

**AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 49,**  
**Old Mystic, CT 06372**  
**(860) 884-3500**  
[www.avalonialandconservancy.org](http://www.avalonialandconservancy.org)

## **SCOLA PRESERVE**

### **Site Management Plan**

Town of Griswold, New London County, Connecticut  
Latitude: N 41° 33'29.8" Longitude: 71° 53'50.0"

Property managed by the Avalonia Town of Griswold Committee  
Plan prepared by the Avalonia Town of Griswold Committee

Management Plan POC: Richard "Dick" Conant

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Management Plan Approval:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Site Information:**

**Property name and location:** Scola Preserve includes most of the two Burtons Islands (25 acres) and an attending 50 subaquatic acres in Pachaug Pond, Town of Griswold, New London County, Connecticut. **See property maps, overviews, and surveys located in Avalonia office files or in scanned Dropbox files located at ???**

**Directions to the property:** Access by personal watercraft from the Route 138 boat ramp involves a long transit over Pachaug Pond. Easement access for stewardship and inspection purposes is through the E. Blythe Hanley property and is available by driving north of Route 165, taking a left on Amy Road and then another left on Myrtle to the dead-end. Access is marked to the pond. Contact Ms. Hanley ahead of time at cell # 860-367-7765 to introduce yourself and obtain permission to access the pond.

**Land trust contact information:** AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY, Inc. P.O. Box 49, Old Mystic, CT 06372  
Landline #:(860) 884-3500 Website address: [www.avalonialandconservancy.org](http://www.avalonialandconservancy.org)

**Legal description from deed/survey:** See property deed located at Avalonia office and/or scanned to Dropbox at ??

**Description of surrounding area:** The immediate environ surrounding the Scola property is the shallow littoral waters of Pachaug Pond and along the shoreline a mix of residential development, unmanaged woodlots, and freshwater palustrine wetlands. The preserve property parcel is bounded on the east by residential shoreline development along Myrtle Road, on the north by the northern tip of Burton's Island and on the west and south by the open waters of Pachaug Pond.

The property has high conservation value for native raptors, woodpeckers, woodland birds, ducks and geese, insectivorous birds and song birds. The wooded parcel does not appear to support a permanent residential population of white-tailed deer, but may provide habitat for small upland mammals and aquatic mammals. Lack of deer population make the property excellent wildflower habitat. The wetlands and waters of Pachaug pond support a diverse population of fish, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles.

## **Acquisition history**

### **Date of donation or purchase:**

The Scola Preserve was donated by Jill Marquardt on December 23, 2011. The donor's expectations for property and any restrictions placed on property at time of gift are included in the transfer documents. **See property deed located at Avalonia office and/or scanned to Dropbox at ??**

## **Land use history**

Upland woods are a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> regrowth hardwood forest of approximately 50-75 years of age containing white pine, hemlock, black birch, and extensive copses of ground pine (*Lycopodium*). The wooded areas may have been used as pasture in the past centuries since the settlement of the Town of Griswold, but the isolated nature of the islands may have precluded any agricultural or pasturage usage. The site contains extensive palustrine forested freshwater wetlands in the interior and along the aquatic boundary with Pachaug Pond with mature stands of red maple and an understory of high bush blueberry, sweet pepper bush, azalea, and viburnums. Water primrose dominates pockets of emergent wetland intersperse with palustrine wetland and upland knolls. No watercourses were noted on the property. Upland areas rise no more than five feet above mean pond levels. No previous structures or foundations have been noted on the property, and there is no evidence of former household dumping. A small fire pit was noted on the southern end of the property.

## **Public Use Resources**

The property can only be accessed over the waters of Pachaug Pond and is open for foot access and observation although no established or maintained trails exist. It was noted that a faint unimproved trail starts at the southern shoreline and proceeds north for 100 feet to an open clearing with a fire pit. No other improvements have been made on the property. Permissible activities include hiking, nature study and wildlife observation. Prohibited activities include, but are not inclusive to, overnight camping, cutting or collection of any vegetation, hunting or trapping, disposal of trash, litter, or vegetative debris, removal of rocks and/or cultural artifacts.

Avalonia signage has NOT been posted along the property access points and boundaries.

**Natural Resources:** On the Scola Preserve property, the upland and wetland vegetative communities remain very healthy and almost totally free of invasive species with the exception of some *Phragmites* along the southwestern shoreline. A stewardship project is possible to eradicate this patch of *Phragmites* with mechanical control and selective seasonal "painting" with herbicides. The upland portions of the site support mature black birch and red maple interspersed with white pine, swamp oak, hemlock and sweet pepperbush. The wetland and shoreline areas support red maple, and high bush blueberry. The aquatic waters of Pachaug Pond are shallow and support diverse emergent aquatic plants.

Raccoon and eastern grey squirrel may exist on the property. Whitetail deer and coyote may be occasional winter visitors when the pond is iced over. The properties do not contain any habitats of special concern as defined by the Connecticut Department of Energy and the Environment.

The property is generally flat with micro-topography differentiating aquatic, emergent, and palustrine forested wetlands and uplands. The central and southern portion of the property are generally upland forested.

**Cultural Resources:** None noted on the site. No field-stone walls were noted to exist throughout the property.

## **Management objectives**

### **Protection:**

Protect site from tree cutting/fire wood removal, hunting, and littering. “No Hunting” and “No camping” signs should be posted.

### **Boundary identification and sign posting:**

Site access points and boundaries need to be fully posted and marked with Avalonia property boundary identification signs.

### **Surveillance objectives:**

The site requires periodic inspection for littering, defacing/removal of boundary and access signage, and illegal hunting.

### **Protection of special natural and cultural features:**

Monitor site access and camping activity.

### **Public Use and Restrictions:**

The site has no established and maintained trails, but is still open for public pedestrian access to provide the general public with opportunities to view passively the site’s natural resources. No camping, cutting of firewood or vegetation or hunting is permitted. Public access is via the waters of Pachaug Pond.

## **Implementing the plan**

### **Recurring and occasional requirements:**

Pursue annual assessment, control and management of limited invasive species by mechanical and chemical strategies. Pick-up litter and floating jetsam along property margins.

### **Annual obligations:**

Conduct a full boundary walk. Install/replace/maintain signage as necessary. Collect and dispose off-site the limited shoreline litter, e.g., jetsam bottles and cans that have washed up

on the shoreline margins. Produce a brief annual report capturing yearly management and stewardship work accomplished on the property and outlining management/stewardship priorities for the upcoming year.

## Floral or Faunal Species Noted On-Site

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	DATE OBSERVED	COMMENTS
		12/4/2015	
<b>PLANTS:</b>		12/4/2015	
White Pine		12/4/2015	
Red Oak		12/4/2015	
Black Birch		12/4/2015	
Swamp primrose		12/4/2015	
phragmites		12/4/2015	
Red ample		12/4/2015	
Eastern hemlock		12/4/2015	
Grey birch		12/4/2015	
azalea		12/4/2015	
High bush blueberry		12/4/2015	
lycopodium		12/4/2015	
Sweet pepperbush		12/4/2015	
<b>MAMMALS:</b>			
<b>REPTILES:</b>			
Turtles?			
<b>INVERTEBRATES:</b>			
Pachaug pond waters			
<b>BIRDS:</b>			
<b>AMPHIBIANS:</b>			
Pachaug pond waters			
<b>FISH</b>			
Pachaug Pond water			

## **Site Surveys and Mgt. Plan Progress (annual update of work accomplished)**

- 1. See 2015 Annual Boundary Survey – Jotform online at Avalonia website? Office stewardship folder?**