit

REGISTER ON LINE:

PO Box 633

Saunderstown, RI 02874

Saturday, March 14, 2015

www.landandwaterpartnership.org

Location: URI Memorial Union, Kingston

Registration Cost (includes lunch and breaks):

Early Registration	n before February 27:	\$45	After February 27	: \$60
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Name	Telephone Number			
Affiliation				
Land Trust Watershe	ed Council Conse	rvation Comm	ission	
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Questions/Information? Contact:

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