

13th Annual

Land & Water Conservation Summit

... Working together to protect our communities

Saturday, March 19, 2016 7:45 am – 4:30 pm

URI Memorial Union, Kingston Campus

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

30 “How To” Workshops – Outstanding Networking – Informative Exhibits

Agenda

7:45 – 8:30 Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:40 Welcome - Emcee: Judith Swift, URI Coastal Institute

- **Preserving Place; The Narragansett Salt Pond Preserve – live interview:**
 - *RI Public Radio Environmental Reporter - Ambar Espinoza*
 - *Filmmaker, Storyteller - Marc Levitt*
 - *Tomaquag Museum Executive Director - Lorén Spears*
- **Briefing on General Assembly Environmental Issues**
 - *Senator Susan Sosnowski – Chair – Environment & Agriculture Committee*
 - *Representative Art Handy – Chair – Environment & Natural Resources Committee*

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
- RI Association of Conservation Commission Business Meeting
- Watershed Organizations' Meeting

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, Keynote Address & Awards

- **Governor Gina Raimondo**
- **Keynote – Collin O'Mara – President - National Wildlife Federation**
Conservation in this Century; What America Can Learn from the Ocean State
- **Peter Merritt Conservation Award & Blueways Stewardship Award**

2:45 – 4:00 Session III **Workshops** – *Your choice from 10 offered*

Registration: Early Registration Ends March 4

\$50 before March 4 \$ 75 after March 4 (includes Continental Breakfast & Lunch)

Register On Line: <http://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
A	Conservation ADHD	Implementing the NEW Regulations for the Statewide Freshwater Wetlands Program	Comprehensive Plans Revisited - Using Comprehensive Plans for Conservation and Management
B	The Intersection of Landscape Planning Necessity & Aesthetic Beauty	The Future of Conservation Commissions in Rhode Island: the Argument for Regulatory Authority	Free Has a Cost - Being Your Own "Tree Activist"
C	Environmental Education and Environmental Organizations – They're a Good Fit!	Telling Stories 2.0. Creating a New Vision	Strength in Diversity: the Importance of Developing Urban Conservation
D	Strategic Framing for Climate Change Communication	Enhancing Coastal Resilience with Green Infrastructure	Reinventing Urban Landscapes with Green Infrastructure
E	Land Conservation 101	Revising the Land Trust Standards & Practices	Resources Available for Stewardship
F	Municipal Land Trust Roundtable Discussion	Starting & Running a Community Garden	Managing Your Land for both Forest & Wildlife Values
G	Because 'Saving Acres' Isn't Enough...	Planting Rhode Island's Native Species for the Future	Thinking Outside the Box: Can We Create Amphibian Habitat as We Manage Stormwater?
H	How to Create Community Stewardship for Urban Watersheds	Tried and True Tips for Successful Fundraising	Understanding the Complexities of Renewable Energy in Rhode Island
I	The Traditional Media Are Here to Stay	Use Social Media to Talk Directly – and Successfully – to Your Audiences	Strategies for Keeping and Growing Your Audience
J	Board Building: Practical Stuff from the Trenches	Engage, Motivate, And Get Out of the Way!	Using Online Information to Make Maps

Thank YOU to these Lead Sponsors!!

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*RI
Conservation
Stewardship
Collaborative*

Keynote Address – Collin O’Mara – President, National Wildlife Federation

Conservation in this Century; What America Can Learn from the Ocean State

The threats to America’s natural resources, ranging from imperiled wildlife and degraded water to unhealthy air and climate-induced storms have never been greater. Yet, in Rhode Island and in communities across our nation, successes that are replicable and scalable highlight the potential paths forward. In his talk, O’Mara will speak about these pressing challenges and show how recent victories in Rhode Island that married grassroots activism with forward thinking public policy offer models for action in every state in the country.

Collin O’Mara is President of the National Wildlife Federation, America’s largest wildlife conservation organization. Under his leadership, the Federation focuses on: conserving wildlife from bighorn sheep to pollinators like monarch butterflies and native bees, defending public lands and access to outdoor recreation, restoring America’s waterbodies, improving habitat resilience, advancing environmental education, and connecting every American child with the great outdoors. Previously, as Secretary of Delaware’s Department of National Resources & Environmental Control, Collin led the state’s efforts to expand outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities, and enhance the state’s resilience to climate impacts.

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

1-A Conservation ADHD

Paul Roselli - Burrillville Land Trust & RI Land Trust Council (Moderator)

Nancy Letendre, Esq. AICP - Mason & Associates Inc.,

Wenley Ferguson - Save the Bay

Brian Blais - Bryant University

Got a burning environmental, climate change or conservation question? Or you always wanted to present at the summit but didn’t have enough material for a 70 minute presentation? This workshop is designed for you. Attendees bring their burning question or short presentation to this workshop. Panel members answer questions from the audience and may ask a member from the audience to talk about what they know. Maximum time for each topic is 10 minutes. BYOQ - Bring Your Own Question! BYOT - Bring Your Own Topic!

1-B The Intersection of Landscape Planning Necessity and Aesthetic Beauty

Kelly Addy - University of Rhode Island

Rick Enser - Consultant & RI Natural History Survey & Narrow River Land Trust

Land use management programs often require a holistic view that includes an assessment of biodiversity - the ecosystems and unique species present. Conservation organizations can be the change agents for enhancing habitat, re-introducing native or rare species and building climate change resiliency into forest systems. Learn how research on our native beaver population can help change the way we think about our current land use management practices, and the ways that biodiversity assessments of properties can inform the selection of conservation actions.

1-C Environmental Education and Environmental Organizations – They’re a Good Fit!

Denise Poyer - Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, Moderator

Kimberly Sullivan - RI Department of Environmental Management

Kassi Archambault - Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

Shareen Knowlton - Roger Williams Park Zoo

Rachel Holbert - Norman Bird Sanctuary

Stacey Jackson - Westerly Land Trust

Jeannine Silversmith - RI Environmental Education Association

Is your land trust or watershed council thinking about offering education programs? This workshop will explore some of the ways environmental organizations are working with local schools, after school programs, and communities to bring more kids into the outdoors. Panelist from the RI Environmental Education Alliance will explain the No Child Left Inside Act and RI’s Environmental Literacy Plan to see how they could help encourage teachers to use local places as outdoor classrooms.

1-D Strategic Framing for Climate Change Communication

Jennifer West - Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

This interactive session will introduce a research-based approach to telling a story about climate change that helps engage audiences in positive ways, by overcoming traditional barriers and cuing people to think productively about solutions. Participants will learn some framing tools and practice applying techniques. The information presented in the session is based on the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation (NNOCCI) project, funded by the National Science Foundation.

1-E Land Conservation 101

Chuck Allott - Aquidneck Land Trust

This will be a soup to nuts workshop on protecting land including both fee and conservation easement transactions. We'll use case studies to dissect a typical land conservation project starting with how a land conservation project begins and how to talk with a landowner. We'll go through the steps and discuss what needs to be done until the project is completed and the property is protected.

1-F Municipal Land Trust Roundtable Discussion

Marilyn Grant - Hopkinton Land Trust

Barbara Rich - Smithfield Land Trust

How do 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? 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. Ask your questions and share your land trust's strategies for success. The discussion will be facilitated by Barbara and Marilyn who chair the municipal land trusts in their towns.

1-G Because 'Saving Acres' Isn't Enough...

Carol Lynn Trocki - Consultant & RI Land Trust Council

We know how the IRS defines 'conservation values', but how do we? Why do we do this work? What is it we value about conservation, exactly? Are the reasons now the same as they were when we started? Is it the opportunity to take a hike in the woods? A beautiful water view? Access to safe, healthy, local food? Clean drinking water? Or maybe (my personal favorites...) the magic of dark night skies and fireflies? Those of us already engaged in this work often know and care deeply about all of these things, but perhaps one barrier to engaging others is making sure we describe what we do in ways that are relevant and accessible to a broader audience. This workshop will be an opportunity to participate in a conversation about the value of conservation in your community and to exchange ideas and examples that can help all of us expand our thinking about the meaning of our work.

1-H How to Create Community Stewardship for Urban Watersheds

Holly Ewald - UPP Arts

Amelia Rose - Groundwork Providence

Most of Rhode Island's population lives in urban areas. This workshop will highlight how two Providence based grassroots organizations are drawing attention to and protecting the wonderful, essential wild, natural places in our cities using the arts, education, demonstration projects, and natural resource workforce development for both urban youth and adult residents. The workshop will provide a forum for sharing your success stories and will help strengthen urban engagement statewide.

1-I The Traditional Media Are Here to Stay

Chip Young - Communications consultant & ecoRI News

Rick Schwartz - StraightTalk consulting

In these days of social media, organizations might be fooled into thinking they need not bother working with the mass media: newspapers and radio and TV stations. Yet, these outlets reach much bigger audiences and confer a legitimacy on you that no other medium can. This workshop will cover: 5 ways the traditional media have changed and what that means to our approach to them; presenting your "brand" to the media (and everyone else); and developing your very own "matrix" for working with the media. The presenters have 80 years of communications background between them and will focus on your questions for half of the workshop.

1-J Board Building: Practical Stuff from the Trenches

Ashley Belanger - Rhode Island Urban Debate League

Boards, like unicorns, can be both miraculous and terrifying. After all, an effective Board *could* be the difference between realizing your organizational dreams...and living your non-profit nightmare. Don't sell *your* awesome org. short! Learn how to find great people for your Board and set them up for success. Through this workshop, participants will: learn the basic don'ts and dos of building a dream board; receive some solid tools to use on the journey; brainstorm solutions to their greatest board challenge; and laugh ('cause that's important).

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

2-A Implementing the NEW Regulations for the Statewide Freshwater Wetlands Program

Chuck Horbert - RI Department of Environmental Management

In 2015, Rhode Island's General Assembly passed legislation that changed setbacks and authority for Rhode Island's freshwater wetlands program. This workshop will review the findings of a study commission established to examine wetlands regulation and the key components of the regulations that will implement these changes.

2-B The Future of Conservation Commissions in Rhode Island: the Argument for Regulatory Authority

Tom Sullivan - Princeton Land Trust & former MA Conservation Commission member

Michael A. Rice – URI & former member RI General Assembly & S.Kingstown Conservation Commission Members - Rhode Island Association of Conservation Commissions

What will the future of Conservation Commissions look like in Rhode Island once they have regulatory authority during their permitting process. Presenters lead a discussion as to what exists now, how regulations are enacted and how some municipal governments are currently using Conservation Commissions. Presenters offer advice on what RI Conservation Commissions would look like once statewide authority is in place and how the life of a commissioner would change.

2-C Telling stories 2.0. Creating a New Vision

Dan Novak - University of Rhode Island & RI Association of Conservation Commissions

Rebekah Greenwald Speck - Riverzedge Arts

Students - Riverzedge Green Design Lab

Storytelling that involves conservation as an integral and necessary part of our culture is essential to the work of environmentalists and conservation organizations. We need a new and profoundly positive horizon of understanding and a comprehensive narrative that renews our hopefulness and sense of inspiration. This workshop includes presentations from a philosophical perspective and those from teenagers that integrate their sense of place in the art that they produce.

2-D Enhancing Coastal Resilience with Green Infrastructure

Wenley Fegurson - Save the Bay

Pam Rubinoff - University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center

Recent king tides have given Rhode Islanders a glimpse into the future, showing what coastal flooding will do to habitats and communities. This workshop will review how to use mapping tools developed by URI and CRMC that show 1, 3, 5 and 7 feet of sea rise and storm surge. Panelists will highlight coastal adaptation projects that have been implemented sharing both challenges and solutions to address the dynamic nature of these sites and lessons learned that can be applied in other coastal areas.

2-E Revising the Land Trust Standards & Practices

Kevin Case - Land Trust Alliance

In 1989, the land trust community developed and adopted a set of guidelines and “best practices” that describe how to operate a land trust legally, ethically, in the public interest, [and](#) with a sound program of land transactions and land stewardship. These guidelines, the nationally recognized *Land Trust Standards and Practices (S&P)*, were most recently revised in 2004. Starting in 2016 and continuing into 2017, the Land Trust Alliance is leading a collaborative process to revise *S&P* to reflect changes in the legal and operational environment of the land trust community over the last 10 years and to provide overall alignment with the Land Trust Accreditation Program and Terraforma. This workshop will begin with quick overview of the *S&P*: what they are, why and how they were developed. It will then discuss the proposed changes so that you can provide feedback on an initial draft revision of *S&P*.

2-F Starting & Running a Community Garden

Margaret DeVos - Southside Community Land Trust & RI Land Trust Council

Rob Booz - Southside Community Land Trust

One opportunity for land trusts and communities that protect farmland ... or even vacant lots ... is establishing a community garden. Community gardens provide community residents with access to a plot of land where they can grow food. There is high demand for community garden space in many communities and creating a community garden is a good strategy for expanding community interest in and support for your organization. This workshop will briefly discuss the positive health, economic, environmental and community building impacts associated with community gardens. It will feature best practices for establishing and operating a community garden as well as strategies for avoiding potential problems.

2-G Planting Rhode Island's Native Species for the Future

Hope Leeson - Rhode Island Natural History Survey

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." The Chinese Proverb holds value for 21st century land management efforts, which increasingly involve invasive species management. In many cases, replanting with native species would be beneficial, and in coastal areas is a requirement. Decisions made on what to plant can be complicated when land managers ponder the importance of local ecotypes, planning for climate changes, and the present day needs of wildlife. This workshop will focus on the benefits of planting native species following invasive species removal, and strategies for creating biologically diverse native plant communities to be more resilient to changes in climate conditions.

2-H Tried and True Tips for Successful Fundraising

Martin Sadd - Kingston Chamber Music Festival

Daniel Schleifer - New Urban Arts

Fundraising is a constant challenge for small non-profit organizations. Sometimes it feels like you need more money before you can have the time and capacity to do the work of successful fundraising. Attend this workshop and hear how two people successfully implemented fundraising strategies for local organizations.

2-I Use Social Media to Talk Directly – and Successfully – to Your Audiences

Chip Young - Communications consultant & ecoRI News

Rick Schwartz - StraightTalk consulting

If the mass media speaks to everyone, the social media -- Facebook, Instagram, ebroadcasting, YouTube, websites, and more – are unparalleled for talking directly with specific audiences. Your organization can't afford to ignore using social media. This workshop will discuss: recognizing and working with the totally different "voices" of, and audiences for, each social medium; keeping your social media affordable and easy; finding great content that even you will enjoy; getting those all-important email addresses; and your questions.

2-J Engage, Motivate, And Get Out of the Way!

Alicia Lehrer - Woonasquatucket River Watershed Association

Bari Freedman - Bike Newport

Sometimes being a director of an organization is akin to a skilled magician preventing a mass of spinning plates from crashing to the floor. Leadership skills in member recruitment and retention, conducting good meetings, engaging an audience, giving volunteers what they need aren't just buzz words that read well in a workshop description. They are the essence of what makes a good program flourish. Volunteers and members are the life blood of all non-profits. We depend on them! Can we be better leaders? This workshop provides the necessary skills to keep all the plates spinning at the same time.

3-A Comprehensive Plans Revisited - Using Comprehensive Plans for Conservation and Management

Nancy Letendre, Esq. AICP - Mason & Associates Inc.

Kevin Nelson - Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning

Comprehensive Plans are required to provide an inventory of significant natural resource areas including water, soils, prime agricultural lands, forests, wildlife, wetlands, aquifers, coastal features, and floodplains. The Plan must include goals, policies and implementation techniques for the protection and management of these areas. Ensuring that town environmental/conservation inventories, wildlife action plans, watershed plans, etc. are reflected in your town's Comprehensive Plan is key to saving those special places in your town. Including conservation and management techniques in a Comprehensive Plan can be a powerful strategy in fulfilling your organization's mission. Come learn how to make this happen with your community's Comprehensive Plan.

3-B Free Has a Cost - Being Your Own "Tree Activist"

David Flanders - South Kingston Conservation Commission

Many Conservation Commissions, land trusts and watershed organizations hold "give-a-way" programs that give free trees, shrubs and flowers. Often these "give-a-way" programs are not in the best interest of the native landscape resulting in an introduction of less desirable species. Learn how to meld a town wide native plant inventory into a planned "give-a-way" program that reintroduces or increases desirable native species. Is there a way to get trees and plants to where they can give the most benefit? Attend this workshop and find out.

3-C Strength in Diversity: the Importance of Developing Urban Conservation

Rebekah Greenwald Speck - Riverzedge Arts

Students - Riverzedge Green Design Lab

Max Green - Conservation Law Foundation

East Providence, Central Falls, Woonsocket, Providence, and Johnston, to name a few – feature some of the highest levels of voter support for Open Space and Recreation bond referendums. Yet these cities also generally feature lower participation rates in statewide and local environmental organizations than their neighbors just a town away. Land trusts, watershed groups, Conservation Commissions and other environmental organizations can offer their expertise to support these urban communities' quest for recreation, open space, sustainable programs, urban farms, and more – but how? What are the best ways to ensure that urban communities are fully included in urban conservation work? Answering this question is key to *all* conservation work in our state. In many ways, the greening of our cities is essential to maintaining the rural landscape.

3-D Reinventing Urban Landscapes with Green Infrastructure

Alicia Lehrer - Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

Karen A. Beck, RLA, FASLA - Rhode Island Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects

Green infrastructure is an approach to managing stormwater by infiltrating it in the ground where it is generated using vegetation or porous surfaces, or by capturing it for later reuse. Green infrastructure practices include infiltration systems like rain gardens, vegetated swales and permeable pavement; green roofs; rainwater harvesting; downspout disconnection; and tree planting. Green infrastructure is increasingly seen as important for climate adaptation, particularly in urban areas. This workshop will review the basics of green infrastructure, describe exciting projects underway in Rhode Island and direct participants to tools they can apply to projects in their communities.

3-E Resources Available for Stewardship

Peter August - University of Rhode Island & Conservation Stewardship Collaborative

David Gregg - RI Natural History Survey & Conservation Stewardship Collaborative

Do you need help taking care of the lands you are protecting? Do you need help describing and documenting what is there? How about creating a management plan or a monitoring report? Do you need advice on managing an invasive species? Since 2009, the RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative has been developing resources to help land trusts and other organizations steward protected lands. In this workshop you will learn what resources and programs are available to help you.

3-F Managing Your Land for both Forest & Wildlife Values

Gary Casabona - USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service

Chris Modisette - USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service

This workshop will discuss conservation planning and implementation on forest land to benefit declining species of wildlife along with forest productivity and health. Oftentimes, these goals are compatible, but sometimes there may be challenges in reconciling the competing interests. The discussion will include many aspects of forest management and conservation biology of rare species, including habitat considerations for declining populations of amphibians. The workshop will be a lively session of point and counterpoint. It will also include practical advice on obtaining forest management plans, hiring loggers, and negotiating terms.

3-G Thinking Outside the Box: Can We Create Amphibian Habitat as We Manage Stormwater?

Greg Gerritt - Friends of the Moshassuck

Jonathan Richardson - Providence College

Jim Riordan - ESS Group, Inc.

Amphibian habitats are threatened. As we manage rainwater with green infrastructure is there an opportunity to create habitat for amphibians? The panel will explore the potential and the pitfalls and engage attendees in some out of the box thinking.

3-H Understanding the Complexities of Renewable Energy in Rhode Island

Jerry Elmer - Conservation Law Foundation

Expanding renewable energy is critical to Rhode Island's climate mitigation strategies. Energy policy has its own language and programs -- distributed generation, net metering, renewable energy fund, PACE, EERMC, PUC.

This workshop will decode energy policy and renewable energy programs and highlight priorities for moving the effort forward in 2016.

3-I Strategies for Keeping and Growing Your Audience

Veronica Cintron - V+R Digital

Paul A. Roselli - Burrillville Land Trust & Blackstone River Watershed Council

Creating an emotional connection with your audience is the best way to drive more engagement with the people you serve. One of the most powerful connections in branding and marketing is the ability to combine an idea with an emotion. But how do you do that given time and energy constraints and the fact that most of us are volunteers? Veronica Cintron offers tips, tricks and insights on how to create a voice that will keep your audience coming back wanting more. Paul Roselli demonstrates a few ways that the land trust maintains a connection.

3-J Using Online Information to Make Maps

Peter Stetson - Coventry High School Science Department

Roy Najecki - Glocester Land Trust & RI Land Trust Council

This workshop will highlight the opportunities for groups to use a free online mapping website to create maps of community and environmental data. Participants will be shown how to create an account, add data, save, and share maps with their members and the general public.

Registration Form

Rhode Island Land & Water Conservation Summit

Saturday, March 19, 2016

REGISTER ON LINE:

www.LandAndWaterPartnership.org

Location: URI Memorial Union, Kingston

Registration Cost (includes continental breakfast, lunch, breaks & coffee mug):

Early Registration before March 4: \$50


After March 4: \$75

Name _____ Telephone Number _____

Affiliation _____

Land Trust _____ Watershed Council _____ Conservation Commission _____

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

Address _____ Email _____  Please PRINT CLEARLY

(Note: we need email addresses if possible so that we can send last minute communications about the Summit)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

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

Session I

Session 2

Session 3

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

Amount Enclosed (\$50.00 before March 4; \$75.00 after **March 4**): \$ _____

Refund Policy: registrations may be cancelled until March 10 for a fee of \$5. No refunds after March 10.

Please submit your registration before March 4 if possible.

Please submit a separate registration for each person attending the Summit

Make checks payable to: Land & Water Partnership

Mail registration and checks to:

**RI Land & Water Conservation Summit
c/o RI Land Trust Council
PO Box 633
Saunderstown, RI 02874**

REGISTER ON LINE:

www.LandAndWaterPartnership.org

Questions/Information? Contact:

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Watershed Organizations: Meg Kerr megkerr@cox.net; 401-714-2313

Conservation Commissions: Paul Roselli proselli@cox.net; 401-447-1560