



Little Compton Landscapes

Newsletter of The Sakonnet Preservation Association

Summer 2009

Senator Lincoln Chafee to Speak at the Annual SPA Meeting

Former Senator Lincoln Chafee will speak on Wednesday, July 8, 2009 at the Sakonnet Preservation Association's Annual Meeting. The gathering will be from 6 to 8 pm at the Sakonnet Golf Club Playhouse. All are welcome to attend.

Senator Chafee, will speak on "Environmental Issues at the Dawn of the 21st century." As Senator, Chafee was known for his pro-environment policies. In 2006, the League of Conservation Voters gave him a rating of 79% for his pro-conservation voting record. He is perhaps best known for his crucial vote protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from drilling.

Senator Chafee attended Brown University where he was a classics major and went on to the Montana State University horse shoeing school in Bozeman. After working for six years as a farrier, he became involved in Rhode Island politics, eventually getting elected as Mayor of Warwick. In 1999, Lincoln Chafee was appointed to fill his father's Senate seat after John Chafee died. The younger Chafee was subsequently elected to the Senate in 2000. While serving in the Senate, he was known as a centrist on most issues, often providing crucial support for conservation votes.

After leaving the Senate in 2006, Mr. Chafee became a visiting scholar at Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies. The Sakonnet Preservation Association is honored to have Senator Lincoln Chafee speak at its annual meeting.

The Sakonnet Preservation Association

presents



Senator Lincoln Chafee

Wednesday, July 8, 2009
6 – 8PM

Join the SPA for hors d'oeuvres and sandwiches
with a cash bar

Sakonnet Golf Club Playhouse

all are welcome!



**Sakonnet
Preservation Association**

Officers

Abigail Brooks, President
Christopher Burns, Vice-President
Sheila Mackintosh, Secretary
Peter Lozier, Treasurer

Directors

Ron Bogle
John Farr
Nan Haffenreffer
Scott Morrison
Richard Ross
Jack Selvaggio
Heather Steers
Terry Tierney
Margaret Tirpaeck
Bob Wolter

Advisors Council

David V. D. Borden
Nicholas T. Long
Stetson Eddy
Roger Y. Greene
Karen Richmond

Administrative Assistant

Holly Lippert

Newsletter Editor

Betty Torphy

Design

Chris O'Toole

SPA

P.O. Box 945
Little Compton RI 02837
Office: 7 South of Commons

President's Letter

What goes on behind the scenes of our land protection work is a sight to behold. On any given day, you can walk into our SPA office and find one or more of our hard working board members or community volunteers, Holly Lippert, our administrative assistant or Janet Espo, our bookkeeper, busily engaged in oiling the cogs.

Annually, the IRS asks that we document how many volunteer hours we dedicate to our activities, and the figure stuns me each year. An average of 90 volunteer hours a week is involved in running SPA. This is powerful statistic registering what a passion for land conservation can foster. And we are but one organization in town that depends on volunteers for a cause that shapes and serves our town's interests.

In addition to compiling the paperwork involved in any single land transaction with an owner, in the SPA office we are addressing a myriad of other tasks. Currently, we are putting together a website, getting our policies, procedures, baseline documents and management plans in order, monitoring each of our properties, keeping in touch with our membership, writing and distributing our newsletters, and planning community events and educational programming in the school. This all happens because of a devoted group of fourteen Board members supplemented with community volunteers and our two part time paid personnel.

My heartfelt thanks go out to all these individuals currently serving the Sakonnet Preservation Association. — *Abigail Brooks*



Amendments to the Bylaws

Background

The Board of Directors of the Sakonnet Preservation Association, Inc. is proposing to the Membership an updating and expanding of our Bylaws. The Bylaws were last amended on July 10, 2001. The Board proposes an updating in order to ensure consistency with the governance requirements of the national Land Trust Alliance's accreditation practices In addition, the Board recommends expanding the Bylaws in order to bring the current Association operating practices within the purview of the Bylaws. Some examples are the inclusion of the Executive Committee, an Executive Director position and the Advisors Council. — CHRIS BURNS*

Summary of Amendments

A brief summary of the major Bylaws changes is listed below. A full copy of the proposed Bylaws, approved by the Board of Directors on April 15, 2009 and to be presented for a vote of the Membership at the Association's Annual Meeting to be held on July 8, 2009, may be found in the Association office and will be available at the Annual Meeting. If you wish to have a copy of the proposed Bylaws forwarded to you via email or as a hard copy, please contact our Administrative Assistant, Holly Lippert, at 635-8800 or spa.lc@verizon.net.

Article III. Membership — is defined as anyone who pays dues or contributes funds and completes a membership form. The Board sets a schedule of dues and may provide for various classes of members, including Honorary.

Article IV. Membership Meetings — require a quorum of at least thirty (30) Members present; and vote by proxy is not permitted.

Article V. Officers — term limits are established so that no officer may serve in the same position for longer than six (6) consecutive years.

Article VI. Board of Directors — term limits are established so that service for non-officers is limited to three (3) consecutive three (3) year terms. An immediate past President, regardless of the number of years of completed service, shall serve for one (1) year as a member of the Board in the year immediately following their Presidency. The Board approves an annual operating budget.

Article VII. Committees — makes provision for the establishment of an Executive Committee to carry on the business of the Association between monthly Board meetings.

Article VIII. Employees — an Executive Director position may be established and other employees may be hired as appropriate and necessary.

Article IX. Advisors Council — makes provision for the forming of an Advisors Council, primarily comprised of former Directors and Officers.

Article X. Indemnification and Liability of Directors and Officers — authorizes the Association to purchase insurance against liability asserted against persons acting in good faith on behalf of the Association.

Contact Information

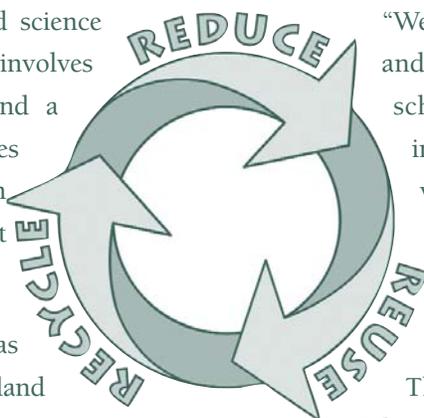
If you have any questions in advance of the Annual Meeting regarding the proposed changes to the Bylaws, please contact Chris Burns, Vice President of the Sakonnet Preservation Association, at 635-8800.

** The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) is the national umbrella organization for conservation organizations. Sakonnet Preservation Association (the Association) is a member land trust. The Association's Board voted to adopt LTA's Standards and Practices in 2005 as the guidelines for ensuring that the Association's policies and procedures conform to the highest ethical and technical standards in the conservation field. In 2008, the Association's Board voted to undertake the necessary work for submitting an application for accreditation to LTA in 2010. It is our belief that accreditation indicates our commitment to performing conservation work at the most responsible level of practice. For more information please see the websites lta.org or landtrustalliance.org.*

Congratulations to Wilbur and McMahon School for Recycling Project

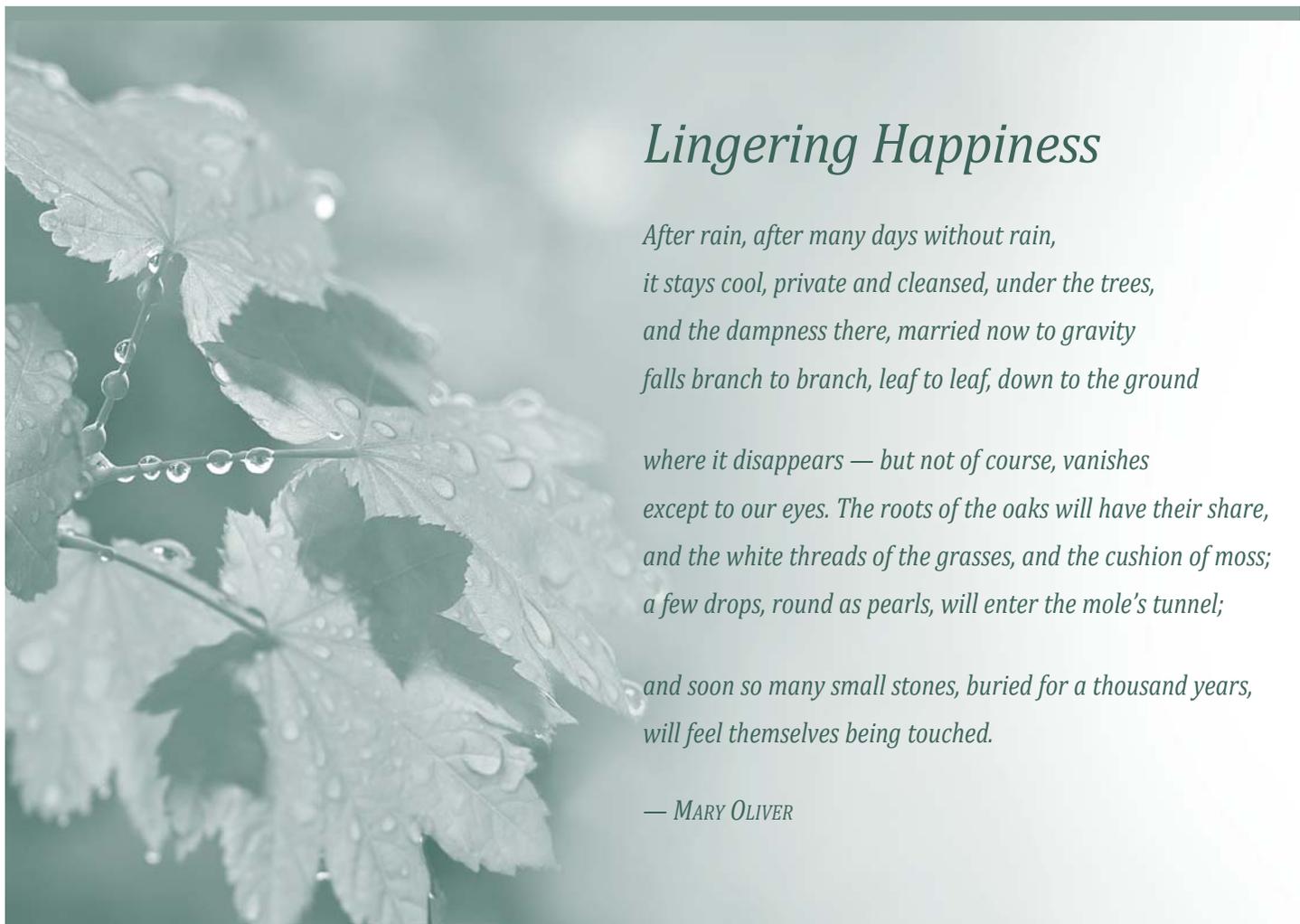
The Rhode Island Recycling Club honored the Wilbur and McMahon School where a math and science curriculum is combined in a project that involves burying a banana peel, a juice box, and a Styrofoam cup. Students plot coordinates and dig up the trash a year later. They learn that much of the trash we generate just doesn't go away.

The Rhode Island Recycling Club was founded eight years ago at a Rhode Island Earth Day Committee meeting. The purpose was to grade the state's public schools on their recycling effort.



Chris Ratcliffe, co-founder of the Club, said of the project, "We'd release the information into the community and the parents would put pressure on the schools." In addition to generating parent involvement in the effort, there were teachers who would start their own recycling clubs in the schools. In 2001, only 76 of the 420 schools in the state had recycling programs. Today 297 schools have recycling programs.

The honor paid to the Wilbur and McMahon School on Earth Day was a special award to offer encouragement to school recycling efforts.



Lingering Happiness

*After rain, after many days without rain,
it stays cool, private and cleansed, under the trees,
and the dampness there, married now to gravity
falls branch to branch, leaf to leaf, down to the ground*

*where it disappears — but not of course, vanishes
except to our eyes. The roots of the oaks will have their share,
and the white threads of the grasses, and the cushion of moss;
a few drops, round as pearls, will enter the mole's tunnel;*

*and soon so many small stones, buried for a thousand years,
will feel themselves being touched.*

— MARY OLIVER



West Island Memories

A LETTER AND PHOTO FROM NUNNIE ATWATER BYERS

Dear Abigail,

I loved reading about the trip to West Island in a recent newsletter. (Ed. note: SPA sponsored a cleanup of West Island last September.) *Granny Carr** the 2nd and crew would love to be included the next time.

All the best, Nunnie Byers

Ages ago when I was still a little girl, I was on a solo trip with my wonderful old friend GRANNY CARR when I took this black and white photograph. The birds were “communicating” after their day of fishing. Although not a part of the picture, there was once a time when a white barn yard goose stood in the midst of this lineup. It had yellow legs, feet and bill — the whole bit! The goose was there every evening when we cast for stripers. I still look back for it when I go there!

A memorable journey to West Island in the old GRANNY CARR — Randy Byers and Mary Byers Truslow towed a tiny skiff and dropped me off in it, with all my gear, on the east rocky beach of West Island. When I landed, I was overwhelmed by the wild flowers and sundrenched crystal clear day. I traveled the entire island, climbed the west side cliff, looked east, and lo-and-behold my only means of transportation off the island was on a little trip — she was halfway to Warren’s Point, alone!

*Granny Carr is a bass boat.

I realized I had never even lashed her to a rock. I was so awestruck by the beautiful sight of the island. I simply disembarked, period! I photographed the ruins. When next I looked a lobster boat was rescuing my little skiff and she went to the harbor. I was able to inform GRANNY CARR when she returned, as to what had happened. I had a great picnic with me, but no provisions to spend the night there. But — I would have loved to spend the rest of my life on West Island. — E. ATWATER BYERS

WEST AND EAST ISLANDS WELCOME VISITORS

The following is from a notice written by the donor of East and West Islands, Jessie Lloyd O’Connor in 1983:

This is to notify the public that visitors are still welcome on West Island, East Island and the adjacent rocks.

The Sakonnet Preservation Association agreed with me on that before I deeded the property over to them. You may fish, picnic, swim around and in the little stone pool that has two outlets to the sea. But if you picnic, go by the rule that **IF YOU ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY THE SUPPLIES OUT FULL, YOU ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY THE CONTAINERS AND DEBRIS HOME EMPTY.**

Be too proud to leave a place worse than you found it.



Sakonnet Preservation Association

P. O. Box 945
Little Compton, RI 02837-0945

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Little Compton, RI
Permit No. 48

Our Mission

The Sakonnet Preservation Association, a non-profit land trust, is dedicated to preserving the rural character and natural resources of Little Compton for the lasting benefit of the Community.

**For Information:
401.635.8800**

Postal Customer

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <p>Sakonnet Preservation Association P. O. Box 945, Little Compton, RI 02837 Phone/Fax: 401.635.8800</p> | | <p>Sakonnet Preservation Association</p>  | |
| <p>YES, I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER.</p> | | <p><i>Enclosed is my tax deductible membership contribution.</i></p> | |
| <p>Name _____</p> | <p>Permanent Address _____</p> | <p>Student _____ \$20</p> | <p>Individual _____ \$25</p> |
| <p>Town _____</p> | <p>State _____ Zip _____</p> | <p>Family _____ \$35</p> | <p>Sustaining _____ \$100</p> |
| <p>Phone _____</p> | <p>Summer Phone _____</p> | <p>Patron _____ \$250</p> | <p>Sponsor _____ \$500</p> |
| <p>E-mail _____</p> | <p>Summer Address _____</p> | <p>Benefactor _____ \$1,000+</p> | <p>Special Gift _____</p> |