

# Rhode Island's Coastal Salt Ponds and YOU: A Public Education Series

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## February 2016

*You don't want to miss the chance to dialogue with three leading community members living on the South County Salt Ponds, with a particular focus on Ninigret. Each speaker offers a wealth of insights on living, working, and playing on the pond. Join them, Monday, February 22 at the Kettle Pond Visitors Center in Charlestown from 5:30PM – 7:00PM. Oysters & coffee will be served. Guests will receive a complimentary book copy – Please RSVP to [Azure@crc.uri.edu](mailto:Azure@crc.uri.edu) or 401-874-6197.*



*Pam Lyons and her husband, Rob, have owned the Ocean House Marina in Charlestown for 33 years and have been active in a variety of community commissions and organizations over the years. She is a past member of the Board of Directors of the South County Tourism Council and the Charlestown Land Trust, and has been a member of the Board of the Charlestown Historical Society for 30 years – serving as president of that organization for the past 9 years. She has recently spearheaded the construction of the Town of Charlestown's first museum which is located in Cross Mills next door to the Cross Mills Library. Pam and family have deep roots and connection to South County's salt ponds, especially Ninigret, spending time at work and play there.*

*Sarah Schumann is a fish worker, fisherman, writer, and wild fisheries advocate. Her fisheries activities take her from Bristol Bay, Alaska, where she works as a salmon cannery machinist for three months each summer, to the waters of Narragansett Bay, where she fishes for conchs, quahogs, oysters, and razor clams. Her advocacy activities include developing a climate change adaptation blueprint with Rhode Island's fishing industry and coordinating the activities of a small nonprofit, Eating with the Ecosystem. She worked with the Coastal Resources Center, R.I. Sea Grant, and URI's Coastal Institute to write the book *Rhode Island's Shellfish Heritage: An Ecological History*, published in 2015.*



*Matt Behan is owner of Behan Family Farms, a shellfish farming business growing oysters in Ninigret Pond since 2011. Matt was born and raised in Ashaway and attended Chariho High School. He later attended URI to obtain his Bachelor of Science degree. Matt began working on Watch Hill Oyster Farm in 1998 and stayed for six years learning the ins and outs of operating an oyster business. He later became part of the Mohegan Aquaculture project and started his own farm with his father who has recently retired. Behan Family Farms are currently sold out of*

*oysters but in the height of the summer season caters up to 22 restaurants from Providence to Mystic, CT.*

## March 2016

*Rhode Island author, Prentice Stout, will present perspectives of life – past and present - on Point Judith Pond. Join him on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Kettle Pond Visitors Center in Charlestown, from 5:30PM-7:00PM. Refreshments will be served – Please rsvp to [Azure@crc.uri.edu](mailto:Azure@crc.uri.edu) or 401-874-6197.*



*Prentice has devoted his entire career to teaching, filming and writing about nature. His travels have taken him and wife, Patty, from Antarctica to the Galapagos. However, his real love of place has always been Point Judith Pond, a spot he calls “A Place of Quiet Waters” which also serves as the title for his 2006 book. Prentice has served as an enthusiastic educator at Camp Fuller and greatly enjoys seeing young adults learn and thrive as they come to deeply understand the pond’s many assets and ecosystem.*

*Dennis Esposito will share his perspectives of the benefits, and legal responsibilities, of living along Rhode Island’s magnificent coastal shores & salt ponds. Join him on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at the Cross Mills Public Library in Charlestown, from 5:30PM-7:00PM. Refreshments will be served – Please rsvp to [Azure@crc.uri.edu](mailto:Azure@crc.uri.edu) or 401-874-6197.*

*A nationally recognized author, legal educator and speaker, Dennis Esposito draws on 40 years’ experience in environmental law and policy to create pragmatic strategies for clients. An accomplished environmental practitioner in land use development, coastal development, hazardous waste issues, and environmental litigation, he has successfully represented clients in both the public and private sectors, including serving as legal counsel for the Narragansett Bay Water Quality District Commission and Rhode Island’s Coastal Resources Management Council.*

*A former Chairman of an Environmental Practice Group for a large multi-state law firm, he has worked in siting and permitting the largest marina on the East Coast and was instrumental in drafting legislation that revamped Rhode Island’s environmental and wetlands regulatory agencies. He has been on the teaching Faculty of the Roger Williams University School of Law since 1998 and served as Interim Director of the Marine Affairs Institute and Rhode Legal Sea Grant Program for a term in 2015. In October, Prof. Esposito was appointed the Director of Environmental and Land Use Clinical Externship Program at the Law School.*

