



2014 Conservation Award Recipients

Conservation Farmer of the Year: **Craig & Emily Totten, Greenview Farm**



Greenview Farm was awarded Conservation Farmer of the Year for their exemplary farming vision that incorporates techniques and practices that are sustainable and environmentally sound. At Greenview Farm, Craig & Emily Totten (owners/operators) produce certified organic vegetables for their CSA/farmshare, farmers' markets and local up-scale restaurants. They farm at various locations, including a leased parcel on Tuckertown Road that is owned by South Kingstown Land Trust. SRICD applauds the methods Craig & Emily utilize in protecting and conserving soil and water resources, while producing healthy foods for our communities. (The SRICD Board visited the Tuckertown operation, shown in pictures above.)

Conservation Forester of the Year: **Antonia & Tom Bryson**



The Bryson tree farm is operated by Antonia and Tom Bryson, and their forestry work over the past several years has included wildlife clearings, forest stand improvement thinnings, forest trails, and a pine stand thinning. The property is located in Richmond along Tanney Brook which runs into the Pawcatuck River. The total acreage enrolled in forestry is 159ac. They conducted a 3ac wildlife clearing, which responded beautifully with a dense regeneration of hardwood sprouts. The forest floor has an incredible amount of downed coarse woody debris which has prevented the constant threat of deer browse. Since working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the Bryson's have implemented forest related practices on over 80% of their property. They annually manage a 3ac hay field for wildlife purposes, controlling invasive species, delaying mowing till after August 1, and promoting pollinator habitat. The Bryson's participated in the Coverts Program, a wildlife habitat and forest management educational program held at URI's Alton Jones Campus, and the property is certified with the American Tree Farm System.

This award has been granted to Antonia & Tom for their exemplary forestry work. SRICD applauds the methods the Brysons utilize for protecting and conserving the health of soil and water resources on their land. Their work through USDA NRCS programs is improving forest health, protecting nearby lands from fire hazards, increasing wildlife habitat, improving pollinator habitat and generally conserving open space in our state.

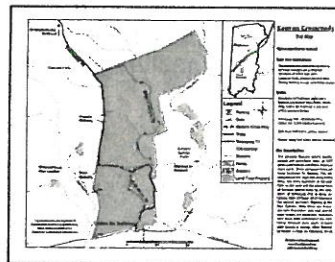
Excellence in Conservation Education: Kim Sullivan, RI DEM Fish & Wildlife



A graduate of Roger Williams University, Kim Sullivan has transformed aquatic education in the state of RI. She is working with over 35 schools across the state to provide students and teachers with valuable aquatic educational experiences through both the *Salmon in the Classroom* and *Trout in the Classroom*. She has been instrumental in providing aquariums, chillers, fish eggs and food so that the participants can experience the growth of a fish, learning everything from the life cycle of the fish to the environment a fish needs to develop properly. Additionally she is the state coordinator for Project WET and Project WILD. Kim is working hard to develop the former Camp E-Hunt-E into a state facility that will be used to provide aquatic education to students and teachers alike. She is developing a learning program about the growth of horseshoe crabs as well as offering Freshwater and Saltwater Fishing and Fly Tying training. Kim has been a co-supervisor for the Aquatics training for the RI State Envirothon competition. Kim's knowledge of the natural environment is displayed in the many articles she has published through DEM's Wild RI newsletter.

This award has been granted to Kim for her outstanding contributions in delivering conservation & environmental education to RI's public schools.

Excellence in Promotion and Conservation of Land and Water Resources: The Town of Hopkinton



This award has been granted to the Town of Hopkinton for its outstanding contributions to the mission of the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District in the protection of land and water resources through their on-going efforts to protect open space and improve the public accessibility to these spaces. The collaborative effort of Hopkinton's Conservation Commission, Land Trust & Town officials has laid the groundwork for improved trail mapping on many of its public lands. Hardcopy maps are available at trail heads. Digital trail maps are easily available on the municipal website (www.hopkintonri.org/hopkintonoutdoors.htm), as well as Explore RI (www.exploreri.org/).

Professional Conservationist of the Year:

Scott Ruhren, Senior Director of Conservation, Audubon Society of RI



**Audubon Society
of Rhode Island**

This award honors the commitment of a professional conservationist to the protection of natural resources in Kent and Washington counties. Scott Ruhren easily fits this description, and was thus granted this award. Scott has shown exemplary leadership in the development and execution of local projects that have improved New England Cottontail habitat, along with projects to conserve coastal marshes. SRICD wishes to honor his hard work and dedication to the daily pursuit of natural resource conservation and protection.



What are Conservation Districts?

Conservation Districts were established in Rhode Island by State Law in 1944, and are a subdivision of the Rhode Island State Conservation Committee. Thus, Conservation Districts are quasi-public organizations with a wide breadth of opportunity to focus efforts on the environmental and conservation concerns within our communities.

The function of the Districts is to take available technical, financial, and educational resources, focus and coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water and related resources. They operate on the premise that local people know the most about local needs. The Districts do not regulate or enforce laws. There are approximately 3,000 conservation districts nationwide. There are three Districts in Rhode Island.

- ◆ **Southern RI Conservation District, serving Washington and Kent Counties,**
- ◆ Northern RI Conservation District, serving Providence County,
- ◆ Eastern RI Conservation District, serving Newport and Bristol Counties.

SRICD FREE ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Contact Information & Recommendations for:

- Foresters, Local Technical Service Providers, etc.
- Presentations to Municipal Boards, Commissions and/or Committees
- Site visits to farms and woodlots

FEE-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAMS **Land & Watershed Management:**

- Farm, Forest & Open Space Program - Farm Conservation Plans
- Open Space Mapping
- Whole Farm Conservation Planning
- Land Use Consultation
- Wetland Determinations & Permitting Assistance
- Soil Sample Collection, Preparation, & Analysis Interpretations
- Natural Resource & Environmental Assessments
- GIS Mapping, Map Interpretation & Analysis
- Invasive Species Assessment & Management
- Public Outreach & Training
- Assistance with US EPA Stormwater Phase II Requirements
- Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Review
- Stormwater Impact Assessment
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPP) Review
- Rain Garden & Bio-Retention Basin Design & Installation
- Stream Assessments

Local people represent their communities, promoting natural resource conservation



SRICD Members (left to right): Rudi Hempte (Vice Chair), Harriet Powell, Kate Bousquet, Clarkson Collins (Chairman), Peter Stetson, Carl Sawyer, Harvey Buford, Eric Scherer.

The Southern RI Conservation District is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and Associate Directors. Directors are locally elected and appointed. At monthly Board Meetings, Directors review requests for conservation assistance on private and local land, review project and program advancements, and establish priorities in response to concerns within the southern RI community.

Board of Directors:

- Clarkson Collins, Chairman, Kingston
- Rudi Hempte, Vice-Chairman, Narragansett
- Harvey Buford, Treasurer, Hopkinton
- Harriet Powell, Secretary, North Kingstown
- Carl Sawyer, South Kingstown

Associate Directors:

- Peter Stetson, Richmond
- J. Eric Scherer, South Kingstown

SRICD Staff:

- Kate Bousquet, District Manager & Agricultural Planner
- Kathryn Zuromski, Biologist & GIS Specialist
- Jean Lambert, Engineering Consultant

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff serving SRICD:

- John Richard, District Conservationist
- Stewart Taffe, Soil Conservationist
- Matt Richardson, Soil Conservationist
- Joe Rocks, Civil Engineer