

# *The Kennebec Land Trust* NEWS

Volume 28 No. 2/ Fall 2011

134 Main St. #2B, Winthrop, Maine 04364    www.tkl.org    207-377-2848



## KLT MEMBERS CELEBRATE LAND CONSERVATION AT ANNUAL MEETING

*Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director*



Nearly 100 KLT members of all ages gathered at the Androscoggin Yacht Club in Wayne on August 21, 2011 for field trips, a summer pot-luck and cookout, and our **23<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting** and awards. Early in the afternoon, 60 enthusiastic hikers and paddlers visited three KLT conservation properties: Perkins Woods, Gott Pasture, and Mount Pisgah. These outings were led by volunteer stewards Jim Connors and Stan Davis, and KLT staff and directors.



Following the field trips, members visited around picnic tables and the grill while watching the shifting clouds and waters of Androscoggin Lake. With a storm upon us, we moved inside for the photography contest, dessert, and comments from outgoing President Cheryl Harrington, Treasurer Amy Trunnell, and Executive Director Theresa Kerchner.



*Continued on page 4...*



*Photographers clockwise from upper left: Brian Kent, Brian Kent, Brian Kent, Brian Kent, Brian Kent, Brian Kent, Jane Davis, Brian Kent, © Jym St. Pierre, Brian Kent*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings KLT Members and Friends,

It is an honor to be KLT's new President. KLT is a model of public stewardship, volunteerism, land conservation, and commitment to future generations. Its success is in the generosity of its donors and members who share their time, talents, and resources. We have much to be proud of and celebrate.

*Stan Eller*

Each of us has at least one special reason or experience that compels us to support KLT. This past year I had wonderful interactions with permanent and seasonal residents of KLT properties. There was the young porcupine calmly eating a pine cone in the middle of the trail at Gott Pasture. There were the birds who responded to special calls during walks at the Davidson Wildlife Preserve. There was the osprey who stood sentinel and greeted us at Perkins Woods just prior to the KLT annual meeting. So, maybe this is the year for you to walk KLT's lands and meet and greet our permanent and summer residents who depend on us for the protection of their habitat.

This is also the time to introduce those joining our leadership and to say farewell to those who are moving on. We thank Nathalie Woolworth for her excellent contributions to KLT this past year as our first Conservation Assistant. We wish her well in her new pursuits. We welcome Justin Schlawn as KLT's new Conservation Assistant. We also heartily welcome our two new board members: Beth Nagusky and Harry Dwyer. Beth lives in Litchfield and is an environmental attorney specializing in energy issues. Harry lives in Mt. Vernon and is a highly respected forester. Finally, many thanks to Ann Judd, who is leaving the KLT board after many years of dedicated service. Although she is leaving the board, she will continue as a steward for the Echo Lake properties.

Fortunately, there was no serious damage to any of KLT's properties from hurricane Irene, but there was substantial cleanup required to keep the trails open for the public. Events like Irene underscore the importance of our volunteers and staff, and also the importance of equipment for trail maintenance. Our stewardship funds and member support allow us to respond quickly in emergencies.

As we approach the end of the year, please renew your membership, give a gift membership to a friend, consider a special gift to KLT, or join the KLT Legacy Society with a bequest. Most importantly, try to get in an extra walk before the snow flies! This winter, we invite you to participate in a scheduled KLT activity. Our calendar and sign-up information can be found on the KLT website.

Looking forward to seeing you on the trails or at a KLT event!

*Stan Eller*

### KLT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Justin Schlawn  
*Conservation Assistant*

Gina Lamarche  
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Gina Lamarche

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## KLT INTERNS: FUTURE LEADERS

*Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director*

*In August, after eleven productive weeks of stewardship and office work, Connie Kent, Amanda Lavigueur, and Aaron Kaplan completed volunteer internships with KLT. Many of you met our 2011 interns on the trail and during summer programs and noted their talents and hard work and that they seemed to be having great fun together.*

Theresa Kerchner

*Thank you Amanda, Connie, and Aaron for your good works for KLT! We wish you the best as you pursue your future academic and career paths. (For more information about KLT's Ronald Joseph internship program: [www.tklt.org](http://www.tklt.org).)*

### Amanda Lavigueur

My summer as an intern with KLT was the most important academic and professional experience I've had to date. It may not have been life-changing, but it was path-affirming. I acquired a variety of skills, including plant and bird identification, grant-writing, and even phone skills. I also had the opportunity to start a research project from scratch, which was both challenging and rewarding. The aspect of the internship I enjoyed most was having the opportunity to work with a variety of people. Everyone I worked with was knowledgeable and helpful, and Theresa went out of her way to allow us to participate in a variety of unique experiences. I found that when you work for a small non-profit, everyone is a valuable member of the team because there is always a task that needs doing. I hope to continue exploring work opportunities in the environmental sector and potentially working for a non-profit.

### Connie Kent

I could not have asked for a better summer than this past one, which I spent as an intern with KLT. I had a wonderful time delving into the history of KLT's Gott Pasture Preserve and researching the family that originally settled there. Through this research, not only did I learn about the history of a unique property, but I also came to realize how much I enjoy the process of investigating the past. It was also great to get outside and explore many of KLT's properties while working on the trails and on invasive plant control (although I have developed an intense loathing for non-native honeysuckle). Furthermore, I am forever grateful to Theresa, Nathalie, and Gina for helping me develop my grant-writing skills and for acquainting me with all the other tasks that are part of working for a small non-profit.

### Aaron Kaplan

Working for KLT was an amazing experience and a privilege. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work for such an impressive organization and such amazing people. I would like to thank all the KLT staff members, stewards, and volunteers for making my time with KLT a wonderful learning experience. Getting a firsthand look at how non-profit organizations work, learning to write grants, and being able to conduct stewardship work in the field will be invaluable skills for me in my post-college journey. It was great to be able to come to work and spend time in the beautiful Maine outdoors, and to have a hand in protecting this wonderful landscape. The work was challenging but rewarding and I couldn't have wished for a better internship.



*Connie and Amanda, Mt. Pisgah Trail*



*Birding at the Davidson Nature Preserve - from left: Ron Joseph, Aaron, Connie, Amanda*



*Amanda and Connie - regulars at summer Farmers' Markets*



*Installing new registration box: Parker Pond Headland, with help from neighbors*



*Mastering invasive control with a weed wrench*



Brian Kent

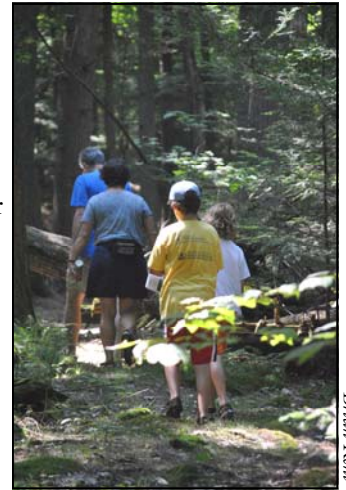
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Volunteer awards were presented to land steward Phil Downes, volunteer editor Janie Matrisciano, and Director Ann Judd. Deb Sewall, Past President, recognized Cheryl for two years of dedicated service as KLT President. *Thank you Cheryl!* Looking ahead to our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, members were challenged to increase KLT membership from 760 (October, 2011) to **1250** by 2013, and to support KLT's conservation programs through our new Legacy Society (see page 5).

The annual meeting concluded with recognition of KLT's 2011 land donors and property acquisitions. This spring, Elizabeth Cole of Vassalboro donated the 44-acre Seawards Mills Stream Conservation Area and Helen Holman of Litchfield donated the 75-acre Holman Conservation Area. Helen and Elizabeth were also honored on October 23, when both properties were dedicated with new signs and field trips (photographs coming in the Spring 2012 NEWS).

*KLT's dedicated part time staff, Gina Lamarche and Nathalie Woolworth coordinated a remarkable day!*

*Thank you to **Joel Davis and Associates, a Private Wealth Advisory Practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.** for sponsoring KLT's 2011 annual meeting and photographers who participated in the first annual photography exhibit and contest. Go to [www.tkl.org](http://www.tkl.org) to view our photo entries. Congratulations to Jennifer Lummis and Jane Davis, our 2011 photo contest winners.*



Brian Kent



Brian Kent



© Jon St. Pierre

## PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR BUSINESS



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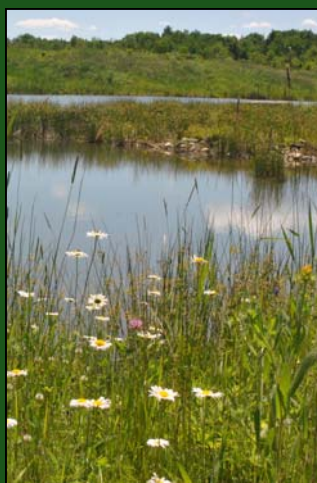
*The Business Partners in Conservation program recognizes business leaders and companies in our community who have made significant contributions of cash, goods, and services to support the regional conservation efforts of the Kennebec Land Trust.*



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# 2011 KENNEBEC LAND TRUST ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS THANK YOU

Funds raised in our annual appeal are  
 crucial to our operating budget. This  
 enables KLT to offer educational  
 programming to all ages, coordinate  
 volunteers, and steward our properties.



Brian Kent

## YOUR INVESTMENT IN CONSERVATION

Over the past 23 years member  
 investment in KLT has conserved:

**52 properties**

**4001 acres** of woodlands, fields, hills,  
 and wetlands, protecting wildlife habitat  
 water quality, scenic views, and working  
 farms and forestland.

**28 miles of trails** for hiking, skiing,  
 snowmobiling, and wildlife viewing.

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## SEARCHING FOR WHITE OAK

Theresa Kerchner



KLT Newsletter Sponsor

I have a passion for white oak (*Quercus alba*) that dates to 1999, when I was teaching third graders about native trees and local history. One of our lessons focused on the identification, wildlife habitat, and economic value of northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and white oak. In class, I explained that red oak is the most common oak species in Maine and noted that Wayne is at the northern end of the range for the less common white oak. At that time, I had seen forest grown white oak in only one location in Wayne, on KLT's Norris Island.

Just two days later, an inquisitive student arrived in class with a handful of white oak leaves he had found in the woods near his home on Pocasset Lake. With that discovery, the search for white oak trees was on. After twelve years, I have learned that:

- Kennebec County's forests have been defined by pine, eastern hemlock, fir, spruce, beech, birch, oak, maple, and ash trees for the past ten thousand years.
- In the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, prior to agricultural settlement, Western Abenakis hunted and fished the woods and lakes of western Maine. The Abenakis likely favored white oak over red oak acorns as a food source, since white oak acorns have lower levels of tannic acid.
- Ephraim Ballard's 1789 survey notes for the Kennebec Purchase included references to white oak in Wayne.
- Maine's early shipbuilding industries, including those in Hallowell, created a steady demand for white oak and white pine. Intensive timber harvesting for this market likely impacted the population distribution of white oak.
- During the 18th and 19th centuries, farm animals grazing in wooded pastures, especially pigs would likely have favored white oak acorns over red oak.
- Many species of birds and mammals use oak acorns as food. In general, white oak trees grow slowly. Forest grown white oak trees bear seeds between the ages of 50 and 200 years; good acorn crops are irregular and occur only every 4 to 10 years.
- White oak lumber is highly valued. Planting white oak trees is establishing a legacy and could be a source of local wood for the boatbuilders of the next century.

**You can find white oak on many KLT properties:** Norris Island, Gott Pasture Preserve, Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat, Webber-Rogers Farmstead Conservation Area, Perkins Woods, Reynolds Forest, and Davidson Nature Preserve. And, the search is on!



white oak, Gott Pasture Preserve, Wayne



white oak, Gott Pasture Preserve

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Pamela Davis Green

Guy Dostie

Ted Elliott

Dale Freise

Nate Gray

Trish Hanley Goodwin

Wayne Hachey

Andrew and Christina Hardy

Brenda Joseph

Carol LaVigueur

Julia and Andrew McLeod

Ernie Niles

Donald Roberts

Julie Sawtelle

Edie Smith

Evie Swan

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Don and Susan Welsh

Byrd Wood



**With the holidays right around the corner, we have a gift idea for you...  
Give two new KLT gift memberships for the price of one!**

**We'll send each recipient a card and a complimentary copy of our book,  
*Between Person and Place: Conservation Histories of the Kennebec Land Trust.***

**Please call our office at 377-2848 or email [glamarche@tklt.org](mailto:glamarche@tklt.org) to give a gift.**

**Share the good cheer of conservation!**

*\* Because we depend on current membership dues, the two for one deal can only be extended to new members.*





Seawards Mills Conservation Area property dedication, Vassalboro.



Holman Conservation Area property dedication, Litchfield.



Curtis Homestead Sustainable Forestry and Wildlife Education Program, Leeds.

Left: Nat Bell, Logger.

Right: Lisa Kane, MDIFW. Photographs: Pam Bell

### 2011 FALL PROGRAMS



**Kennebec  
Land Trust  
Outing Club**



Brian Kent

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## KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

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Office Hours:

Tues. & Thurs. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*QUESTIONS?*

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### 2012 KLT Lyceum: Aquatic Biodiversity

Co-sponsored by  
The Nature  
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*Parker Pond Headland ~ Photograph: Jennifer Lummis, 2011 Annual Meeting Photo Contest Winner*

March 15 - Aquatic biodiversity - Dave Courtemanch, DEP

March 22 - Aquatic plants and habitats - Eric Doucette, University of Maine

March 29 - Brook Trout - Merry Gallagher, Maine Dept of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Ladd Center, Wayne

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of KLT's Lyceum