

The Kennebec Land Trust NEWS

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KLT BOOK IN PRESS

STORIES OF LAND AND PEOPLE

Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director



Photograph: Patti Downes

Walter W. and Alice B. Reynolds Forest, Sidney

Every place has a story. If you are a seasoned hiker on KLT trails or a longtime member, you may have puzzled over our property names. Why is a forest with 125-year old oaks and pines called Gott Pasture? When did the Vaughans build their historic Hallowell home overlooking the Kennebec River? Why do families donate valuable lands to conservation organizations?

With twenty years and 3,200 acres behind us, we decided to explore the connections between land and people in Kennebec County. During the spring of 2009, Katie Epstein, our intern from Davidson College, contacted our land donors and arranged eighteen interviews. Katie developed questions, conducted interviews, and finally created essays in which she shares her findings. KLT's

skilled photographers joined Katie and captured inspiring images of lands that collectively we know and love.

KLT's soon-to-be-published history underscores the complex ties between people and the natural world. Our land donors have a keen and intimate knowledge of place and can articulate the personal process of donating land for public benefit. Their stories reinforce what KLT has learned about conservation: that land has multiple values, including wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, forest, water and agricultural resources, and recreational opportunities.

Katie brought her own perspective to this project. Her writing reflects her academic work in environmental studies, her childhood summers spent in Wayne, and a strong commitment to conservation. If you own your own land, roam the countryside, or spend summers in Maine, you likely have something in common with the people Katie interviewed.

We owe a sincere thank you to Advisory Board member Barbara Libby and Board member Deb Sewall for their editorial assistance; our photographers and Maine experts for their professional contributions; Mort Libby, Advisory Board member and principal of LPK in Cincinnati, and Rick Conner and staff at LPK for design work and donations; and Mort and Barbara for believing in this project from the start.

KLT's new book will be available for \$12.00 at our Annual Meeting field trip and dinner on August 22nd. Please join us as we celebrate!



Cheryl Harrington

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! It is hard to resist the charms of early summer with its long days, fresh greenery, and birdsong reverberating everywhere. It is certainly one of my favorite times of the year. I hope you have the opportunity to enjoy a piece of the natural world over these summer months, perhaps a KLT property or other favorite outdoor place close to you.

If you have been wondering how you can find the properties KLT has protected, please check out our newly-remodeled website at www.tkl.org. There you will find a list of all KLT properties (at the tab labeled *Properties*) and directions for locating them, along with a brief descriptive history of each.

There is other interesting information about KLT on the site as well. You can keep track of KLT's activities and educational events year-around, and you can volunteer, join, or make a donation through the website. The website also offers interesting links to other land trusts and land trust activity in Maine. Many thanks to Gina Lamarche, our ever-effective Program Assistant, for creating and maintaining this beautiful upgrade of our website.

KLT staff and Board members have been busy this spring reviewing potential new properties in Litchfield and Fayette, where opportunities have presented themselves to protect major pieces of forest and farmland, consistent with KLT's mission. More news to come on these upcoming projects, but it has been very encouraging to work with so many generous landowners who want to provide long-term conservation protection to properties they have owned and loved for years.

Among well-loved properties, you may have been following news of the effort to provide conservation protection to the Kents Hill Orchard in Readfield, a key open space for many who live and vacation in this area. KLT was pleased to provide both financial and organizational support to the Maine Farmland Trust (MFT), a Maine land trust specializing in the protection of working farms, which has recently purchased the Orchard. We thank all our KLT members who have helped in this effort to date. MFT continues to solicit funds for this purchase and is now seeking a farmer who will in turn purchase and operate the Orchard property in its new, protected status. The Kents Hill Orchard directly abuts KLT's Echo Lake property, and we envision a linking set of trails for public use that will join farm, woods, and lake.

As always, we are so very grateful for the interest, support, and hard work of our members, friends, and donors. You have allowed KLT to make a significant difference here in the Kennebec Valley region – and there is more good land protection yet to come!

Enjoy your summer and please mark your calendars for our KLT members Annual Meeting and field trip on August 22, where we will unveil the lovely land donor history handbook so generously supported by long-time KLT members Mort and Barbara Libby. It is going to be a beautiful event and we look forward to seeing you there!

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A NEIGHBORHOOD POTLUCK AND THE KENNEBEC WOODLAND PARTNERSHIP

Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director

Imagine that you invited everyone on your street to a July pot-luck, and surprisingly, everyone showed up! Young families with small children, senior citizens born and raised on your road, and recent graduates all gathered to share their favorite summer dishes.

Picture that at the end of the evening, when the New England reserve had faded a bit and the wiffleball game was over, the conversation turned to the future. Suppose someone posed this question: When the next generation gathers for a similar occasion in 2035, will our neighborhood look about the same as it does today?

What if the “neighborhood” included all the woodlands of Kennebec County? What does the future hold for this landscape, which is more than two-thirds wooded? KLT is currently seeking to address this question as a partner in the Kennebec Woodland Partnership.

The Kennebec Woodland Partnership (KWP) is a regional project launched by the **Maine Forest Service** and the **Kennebec Land Trust** following last year’s KLT/MFS Forest Conservation Lyceum. At the conclusion of our 2009 programs, we looked back and realized that by working collaboratively, we had reached new audiences with the story of our common conservation goals.

KLT and MFS brainstormed during the spring and summer of 2009, and in late fall we submitted a successful proposal for \$5,100 to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund. With funds in hand, we hired contractor Amanda Mahaffey of Brunswick, Maine, as our part-time Project Manager. Amanda works closely with a KWP Planning Team composed of Andy Fisk, KLT Board member; Morten Moesswilde, MFS District Forester; Andy Shultz, MFS Landowner Outreach Forester; and me, KLT Executive Director. A second grant from the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, is currently pending.

As of April, 2010, the KWP Partnership has five additional members:

- **Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District**
- **Maine Forest Products Council**
- **Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands**
- **Forest Society of Maine**
- **Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine**



Pittston Looking West

Photograph: Morten Moesswilde

Our overarching goal is to create a “culture of conservation” focused on our region’s forestlands. We plan to draw on a diverse pool of foresters, small woodlot owners, logging contractors, saw-mill operators, ecologists, biologists, businesses, economists, municipal planners, and other resource professionals to craft a collaborative vision for “keeping forest as forest” in Kennebec County. The Partnership will work to encourage woodland stewardship and conservation and to sustain the many values, both public and private, of our woods.

As KWP evolves, we hope to involve many more local organizations. A three-day conference is planned for October 21-23, 2010, at Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop to kick off the program. Information about the conference and the Partnership can be found at <http://www.tkl.org/KennebecWoodlandPartnership.htm>.

Kennebec County’s wooded landscapes are vital to our quality of life. Local economies, wood products markets, recreational opportunities, water quality, and wildlife habitat all depend largely on our forests. KWP will provide a wide range of tools and strategies to help landowners make decisions about their valuable woodlands. If you are a woodland owner or work with forestland owners, we hope you can join us at the conference.

*According to a 2008 USDA Forest Service estimate, there are approximately 388,000 acres of woodland in Kennebec County.

KLT WELCOMES SUMMER INTERNS!



Wade Davis, Hallowell, will be a sophomore at Williams College in the Fall.

"I am interested in developing healthier relationships between humans and their environment. Changing the way in which humans value their environment will hopefully result in the implementation of new ideas in energy production, agricultural practices, and commerce." -Wade

Katie Jennings, Readfield, is a recent graduate of University of New Hampshire.

"The beauty of conservation work is that it is a vast subject that can be applied to many different areas. In general I am interested in sustainability and how it applies to the conservation of natural resources such as land and fresh water, and also sustainability within the modern food system." -Katie



MONMOUTH THIRD GRADE VISITS KLT PROPERTY: GOVERNOR KEN CURTIS'S CHILDHOOD HOME

Josh Lake, KLT Stewardship Contractor, November, 2009



Ken Canfield, Maine Forest Service; Monmouth Elementary Students.

"Look, M-A-I-N-E!" exclaimed a Monmouth third grader to Ken Canfield, Maine Forest Service District Forester. The student had just found eastern white pine needles on the ground and identified them using Ken's acronym of "M-A-I-N-E" to correspond to the tree's five needles in a fascicle. The eastern white pine is of course Maine's state tree, and its cone, with tassel, is the state flower, making for a convenient and memorable acronym.

This learning opportunity came on a beautiful fall afternoon in late October at Governor Kenneth Curtis's childhood home in Leeds, the 360-acre Curtis Homestead Conservation Area of the Kennebec Land Trust (KLT).

All the pieces came together in a project long in the making when logger Nat Bell, Maine Forest Service District Forester Ken Canfield, sawmill operator Bruce Bell, and I presented an afternoon of learning and fun for local school children. The program took place on land that had been

farmed by the Curtis family since the early 1800s, with students observing a selective timber harvest similar to work that Archie Curtis, Ken's father, would have done seventy years ago. Nat Bell and Ken Canfield brought one group of students to the edge of the field where the harvest was taking place and spoke about how and why trees are selected for harvesting. They also told students about the site's ecology, including which species of trees grow alongside the eastern white pines and which animals roam the woods.

The most exciting moment of the day came when the students witnessed the felling of a large pine. Observing from a safe distance, they watched as Nat inspected, notched, and began cutting into the tree. As the tree began to slowly shake and tilt toward its desired felling spot, the students let out a "Timberrrr!" that would have made any lumberjack proud. The tree came crashing down right where Nat wanted it to, and the children were amazed at the sight and sounds of the felling of this large tree.

Nearby at the log yard, the location to which the logs are skidded after cutting so that they can be loaded onto a truck, Bruce and I taught the other group how pine logs are used. Bruce explained that pulp logs are spindly and crooked, perfect for grinding into pulp for paper making, while saw logs are straight and suitable for lumber.

Bruce then turned to his Wood Mizer portable saw mill and demonstrated how a pine log is turned into a perfect board. As he first de-barked the log, then sawed it into five boards, the captivated audience enjoyed the flying sawdust and the immense power of the large band saw as it cut the 12-foot log with ease. After the boards were cut and the inside of the tree was visible, Bruce and I taught students about knots and how they form and about the growing process of the tree. Especially fun for the students was the chance to inspect the pile of fine sawdust that formed next to the machine.

The two groups then switched presentations, and after two hours outdoors, the third graders said their goodbyes to the presenters and packed onto the school bus for the short trip back to Monmouth.

A CHILI DAY FOR KLT

Karen Simpson, KLT Member

The minute I walked into the Winthrop Chili-Chowder Cook-off I knew we were out of our league. Across the room I could see chef hats, white jackets, and silver chafing dishes. Sheepishly I unloaded our two vintage crock pots and our modest sign, **Kennebec Land Trust's TRUSTWORTHY Chili**. (I love subtlety.) I did use local ingredients where I could: Maine-grown beans, onions, garlic, and hot peppers from last summer's garden, and beef from my brother-in-law's cow. Things improved considerably when Theresa arrived with a large impressive KLT display and we settled in with our two cheerful tablemates, Winthrop Rescue Service and the American Legion. Then the crowds descended, the whole town of Winthrop it seemed. There were seniors, teens, and families with young children, all eager to sample the 15-20 chilis and chowders and vote for their favorites. Theresa and I settled into our sales pitch. "Try some Trustworthy chili." "Mostly local ingredients." Two hours later our pots were empty, we were chilled out but feeling very satisfied and privileged to be part of this great community event. At the same time, we had found another way to bring KLT's mission and message out into the community.



The Kennebec Land Trust is sponsoring Old Hallowell Day's 5K Road Race on Saturday, July 17, 2010.



Come enjoy central Maine's historic riverside city.

Participate in the road race, watch the parade, enjoy the music, and much more.

Visit www.tklt.org and click on programs to register!

MARANACOOK STUDENT USES CARPENTRY SKILLS TO HELP KLT

David Clough, Maranacook High School Student



As a senior in high school this year, I was in search of a volunteer project. With help from Jeff Stockford, my Industrial Technology teacher at Maranacook, and using a design developed by Brent Surowiec of Wayne, I found just the right project. The Kennebec Land Trust was in need of six property registration boxes to hold informational brochures, maps, and sign-in sheets, while keeping the contents safe from the weather.

Being a hands-on person, I knew this would be an enjoyable task for me. I have been around woodworking all my life; every summer since I was nine, I have worked in my dad's cabinet shop. I took responsibility for the

project from start to finish, from figuring the materials that would be needed and their cost to assembling all the boxes. The project went smoothly. I didn't run into any problems at all, but if I were to make more boxes, I would probably do a few things differently in order to get them done faster. It's always a learning experience the first time around.

David Clough is a senior at Maranacook Community High School. Next fall he will be attending Saint Michael's College, where he will play soccer and study Civil Engineering.



SPRING INVASIVES REMOVAL AT VASSALBORO WILDLIFE HABITAT

Lauren Jacobs and Daniel Perkins



KLT Newsletter Sponsor

Apparently the off-season for nordic skiers and firefighters corresponds wonderfully with KLT's need for invasive species removal. During April we removed nonnative honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*) and other invasives at Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat, a 285-acre property on Webber Pond. Over several days of work we removed more than 2,000 plants around the loop trails. When you get the chance to visit VWH, you may notice these plants now hanging from trees around the preserve. This process will completely dry out the roots and prevent them from resprouting in the future, as they would if left on the ground.

One reason this property is a priority for invasive species removal is that it is home to a special hybrid of swamp oak and white oak, *Quercus x jackiana*. Mature trees can be found along the trail at the southeast end of the property, and a small stand of saplings is located near the point at the south end. Another exciting species on this property is the small hardwood American hornbeam (*Carpinus caoliniana*), also known as blue-beech or ironwood. There is an interesting cluster of hornbeams at the north end of the loop trail near the trolley line.



We also found some large auto parts that had been discarded and managed to drag them out of the woods. Both trash removal and honeysuckle pulling were easier when two people could attack the challenges together. (Take note if planning your own invasives project!) A highlight for us was listening to the loons call on the lake while we worked at the water's edge. We enjoyed spending time at this great property and seeing the benefits of a little hard work.

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's PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Gina Lamarche



When Theresa and I sat down to develop our spring newsletter plan, we thought it would be a good opportunity for me to introduce myself and tell you a little about my position as Program Assistant at the Kennebec Land Trust. Like most non-profit employees, I have a wide range of responsibilities, including updating and maintaining KLT's website, www.tkl.org; handling membership services, mailings, press releases; designing KLT's newsletter; and communicating with KLT's volunteers, members, stewards, and Board of Directors. I'm joining KLT with a background in webpage management and design, office administration, database management, communication, and marketing.

I enjoy spending time with my two children, cooking, gardening, painting, photography, and exploring the outdoors. My interest in conservation stems from my Maine roots. I was raised on Mount Desert Island, went to college at the University of Maine at Farmington, then lived in the Western Mountains of Maine before coming to Wayne. Childhood memories of long walks in the woods, summertime berry picking, and afternoons spent exploring tide pools inspire me to do my part to help preserve our surroundings for future generations.

It is a pleasure to be part of such a dynamic, dedicated, and hard-working organization. KLT's Board, staff, stewards, and supporters are tremendously committed to conservation efforts. I'm looking forward to growing with the Kennebec Land Trust.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Spencer Aitel/ Two Loons Farm	The Alberding Family	Thomas & Sylvia Andrews	Travis & Becky Armstrong
Arnold Banner	Maureen Brown	The Colbeth Family	Dennis & Anne Doiron
Judith Dorsey	Kathryn Fuller	Pablo & Elizabeth Gazmuri	Suzanne Goulet
Paul & Kay Lariviere	Betsy Melrose	The Mendall Family	Rick McCarthy
David Mohlar	Larry & Shannon Plourde	Michael Pratt	Linda & Bob Ray
Julienne Rodrigue	Peter Rodrigue	Dan Simpson	C. Thomas
Elizabeth Vanderweide			

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH OUR OUTREACH, EDUCATION, LANDS, LYCEUM, AND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

FALL 2010-SPRING 2010

Jane Andrews, Tom Bartol, Bill Bayreuther, Nat Bell, Jerry Bley, Lindsay Bourgoine, Josh Brown, Center of Community GIS, Farmington, David Clough, Ginny Coady, Jim Conners, Denise Crowell, Jane Davis, Philip deMaynadier, Sarah Demers, Mary Denison, Phil Downes, Geological Society of Maine, Chris Halstead, Bea Horne, Lauren Jacobs, George Jacobson, PhD, Alice Kelley, PhD, Kents Hill Students, David Ladd, Lincoln and Gloria Ladd, Robert Ladd, Josh Lake, Jose Leon, Jon Lund, Erik Lund, Maine Forest Service, Maine Geological Society, Janie Matrisciano, Maranacook Community School, John and Molly Melrose, Tom and Donna Mickewich, Morten Moesswilde, Renae Moran, PhD, Barbara Moss, Bob Mulliken, Steve Pelletier, Stantec, Daniel Perkins, Emily Perkins, Jeff Pidot, Anne Reiter, Dee and Harry Richardson, David Rocque, Deb Sewall, Karen Simpson, Jym St. Pierre, Andy Shultz, Tim and Luvia Sniffen, Joan Sturmthal, Jeff Stockford, Mary Sturtevant, Hank Tyler, Clyde Walton, Wayne Village Pottery, Alan Weaver



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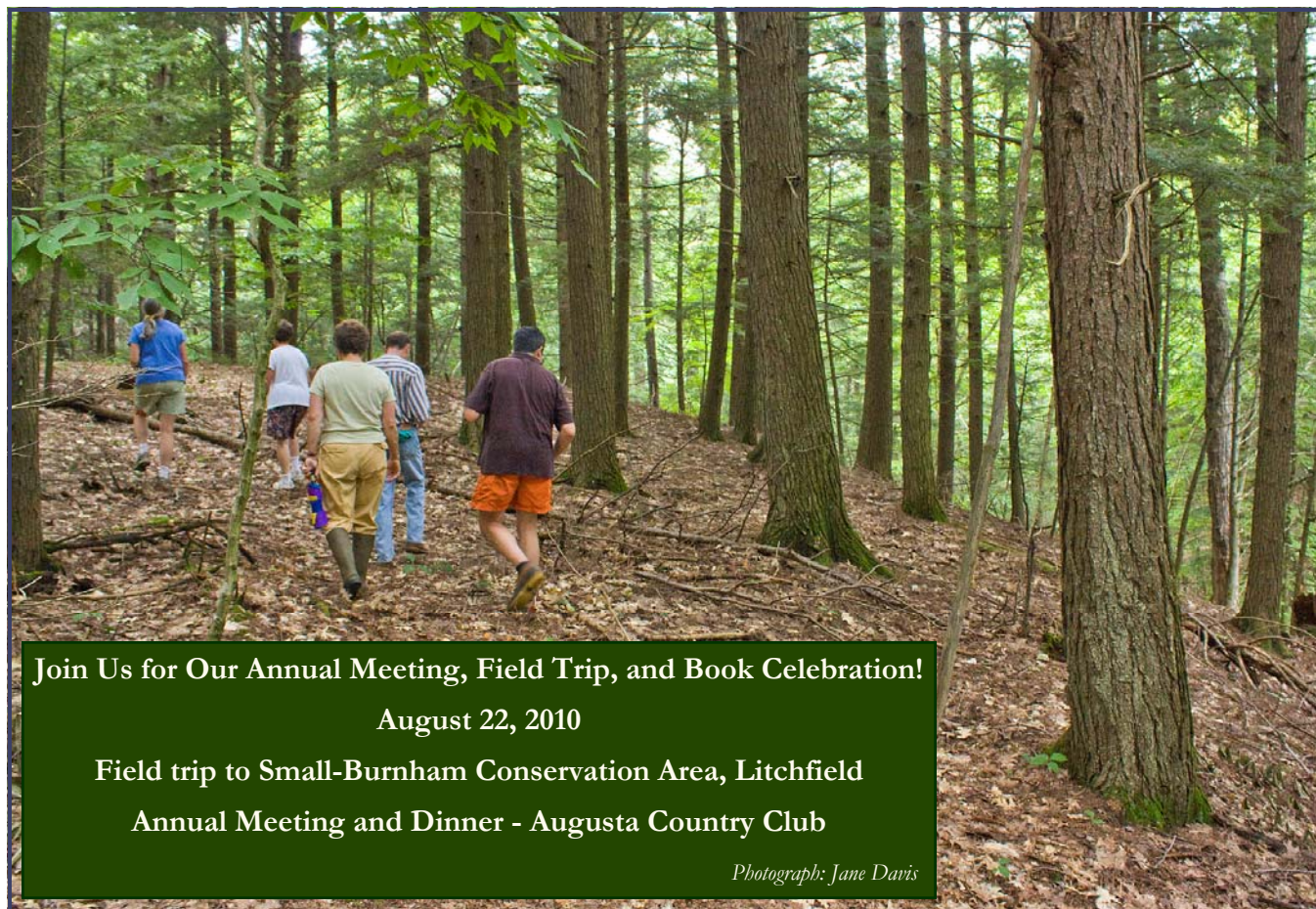
Office Hours:

Tues.& Thurs. 10 am - 4 pm

QUESTIONS?

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB AT

WWW.TKLT.ORG



Join Us for Our Annual Meeting, Field Trip, and Book Celebration!

August 22, 2010

Field trip to Small-Burnham Conservation Area, Litchfield

Annual Meeting and Dinner - Augusta Country Club

Photograph: Jane Davis