



Little Compton Landscapes

Newsletter of The Sakonnet Preservation Association

Winter 2017

President's Letter

Land Conservation Rooted in Our Community

This town is amazing for the breadth of its support of conservation, rooted in the special nature of this community we call home for some or all of the year. Our attachment to "place" is one of the most meaningful parts of our lives. It is expressed in how *much* we want Little Compton to change *little*. Land conservation is one form of fulfilling that wish.

Why should any of us care? Because landowners who give up the right to either sell their land for development or develop it themselves are entrusting this organization and others with the perpetual protection of their property. In exchange, we all benefit from these gifts of open space that make Little Compton unique. Wildlife and native plants can thrive. Water resources are protected and remain resilient during times of drought. A low level of development allows us relief from the expense of publicly-subsidized infrastructure for water and sewerage — we each have our own. We have remarkably intact scenic vistas on a number of our roadways. And there are lands continuing to be used for historic agricultural purpose.

I've noticed how few places I once cherished draw me back. Many that were special for their quiet and remaining sense of wildness or history have been altered beyond recognition. Here, through luck, close attention, persistence and dedicated conservation we have managed to hold on to some semblance of these things, fragile as they are. The responsibility of honoring and passing them on is ours.

We've been talking a lot about transitions and transformations at SPA lately. As a result, we will be professionalizing the management and stewardship of our holdings with a part-time staff position this year, ensuring we meet the obligations we take on with each of our acquisitions and continue FOREVER.

With your membership supporting our efforts, we work passionately to keep this place one we all wish to return to from wherever we travel. Thank you for making it possible! — *Abigail Brooks*

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Sakonnet Preservation Association

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2016 Annual Meeting with Speaker Alan Poole

On a perfect July evening, SPA's 2016 Annual Meeting brought an enthusiastic crowd of members and supporters to the Sakonnet Golf Club Playhouse to hear noted ornithologist Alan Poole.



Dr. Poole's worldwide experience protecting osprey, primarily in Scotland and New England, held fascinating tales of this species' near destruction and then recovery following the ban of DDT. His wonderful photos and the wide scope of his knowledge led to an extensive and thoughtful question and answer session following his presentation, making it a lively evening celebrating conservation.

Mark your calendars now for our 2017 meeting on July 11, and see the back cover of this newsletter for details.



Photos courtesy of Kris Donovan



Sakonnet Preservation Association

Remembering Bob Wolter

Bob Wolter served with distinction on the Board of Sakonnet Preservation from 2005 until his death in 2016. During that time he served as Treasurer from 2006 to 2010 and 2012 to 2014, ensuring that the organization's bookkeeping and accounting were held to the highest standards.

During his tenure on the Board, he also represented the SPA on the Little Compton Conservation Commission. Bob's relationships with all of us who served with him were spiced with his unique brand of humor, sensitivity and commitment to this community. It was an honor to have this companionable, talented and honorable star football player for Ohio State University, and his beloved wife Malinda, supporting and enabling our work.

Thank You to Our Member Supporters for Their Contributions to SPA's Success. We Couldn't Do It Without You!



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Welcome Michal and John!

At our Annual Meeting in July, SPA members voted to elect two wonderful additions to our Board of Directors: John Cook and Michal Brownell.

Michal moved to Little Compton with her husband Bart in 2012 after living around the globe in places as diverse as Holland, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and most recently in



Michal Brownell and John Cook.

London. Her commitment to land conservation was formed early. Growing up among the farmers of eastern Long Island she witnessed first-hand the devastating destruction of that irreplaceable landscape. Her grandparents were very active in the effort to save the area, planting the seeds of preservation in Michal. Her dedication to protecting Little Compton runs deep.

As a 33-year veteran of The Nature Conservancy, John brings a unique perspective to the SPA Board. John modestly says that what he offers is an insight into the many things that can go wrong with a particular project, but we have already benefited from his wisdom making things go right. John has worked with communities all over the United States that assumed rural land use would never change, and experienced shock when it happened. He hopes to add what he can to the great efforts organizations like the SPA and concerned citizens have already launched. SPA was lucky to have John's wife Phoebe on its Board for many years as well. TNC conferred its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award upon John when he retired as Managing Director, Eastern United States, in 2014.

We are lucky to have two such dynamic, experienced and committed individuals join our hardworking Board. *Thanks to you both!*



Sakonnet Preservation Association

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

Phone/Fax: 401.635.8800

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Sakonnet Preservation Association presents

Turning Blue: My Path on the Appalachian Trail and Beyond

Tuesday, July 11th 6-8pm

Sakonnet Golf Club Playhouse

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

Public welcome

In April of 2016, Don set off from Georgia to spend six months hiking the 2,189-mile Appalachian Trail on his own. Three pairs of hiking shoes later, he finished in October with his family there to greet him. Come hear what he learned about the trail and himself, and how his experiences have led him to redouble his efforts to help conserve land in Little Compton.

Guest Speaker
Don McNaughton



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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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