

The Kennebec Land Trust NEWS



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KLT DIRECTORS, STEWARDS, & MEMBERS DEVOTE 22 YEARS TO CONSERVATION AND TRAILS

Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director

November 4th was KLT's 22nd anniversary of incorporation! With two decades behind us, we are proud of our land conservation work in Kennebec County.

Day by day, in small committees and broader meetings, we are immersed in thoughtful communication with land owners and town and state officials about effective approaches to conserving our region's natural resources. Often, many meetings and memos later, a new sign, a parking area, a registration box, and a brochure showing hiking trails welcome visitors to a new KLT trailhead.



Sturtevant Farm Scenic Area, *Photograph: Sarah Fuller*

Visitors to our conservation properties, like our members, have wide-ranging interests. We are painters, hunters, aspiring naturalists, farmers, photographers, dog walkers, loggers, writers, and parents with curious children. What we have in common is an appreciation for the land.

KLT's stewards, interns, and volunteers, with saws, shovels, and paint in hand, have constructed 23 miles of trails on 21 conservation properties at short distances from our homes and workplaces. Forested paths follow undeveloped shorelines and feature steep, rocky ravines, quiet streams, old farmsteads and woods roads, and views of open farmland and distant mountains. Along the trail, artfully constructed bridges delight youngsters and impress carpenters.

What an accomplishment!

Thank you generous members, land donors, and volunteers.

Nathalie Woolworth, KLT Fall Conservation Assistant

With just three weeks at KLT under my belt, I have had the good fortune to walk three new KLT trails – a loop on Lake Cobbossee's Horseshoe Island, and extensions of the Gott Pasture trail in Wayne and the Parker Pond Preserve trail in Fayette. The three September days I chose for exploring these properties were crisp and beautiful. Bright skies brought to life the luster of New England fall in the shifting waters of Lake Cobbossee, Wilson Pond, and Parker Pond.

My first venture, a short boat ride across Lake Cobbossee, brought me to Horseshoe Island. Here I noted the quiet of the island and surrounding waters. Well removed from the sounds of cars and people, Horseshoe Island immediately suggests itself as a spot for quiet reflection – an ideal place to picnic or bring a favorite book.

The Gott Pasture and Parker Pond trails provide access to similarly removed lakefront areas. En route to Wilson Pond, a new Gott Pasture trail (not officially open until Spring 2011) winds through an especially beautiful section of boulders, placed haphazardly by retreating glaciers 10,000 years ago. The Parker Pond trail bends away from the lakeside view atop rocky ledges, towards airy groves of birch and denser sections of hemlock forest.

These new trails, in the bright light of fall, caught my imagination as only quiet places on a beautiful day can. Before the season changes, I encourage you to visit. And then to return as winter, spring, and summer refashion the paths and views in new, equally beautiful ways.



Cheryl Harrington

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Members and Friends!

We hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy *Between Person and Place*, our beautiful new publication featuring the conservation stories of several of KLT's land donors in their own words, with wonderful pictures both old and new. This impressive book was the project and heartfelt gift of long-time KLT supporters Mort and Barbara Libby. It represents many hours of thoughtful work by KLT intern Katie Epstein, who conducted the personal interviews with each of the featured land donors, as well as dedicated production work by our past President Deb Sewall and our Executive Director Theresa Kerchner. KLT will use this publication for many years both to

honor our donors and to spread the message about land conservation throughout the Kennebec Valley area. Please call the KLT offices if you would like a copy. We think this special book will make a wonderful holiday gift – maybe with a “starter year” KLT membership?

Of course, not everyone can be a land donor. But your sustained membership support for KLT is *the* vital center of KLT's ongoing land conservation activities. Our annual membership drive begins in a few weeks. We do hope you will take the time to renew your own membership and maybe encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to join as well. Land conservation happens because people want it to happen, and KLT's conserved land is a resource to be enjoyed by our entire regional community forever.

If you are in the Kennebec County area and are looking for a special late fall walk, you might want to try the trails at KLT's latest conservation easement, the Small-Burnham Preserve in Litchfield. Or you might try the new trail on Horseshoe Island in Lake Cobbosseecontee, Winthrop, constructed by KLT's Volunteer of the Year, Jon Lund, his family, and KLT's volunteer stewards. Check the KLT website at www.tklt.org for descriptions and directions for all our preserved properties.



I also invite you to join us for KLT outings and educational programs, which you will find listed on the website as well. If you want to send your email address to our Program Assistant, Gina Lamarche, she will include you in her monthly electronic posting of KLT events.

Finally, many thanks for your wonderful support of KLT. Together we make land conservation in Kennebec County happen!

Cheryl Harrington

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KLT INTERNS: FUTURE LEADERS *Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director*

Each year our interns compose short essays about their work with KLT. If the directors, stewards, and I were to write about this year's seasonal staff, we would note their long list of accomplishments and collectively highlight our admiration and respect for their work. For certain, KLT's interns are future leaders in their chosen fields of work and in their communities. Thank you Wade, Katie, and Nathalie for your time with KLT this year.

Nathalie Woolworth, KLT's first Conservation Assistant, will return from March to September, 2011, to a half-time position. She will continue to work on grant writing and fundraising and will supervise our 2011 KLT Ronald Joseph summer interns. (For more information about KLT's internship program: www.tklt.org.)

WADE DAVIS, WILLIAMS COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE

One morning I found myself tearing up invasive honeysuckle in a mosquito-infested forest in central Maine. That afternoon I was in the office typing a press release to announce the Kennebec Land Trust's new book. The next morning I was leading thirty first-graders on a nature walk. My time at KLT was filled with a well-balanced variety of field and office work. I blazed trails, attended a forestry conference, created a property brochure, researched a grant, wrote press releases, managed invasive plants, and much more. My experience at KLT has taught me that effective land conservation occurs on the very localized level. I learned that a successful land conservation movement requires a community-wide effort with strong partnerships and committed individuals drawn from the full spectrum of land users and landowners. The KLT internship provided me with the opportunity to meaningfully experience the many layers of land conservation.

KATIE JENNINGS, 2010 GRADUATE, UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

My days as a Summer 2010 Kennebec Land Trust intern consisted of a dynamic mix of activities. I spent an equal amount of time in the field and in the office. It was a perfect balance! When it became too buggy at Gannett, I would retreat to the office to work on advertisements for upcoming KLT events. And when my eyes were fuzzy from staring at the computer too long, I escaped to do trail work at Parker Pond. I initially joined Kennebec Land Trust hoping to learn more about land conservation. I was interested in the values, philosophies, and ideals, but also in the day to day activities required to keep a small non-profit afloat. Through the summer, I was fortunate to be exposed to all these features through KLT.

Land conservation, I learned, was about more than saving trees or a specific endangered frog species. Land conservation is also enormously social, with a focus on saving land for future generations to enjoy. From concept to action, most activities -- from initially setting land aside through long-term property maintenance -- involve a large and active group of volunteers and land stewards. I was surprised by the variety and number of people who participate in land conservation, all with their own reasons for contributing. Land conservation, I realized, is a community activity, conducted by a community for a community.



Nathalie Woolworth & KLT Advisor, Lloyd Irland

NATHALIE WOOLWORTH, FALL 2010 INTERNSHIP: CONSERVATION ASSISTANT

After graduating from Bates College last spring, I came to KLT with the desire to put more tangibly to use the knowledge and skills I had acquired over the previous four years, and to gain experience working for an environmental non-profit organization. As an anthropology major at Bates, I spent much of my time reading, writing, and thinking about the connection between people and place, and between environmental and social problems. During my final year of college I had the opportunity to bring together these informal musings in my senior thesis, which I wrote about the local impacts and meaning of climate change in northeastern Argentina.

While in school I also worked as an organizer for environmental groups on campus -- a role that helped me to reflect on how I hope to apply my Bates education in the future. I spent much of my free time exploring Maine's seemingly inexhaustible list of scenic places by foot, in a kayak, or on skis. I have grown progressively more attached to the landscape and people I've encountered here, and I envision myself living in Maine permanently at some future point.

As a fall intern with KLT, half of my time is devoted to writing grant proposals. I also help with stewardship and outreach efforts and have had the opportunity to visit a number of our properties. In my short time with KLT I have gained a greater appreciation for the efforts that contribute to maintaining the region's character. I look forward to learning more about land conservation, and to meeting more of you all in the coming months.



Wade Davis and Katie Jennings with KLT's newly released book, *Between Person and Place*.

ANNUAL MEETING CELEBRATES LAND DONATIONS

422 NEW ACRES CONSERVED

Diana McLaughlin, KLT Member and Norris Island Co-Steward



Annual meeting hike at Small-Burnham Conservation Area.

Norm Rodrigue

KLT held its annual meeting and reception at the Augusta Country Club in Manchester on August 22, 2010. Now in its 23rd year, KLT is more impressive than ever in its land conservation achievements.

Early in the afternoon on the same day, many members gathered for an appreciation and walking tour of one of KLT's newest protected properties. The weather was overcast and misty and threatened drizzle for much of the afternoon, but this did not in the least bit "dampen" the enthusiasm of those who wanted to visit the new Small-Burnham Conservation Area in Litchfield.

KLT Executive Director Theresa Kerchner, President Cheryl Harrington, and property owners Delmar "Dusty" Small and Teague Morris welcomed visitors in a beautifully restored barn attached to the farmhouse at the site. Visitors had a chance to leaf through KLT's first book, *Between Person and Place*, a compilation of pictures and essays of conservation histories based on interviews with eighteen of KLT's land donors. KLT intern Katie Epstein, who interviewed land donors and compiled their stories for the book, was on hand to meet KLT members and share her insight about the project.

In August of this year, Ina Small, her stepson Dusty Small, and Teague Morris granted a conservation easement to KLT on 250 acres of woodland, wetlands, ponds, and hayfields that they own on the Pine Tree Road in Litchfield. Dusty and Teague led a hike through the woodland on the main loop trail, during which participants encountered stone farm foundations, a 1950s-era stone bridge, and tree species including black locust, eastern hemlocks, and a variety of hardwoods. Dusty and Teague, both with an avid interest in mycology, frequently identified species of

mushrooms along the trail. Hikers were treated to an area along "Nile Stream" (affectionately named so by the family) that contains marine clay from which a relative had made ceramics.

There is a bucolic feeling to the Small-Burnham Conservation Area that can perhaps be attributed to a pleasant blend of abundant wildlife habitat and a traditional Maine farm. Thanks to the vision and generosity of Ina, Dusty, and Teague, this land will be available for gentle enjoyment by the public while it remains permanently protected from development.

With evening events ahead, we departed for the Augusta Country Club for a reception and music by Con Briol, followed by annual awards and a delicious dinner. Director Howard Lake recognized long-time volunteer **Jon Lund** for stewardship of KLT

conservation lands. KLT Director and Treasurer Amy Trunnell presented her annual report. KLT is on solid financial ground, but Amy noted that the Trust will need to increase its operating budget as we continue to grow. Cheryl Harrington presented awards to Board members **Diana McLaughlin** and **Jeff Pidot** for their outstanding service as Directors and to **Mort and Barbara Libby** for the time and resources they devoted to *Between Person and Place*.

The highlight of the evening, as always, was the recognition of KLT land donors and conservation acquisitions:

●Margot and Roland Coryell	30-acre donation	Ingham Stream Preserve, Mt. Vernon
●Glenn, Sara, Anna and Ben Hodgkins	42-acre donation	Parker Pond Headland, Fayette
●Echo Lake Association and KLT members	100-acre purchase	Echo Lake Watershed Preserve, Fayette
●Ina Small, Dusty Small, and Teague Morris	250-acre Conservation Easement donation	Small-Burnham, Litchfield



Ina Small, Dusty Small, Teague Morris, Cheryl Harrington at Small-Burnham trail dedication.

©Lynn St. Pierre

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YOUR INVESTMENT IN CONSERVATION

Over the past 22 years,
member investment in KLT
has conserved:

50 properties

3715 acres of forests,
fields, hills, and wetlands,
protecting wildlife habitat
and water quality

8 miles of shoreline on
lakes, rivers, and streams,
providing public access
and protecting scenic
views

23 miles of trails for
hiking, skiing,
snowmobiling, and
wildlife viewing

Photograph © Jym St. Pierre

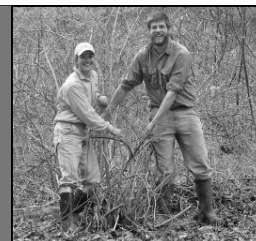
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KLT Newsletter Sponsor

LANDSCAPING FOR WILDLIFE WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Lisa Kane, Board Member and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife



On Saturday morning, September 11, KLT and Longfellow's Greenhouses sponsored a Landscaping For Wildlife workshop at Longfellow's. Laura Wilson from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension started off with a presentation entitled, "Using Native Plants to Protect Water Quality." She demonstrated that appropriate plantings can help protect water bodies and showed how individual landscaping decisions can help reduce stormwater runoff and remove pollutants from adjacent lakes, rivers, and streams.

Lois Stack, also from University of Maine Cooperative Extension, answered the question, "Why Landscape with Native Plants?" She explored the beauty, adaptability, and usefulness of some of Maine's nearly 1500 native plants, detailing the ways in which they thrive in our landscape conditions and serve multiple functions in the landscape.

KLT board member Lisa Kane of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife finished up with a program about "Feeding the Birds: Using Native Plants for Food, Cover, and Nesting, and Setting up a Backyard Feeding Station." Using songbird mounts, clippings from native plants displaying their fall fruits and mast, and a variety of bird feeders and seed choices, she gave attendees a look at the many ways of enhancing backyards for birds and other wildlife year-round.

Finally, at the new wildlife garden behind the main parking lot, Longfellow's staff had prepared demonstrations of proper planting methods for new native shrubs and trees.

Many thanks to Scott Longfellow and his staff for hosting this KLT event and to the UMaine Cooperative Extension's Laura Wilson and Lois Stack for their informative programs.

**MAKE KENNEBEC COUNTY A PART OF YOUR LEGACY:
HELP PROTECT KENNEBEC VALLEY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME**
FOR INFORMATION ON INCLUDING KLT IN YOUR WILL OR ESTATE PLANS,
PLEASE VISIT WWW.TKLT.ORG



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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 NEW PARTNER IN CONSERVATION: THE 30 MILE RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Diana McLaughlin



A watershed is a region or area bounded peripherally by a divide and draining ultimately to a particular water course or body of water. What is the "30 Mile River"? This is a particular watershed consisting of a chain of ponds, lakes, and streams that begins in New Sharon and runs through Vienna, Chesterville, Mount Vernon, Readfield, Wayne, and Leeds. It includes Flying, Parker, Basin, Tilton, Hopkins, Taylor, Lovejoy, and Pickerel Ponds, as well as Minnehonk, Parker, Echo, and Androscoggin Lakes.

The 30 Mile River Watershed Association (30 MRWA) is a non-profit coalition of all of the above named towns, eight lake associations, and local conservation associations, including the Kennebec Land Trust and the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance. Formed in 2008, the 30 MRWA has as its mission to preserve, protect, and improve the land and water quality of the watershed. Through partnership with like-minded environmental organizations, the 30 MRWA is active in preventing invasive species from entering its water bodies, educating the public, and encouraging environmentally friendly enjoyment of the watershed. In 2010, board members, volunteers, and paid staff committed more than 2,700 hours to preserving the watershed's lakes and ponds. Their work included courtesy boat inspections, invasive surveys, water quality monitoring, camp road maintenance workshops, youth conservation projects, and a day long recreational paddling event. Many of KLT's protected lands are within the 30 Mile River watershed, and at least ten of them include frontage on Androscoggin or Echo Lakes, or Parker or Flying Ponds. KLT greatly values opportunities to protect parcels that are adjacent to high quality lakes, ponds, and streams; protecting the watersheds that include these properties is just as important. Lidie Robbins is the executive director of the 30 MRWA. The Board includes a participant from each of its member towns, lake associations, and land conservation associations.

Diana McLaughlin is KLT's representative to 30 MRWA. For more information on the 30 MRWA, go to www.30mileriver.org/index.html.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Bill Bayreuther	Dale Marie Clark	Craig Hickman	Frank & Jean Zinck	Dorothy Dale Sherwood
Constance Best	Elizabeth & Weston Davis	Jay & Gail Rowe	Miriam & Todd Mattson	Gus & Paula Smiley
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David & Larry Feldman				

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

SUMMER 2010 TO
FALL 2010

Rob Aldrich, **LTA**, Jane Andrews, **Augusta Country Club**, Brooke Barnes, Bill Bayreuther, Bruce, Nat & Pam Bell, Chip Bessey, **Black Crow Bakery**, Jerry Bley, Bill Browne, Josh Brown, Harold Burnett, **Two Trees Forestry**; Carol Door & Norm Thombs, **Camp Mechuwana**; **Center for Community GIS**, Farmington, Ginny Coady, **Con Briol**, Jim Connors, Andy Cutko, Elizabeth Davidson, Jane Davis, Wade Davis, Sarah Demers, Holly Dominic, Erin Dow, **Eatswell Farm**, Katie Epstein, Sarah Fuller, **General Contracting of Benton**, Ron Giard, Ray & Jane Giglio, Jimmy Haigney and family, Chris Halstead, Bea Horne, Doug Ide, Lloyd Irland, Charlie Jacobs, Jeff Janell, Katie Jennings, Paul Johnson, Mary & Rick Jose, Ann Judd, David Kahl, Lisa Kane, **Kennebec Woodland Partnership**, **Kents Hill Students**, Bill Kietkya, Chris & Winston Kipp, Laurie Lachance, Ed Lake, Josh Lake, Keith Leavitt, Mort & Barbara Libby, Erin Lloyd, **Longfellows Greenhouses**, **LPK**, Jon Lund, Erik Lund, Ian, Paige and Colin MacKinnon; **Maine CDC Drinking Water Program**, **Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**, **Maine Forest Service**, **Maine Historic Preservation Commission**, **Maine Natural Areas Program**, **Maine State Planning Office**, Penny Markley, Janie Matrisciano, Julie Mecham, John & Molly Melrose, Tom & Donna Mickewich, Jonathan, Noah, & Nathan Milne, Teague Morris, Bob Mulliken, **Nitram Excavation**, Andrea Nurse, **Pike Industries**, Steve Pelletier, **Stantec**; Jeff Pidot, **Readfield Conservation Commission**, Frank Richards, Joyce Rivers, George and Judy Rogers, Jym St. Pierre, Rhannon Schaumburg, Delmar Small, Ina Small, Sue & Ken Spalding, Joan Sturmthal, Arn, Leda, Andrew & Lisa Sturtevant & families, Ben Sturtevant, Mary Sturtevant, **The Nature Conservancy**, Andy Tolman, Dick Watson, Darcy & Sam Whittemore, Alan Weaver, Nathalie Woolworth, Milt Wright, Wyman and Simpson



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NATURE WRITERS WITH THEIR BOOTS ON THE GROUND

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WITH ANNUAL SUPPORT FROM GLORIA, LINCOLN, AND ROBERT LADD

MARCH, SPRING, SUMMER DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED