



Land & Water Conservation Summit

16th Annual . . . *Working together to protect our communities*

Saturday, March 9, 2019 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 water 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
- Keynote: "Conservation, Meet Development: The Role of Land & Watershed Protection in Building Resilient Communities"**
David Vallee - Hydrologist-in-Charge, NOAA/National Weather Service/NE River Forecast Center
- 9:40 – 10:20 **Business Meetings (everyone invited); Network & Visit Exhibits**
- 9:45 – 10:05 Business Meetings (everyone invited):
 - o RI Land Trust Council Business Meeting
 - o RI Association of Conservation Commission Business Meeting
 - o 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 & Awards
 - **Governor Gina Raimondo (Invited)**
 - **Peter Merritt Conservation Award & Blueways Stewardship Award**
- 2:45 – 4:00 Session III **Workshops** – *Your choice from 10 offered*

Registration: \$55 before February 22 \$80 after February 22 (includes Continental Breakfast & Lunch)

Register On Line: <http://www.LandAndWaterPartnership.org/>

Thank YOU to these Lead Sponsors:



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	Community Engagement: Building Transformational Partnerships Through Environmental Education	Partnering with Your Local Library to Engage Families	Conservation Education for Pre-K through 12 and Beyond
B	Using Social Media to Expand Your Organization's Reach & Impact	Engaging Urban Youth in Your Conservation Work	Strategies for Enhancing Pollinator Habitat on State Land
C	Practical Tools for Managing Stormwater Runoff	Municipal Strategies for Managing Stormwater with Green Infrastructure	Ecological Management of Forage Fish
D	Finding Aquatic Invasive Plants and Planning Lake Management Strategies	Using the MyCoast Coastal Resilience Tool for Monitoring Shoreline Change and Coastal Resilience Projects	Emergency Preparedness as a Tool for Community Resilience
E	What Were They Thinking? How to Be Heard in Land Use Decisions and Legislation	Free Mapping Tools for Conservation Property & Easement Monitoring	Update on Ubiquitous Contaminant - PFASs
F	Forest Conservation Strategies to Address Climate Change	Statewide Perspectives on Siting Renewable Energy Projects	Municipal Planning for Solar Development
G	Rhode Island State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan: "SCORP"	Land Trust Boot Camp 201: Core Functions of a Land Trust	Conservation Stewardship and Biodiversity: Issues and Resources
H	Land Protection 101: Putting a Project Together	Giving Yourself an Out: Knowing When to Say "No!" to a Land Conservation Project	Federal Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities for Land Conservation & the Stewardship of Your Lands
I	Land Management Options for Sustaining Grasslands	Mapping Your Landowner Engagement Strategy	Planning for New Public Access on Protected Land
J	How to Be a Successful Board Fundraiser for Your Organization	Fundraising Metrics and How to Use Them	Recruiting the Board You Need

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

1.A Community Engagement: Building Transformational Partnerships through Environmental Education

Rachel Holbert – Norman Bird Sanctuary

This workshop introduces participants to the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Guidelines for Excellence in Community Engagement, a set of practices for engaging and working with communities through the lens of environmental education (EE). Participants will have an opportunity to navigate the guidelines, unpack the key characteristics, and discuss application in their practice.

1.B Using Social Media to Expand Your Organization's Reach & Impact *presenter TBD*

The world of social media has expanded rapidly, with platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Now it is often the initial point of contact (or first impression) between organizations and their potential supporters, donors, members and wider communities. Social media may seem daunting. If you or your organization is considering adding or bolstering its social media presence, this workshop will provide you with some simple tips and recommendations to consider for digitally connecting with your audiences.

1.C Practical Tools for Managing Stormwater Runoff

Lorraine Joubert – URI Cooperative Extension, NEMO Program

Lisa Philo – URI Cooperative Extension, NEMO Program

Whether you are involved in a land trust, local board, or simply interested in conservation, this session will help you reduce stormwater pollution through practical, land-management tools. Featured resources include: new online soil erosion and sediment control training, customized specifically for RI; a simple guide to identify when construction site runoff is properly controlled (or not) and who to contact about violations; maintenance guides and checklists for rain gardens and other green infrastructure; and a *RI Weed Guide* for identifying the most invasive and weedy plants likely to take over green infrastructure or land trust properties.

1.D Finding Aquatic Invasive Plants and Planning Lake Management Strategies

Katie DeGoosh-DiMarzio – RI Department of Environmental Management

Elizabeth Herron – URI Watershed Watch

Aquatic invasive plants are a rising concern in many watersheds throughout RI, growing aggressively to outcompete native species and clog local waterways. They can reduce water quality and native habitat supporting healthy fish and wildlife, but can also ruin swimming, boating and fishing activities. Participants will learn where the most common aquatic invasive plants are in the state, and become familiar with strategies to prevent their spread, as well as control and manage local populations.

1.E What Were They Thinking?

How to Be Heard in Land Use Decisions and Legislation

Representative Kathy Fogarty – Rhode Island General Assembly

Maria Mack – South Kingstown Planning Board

Have you experienced frustration when you see poor decisions, ill-conceived projects or legislation that is detrimental to the environment? Learn how to have meaningful, effective impact at both the local and state level.

1.F Forest Conservation Strategies to Address Climate Change

Scott Millar – Grow Smart RI

Tee Jay Boudreau – RI Department of Environmental Management

Although we think of Rhode Island as the ocean city-state, dominated by the Providence metro area, it is also well forested with 56 % of the state covered with trees. These forest lands are an important part of the state's economy, annually generating \$710 million from forest products and \$375 from forest-based recreation. Forest lands are also important for climate resilience, absorbing carbon and rainfall. This workshop will review the important role the forest has in mitigating climate change, current and proposed options for forest conservation strategies in Rhode Island and will introduce participants to the state's new urban forestry initiative.

1.G RI State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan: "SCORP"

Jim Riordan – Weston & Sampson

Michelle Sheehan – RI Department of Environmental Management

The *Rhode Island State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)* sets the tone for meeting outdoor recreation needs statewide as an element of the State Guide Plan. Critically, the SCORP outlines funding priorities for outdoor recreation investment over the next five years. Your favorite beach, park, walking trail, or boat ramp is part of this plan! This workshop will review the background of the SCORP, summarize public feedback received as part of the planning process, and outline how to use the plan to direct recreation funding to your organization and community.

1.H Land Protection 101 - Putting a Project Together

Chuck Allott – Aquidneck Land Trust

This is a soup to nuts workshop on protecting land including both fee and conservation easement transactions. How do you decide what land to protect? How to approach owners? Obtain land gifts? Secure funding? Buy it outright or get a Conservation Easement? Prepare your land trust and the land owner for a process that may extend for years? Establish relationships that extend beyond the deal and into stewardship? 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.I Land Management Options for Sustaining Grasslands

Garry Plunkett – Tiverton Open Space Commission & Tiverton Land Trust

Gary Casabona - USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Grasslands are beautiful natural communities that can enrich the biodiversity of protected lands. They provide space for a multitude of pollinator species, as well as critically important habitat for ground nesting and edge feeding bird species. They are also threatened all across New England as they succumb to development, or bow to the challenges of invasive species and successional dynamics. This workshop will review the history and ecology of New England grasslands, then discuss options for sustaining them. Property managers are encouraged to attend and share their experiences.

1.J How to Be a Successful Board Fundraiser for Your Organization

Keith Tavares – Rhode Island Foundation - Initiative for Nonprofit Excellence

This workshop is aimed specifically at board members with passion for mission and limited experience around fund development. The workshop will provide concrete steps to make every board member a fundraiser.

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

2.A Partnering with Your Local Library to Engage Families

Amy O'Donnell – Barrington Conservation Land Trust

Jeanine Silversmith – South Kingstown Land Trust

Learn how two land trusts collaborated with their local libraries to create a "Young Naturalist Program." Families check out a backpack from the library like they do with a museum or zoo pass. The backpack has the land trust's trail maps, magnifying glasses, field guides, and other small tools that young explorers can use in nature. Discuss ways to promote the program and some of the challenges to starting and effectively managing the program.

2.B Engaging Urban Youth in Your Conservation Work

Brianna Balke – Blackstone Academy

Ruben Trejo – Blackstone Academy

Ian Learn – Blackstone Academy

Students from Blackstone Academy attended the 2018 Land & Water Summit. They offered to come back this year to share their ideas for how conservation organizations can engage with young people and benefit from youthful energy and enthusiasm in urban communities.

2.C Municipal Strategies for Managing Stormwater with Green Infrastructure

Andrew Silvia – City of Pawtucket

Scott Wheeler – City of Newport

Cities and towns throughout Rhode Island struggle with managing stormwater. While green stormwater solutions like rain gardens, bioswales and tree plantings provide communities with multiple additional benefits including shading and habitat, they also pose new challenges for the municipal departments charged with maintaining them. The Cities of Pawtucket and Newport are leaders in green stormwater management. This session will leave participants with strategies for encouraging municipalities to embrace green stormwater solutions.

2.D Using the MyCoast Coastal Resilience Tool for Monitoring Shoreline Change and Coastal Resilience Projects

Wenley Ferguson – Save The Bay

Janet Freedman – Coastal Resources Management Council

Caitlin Chaffee – Coastal Resources Management Council

Community conservation groups often have the local knowledge of areas where wave and stormwater runoff erode the shoreline; places where coastal resources are threatened by the squeeze between rising seas and crumbling, ineffective infrastructure; and locations where coastal marshes are migrating upland or drowning in place. This workshop will introduce local community liaisons, neighborhood associations, and other interested parties to the MyCoast phone app that allows the user to document current site conditions and changes over time. The MyCoast King Tides and Storm Reporter tools are used to

document coastal flooding and storm impacts. This workshop will instruct participants on using the Coastal Resilience Tool to identify potential coastal adaptation projects and document the efficacy of green infrastructure projects that have been installed.

2.E Free Mapping Tools for Conservation Property & Easement Monitoring
Carol Trocki – Consulting Conservation Biologist

Greg Bonyngre – University of Rhode Island Geospatial Extension Specialist

Learn how to enhance your organization's approach to monitoring conserved properties and easements by using Google Earth Pro and Esri ArcGIS Online. In addition to introducing these free software tools, we'll show you how to tap into both historical and the most current available aerial photographs of Rhode Island.

2.F Statewide Perspectives on Siting Renewable Energy Projects

Paul Raducha – Kearsarge Energy LP

Scott Millar – Grow Smart Rhode Island

Ashley Sweet – Exeter Town Planner & RI Chapter of the American Planning Assoc.

Climate change is here and Rhode Island has a suite of renewable energy laws to encourage the development of solar and wind projects. These laws are successful and the renewable energy business is booming in Rhode Island. Policy makers, developers and planners are working together to balance this new development with natural resource protection and maintenance of the state's quality of place. This workshop will highlight how properly sited projects can benefit communities with little or no environmental impacts. Panelists will also review the critical importance of forests as we strive to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals.

2.G Land Trust Board Boot Camp 201: Core Functions of a Land Trust

Kevin Case – Land Trust Alliance

Chuck Toal – Connecticut Land Conservation Council & Avalonia Land Trust

Running a land trust is complex and unique in the non-profit community, not just because we make a promise of perpetuity with each conservation easement. This workshop provides new board members with an overview of technical aspects of land protection and stewardship for both conservation easements and fee owned land. Experienced board members will learn about new trends and techniques. The workshop will cover the nuts and bolts of land protection and stewardship and discuss everything from the process of evaluating conservation projects to responding to potential violations.

2.H Giving Yourself an Out - Knowing When To Say "No!"
to a Land Conservation Project

Reggie Hall – The Conservation Fund

In the exuberance of completing projects, it is easy to say "Yes!" to a project that perhaps the organization should say "No!" to. Maybe you said "Yes!" to a great project, but at some point along the line, negotiations took a turn, and the project wound up being not as strong as it should or could be. How do you avoid these pitfalls? This interactive session will help participants identify sound project selection criteria that help you know when to say yes but more importantly know when to say no. It will discuss key parts of the acquisition process that may have significant implications on the permanence when you are deciding to protect a property.

2.I Mapping Your Landowner Engagement Strategy

Hallie Schwa – Highstead Foundation

*Cassidy Dellorto-Blackwell – Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies -
Sustaining Family Forests Initiative*

Land trusts understand the need to engage landowners and members of the community, but is your outreach portfolio structured in a way that supports your mission and project goals? Do you lack the time, capacity, or direction to keep things progressing after you've gotten a landowner's attention? This workshop will encourage participants to plan out their outreach activities from start to finish using the concept of a "Ladder of Engagement," developed by The Sustaining Family Forests Initiative's Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively. Case studies from the Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership will depict lessons learned about follow-up and setting the stage for meaningful relationships with landowners. Participants will have a chance to apply this tool in small breakout groups and map out a series of steps and touch points that will guide landowner action towards change they want to see on the landscape.

2.J Fundraising Metrics and How to Use Them

David Allen – Development for Conservation

Fundraising metrics matter. We all know that. But not the metrics that many people think of and not the way in which many people use them. For example, metrics shouldn't be used to justify our existence. They should be used to change our behavior – adapt to our changing environment. They should be used to help predict what will happen in the coming months and years. Join fundraising expert David Allen as we explore what you should be measuring and how to use the data you get back.

Workshops – Session III 2:45 – 4:00 (choose from 10)

3.A Conservation Education for Pre-K through 12 and Beyond

Molly Allard – Northern RI Conservation District

Learn how to share your organization's message with all age groups through a variety of methods and techniques. Learn the many resources available to you in Rhode Island.

3.B Strategies for Enhancing Pollinator Habitat on State Land

Allison Hamel – RI Department of Transportation

Susan Votta – RIDOT (invited)

Tanner Steeves – RIDEM (invited)

Worldwide, pollinator populations are in decline, affected by climate change, diseases, pesticide exposure and loss of habitat. States throughout the country are working to enhance pollinator habitat along roads and on state owned properties. In Rhode Island, the RI Department of Transportation is working in partnership with the RI Department of Environmental Management on pollinator habitat enhancement. This session will share the lessons learned to date and give attendees tips for replicating this work on locally owned roads and protected lands.

3.C Ecological Management of Forage Fish
Zach Cockrum – National Wildlife Federation
Other speaker TBD

Offshore forage fish like herring and menhaden are critical food sources for marine mammals and other fish. At-risk marine and coastal birds including Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Royal Terns, Brown Pelicans, and many others rely on these fish. Fisheries management traditionally looks at each species as a unique resource, but there are connections between fish populations and the health of the species that rely on them for food. Recent fisheries management decisions have been considering ecologically based management which considers the importance of a species within the full ecosystem. This workshop will provide an overview of forage fish management and consider implications for recreational fisheries and river management.

3.D Emergency Preparedness as a Tool for Community Resilience
Shaun O'Rourke – Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank
Other speaker TBD – Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency

Last summer, Governor Raimondo issued "Resilient Rhody, An Actionable Vision for Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change in Rhode Island." This strategy identifies a range of actions we can take to prepare our communities for the impacts of climate change. Participants in this session will get a brief introduction to the strategy, implementation efforts already underway, and then hear about how emergency preparedness strategies and investments are being put in place to protect communities. Participants will learn how they can collaborate with local and state officials to strengthen these efforts in their communities.

3.E Update on Ubiquitous Contaminant - PFASs
Judith Swift – Coastal Institute
Other speakers TBD

PFASs (poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances) have caught the attention of regulatory agencies because of their persistence, toxicity, and widespread occurrence in the blood of general populations and wildlife. PFASs are widely used to make consumer products nonstick, waterproof/resistant, and stain resistant. They are also used in firefighting foams at military bases and at civilian firefighting training locations where they can leach into groundwater. Members of URI's NIEHS-sponsored STEEP Superfund Research Program and Rhode Island state agencies will provide an overview of current science, regulatory efforts, and presence in Rhode Island.

3.F Municipal Planning for Solar Developments
Doug Doe – West Bay Land Trust

Ashley Sweet – Exeter Town Planner & RI Chapter of the American Planning Assoc.
Solar development is booming in Rhode Island. Municipal planning and zoning is where the rubber hits the road to shape the location, size and character of these developments. This workshop will discuss what we are learning about best practices for solar development and share strategies for how municipalities can work with developers to ensure the development is consistent with the town's comprehensive plan and community interests. Doug Doe will describe what the West Bay Land Trust and citizens in Cranston have encountered in their efforts to protect farmland and the rural character of Cranston. Ashley Sweet will share Exeter's process for adopting planning and zoning for solar developments.

3.G Conservation Stewardship and Biodiversity: Issues and Resources

David Gregg – RI Natural History Survey & Conservation Stewardship Collaborative

Biological resources are one of the main targets for conservation land managers. Though it remains a challenge to get inventories done at a price you can afford, there are resources available. This session will review available sources of information on Rhode Island's rare species, invasive species, other species of interest, natural communities, and other biological features and what each of these might mean for your land stewardship. We will also consider the strengths and weaknesses of different information sources and obvious data gaps. Also, the Conservation Stewardship Collaborative will provide brief updates on its recent projects and seek input on stewardship obstacles faced by land conservation practitioners in the audience.

3.H Federal Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities for Land Conservation and the Stewardship of Your Lands

Joe Bachand – USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Mary-Kate Kane – Eastern RI Conservation District & Sakonnet Preservation Assoc.

Kate Sayles – Northern Rhode Island Conservation District

Is your land trust interested in increasing habitat for wildlife, controlling invasives, improving your pasture, or managing your forests? Funding and technical assistance are available through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) to help you with these projects and so much more! Join us for this workshop to discuss how land trusts are working effectively with NRCS to protect lands through easement programs and how other NRCS programs can assist with funding land stewardship activities on your properties. Free technical and application assistance will be made available to interested workshop participants through the Conservation Districts.

3.I Planning for New Public Access on Protected Land

Alex Chumann – Aquidneck Land Trust

Does your organization have plans to open up conservation land for public access? We'll touch on an array of topics you may be thinking about like coming up with a site design and management plan to accomplish your goals, how to make the property safe and secure, working with neighbors, recruiting volunteers and supporters to help take care of your new property, and budgeting time and expenses. The Aquidneck Land Trust successfully completed two land acquisition purchases in 2017 and 2018 in Middletown and Portsmouth with plans to open these new preserves for the public. We'll share our successes and hiccups from the last couple years of work on these two properties, and hope to hear from attendees on their own projects and strategies.

3.J Recruiting the Board You Need

David Allen – Development for Conservation

We expect most Board members to be "plug-and-play" leaders – all they need is a two-hour orientation session, and they'll be good to go. Yet most of us realize that it can take months if not years for new people to understand how the "business of our Nature and the nature of our Business" actually works. How can we compress this learning curve? This workshop will examine the first few years of the board experience. We'll talk about the qualities of a good Board member, job description, and how to find Board members. We'll share tools for approaching this important work objectively and systematically. We'll talk about recruiting diversity – how to recruit a Board that represents the community in which you work. And we'll offer and consider several fresh ideas for identifying, training, and empowering the Board leaders you need – both now and into the future.

Registration Form
Rhode Island Land & Water Conservation Summit

Saturday, March 9, 2019

Location: URI Memorial Union, Kingston

REGISTER ONLINE:
www.LandAndWaterPartnership.org

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

Early Registration before February 22: \$55 After February 22: \$80

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 so that we can send last minute Summit information)

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 – K" of your first choice workshop for each session:

Session 1

Session 2

Session 3

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

Amount Enclosed (\$55.00 before February 22; \$80.00 after February 22): \$ _____

Refund Policy: Registrations may be cancelled until March 2 for a fee of \$5.

No refunds after March 1.

Do you have any dietary restrictions for lunch? ____ Vegetarian; ____ Vegan; ____ Gluten Free

Please submit your registration before February 22 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 ONLINE:
www.LandAndWaterPartnership.org

Questions/Information? Contact:

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