



Little Compton Landscapes

Newsletter of The Sakonnet Preservation Association

Winter 2016

2015 Acquisitions Protect Wetland Properties

Your support made 2015 a remarkable year of conservation by Sakonnet Preservation Association (SPA).

With funds reserved for land protection, SPA was able to purchase 5.2 acres at 645 West Main Road from Alison and Don McNaughton. This wooded wetland parcel that includes red maples and stands of oak and holly is contiguous to two properties previously acquired by SPA as gifts from the Patrick, Samson, Sousa and Moran families. This 2015 acquisition means SPA now owns 25 acres of contiguous wetland habitat with nearly 1,000 feet of uninterrupted road frontage on West Main Road. Wetlands are vital to the protection of the ground water supplying our wells and to storm water absorption and filtration during periods of heavy rain. We depend on these important natural resources as do the species that make them their home.

Additionally, John Hagopian and Mary Lou and Tom Manchester chose to donate their wooded wetland

parcel at the northeast corner of Pond View Drive and Sisson Road to this organization. It includes wetland species of flora and fauna and a portion of Sisson Brook, which flows into Tunipus Pond. The Hagopian and Manchester property's location on the opposite corner

of Pond View Drive from SPA's Hi-Temp parcel ensures that the intersection of these two roads remains undisturbed, and it adds to the protection of Sisson Brook, its buffers and the Tunipus Pond watershed.



Photo courtesy of Carol Lynn Trocki.

"Wetlands are vital for survival, supplying fresh water, food and building materials for both humans and nonhumans. These complex ecosystems are among the world's most productive habitats. They are cradles of biological diversity. While the oceans are the planet's collective heart, wetlands, like forests, are its vital organs."

Frank Carini/ecoRI News staff

from "Rhode Island's Most Important Waters are Drowning"

October 3, 2015

We would not be able to conserve without the partnership of these landowners willing to give up the development value of their land, an act from which we all benefit. These properties provide scenic value along our roadways as

open space, and they protect the natural resources upon which we depend. They also help retain some of the rural character that contributes so much to our quality of life and distinguishes our town from many other coastal communities.



Sakonnet Preservation Association

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President's Letter

The many successful fundraising initiatives in Little Compton this past year again remind us what an extraordinarily generous community this is. Whether there is a call for project or board volunteers, or for financial support for operations or a specific project, our friends and neighbors are willing to lend their hands and hearts and open their wallets. Here is a list of some of the exceptional projects that were funded this past year, over and above gifts donated to support the annual operations of our town's many non-profits. I am certain this impressive list is not all-inclusive.

Commitment to place manifests itself in many ways and binds us together at a time when the world feels fractured.

Funds were donated by community members to:

- build the Eco-Oasis at the school
- support BioBlitz and Little Compton Nature Day
- make it possible for the Nature Conservancy to purchase the Purmont Property
- construct the school's playing fields on the Peckham Lot
- finance expenses for the Sogkonate Garden Club's all day "Your Back Yard Matters" project
- enable SPA to purchase 645 West Main Road

Commitment to place manifests itself in many ways and binds us together at a time when the world feels fractured. It is our good fortune to live in such a place, sheltered as we are at the end of the Sakonnet peninsula, part of a community where we are known and can have an influence, and where others look out for us.

Community non-profit initiatives contribute to our quality of life, and gifts to support them ensure that the benefits they provide will be available to us and to those who will follow us. Thank you to all for your part in the outpouring of generosity this past year!

– Abigail Brooks

My “Why” and “Thank You” to SPA

Dr. Paul Bazzoni was approached twice by developers interested in purchasing a portion of his property as access to a larger parcel. His response was to place that part of his land in permanent conservation with Sakonnet Preservation Association. Here, in his words, is why he chose to do so.

When away, even for a short time, I miss Little Compton. It has been my home since the mid 1980's and I have never once tired of the seasonal beauties of our town.

Geese landing, as now, in the frozen fields, spring peepers, uncurling ferns, lush woodlands, green gardens, fall colors and bluefish along the beaches are all part of our landscape. It's hard to write a description of a place that has become such a part of my being and transfer by pen any of those emotions. I am just so fortunate to live here. Little Compton has been such a gift to my life that my wish to preserve a piece of it is somewhat selfish, sure, but my hope is that the beauty and serenity of this area will always remain to nurture someone else's soul.



Introducing Our Newest Staff Member

We are pleased to announce that Kathy Klees Clarendon has been hired as our part-time Director of Development & Communications with the support of a grant from the Haffenreffer Family Foundation.

Kathy comes to us with an extensive resume of fundraising and public relations experience from working for non-profits that include the Rhode Island Historical Society and the New Bedford Whaling Museum. As a resident of Tiverton and supporter of



Kathy Klees Clarendon

that community's land trust, she recognizes that our two communities are tied together by proximity that has lasting impact on each other. With her help, we are poised to increase our grassroots support for a properties stewardship position and more proactive purchasing of properties for conservation. We hope you will take the opportunity to introduce yourself to Kathy either at our office, out in the community or at our Annual Meeting in July.

Thank You to Our 2015 Member Supporters for Their Contributions to Sakon

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Sakonnet Preservation Association's Success. We Couldn't Do It Without You!

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SPA was grateful to receive gifts in

Memory of:

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 Barbara Jewell Pond
 Joe Maxwell
 Jean Buffum

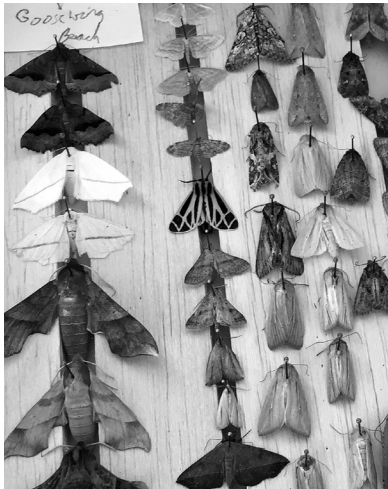
Honoring:

Chris Burns
 Tim Olson
 Heather Steers
 The marriage of Gabriel Long & Rebecca Atwood

Names listed recognize supporters in calendar year 2015. If your name is listed incorrectly, omitted, or you wish to remain anonymous, please accept our apologies and notify Kathy Klees Clarendon at spa.lc.kclarendon@gmail.com or (401)635-8800.

2015 Bioblitz Results

Some of you may have visited or participated in the BioBlitz/Little Compton Nature Day activities this past June. It was a smashing success from the point of view of the team that organized it in collaboration with the RI Natural History Survey (RINHS). Over 220 volunteers participated in collecting and assembling species



Moths from a variety of sites including The Ponderosa.

of flora and fauna from three principal sites (the Ponderosa, Dunderly Brook Trail, and Goosewing Beach/Quicksand Pond) while community members put on displays of the various conservation-related groups working in Little Compton. Final results of the 24-hour collection effort have not yet

arrived, but as of November there were 1,184 specimens (of over 2,000 collected) which had been counted and catalogued into appropriate categories by the Natural History Survey team.



The Plant Team scouts out the marsh at Quicksand Pond.
Photo courtesy of Rhode Island Natural History Survey

David Gregg, Director of the RINHS announced that this 16th annual Rhode Island BioBlitz held in Little Compton resulted in the most diverse collection in the history of this state's events. When finalized and available, SPA will put the collection listing on its website: www.sakonnetpreservation.org. Many thanks to the local organizing team, led by Hans Harwysz, that included John Berg, Abigail Brooks, Dominique Browning, Mikel Folcarelli, John Gwynne, Darka Harwysz and Carol Lynn Trocki, with the essential financial support of local residents and businesses.



Sakonnet Preservation Association

Higgins Family Foundation Grant

The family of Bob and Mary Higgins, long time residents of Little Compton, chose to make a major gift to SPA's Land Protection Reserve Fund. Their family foundation grant of \$100,000 is one of the largest cash gifts from a single donor in this organization's 44-year history.

With this gift came these words from Bob Higgins:

"Mary and I and the rest of our family are happy to support the work of SPA to keep Little Compton the special place that we all love."

Congress Makes Enhanced Tax Incentive Permanent

After nine years of effort by land trusts all over the country, and backed by the national Land Trust Alliance, Congress voted in December 2015 to make permanent the enhanced tax incentive for donors of conservation easements. If you own land with important natural or historic resources, donating a voluntary conservation easement to a land trust can be one of the smartest ways to conserve the land you love while continuing to own and manage the land according to the agreed upon restrictions for its use. This conservation option affords the possibility of realizing significant federal and local tax benefits.

In summary, the incentive:

- Raises the deduction donors can take for donating a conservation easement from 30 percent of their gross adjusted income in any year to 50 percent;

- Allows qualifying farmers to deduct an amount up to 100 percent of their income;
- Extends the carry-forward period for donors to take the allowable tax deduction for a voluntary conservation agreement from 5 to 15 years.

These changes apply to donations made at any time in 2015 and to all conservation easement donations made after that. This is a powerful tool for allowing mod-



est-income donors to receive greater credit for donating

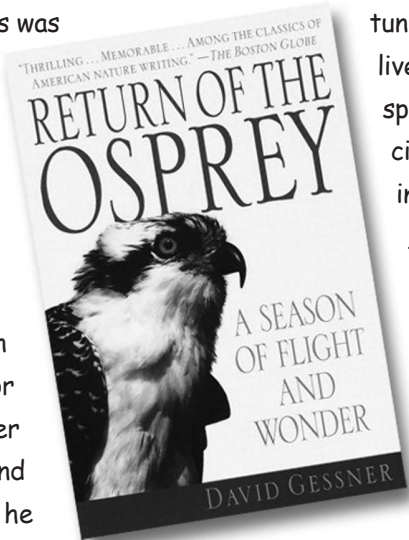
a valuable conservation easement on property they own. You can learn more by going to the Land Trust Alliance website (www.lta.org/tax-incentives) and by consulting with your tax advisor.

Learning to Be a Patient Observer from Author David Gessner

Fellow board member and friend Nan Haffenreffer began giving me regular updates while she was reading David Gessner's *Return of the Osprey: A Season of Flight and Wonder*.¹ A theme in her remarks was how the author taught her to slow down, to take time to just sit, be patient and wait to see what would be revealed — a significant lesson when watching wildlife that influenced her own observation of osprey on Quicksand Pond.

Mr. Gessner's book describes one season committed to learning about osprey behavior in the neighborhood of his family's summer house on Cape Cod. With humor, humility and a willingness to learn as much as he can, he takes his readers on an observational journey and attaches them to the outcome of the four nesting pairs and their young that he follows over the course of a season, from spring arrival to nest-building and

repair, through fledging and finally leaving for the fall migration south. His persistence, awe and sometimes horror are vividly described. This book offers an opportunity to learn about the resilient and complex lives of this ancient and once-endangered species and will give the reader a new appreciation for these birds that nest and fish in Little Compton.



The author makes frequent reference to the work of ornithologist Alan Poole, whose research and involvement has been critical to the restoration of osprey populations in southeastern Massachusetts and elsewhere. Alan will be the featured speaker at SPA's July Annual Meeting.

He will be addressing the dynamic changes over the last 30 years in the New England Osprey population and sharing his thoughts on land conservation in our South Coast area. — Abigail Brooks



Sakonnet Preservation Association

P. O. Box 945, Little Compton, RI 02837 Phone/Fax: 401.635.8800

Yes, I would like to join or renew my membership.

Enclosed is my tax deductible membership contribution.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25
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Town _____

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Summer Phone _____

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Bequests *There are many ways to include the Sakonnet Preservation Association in your estate plans:*

- Name the Association as a beneficiary of your retirement plan
- Leave a specific amount, percentage, or the residue of your estate to the Association
- Designate a particular asset to the Association (securities, real estate, artworks, etc.)
- Name the Association in the succession plan of your donor advised fund or family foundation
- Include the Association as a beneficiary of testamentary or living trust
- Name the Association as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy
- Please contact your attorney for specialized legal language to ensure that your bequest intentions will be properly fulfilled

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401.635.8800

For Information:

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.

Our Mission



Sakonnet Preservation Association

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