

# The Kennebec Land Trust NEWS

Volume 25 No. 1 / Spring 2008

134 Main Street #2B  
Winthrop, Maine 04364  
(207) 377-2848

kennebec@fairpoint.net  
www.tkl.org

Office Hours  
Tues./Thurs. 10am - 3pm



## KLT LOOKS AHEAD

*Norm Rodrigue, Board Member—Development Chair*



Norm Rodrigue

*Curtis Homestead Conservation Area*

Well folks, it's been 20 years. Over these two decades, a handful of energetic and dedicated conservationists, with the help of many generous supporters, have conserved over 3,200 acres of woods, fields, and waters, and miles of shoreline and recreational trails in 14 communities in the Kennebec River and Lakes Region. We are richer for it today, and thankfully this vital and important work will continue for many decades to come. As I look ahead I see new challenges and opportunities that I would like to share with you.

- Development pressures will continue and land values will rise, necessitating a more strategic and focused approach to pursuing our objectives. We will work with a greater variety of partners, including cities and towns, state agencies, businesses, and individuals. We will make better use of technology, such as mapping software, for identifying and prioritizing important ecological areas and those most vulnerable to development. Information from Maine's Beginning with Habitat program already plays an important role in helping us evaluate conservation priorities.

- Our stewardship responsibilities are significant and will only increase. KLT lands will see more recreational use; the demand for trails and public access will rise. While we will continue to rely on dedicated volunteers, our increasing stewardship obligations will require full-time professional care and management.

- Education is one of our goals, and our field trips, lyceums, newsletter, and website all play a role in promoting conservation. In the coming years we will do more on the educational front, including working with children. As an example, this year KLT is sponsoring an Agricultural Education Day for third and fourth graders and a Nature Discovery Program for families, both supported by the Abby Holman Memorial Fund. (See related articles on page 3.) Educating future generations about the importance of conservation is a necessary and valuable investment in our future.

- We are now creating our third strategic plan, which will guide us for the next three to five years. A key outcome will be a focus on building long-term financial health and stability. We now have a state-of-the-art membership management system (eTapestry) that will help us improve fundraising and member communications (see page 7), and later this year we will announce the creation of an endowment fund and campaign to help ensure the KLT's financial health. Making sure that KLT is adequately funded to meet its obligations will be an important and challenging goal over the next few years.

- It will soon be time to consider the need for full-time management, and how to pay for it. This will involve reassessing the board's role, which over the years has been very much hands-on. There will always be a need for active board members and volunteers, but KLT's size and complexity demand that we take a serious look at professional management. The next few years will be an exciting and challenging time. We look forward to it, and with your support we are confident that we will meet the challenge.



*Norm Rodrigue*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patrick McGowan



**Bob Marvinney**

*Hello KLT Members and Friends!*

By the time you read this, I trust that the snows will have melted, winter's harsh wind will have become a distant memory, and spring's sights, sounds, and smells are delighting your senses! A long winter like the past one brings greater appreciation for the wonders of spring.

And with spring, we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> year of conserving important properties throughout Kennebec County. Together, over the past two decades we have protected over 3,200 acres of valued habitat, scenic landscape, and farmland, and miles of shoreline, providing many opportunities for hiking and nature appreciation. I emphasize "together," because this has truly been a group effort, made possible through the dedication and support of our friends, members, donors, Board, Advisors, stewards, and staff. Everyone has given generously of both time and money to make the successes of KLT possible.

Our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration began with our Lyceum series, a retrospective on land conservation in Maine, KLT's history, and the challenges ahead of us. To help plan for those challenges and guide us into our third decade of land conservation efforts, the Board is treating ourselves to a strategic planning process aimed at better defining our role and resource needs for the next several years. This effort will continue through the summer months with a dedicated planning committee; we expect to outline some overarching goals and strategies in time for our annual meeting. Thank you to our many members and friends who responded to our survey of KLT priorities and properties. Also, we thank the Land Trust Alliance for a generous grant that makes this planning effort possible.

We continue our anniversary celebration with field trips and activities on KLT lands through the spring and summer. These provide excellent opportunities to expand your experiences with KLT properties by visiting them with knowledgeable stewards and volunteers. I hope you will fit some of these activities into your busy schedules. Our summer of activities will culminate with our annual meeting, a fitting celebration of our recent accomplishments plus all we have done in the past 20 years. I hope to see many of you there. Finally, our celebration will be complete with a 20th Anniversary Art Show at the newly rebuilt Slaters Restaurant in Hallowell. This will be a wonderful occasion for all.

Thanks to everyone, and I hope you will welcome spring by visiting some of the special places protected by KLT.

**Bob Marvinney**

*Thank you to our Newsletter Sponsors*

**Longfellow's Greenhouses & J. S. McCarthy Printers**

### KLT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Robert Marvinney**

President, Readfield

**Cheryl Harrington**

1st Vice President, Winthrop

**Jean Grigsby**

2nd Vice President, Hallowell

**Amy Trunnell**

Treasurer, Readfield

**Glenn Hodgkins**

Secretary, West Gardiner

Tom Bartol, Manchester

Bill Dunham, Fayette

Andrew Fisk, Pittston

Ann Judd, Fayette

Howard Lake, Readfield

Susan Liebling, Mt. Vernon

Diana McLaughlin, Wayne

Robert Mohlar, Readfield

Jeff Pidot, Hallowell

Norm Rodrigue, Manchester

Deb Sewall, Hallowell

Clyde Walton, Fayette

### KLT ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Mary Ellen Avery

Jerry Bley

Harold Burnett

Scott Cowger

Hon. Kenneth Curtis

Elizabeth Davidson

Caroline Farr

Peter Geiger

David Gibson

Lloyd Irland

Mark Johnston

Richard Judd, Ph.D.

Judy Kane

Robert Weston

Martha Kent

Gloria & Lincoln Ladd

Barbara & Mort Libby

Jon Lund

Jessie & Douglas

Macdonald

Kevin Mattson

Patricia Mooney, Ph.D.

Rupert Neily

Dianne E. Ryan

Jean Scudder

Jane Smith

Jym St. Pierre

Benjamin Townsend, Esq.

### KLT STAFF

Theresa Kerchner

*Stewardship Director*

### KLT NEWS EDITORS

Janie Matrisciano

Theresa Kerchner

Deb Sewall

### KLT NEWS LAYOUT AND WEBSITE

Lex Lannan

### VOLUNTEER WEBMASTER

Julie Mecham

### VOLUNTEER TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Stan Davis, Janie Matrisciano



## KLT FARMLAND CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

*Karen Simpson, Former Second Grade Teacher, Hall-Dale Elementary School*

During the winter of 2007, friends, family, and admirers of Abigail Holman donated memorial funds to KLT in her memory. Abby's personal dedication to farmland protection efforts suggested that an appropriate use of these funds would be an agricultural education project for children in the district she served: Fayette, Mt. Vernon, Vienna, and Manchester. Readfield (not in Abby's district but part of Maranacook CSD) and Wayne (part of Maranacook CSD and summer home of Abby's mother's family) are also included.

The program will focus on third or fourth graders. All students involved in this project will visit a farm in their region during the fall of 2008.

As KLT coordinator for this project, I will visit each class to teach a lesson about the benefits of supporting local food systems as well as the necessity of preserving farmland in Maine. I am currently meeting with teachers, town managers, and planners to lay the groundwork in advance of the start of the program. This summer I will also visit area farms to select several that either have

conservation easements, or would offer agricultural activities for children.

The final goal of the project is for the seed planted with

these few students to grow into a wider community awareness of local food resources and the importance of supporting and preserving farms. School children's agricultural projects and related artwork will be displayed in central locations in each town. There are also plans underway to incorporate the children's work in a brochure that will highlight neighborhood farm stands and other sources of locally available foods.



*Cyndi Phillips*

*Walter Verrill and Wayne students*



*Norm Rodrigue*

*Nathan Janell - KLT Bog Pond Conservation Area*

## 2008 ADVENTURE, EXPLORE, DISCOVER GUIDE

*Emily Perkins, Junior, Maranacook Community School*

Uh-oh, here it comes. It's Saturday morning, and your kids are stumbling over to you with a glazed look, about to spout those famous words - "I'm borrrrrred." But this week, before they can open their mouths, you whip out your brand-new KLT **Adventure, Explore, Discover (AED)** booklet and they start flipping through the pages. This guide supplies in-depth information for these KLT properties:

**Curtis Homestead ~ Davidson Nature Preserve ~ Gannett Woods ~ Gott Pasture Preserve ~ Mt. Pisgah  
Parker Pond Headland ~ Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat ~ Vaughan Woods ~ Webber-Rogers Farmstead**

Along with directions, trail maps, and information, each property has an **AED** sheet for kids to fill out as they wander along the trail. Watch your kids take time to notice what's around them, what's growing, what's making noises, what they're walking over, what's above or ahead of them.

At the KLT annual meeting in August, **AED** prizes will be presented to all participants: \*\* for completing at least three sheets, a colorful **Adventure, Explore, Discover** patch that can be sewn onto clothing or backpacks; \*\* for completing at least six sheets, the patch, along with another small prize. Prizes can also be picked up any time after the meeting at the KLT office. **AED** guides will be ready in early June.

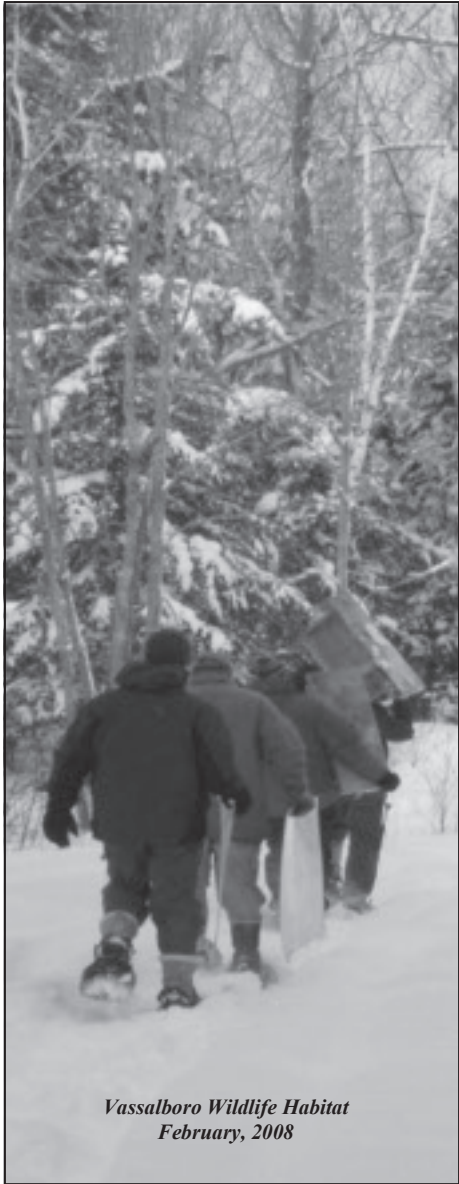
*The Farmland Education Project and the Adventure, Explore, Discover Program are supported by KLT's Abby Holman Memorial Funds.*



## NOTES FROM MAIN STREET

Trails, Wood Duck Boxes, Wildlife Research and Education  
KLT's Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat

*Theresa Kerchner, Stewardship Director*



*Lisa Kane*

*Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat  
February, 2008*

If you live in or near Vassalboro, you may have wondered about all the activity near the new KLT Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat sign on the Webber Pond Road (east and south of Natanis Golf Course). The sign and a small parking lot mark the access point for two new hiking trails. On the east side of the road, an easy one-mile loop highlights over 2,200 feet of undeveloped Webber Pond shoreline. On the west side, a shorter hike features a wetland wildlife viewing area with wood duck boxes.\*

KLT's 285-acre Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat (VWH) was donated in four separate parcels over three years, from 2004 to 2007. This community conservation area is open to the public for hiking, nature observation, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing. Hunting is by permission of KLT. (Hunting is not permitted on the east side parcel or near the Natanis boundary.) The property name reflects the donor's desire to conserve her family's property for the benefit of Maine's wildlife and for education about wildlife habitats.

Led by Vassalboro residents John and Molly Melrose and Ian MacKinnon, an energetic volunteer team constructed the new trails and is assisting with wildlife enhancement and education projects. In February, Lisa Kane, VWH volunteer and wildlife educator for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), arranged with Keel Kemper, Region B MDIFW wildlife biologist, for the installation of three wood duck boxes. These boxes are frequently used by wood ducks, hooded mergansers, common goldeneyes, great crested flycatchers, tree swallows, and barred and saw-whet owls.

This summer, Colby College student Andy McEvoy will be working on a wildlife inventory project at VWH. Plans are also underway for wetlands and wildlife education classes for Sue Lajoie's fourth graders at Vassalboro Community School.

KLT's August 17<sup>th</sup> annual meeting hikes will feature the trails and wildlife habitats at both the Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat and the Davidson Nature Preserve. We hope you will plan ahead to join us as we celebrate community conservation in Vassalboro.

**Important note:** 2007 tick surveys coordinated by Chuck Labelczyk of Maine Medical Center documented that many areas of Kennebec County have established deer tick populations. (See page 5.) The trails at VWH are wide enough so that hikers can walk without brushing against dense shrubs that provide habitat for deer ticks.

**Many thanks to all who have assisted with VWH stewardship projects:** John & Molly Melrose, Ian MacKinnon, Lisa Kane, Howard Lake, Bob Moblar, Diana McLaughlin, Jim Connors, Brooke Barnes, Cheryl Harrington, Ron Joseph, Allen Browne, Dale Doughy, David Jenney, Jessica & Matthew Clark, Mary Jose, Donald Robbins, Steven Jones, Ian MacKinnon III, Sue & Phil Haines, Sylvia Michaud, Theresa Pulver, Andy McEvoy, Herb Wilson, & Chuck Labelczyk.

### KLT Memorial Contributions

Thank you for your donations in memory of Margaret Montgomery and Granville Small.

**KLT ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 17, 2008**  
**PLEASE JOIN US!**  
**MORNING FIELD TRIPS AND DINNER AT THE AUGUSTA COUNTRY CLUB**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

James & Evelyn Ashton	Arlene Innes	Paul Mitnik
Lynn Bartlett	Jill Ippoliti	Erin Moore
Steven & Linda Cades	Gary & Mary Lee Jones	Glenn & Donna Parkinson
David & Kathleen Flanagan	George Jones	Michael & Gail Pratt
Abby Fuller	Erin Lloyd & Ben Sturtevant	Frank Richards
David & Carol Fuller	Jo-Anne Lund	Francine Rudoff
Richard Goldman	Diane & Peter McDonald	Philip Tiemann
Paul Wiberg & DeEtte Hall	Michael & Kelly McQuarrie	Russ & Carolyn Valley Heald
Mark Hutton		Sharyn Viola

**KLT JANUARY 2008 STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP**  
**DEER TICKS ON KLT LANDS AND IN MAINE**

**Chuck Lubelczyk, Wildlife Biologist at the Maine Medical Center,** presented a workshop for over forty KLT stewards this past January. Chuck wrote the article below to summarize the workshop presentation:

Our lab at the Maine Medical Center has been tracking the changing distribution of deer ticks, the vector of Lyme disease, since 1988. In that time we have seen them move from a focal area of coastal York County to many inland counties of Maine.

In 2007 we conducted a survey of the abundance and infection prevalence of ticks across Maine, and KLT was kind enough to allow us to use some of its parcels for those surveys. The results were surprising! We found tick numbers and infection rates for Lyme disease to be similar to some coastal areas, especially on properties in Vassalboro and Sidney. Infected ticks were also found in Readfield and Manchester on KLT land. So caution should be taken on any parcels in the area where suitable tick habitat exists. That habitat is commonly deciduous (oak/maple/pine) forests, often with a dense shrub layer or moister soils. Areas like fallow orchards and patches of invasive/exotic vegetation that might attract deer and rodents might also have the potential to contain ticks.

***What does this mean for users of the parcels managed by KLT?***

**\*\*** Keep an eye out for ticks when you're in the field. Finding ticks early by doing tick checks is a good preventive measure. **\*\*** Wear proper clothing when in "tick country." Light colored long pants tucked into socks can keep ticks off, but also consider using a repellent on your clothing, such as a DEET- or permethrin-based product. **\*\*** Stay informed. A deer tick (*if infected*) needs to be feeding on you for as long as 36 hours to transmit the Lyme disease bacterium, so finding a tick on your body doesn't necessarily mean you will get Lyme disease.

More information can be found at the MMC website ([www.mmcni.org/lyme](http://www.mmcni.org/lyme)) or at the Maine Center for Disease Control site (<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/>).



**Chuck Lubelczyk**

## GARDENING KLT STYLE

### NATIVE PLANTS IN THE FIELD AND AT HOME

*Eric Doucette, KLT Member, Former Employee, Longfellow's Greenhouses, Manchester*

*This article and the invasive plant educational insert are sponsored by Longfellow's Greenhouses, Manchester. We hope this column will help you identify plants on KLT lands and inspire you to consider planting native species in your own gardens. Shadbushes are a May highlight at KLT's **Reynolds Forest** in Sidney, and winterberry fruit can be seen in the wetlands in the fall at the **Tyler Conservation Area**, Readfield, and the **Curtis Homestead** in Leeds.*

*Theresa Kerchner, Stewardship Director*



Arthur Haines

*eastern shadbush (Amelanchier canadensis)*

Many native plant species that grow on KLT lands make excellent garden specimens, and some are readily available commercially. Two good examples are serviceberries and winterberries, which are easily cultivated and provide valuable wildlife food in addition to their aesthetic appeal.

Serviceberries or shadbushes (*Amelanchier* spp.) are a well known group of early flowering shrubs and trees. Some species grow primarily in the forest understory, others in open successional or disturbed habitats. They have a reputation for producing confusing hybrids, and much of the material in the horticultural trade is of hybrid origin. Some of our native Maine species are rare and of conservation concern, although horticultural varieties are easily grown in average garden soil, with best growth occurring with full sun. Serviceberries are grown for their white spring flowers and mid-to-late summer crop of delicious fruit. Smooth shadbush (*Amelanchier laevis*), a tree

form serviceberry, and eastern shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*), a multi-stemmed species reaching 10-15 ft in height, are the two most commonly sold. Less available but worth searching for is the low, colonial species, dwarf shadbush (*Amelanchier spicata*), usually sold as *Amelanchier stolonifera*. If this is unavailable a western species, Saskatoon shadbush (*Amelanchier alnifolia* cultivar 'Regent'), could be substituted.

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) is a mid-sized native shrub and a top seller due to its persistent bright red fruit, which matures in early fall and remains on the plants until mid-winter. Native populations are found in wetland soils bordering swamps, streams, and larger vernal pools. Fruit retention is variable among wild plants and tends to be much more developed in horticultural varieties such as 'Afterglow.' Winterberries typically reach heights of 5 to 7 feet and with pruning can become dense, well rounded specimens. This shrub offers dark green glossy foliage that works well in hedgerows and informal plantings. Winterberries bear male and female flowers in separate plants; both sexes are needed for the female plants to bear the red fruit. One male can pollinize several females and can be planted slightly apart from the females if desired. Nursery plants are marked for sex, with 'Afterglow' the most common female plant in the northeast and 'Jim Dandy' the most common male. Despite winterberry's preference for wetland soils in the wild, it is amenable to average garden soil and should be grown in full sun for maximum fruit production.

Growing these native species will encourage native wildlife to use your garden. You can also look for other species that are excellent garden plants but typically more difficult to find commercially, such as wicopy (*Dirca palustris*), black huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*), mountain holly (*Ilex mucronata*), and chokeberry (*Aronia* spp.)



## PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION



### TRUSTEES

Kennebec Savings Bank

### CONSERVATORS

Savings Bank of Maine  
Longfellow's Greenhouses

### PROTECTOR

Joel D. Davis and Associates,  
a private wealth advisory practice of  
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

### SPONSORS

Augusta Country Club  
Bay Wrap  
Camp Androscoggin

Camp Kippewa  
Camp Laurel  
Camp Tekakwitha  
Camp Vega  
Camp Winnebago  
FABCO  
J.S. McCarthy Printers  
Jusst Real Estate  
Knowlton, Hewins, Roberts Funeral Homes  
Rotary Garage  
Saunders Manufacturing  
The Write Approach, Jean Grigsby, Consulting  
Thomas Agency Insurance  
Tyson-Kielty Realty  
Weiderhorn Group, Realty

*The Business Partners in Conservation program recognizes business leaders and companies in our community who have made significant contributions of cash, goods, and services to support the regional conservation efforts of the Kennebec Land Trust.  
To learn more about this program, please contact KLT board member Norm Rodrigue at 207-622-6204.*

## NEW MEMBERSHIP SOFTWARE ON-LINE

Dues paying members are the lifeblood of any member-based non-profit organization. So it is with KLT, and in January we installed a new web-based, state-of-the-art membership management and communications system. Web based eTapestry manages gifts, pledges, and payments without the need for additional computer software.

Our "in-house" system had served us well over the years, but had grown outdated. Last year we started exploring membership software for nonprofits. eTapestry ([www.etapestry.com](http://www.etapestry.com)) is an exciting tool, and our challenge now is to take advantage of its impressive management capability.

***We want to thank the following individuals and organizations for the generous donations that made this new system possible:***

Dianne and Allen Ryan of Manchester, the Abby Holman Memorial Fund, and the



## THANKS FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH OUR OUTREACH, EDUCATION, LANDS, AND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS FALL 2007 ~ SPRING 2008

Jane Andrews, Peg Barnes, Josh Brown, Ginny Coady, Jim Connors, Beth Craigie, Dave Courtemanch, Eric Doucette, Stephen Engle and Katri Mallory of the *Center for Community GIS, Farmington*, Doug Fuller, Peter Geiger, Ray and Jane Giglio, Jeff Janell, Ron Giard and Ann Judd, Denny Harnish, Cheryl Hasenfus of *Maranacook School District*, Bea Horne, Paul Johnson, Ron Joseph of *USFWS*, Pat McNerney, Eric Hunt and Cheryl Moore of *Kents Hill School*, Erin Lloyd, *Maine Coast Heritage Trust*, Janie Matrisciano, Diana McLaughlin, Robert Mohlar, Bob Mulliken, Emily Perkins, George Rogers, Erika Rowland of *Blue Hill Heritage Trust*, Dale Gilmour & tish carr of *Skyline Tree Services*, Nancy Sferra of *The Nature Conservancy*, Brent Surowiec, Karen Simpson, Mary Sturtevant, Andy Tolman, Alan Weaver, and Eddie Webber.

### 2008 Lyceum

Sharon Brunett, Stan Davis, Donna Freeman, Director, *Ladd Recreation Center*, Tim Glidden, Richard Judd, Robert Kimber, Gloria Williams Ladd and Lincoln Ladd, Robert Ladd, Howard Lake, Lex Lannan, Sue Liebling, *Maine Community Foundation*, Donna and Tom Mickewich, Norm Rodrigue, Jym St. Pierre, Deb Sewall, Naomi Shalit, *Slates Restaurant*



## NATURE NOTES

*Howard Lake  
KLT Board Member and Steward*



*Echo Lake Watershed Preserve*

I have spent some time this fall and winter marking boundaries on the Echo Lake Watershed Preserve and in the process come to appreciate the features of the property. Winter is a wonderful time to explore the beaver bogs, but at a cost of scratched faces from the puckerbrush. The land is recovering from logging abuse. Skidder ruts are evident, as is an old farm dump that we will clean up this summer or fall. Jim Connors and I skied up along a stream flowing into the lake, and we want to investigate a stand of brown ash trees after the snow is gone. Though difficult for human navigation, the Preserve is perfect for the four legged variety, as tracks in the snow attest. *March, 2008*

*Jym St. Pierre*



## THE KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

PO Box 261, Winthrop, ME 04364

**Calling  
All  
Artists!**

**KLT  
Art Exhibit  
in November  
at Slates**



*Please call for  
details.*



For additional information about KLT, call our office at 207-377-2848  
or visit our website at [www.tkl.org](http://www.tkl.org)