

## GEOLOGY AND ARCHEOLOGY

Gott Pasture, with its uneven topography, steep ravines, and large glacial erratics, was shaped by glaciers that covered Maine for various time periods during the last two and a half million years. The rocks in the stone walls and the large boulders in the cove and forest are evidence of the most recent glacial deposition, which ended approximately 14,000 years ago.

This rocky, uneven ground was typical of Maine's "hardscrabble farms" and would not have been ideal land for Wayne's early settlers when they arrived over two hundred years ago.



Emily Perkins

Archaeological studies on the east side of Androscoggin Lake near Gott Pasture indicate that there were native people in this geographical region throughout the Paleo-Indian, Archaic and Woodland periods from 10,500 BP to 400 BP. The lakes and streams in the Wayne region were known to be a crossroads between the Kennebec and Androscoggin River watersheds and their use by Indian people has been well documented. The elevation of the land in this part of Wayne suggests that a Native American travel route between the Androscoggin and Kennebec River watersheds likely crossed very near the cove at Gott Pasture.

## PLANTS AND BIRDS

The forest you see around you is dominated by white and red pine, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, red oak, red and sugar maples, American beech, white birch, white ash, and many beautiful shrubs and wildflowers.

As you hike the trail look for two tree species that are less common: white oak and pitch pine. At this time, both of these trees are at the northern edge of their range in Wayne.

Many species of birds forage and nest at Gott Pasture. The shoreline is a wonderful place to observe osprey, loons, herons, bald eagles.

### A PARTIAL LIST OF BIRDS



Elsa Martz

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Common Loon               | Red-breasted Nuthatch        |
| Great Blue Heron          | Brown Creeper                |
| Bald eagle                | Hermit Thrush                |
| Osprey                    | Veery                        |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo      | Red-eyed Vireo               |
| Black-billed Cuckoo       | Black-and-white Warbler      |
| Barred Owl                | Black-throated Blue Warbler  |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Yellow-rumped Warbler        |
| Pileated Woodpecker       | Black-throated Green Warbler |
| Hairy Woodpecker          | Pine Warbler                 |
| Eastern Kingbird          | Ovenbird                     |
| Eastern Wood-Peeewe       | American Goldfinch           |
| White-breasted Nuthatch   |                              |

## ABOUT KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

Founded in 1988, KLT focuses on conserving important natural areas and working landscapes of the Kennebec River and Lakes region of Kennebec County. As a regional land trust, we work cooperatively with landowners in a twenty-two town area centered around the state capital. Currently we own 2800 acres and hold conservation easements on 1100 acres. These conservation lands feature twenty six miles of trails and eight miles of shoreline.

Conserved properties include Vaughan Woods in Hallowell, Curtis Homestead in Leeds, Mount Pisgah in Winthrop, Parker Pond Headland in Fayette, Davidson Nature Preserve in Vassalboro, and Webber-Rogers Farmstead in Litchfield. Most KLT conservation lands offer public access in all seasons for hiking, paddling, bird watching, skiing, and just enjoying nature. A full listing of Kennebec Land Trust properties and their recreational uses, and an interactive map with directions, can be found at our website: [www.tkl.org](http://www.tkl.org).



**PLEASE JOIN US!**  
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Thank you!

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## KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

### GOTT PASTURE

### PRESERVE

### WILSON POND

### WAYNE, MAINE



Jane Davis

*The **Kennebec Land Trust (KLT)** works cooperatively with landowners and communities to conserve the land, water, and wildlife that are central to our region's ecological, economic, and cultural vitality.*

# WELCOME TO KENNEBEC LAND TRUST'S GOTT PASTURE PRESERVE

75 ACRES, WAYNE

We hope you enjoy your visit! As you hike the Gott Pasture trails look for impressive red oaks and white pines; old farm stone walls and a cellar hole; and eagles, osprey, and loons in a secluded cove. The Preserve, with its 1,100 feet of undeveloped shoreline, protects valuable habitat for Maine's wildlife and offers visitors many opportunities to appreciate nature and history.



## WHY GOTT PASTURE?

In 1889, Wayne farmers Cyrus and Elizabeth Stevens transferred this property to Samuel Bishop of Wayne. Over the years the Stevens farm became known as the "Samuel Bishop Pasture". In 1918 the heirs of Samuel

Bishop conveyed the property to Clara Gott, also of Wayne. The land remained in the Gott family until 1948, and became known as the "Gott Pasture". In 1948 Charles and Margaret Gott transferred the property to Madeline Leighton, who, in turn, sold it to Helen Ladd in 1957. The Ladds remember seeing cows in "Charlie Gott's" pasture when it was still used as a summer wooded pasture.

The Helen and George Ladd family donated the 75-acre Gott Pasture to the Kennebec Land Trust in 2003. The Preserve is now a place to enjoy quiet walks, wildlife, and a view to the past.

## AGRICULTURAL HISTORY



*The Cyrus Stevens Family Farm, circa 1886-1889*

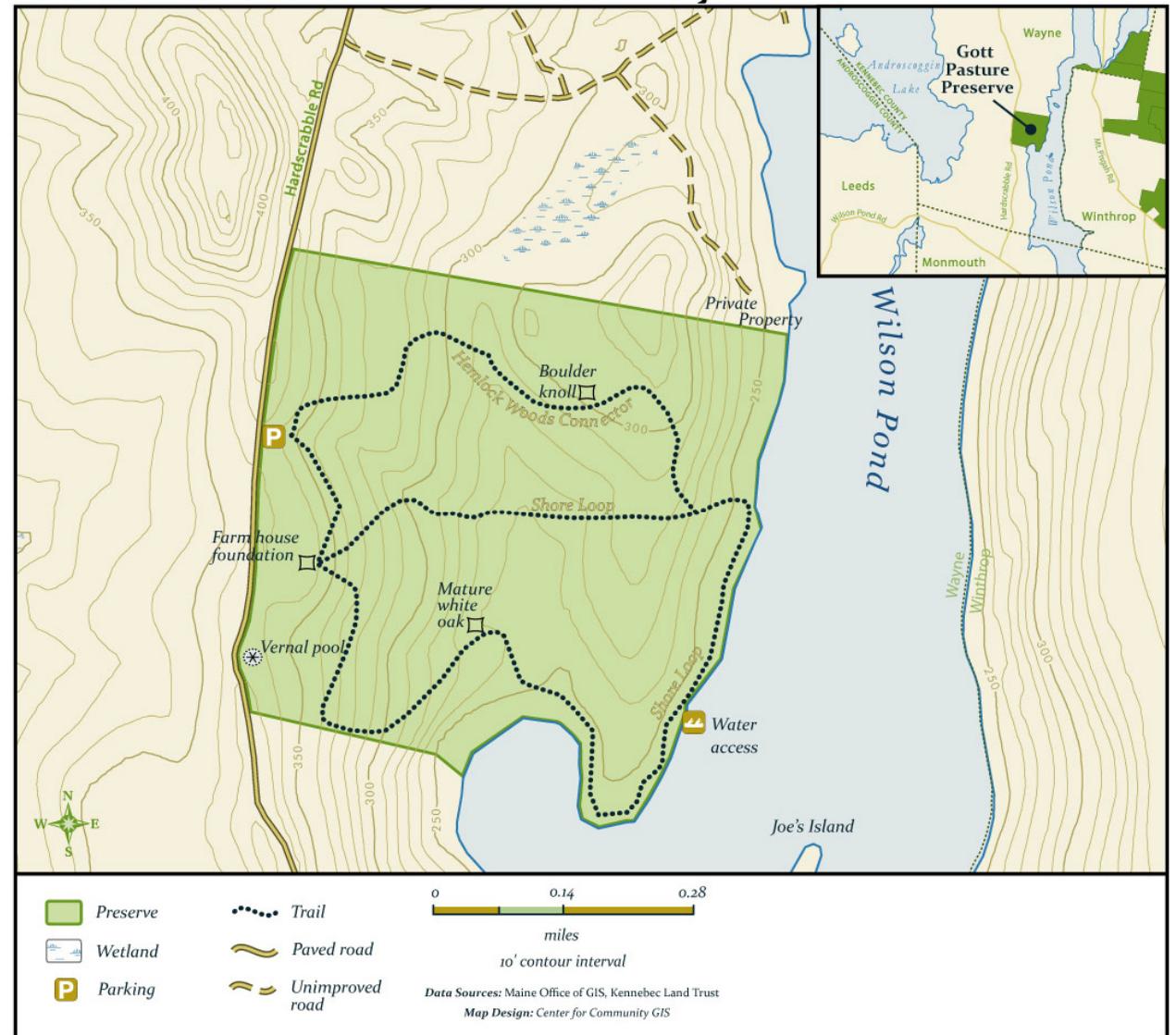
Gott Pasture was agricultural land for most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Early deeds and the 1879 map of Wayne suggest that this land was farmed by the John Stevens and Abigail E. G. Richards family. In 1860 Cyrus and Elizabeth Stevens owned 140 acres, 2 milch cows, 2 oxen, 13 sheep, 9 "other" cattle and 1 swine.

Their farm production in 1860 included 12 bushels of wheat, 50 bushels of Indian corn, 48 bushels of oats, 40 pounds of wool, 100 bushels of Irish potatoes, 2 bushels of peas and beans, \$20 in orchard products, 248 pounds of butter, 20 tons of hay, and 3 gallons of maple syrup. That's quite impressive for the rocky, hardscrabble land you see around you!

Records about the Stevens family include details about the farm's meadow on Wilson Pond. Early New England farmers used meadowlands for pasture and as a source of hay for farm cattle.

In 1880 Cyrus Stevens sued a dam owner in North Monmouth over the flooding of three acres of his meadowland. The Stevens family eventually lost their case in 1884 in Kennebec County Superior Judicial Court. The records from the case include information about the agricultural use of the meadow, and the forage value of two meadow grasses: red top (*Agrostis gigantea*) and fowl meadow grass (either *Poa palustris* or *Glyceria striata*).

## Gott Pasture Preserve, Wayne



75 acres ~ Owned by Kennebec Land Trust

**Directions:** From Route 133 in Wayne Village, turn south on the Old Winthrop Road (0.7 mi.); turn right on Morrison Heights Road for 1.4 miles; bear left on Hardscrabble Road for 1.3 miles. Look for the KLT sign and parking lot on the left shortly after passing the George's Road.

**Trails: Shore Loop:** 1.2 mile loop, moderately steep.

**Hemlock Woods Connector Trail Segment:** 0.40 miles; moderate.