



## KLT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM TRAINS FUTURE CONSERVATIONISTS

*Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director*



*Martha Kent and Katie Epstein, KLT land donor history project; Photograph: Jane Davis*

**intern(n)**1879, Amer.Eng. one working under supervision as part of professional training synonyms: trainee, apprentice, (summer) student, novice, beginner

**KLT interns:** capable, dedicated to land conservation

Collectively, KLT's 2009 interns and stewardship assistants arrived with impressive academic backgrounds, skills they wanted to develop, and a passion for the land. They interviewed our land donors, improved trails, uprooted hundreds of invasive plants, and organized meetings and volunteers in the field and in the office. Our internship program, now in its seventh year, has recently been named to recognize Maine wildlife biologist Ron Joseph, who will be retiring in 2010 after thirty years with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Ron has worked with hundreds of private and public land owners to protect, improve, and restore wildlife habitat and has been an inspiring

mentor to rising conservationists, including KLT's interns. As funding allows, we hope to expand our internship program and to build on the relationships we have developed with Colby, Davidson, and Brevard Colleges, MIT, and Antioch University, as well as other institutions.

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS....

**Katie Epstein, Davidson College Intern:** I can't imagine a better summer than this past one working with the KLT. I was able not only to practice and hone some valuable interview and writing skills, but to spend time exploring beautiful trails. It is now clear to me that community and conservation are inextricably intertwined. Knowing that small spaces and places make a big difference, I hope to continue working with grassroots level conservation in the future. **Bryan Prelgovisk, Colby College Graduate:** It is hard to accurately depict the way I felt while working for KLT. I can describe the company: the board members were amiable and engaged in the work we were doing, the land owners were passionate about conserving their properties for future generations, and our boss, Theresa, truly cared for her interns, made sure we enjoyed and were comfortable with our work, and kept us focused so that we could accomplish as much as possible. In fewer words, working with the KLT was awesome. **Colin Jones, Brevard College Intern:** I worked this summer to address erosion issues from foot traffic and motorized vehicles, then progressed toward controlling invasive plant species. What I enjoyed most was the opportunity to learn and work with my community, while doing hands-on work that produced immediate, visible results. **Josh Lake, Bates College Graduate:** I enjoy being in the middle of the woods while observing the topography, vegetation, and animal life. I feel in touch with the past when I use stone walls and old woods roads as landmarks during my pursuit of barberry eradication at the Curtis property. **Sam Whittemore, MIT Work Study Student:** Working at the KLT this summer was an interesting and exciting way to get involved in environmental work in an area near my home. I especially enjoyed the process of getting to know the various local properties. The past summer made me realize there are a lot more easily accessible scenic areas than I'd known before.



Cheryl Harrington

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

It is a bit daunting to find myself in the office of KLT President – especially in light of the wonderful leadership this land trust has consistently enjoyed over the past twenty-and-counting years! But, it is also quite exciting. As you will see in this newsletter, much has been happening at your land trust as we position ourselves for the next years – and beyond.

Bringing Theresa Kerchner, our dedicated Stewardship Director, on board as KLT's first full-time Executive Director will help give our organization the focus it now needs to prepare itself for a long and successful future. As you know, when KLT acquires new properties, like the recently acquired highlands in the Echo Lake Watershed, we also undertake the responsibility to protect the preserved land "in perpetuity," which means, simply, forever. That is a long time. With Theresa's tremendous knowledge, commitment, and energy, we will make new gains in consolidating the long-term financial health of KLT and sharpening our conservation mission. You will be hearing more about both over the next year. Theresa is also committed to making sure KLT does its part to provide the outdoor learning experiences our children and grandchildren need if they too are to grow up sharing our sense of deep obligation to natural places. As I see it, instilling that sense of wonder and care in the next generations is also a vital part of KLT's "in perpetuity" responsibility.

I welcome our new Board Members, Stan Eller, John Melrose, and Lisa Kane, while saying a very fond good-bye to Diana McLaughlin, who has served on KLT's Board for ten years. Diana isn't really going anywhere. She and her husband Steve continue to serve as KLT Stewards for Norris Island in Androscoggin Lake – yet another example of the dedicated volunteer work so many of you give to KLT.

I also welcome Gina Lamarche, KLT's new part-time Program Assistant. You will have a chance to meet Gina at KLT events, in the office, or maybe just on the trail as the year unfolds. Finally, if you haven't been out on some KLT protected properties recently, I encourage you to go to the website, pick a new or old favorite, and enjoy a late fall walk. We are making this wonderful organization happen together and there is no better way to remind ourselves how important that is than taking a look for yourself!

*Cheryl Harrington*

### KLT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Susan Liebling, Mt. Vernon

Robert Marvinney, Readfield  
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Norm Rodrigue, Manchester  
Clyde Walton, Fayette

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*Executive Director*  
Gina Lamarche  
*Program Assistant*

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Gina Lamarche

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# KLT's ECHO LAKE WATERSHED PRESERVE NOW OVER 300 ACRES

ECHO LAKE ASSOCIATION AND KENNEBEC LAND TRUST CONSERVE 100 ACRES IN FAYETTE

In September, 100 acres of forestland in Fayette were added to KLT's Echo Lake Watershed Preserve – the third successful conservation campaign organized by members of the Echo Lake Association and the Kennebec Land Trust. This newest KLT conservation property, part of a peninsula on the west side of Echo Lodge Road, features a mixed-age conifer-hardwood forest with rocky outcrops, wetlands, and a large vernal pool. All of KLT's Echo Lake Watershed Preserve conservation lands are managed to protect water quality and valuable wildlife habitat, as well as for low impact recreational uses such as hiking, snow-shoeing, skiing, hunting, and nature observation. With this conservation purchase, Echo Watershed Preserve now encompasses 304 acres. The first two "Echo" campaigns conserved two parcels in Readfield:

2004 purchase: 100 acres of early successional forest and wetlands adjacent to Route 41, across from the Torsey Pond Nature Preserve (TPNP is owned and managed by the Town of Readfield, with a conservation easement held by KLT); 2007 purchase: 104 acres adjacent to the 2004 purchase, including wetlands, beaver flowage, and forestland with frontage along Route 17.

The Echo Lake III campaign committee – David Fuller, Ann Judd, Andy Lillenthal, Bob Mohlar, Pat Mooney, John Orestis, Reade and Joan Ryan and Carl R. Smith – met a challenging campaign deadline this fall! Two members recently commented about the importance of these conservation lands:

*The residents of Echo Lake are a committed group of individuals willing to help ensure that the area around the lake is maintained thoughtfully and with future generations in mind. With this important acquisition of watershed acreage surrounding Echo Lake, they have again proved what a major impact an engaged group can have when working toward a common goal. – Andy Lillenthal*

*As a member of the Echo Lake Association, I am pleased that we have been able to preserve our third 100+ acre piece of land. In cooperation with the Kennebec Land Trust, we have conserved over 300 acres of land in the Echo Lake and Torsey Pond Watersheds. Echo Lake is one of the cleanest lakes in Maine, and the efforts of the land trust and all of our neighbors on the lake will help keep it that way. – John C. Orestis*

## ECHO III SUPPORTERS

Lorraine and Mark Bender,  
Jason and Ryan  
Camp Laurel  
Camp Vega  
Turner and Linda Ragsdale  
Camp Winnebago  
Lynn, Phil, and Andy Lillenthal  
Bryan and Cherie Castle  
Leighton and Suzanne Castle  
Peter and Julie Christensen  
Joseph T. Cuccaro  
Dr. Peter and Lisa deWolfe  
Echo Lake Association  
Charles and Charlene Elvin  
Paul Faustine and B.J. Kittredge  
Robert and Nancy Fitzgerald  
Dennis and Stephanie Flanagan  
Douglas and Kelly Frantzen  
French Family Camp on Echo  
David and Carol Fuller  
Peter E. Geiger  
Steven and Anne Marie Gold  
Ron Giard and Ann E. Judd  
Robert and Judy Hansen  
Janet and Arthur Hengerer  
Judith S. Hengerer

Sam and Val Hudspath  
Donald and Stephanie Hunsinger  
IBM Corporation  
Edward E. Johnson  
Lynne King, Twin Springs Camps  
George and Susan Knapp  
Daniel Konieczko  
Howard Lake  
William and Christina Latham  
Terry and Aline Lavelle  
Richard and Lauré McKeen  
Patricia M. Mooney  
Bert and Pam Murray  
Janet and John Nolan  
John C. Orestis and  
Barbra M. Crowley  
Leslie and Doug Phillips  
Les and Betsy Priest  
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Joan E. and Reade H. Ryan, Jr.  
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Schmidt  
Peter and Shirley Schwarz  
Helen and David Shearer  
P&B Shearer

M&L Seifert  
S. Woodruff and R. Shearer  
Carl R. Smith and Mary  
Helen Lawson  
James A. St. Pierre  
Alison P. Smith  
Ken and Lea Stabinski  
James M. and Natalie Stewart  
Stockwell Camp  
on Echo Lake  
Barbara B. Stokes  
Ben and Sue Thomas  
Elizabeth Mutch Thomas  
Mr. and Mrs. David Turnbull  
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Turnbull  
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Turnbull  
Richard and Suzanne Voynik  
Paul and Ginny Warren  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian West  
Judy and Howard Whitten  
Alan and Chris Willemsen  
Andrew Willemsen and Karen  
Kuhlthau  
Frederick and Barbara  
Yarger



# A FABULOUS ANNUAL MEETING

*Robert Marvinney, Past President*



*Hodgdon Island trailhead, KLT 2009 annual meeting field trip; © Jym St Pierre*

On August 9, one of the few sunny Sundays of summer, 2009 (at least until that date), the membership of the Kennebec Land Trust convened for our annual field trip and meeting. When the planning committee selected that date more than seven months in advance, we had the usual concerns about the weather, particularly since our field trip would be an adventurous one by boat to Hodgdon Island in Lake Cobbossee. As summer droned on with one rainy weekend after another, we worried that our ambitious plans would be washed out. Our meeting planner extraordinaire, Ann Judd, spent countless hours attending to every detail of this field trip and meeting, and it certainly would have been unfortunate to waste such effort. As the day approached, our local forecasters gave us hope that we would have dry weather. As that Sunday dawned sunny and warm, we were almost giddy with anticipation of a great outing.

More than 50 KLT members and friends ventured over the waters of Cobbossee that Sunday to enjoy a few hours of respite from our tense world, wandering along the fine trails carefully constructed by Jon, Erik, and Morten Lund. Many took advantage of the good weather and finally got their kayaks out of storage to paddle over. Others enjoyed the good company and seamanship of our captains, Bill Kieltyka and Andy and Cherrie West, who generously offered their boats to ferry participants throughout the afternoon. Our guides took small groups of fieldtrippers on circuits of the island, beginning from the landing beach among the large pines and hemlocks. Along the western shore we passed through thick stands of cedar and marveled at the granite and marble bedrock forming the foundation of the island. A highlight of the walk was the marshy wetland nestled in the small cove at the southern end – a great location for spotting great blue herons and other wading birds.

As much as we all would have preferred to linger, we departed homeward to prepare for the evening's festivities. About 50 people, many from the field trip, attended the annual meeting at the Augusta Country Club in Manchester. Syd Sewall and part of his quartet, Con Brio, provided soothing music as guests greeted one another. Eventually we all made our way to the dining room to enjoy a fine meal prepared by country club staff. Your KLT president kept his remarks thankfully brief in order to provide time to celebrate the true successes of KLT over the previous year. Notably, Executive Director Theresa Kerchner highlighted the accomplishments of our summer intern program. These dedicated young people have made some lasting contributions to our lands and programs. We also recognized worthy volunteers who have contributed much to the success of our land trust over the years: Brooke Barnes for his exemplary work on base line documentation of our easement properties, and Clyde Walton for tirelessly surveying every property that required it and for his stewardship at Camp Bearstow.

So, with this grand day and fine celebration, we closed out a successful year at KLT and began a new one under the leadership of our new president, Cheryl Harrington.



*Andy West, (far left) ferrying field trip participants to*

*Hodgdon Island, KLT 2009 annual meeting field trip; © Sarah Fuller*



Howard Lake and Brooke Barnes,  
KLT 2009 annual meeting © Jym St. Pierre

## 2009 ANNUAL MEETING AWARDS

### BROOKE BARNES VOLUNTEER STEWARD OF THE YEAR

### CLYDE WALTON 2009 VOLUNTEER AWARD



Bob Marvinn and Clyde Walton,  
KLT annual meeting 2009 © Jym St. Pierre

## MOUNT PISGAH AND KLT: BIRD'S EYE VIEWS

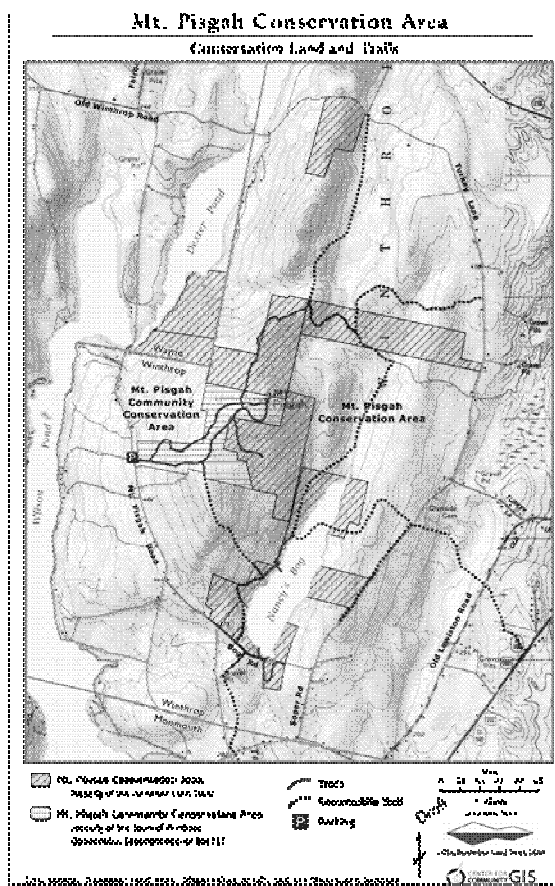
Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director

As many area residents and visitors will attest, the view from the platform of the Mt. Pisgah Fire Tower is spectacular. In many ways, I have a bird's eye view of KLT from Main Street in Winthrop that is just as inspiring. There are land success stories to celebrate, scenic trail openings (pp. 3&5), and unexpected donations that balance the budget in the nick of time. Ninety percent of the time, though, we are working on the day-to-day challenges of fundraising, running a successful non-profit, and managing 3,300 acres of publicly accessible conservation land.

Our work at Mt. Pisgah is a prime example of KLT's steady-as-you-go approach. For the past several years we have been working cooperatively with the Town of Winthrop on the stewardship of the Mount Pisgah Community Conservation Area (the 94-acre Fire Tower Parcel, where KLT holds a conservation easement), and on a management planning process for KLT's 600 acres around the Fire Tower Parcel. If you climbed the Fire Tower trail this past year, you likely noticed that there are significant improvements: a new visitors' box, extensive bog bridging over wet, eroded areas, an informational kiosk, and a larger parking area.

### BEHIND THE SCENES WE ALSO:

- ✦ received donations from Eastern Communications and Crown Castle for materials; in late October, KLT volunteers, stewards, interns, and high school volunteers will be trained by the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) for a multi-year trail improvement effort;
- ✦ applied for and received funding from the Maine Forest Service for a forest management plan for our 600 acres around Mt. Pisgah, focused on wildlife habitat values, recreational uses, and invasive plant control; Lester Kenway, formerly of MCC, will be evaluating our trail system this fall;
- ✦ communicated with neighbors adjacent to our conservation lands and held a community meeting to discuss recreational access;
- ✦ began discussions with the Town of Winthrop about programs that would provide access and scenic views at the top of the mountain for those who are unable to hike the trail;
- ✦ addressed unauthorized motor vehicle use on our conservation lands; a gate donated by Wyman and Simpson of Richmond will be installed on the Bog Road this fall; and worked with the Winthrop Hillandalers Snowmobile Club, NRCS, MDIFW, USFWS, and the Town of Winthrop to address erosion on our trails.



Many thanks to our volunteers, members, business donors, and area residents  
for supporting this important conservation work!

# NATIVE PLANTS

*By Lois Berg Stack, University of Maine Extension professor and ornamental horticulture specialist*

Nearly 1500 species of native plants are part of what makes Maine a unique place. Native plants-also called indigenous plants-are those that either originated here, or arrived without human intervention.

We have brought many nonnative plants-exotic or alien plants-to Maine as food, fiber, and landscape plants. In addition, we have introduced some nonnative plants unintentionally, as contaminants in crop seed, in the soil of other plants, and in ships' ballast.

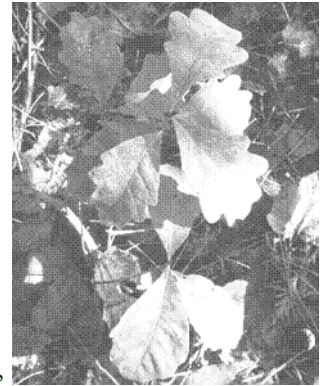
## Why are native plants important?

Native plants form the historical basis of our landscape, provide food and habitat for animals, and serve as natural sources of food, fiber, and other products.

Native plants can serve several functions in the landscape. Native shade trees such as red and [white] oak and white ash, and evergreens like white pine and eastern hemlock, form the structure of the natural landscape. Fruiting shrubs such as black chokeberry, gray dogwood, and winterberry provide food for wildlife and add seasonal interest to the landscape. Groundcovers like bearberry and creeping juniper can be planted to preserve a sense of open space while reducing the size of lawns. Native perennials and ferns can be used in woodland gardens.



KLT Newsletter Sponsor



*White oak (Quercus alba), native, but not currently common, in Kennebec County. KLT's Norris Island property has an impressive white oak stand.*

*Photograph: Theresa Kerchner*

How Maine will look fifty years from now depends a great deal on what we choose to plant today. Each of us, in our own landscape, can play a part in preserving the integrity of the Maine landscape by using native plants.

## PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR BUSINESS



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*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.*



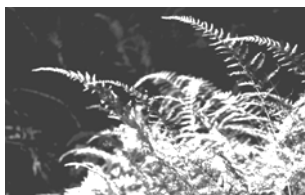


## KLT WISH LIST

- 4'x6' Attractive area rug for our office
- Digital projector
- Quality digital camera (need to take close up indoor and outdoor photographs - people, plants)

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Sue Clain  
James Elliot  
Richard Fein  
Margaret Gradie



Helen Libby  
Stanley and Sally Macdonald  
Susan Parks  
Irma Wilhelm

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH OUR ANNUAL MEETING, LANDS, EDUCATION, AND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

SUMMER 2009-FALL 2009



*Kents Hill Students, Curtis Homestead Conservation Area  
Photograph: Theresa Kerchner*

Tom Bartol, Jerry Bley, Amanda Burton (**NRCS**), Jim and Sally Butler, **Center for Community GIS, Farmington**, Marc Civittolo, Ginny Coady, Michael Heath and Travis Spiller (**Eastern Communications**), **Con Brio**, Jim Connors, Jim Donahue (**Crown Castle**), Jane Davis, Bob Decker and Lisa Kane (**MDIFW**), Eric Doucette, Bob Duplissee, (**ME Depart. of Conservation**), Ron Giard, Andy Fisk, Steve Groves (**Hillandalers Snowmobile Club**), Kay and David Flannagan, Dale Glidden, Doug Hermann (**Wyman and Simpson**); Charlie Jacobs, Jeff Janell, Rick Jose, Ron Joseph (**USFWS**), **Josselyn Botanical Society**, Ann Judd, Cheryl Moore, **Kents Hill School Students**, Lester Kenway, Bill Kieltyka, Howard Lake, Lex Lannan, Mort and Barbara Libby, Jon, Erik, and Mort Lund and families, Stan Macdonald, Janie Matrisciano, Bob Marvinney, Kevin McCarthy, Steve and Diana McLaughlin, John and Molly Melrose, David Michaud, Morten Moesswilde and Andy Shultz (**Maine Forest Service**), Bob Mulliken, Norm Rodrigue, Jim Norris, Ralph Record, Joyce Rivers, Steve Saunders, Jane Smith, Tim Sniffen, Jeff Pidot, Jym St. Pierre, Bob Sands, Syd and Deb Sewall, Jane Smith, Ken Spalding, Annie Reiter, Joyce Rivers, Allen Weaver, Andy and Cherrie West (**Cobbossee Lakeside Motel**), Milt Wright



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## 2010 KENNEBEC LAND TRUST LYCEUM

### PEOPLE AND THE LAND: NATURAL RESOURCES, NATURAL FEATURES, AND CULTURE

DR. ALICE KELLEY, UNIVERSITY OF MAINE; DAVE ROCQUE, ME STATE SOIL SCIENTIST;  
AND TOM WESSELS, ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY

MARCH AND OCTOBER

*Parker Pond Headland; © Jym St. Pierre*