



9th Annual Rhode Island

Land & Water Conservation Summit

... Working together to protect our communities

Saturday, March 10, 2012 7:45 am – 4:30 pm
URI Memorial Union, Kingston Campus

This day-long conference provides Watershed Council, Land Trust, Conservation Commission board members, staff, volunteers, and others interested in land and watershed conservation with the information, skills and connections you need to be effective.

Choose from **30 Workshops** offered during the Summit

Network with RI Conservation Leaders ♦ **Visit Exhibits** ♦ **Learn** How to be More Successful

Program

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|---------------|---|
| 7:45 – 8:30 | Registration & Continental Breakfast |
| 8:30 – 9:30 | Welcome – Emcee: Judith Swift, URI Coastal Institute
Keynote – Lisa Wong, Mayor of Fitchburg, Massachusetts
“Urban Conservation as a Revitalization Strategy” |
| 9:30 – 10:20 | Organizations’ Meetings/Roundtable - Networking - Visit Exhibits |
| 9:30 – 9:50 | RI Land Trust Council Business Meeting
RI Association of Conservation Commission Statewide Roundtable
(RIACC Roundtable continues to 11:30 in Workshop Session I-J) |
| 10:20 – 11:30 | Session I Workshops – <i>Your choice from 10 offered</i> |
| 11:30 – 11:45 | Break |
| 11:45 – 12:55 | Session II Workshops – <i>Your choice from 10 offered</i> |
| 12:55 – 2:30 | Lunch & Awards
Peter Merritt Award & Blueways Stewardship Award |
| 2:45 – 4:00 | Session III Workshops – <i>Your choice from 10 offered</i> |

Registration Cost: Early Registration Ends February 24

\$40 before February 24

\$ 55 after February 24

Includes Lunch

Register On Line: www.landandwaterpartnership.org

Workshops at a Glance

	Session 1 10:20 – 11:30 am	Session 2 11:45 am – 12:55 pm	Session 3 2:45 – 4:00 pm
A	Funders Panel 1 – Foundations	Funders Panel 2 – Government	How to Recruit and Motivate Volunteers
B	Get More for Your Money – a Matrix Tool to Balance Program Impact & Cash Flow	Enhancing Your Outreach and Communications: Making a Bigger Impact with Small Changes	What’s Holding You Back? Simple Actions to Improve Fundraising Success
C	Assessing Your Trail: Is it Built to Last?	Toolkit for Holding a Successful Outing or Event	Geocaching 101
D	Understanding Hydropower in RI	Understanding Rhode Island’s Freshwater Access Laws	Assessing Stream Crossings for Fish and Wildlife Passage: The RI River and Stream Continuity Project
E	Incorporating Climate Change Science in Land & Water Conservation Planning	Understanding Transportation Planning at the Local Level	Liability Issues for Land Trusts & Watershed Organizations
F	DEM’s Streamlined Permitting System for Restoration and Stewardship Projects	Anatomy of a Land Conservation Transaction	Stewarding Our Protected Lands: New Tools to Meet New Challenges
G	How Do I Explain Watersheds to the Public? Water Education Tools to Use and Share	Invasives Today: What's Where, How Are We Doing, Who's Helping	Management to Sustain New England Grasslands
H	Appraisal Management	Appraisal Roundtable Discussion	Google Earth Basics
I	Land Conservation Strategies for Watershed Protection	Promoting Low Impact Development (LID) in RI Communities	Are Conservation Commissions Still Relevant?
J	RI Association of Conservation Commissions Statewide Roundtable (continued)	Barrington Goes Green: An Environmental Mandate for the 21 st Century	Understanding the RI Legislative Process and Developing “Green” Bills

Keynote Speaker

Lisa Wong, Mayor of Fitchburg, Massachusetts Urban Conservation as a Revitalization Strategy

Lisa A. Wong is serving her second term as Mayor of the city of Fitchburg. She was first elected to that office in November of 2007 at the age of 28, and is the first minority mayor in Fitchburg and the first female Asian American mayor in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mayor Wong has been a leader in conservation efforts that have been recognized by an award from Trustees of Reservations. In lean fiscal times, she set aside over 1,700 acres in permanent conservation and built parks and trails along the Nashua River that are increasing tourism and enjoyment by the citizens of Fitchburg.

Workshops – Session I **10:20 – 11:30**

1-A. Funders Panel 1 – Foundations

Judith Swift – URI Coastal Institute – Moderator

Keith H Lang – Champlin Foundations

Elizabeth Lynn – van Beuren Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Kristin Pauly – Prince Charitable Trusts

Jenny Pereira – Rhode Island Foundation

Claire Wheeler – New England Grassroots Environment Fund

Panelists will discuss grant making at community and family foundations that support Rhode Island organizations.

1-B. Get More for Your Money: a Matrix Tool to Balance Program Impact & Cash Flow

John Monroe – National Park Service

Following easy step-by-step directions, each participant will produce a first-draft Matrix Map of the relative impact and sustainability of their current operations. Then, using a case study we will demonstrate the analytical power of the Matrix Map tool to identify strategic choices, like where to cut and where to invest. This tool helps staff and volunteers to monitor (and increase) the bang of every budget buck.

1-C. Assessing Your Trail: Is it Built to Last?

Clare Cain – CT Forest and Park Association, Trails Stewardship

Land Trusts and Conservation Commissions often find themselves not only as property stewards, but also as trail managers. In this workshop we will focus on how to assess the sustainability of your trail system, determine if your signage and infrastructure are sufficient and discuss how you can manage for appropriate trail uses. We will outline the small steps your group can take to significantly improve and enhance your trail system for the long term.

1-D. Understanding Hydropower in RI

Jonathan Petrillo – The Essex Partnership, LLC

As the country moves towards sustainable energy, hydropower is an alternative to consider. Rhode Island's rivers have plenty of dams, but which are viable opportunities for hydropower and why? We will explore the basics of hydropower, the regulatory processes, and approaches to develop and operate projects that minimize ecological and social impacts to river systems. This session will help increase understanding of hydropower, provide an overview of the federal licensing process, and review some current RI initiatives where hydropower is being examined.

1-E. Incorporating Climate Change Science in Land & Water Conservation Planning

Joanne Riccitelli – South Kingstown Land Trust

Christopher Damon – University of Rhode Island

Don Robadue – University of Rhode Island

Kevin Ruddock – The Nature Conservancy

Climate change will affect the fauna and flora of Rhode Island and the way our ecosystems function. This presents a challenge for the land management community – will our portfolios of conserved lands adequately protect native biodiversity and critical ecosystem services? In this workshop, we will review how climate change will manifest itself in RI. We will present simple, practical strategies that land and water conservationists can implement now to assure that our protected lands will continue to support healthy ecosystems and our coastal communities will be resilient to climate change impacts.

1-F. DEM's Streamlined Permitting System for Restoration and Stewardship Projects

Ron Gagnon – RIDEM, Customer and Technical Assistance

The regulations governing restoration and trail projects are often very complicated. Multiple permits are required and it is confusing and time consuming for watershed groups and land trusts to move through the regulatory process. RIDEM has created a new permitting team to help good projects move forward and provide technical assistance to local partner organizations. This session will review how the process was developed and implemented for most river restoration and other stimulus projects and then explain how the streamlined system works. A case study will be used to show how the system worked for a recent Rhode Island project.

1-G. How do I explain watersheds to the public? Water Education Tools to Use and Share

Denise Poyer – Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

How many of your constituents understand what a watershed is? Do they understand how groundwater and surface waters are connected? In order to support watershed-friendly policies, watershed residents and local decision makers need a basic understanding of hydrology and water quality. Denise Poyer, an environmental educator with broad experience will share effective educational strategies and interactive activities that you can immediately put to use in your watershed.

1-H. Appraisal Management

Tom Henry – T.W. Henry Real Estate Appraisals, LLC

This workshop will discuss: determining what you want and need from an appraisal; the 4 types of appraisals and differences between them; making sure you have an appraiser qualified to meet your needs; taking ownership of the appraisal and telling the appraiser what you want; negotiating appraisals for the purposes you need; basic information for negotiating purchases and acquiring an appraisal that will meet the requirements of your funding partners as well as the IRS. We will focus on the partnership between the land trust and the appraiser to help make the process of acquisition and funding as efficient and economic as possible. Tom will share his knowledge gained from years as an appraiser for land trust projects and as a national reviewer of appraisals for NRCS.

1-I. Land Conservation Strategies for Watershed Protection

Ted Clement – Aquidneck Land Trust

This workshop will focus on land conservation strategies for watershed protection. Aquidneck Land Trust, with assistance from Salve Regina University and Roger Williams University, completed a year-long mapping and prioritization study of all the remaining and threatened open space parcels within Aquidneck Island's seven primary watersheds. This study, its follow-up strategic land acquisition efforts, and other strategies, such as securing perpetual Conservation Easements on reservoir areas, will be carefully examined and discussed.

1-J. RI Association of Conservation Commissions Statewide Roundtable & Annual Business Meeting

This Roundtable Conference will begin with presentations by three conservation commissions (Charlestown, East Providence, and Richmond) highlighting examples of their successful local initiatives. This will be followed by a roundtable-like discussion, facilitated by an outside professional, about where environmental matters stand today. Specifically, the needs and future of local conservation commissions will be discussed - particularly in relation to the statewide role that RIACC could play. This roundtable will be a unique opportunity for commissioners to share with each other what's best in their practice; what's of most concern; and what key direction and trends they see at work in the State of Rhode Island. The Roundtable session will conclude with **RIACC's Annual Business Meeting** including year-end reports by the RIACC President and Treasurer followed by the nomination and election of officers.

Workshops – Session II 11:45 – 12:55

2-A. Funders Panel 2 – Government

Judith Swift – URI Coastal Institute – Moderator

Caitlin Chaffee – RI Coastal Resources Management Council

Sharon Marino – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Michael Moorman – Natural Resource Conservation Service

Ernie Panciera – RIDEM, Office of Water Resources

Lisa Primiano – RIDEM, Division of Planning and Development

Panelists will discuss grant opportunities available to watershed organizations, land trusts and conservation commissions from government sources. Panelists include the RI Department of Environmental Management (non-point source, land protection, trails), RI Coastal Resources Management Council (habitat restoration), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

2-B. Enhancing Your Outreach and Communications: Making a Bigger Impact with Small Changes

Judy Anderson – Community Consultants

Small environmental organizations depend on community support more than ever. We are learning it is important to address the rapidly changing world of e-communications and websites as well as your communication strategy. Research is showing that nonprofits can make significant strides in donor loyalty by re-vamping their communications to take advantage of these new communication tools and enhancing the way they frame their work. This workshop will use examples to suggest upgrades to websites, e-newsletters, newsletters, update letters and online giving. In addition we will talk about how to establish a rhythm of communication throughout the year that will work for you and your community.

2-C. Toolkit for Holding a Successful Outing or Event

Helen Tjader – RI Land Trust Council & Acorn Nonprofit Solutions – Coordinator

Jane Baumann – South Kingstown Land Trust

Claudia Swain – South Kingstown Land Trust

Denise Poyer – Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association & Richmond Rural Land Preservation Trust

Strategies for successful outings and events that will build your organization. Invite your members, bring new faces and increase your event turnout. Excite attendees about your organization's work; bring them back as volunteers and donors. Planning details to provide a safe, educational and enjoyable outing for everyone. Bring your toolkit questions!

2-D. Understanding Rhode Island's Freshwater Access Laws

Amy Kullenberg – Conservation Law Foundation

Public access to coasts and waterfronts is important to all of us. Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Management Council has a well developed program to promote public access to coastal areas. But access to freshwaters is less well understood. This session will review Rhode Island's legal framework for freshwater access, looking at who has the rights to access rivers, streams, lakes and ponds and how local conservation groups can promote access and use of these valuable waterways.

2-E. Understanding Transportation Planning at the Local Level

Linsey Cameron – Department of Administration Statewide Planning

Eugenia Marks – Audubon Society of RI

Transportation infrastructure has a significant impact on the state's land and water resources – do you understand how roads, bridges, bike paths, sidewalks are planned and implemented statewide? This session will include an overview of Rhode Island's transportation planning framework and will then walk participants through the process communities follow when they propose transportation projects for federal funding through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is renewed every 4 years and the TIP for Federal Years 2013-2016 is now being developed. It is expected to be complete by June 2012, following committee recommendations and opportunities for public input.

2-F. Anatomy of a Land Conservation Transaction

Bruce Payton – Gloucester Land Trust (municipal)

Trish Sylvester – Tiverton Land Trust (non-profit organization)

This workshop will dissect your typical land conservation project and provide the details on: diagnosing the opportunity; evaluating the conservation options; cutting the deal; structuring the project; due diligence for a good outcome; wrapping up funding and making it through closing to fulfill your land trust's goals and objectives.

2-G. Invasives Today: What's Where, How Are We Doing, Who's Helping

David Gregg – RI Natural History Survey

Get up to date on the invasive threat in Rhode Island. Find out which species are threatening which habitats, how survey and control efforts are going, and how to find resources that you can use at your land trust or in your back yard. The session will introduce the new dataset from the Forest Health Works Project, the latest pond and lake data, marine shore data, reports from neighboring states, and other up to the minute information.

2-H. Appraisal Roundtable Discussion

Tom Henry – T.W. Henry Real Estate Appraisals, LLC

John Berg – The Nature Conservancy

Do you have questions about appraisals for land conservation? Write them down and bring them with you to the Summit. Tom will answer questions submitted in writing at the workshop and share his knowledge from years of conducting appraisals for land conservation organizations and as a national reviewer of appraisals for NRCS. John will facilitate the session and will share his experience from years of contracting with appraisers and using appraisals for land conservation projects.

2-I. Promoting Low Impact Development (LID) in RI Communities

Jennifer West – Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Scott Millar – RI Department of Environmental Management

This session will present an overview of the new Rhode Island Community LID Site Planning and Design Guidance Manual. The Manual provides communities with the specific guidance, case studies and economic justification they can use to revise their existing land use regulations to more effectively avoid and reduce the impacts of development to water quality, habitat and community character while helping to reduce municipal service costs, increase property values and preserve community character.

2-J. Barrington Goes Green: An Environmental Mandate for the 21st Century

Cynthia Fuller - Barrington Conservation Commission

In the 2009 revision of its Comprehensive Community Plan, the Town of Barrington made a commitment to incorporate energy efficiency and sustainability into its operations and management activities. Since that time, Barrington has made numerous changes to its infrastructure and operations to reduce energy use and improve energy savings, and has set for itself a target of a 10% reduction in energy use below 2009 levels by 2015 for municipal and school facilities. Ventures in energy production are being considered, including the use of wind, solar, and water energy to power municipal buildings. The Town is encouraging residents and businesses to adopt energy-conserving measures by advocating development that is supportive of walkability in its downtown business area and improving connectivity of green spaces to encourage bicycling. Changes to town ordinances are in place or underway to allow residential-scale wind energy systems, to encourage the use of cottage cluster housing, and to allow the residential raising of hens. Other activities are being developed to improve the environmental quality of Barrington's natural resources. This presentation will discuss how Barrington's leadership initiated these activities, identify the nuts 'n' bolts actions needed for implementation, reveal the challenges faced, and share the successes and plans for further actions.

Workshops – Session III 2:45 – 4:00

3-A. How to Recruit and Motivate Volunteers

July Lewis – Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Leslie Samayoa – Bank of America Environmental Network

Conservation organizations often have lots of work to do and not enough paid staff to do it—if they have any paid staff! Volunteers are the solution, and the world is filled with volunteers ready and willing to do the work. But how do you recruit them for your organization? Share experiences and get ideas in this discussion that will explore what motivates volunteers and how you can tap into underutilized volunteer sources to accomplish your mission.

3-B. What's Holding You Back? Simple Actions to Improve Fundraising Success

Judy Anderson – Community Consultants

Small and volunteer conservation organizations can be terrific at fundraising and involving their community. To do so, we need to make sure that those involved have the systems, technology, and techniques to really shine. In addition, growing your major donor program is now within reach when you create a strong monthly giving program. Using examples from other organizations, as well as research, this workshop will go explore: what the recession has taught us, and what it means for your organization; how to better engage your donors and potential donors; and tips for how to establish a strong, simple, monthly giving program.

3-C. Geocaching 101

Chris Kracik – Veteran Geocacher

Geocaching is a rapidly growing family oriented outdoor recreation activity. This workshop will explain: Geocaching basics; how some organizations use geocaching to raise their visibility within their community to attract new members and support; and how to use a geocaching event to get more people enjoying your protected lands or water trail. We will also discuss best practices for managing geocaching on land trust properties.

3-D. Assessing Stream Crossings for Fish & Wildlife Passage: The RI River & Stream Continuity Project

Kathryn Zuromski – RI Resource Conservation and Development

Amy Mocarisky – RI Resource Conservation and Development

Culverts are structures that, when well designed, pass water, sediment, suspended debris (wood, etc.), and fish under roadways at stream-road intersections. Culverts that were not designed or installed correctly, or that have been intentionally or unintentionally altered, often prevent upstream and/or downstream fish passage. A single culvert can block fish from utilizing miles of stream habitat. Eliminating fish passage barriers is a very cost-effective approach to increasing habitat for fish. These same fish-blocking culverts often present maintenance, erosion, and flooding concerns because of their inability to transport flood water, sediment and other suspended debris downstream. Come learn how to inventory and assess culverts and then work with local landowners to eliminate these barriers.

3-E. Liability Issues for Land Trusts & Watershed Organizations

Jim Lee – Attorney General Office

It seems as if liability issues are always surfacing for our organizations. This workshop will discuss: what state legislation and case law protects land trusts, watershed organizations and conservation commissions from liability? Do our organizations still need liability and directors & officers insurance? What is our potential liability for: having trails that are open to the public; leading walks or outings on our trails or our properties; leading a canoe trip; allowing volunteers to use power tools such as a chain saw to create/maintain trails and for stewardship of protected lands; and allowing people to hunt on land trust properties. Jim will share his expertise gained from years defending Rhode Island from liability suits.

3-F. Stewarding Our Protected Lands: New Tools to Meet New Challenges

Larry Taft – Conservation Stewardship Collaborative Coordinator & Audubon Society of RI

This workshop will present the results of important new initiatives by the RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative (CSC). We'll present more examples of effective baseline documentation reports that should accompany every protected property. We will also present the newly prepared Rhode Island Ecological Community Atlas as well as other projects accomplished in 2011. We'll introduce exciting new CSC stewardship projects for 2012 and seek input for future initiatives. Bring your ideas—we want to hear them!

3-G. Management to Sustain New England Grasslands

Garry Plunkett – Tiverton Open Space Commission

Grasslands are beautiful natural communities that enrich the biodiversity of any landscape, but they are threatened all across New England as they succumb to development or successional dynamics. They are also challenging and expensive to manage. This workshop will review the history and ecology of grasslands, and then discuss the various management practices for sustaining them. Property managers of conservation grasslands are invited to participate and share their experiences.

3-H. Google Earth Basics.

John Monroe – National Park Service

Google Earth allows ordinary people to create and share extraordinary presentations of geographic information. Using properties selected by the participants, I will demonstrate basic online features that are useful to board members and staff. Participants will leave with a one-page hand-out of basic Google Earth functions.

3-I. "Are Conservation Commissions Still Relevant?" The Current Economy, the Nature of Good Growth, and the Future of Municipal Commissions

Dan Novak – RI Association of Conservation Commissions, West Greenwich Conservation Commission

In this high-involvement workshop, we will consider a brief overview of the environmental movement from the iconic earthrise photo to the rise in the 1970s of federal, state, and municipal environmental regulatory and review agencies to the waves of 1980s-90s activism, early 2000s self-critique, to more recent developments in our thinking (e.g. eco-design, green building, smart growth, conservation development, social justice issues, and synergetic design of truly healthy communities). We will consider what concrete directions and steps municipal conservation commissions can take to be ahead of the usual development curve in their communities, thus becoming integral partners and in sync with inspiring models of optimal growth.

3-J. Understanding the RI Legislative Process and Developing "Green" Bills

Michael A. Rice – University of Rhode Island; former State Representative

Although many initiatives undertaken to protect the environment and build green economies require changes to the state law, to many of us the process of creating a bill and getting that bill passed into law is a mystery. This session will focus on the legislative process in Rhode Island, including how a new environmental bill is created, finding a suitable sponsor for the bill, the role of the Office of Legislative Council, tracking the bill through the committee process, and doing all you can to work with legislators to make sure it becomes law. Examples of exemplary environmental legislation will be discussed in terms of how the initial bills were created, the role that legislative commissions had in formulating and vetting complex issues within the bills, and how the committee hearing process and stakeholder involvement was critical to their successful passage.

Registration Form

Rhode Island Land & Water Conservation Summit

Saturday, March 10, 2012

Location: URI Memorial Union, Kingston

REGISTER ON LINE:

www.landandwaterpartnership.org

Registration Cost (includes lunch and breaks):

Early Registration before February 24: \$40

After February 24: \$55

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Name _____ Telephone Number _____

Affiliation _____

My name can be included in the list of Summit Attendees Yes No

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 you a parking pass for the University.)

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 (\$40.00 before February 24; \$55.00 after February 24): \$_____

Refund Policy: registrations may be cancelled until March 1 for a fee of \$5. No refunds after March 1.

Please submit your registration before February 24 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

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