

# The Kennebec Land Trust NEWS

Volume 30 No. 1/ Fall 2012

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



## KLT ANNUAL MEETING OVER 120 MEMBERS HIKE, PADDLE, AND CELEBRATE 24 YEARS OF LAND CONSERVATION

*Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director*



KLT's largest annual meeting to date was held on a beautiful summer day at the Androscoggin Yacht Club in Wayne. Highlights included afternoon field trips, a bountiful potluck and cookout, and KLT land donor and volunteer awards. Enthusiastic hikers and paddlers visited three properties: Macdonald Woods in Readfield, Perkins Woods in Wayne, and Mount Pisgah in Winthrop, with stewards Howard Lake and Stan and Jane Davis and KLT staff. Members visited around picnic tables and the grill and sampled delicious summer potluck dishes prior to the annual meeting.

President Stan Eller, Treasurer Amy Trunnell, and I reported on KLT's "Year of Awards," our land conservation programs, our finances, and our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year goals. Ginny Coady was honored for her dedication with the 2012 Volunteer award. Bob Mohlar, Chair of the Lands Committee, recognized and thanked KLT's 2012 land donors for their conservation vision:

**Berndt and Elaine Graf** of Fayette for the Meadow Brook Farm agricultural and conservation easement; 256 acres of fields, woodlands, and wetlands.

**Arn and Leda Sturtevant** of Fayette for donating a new 67-acre conservation easement. The Sturtevants have now permanently conserved 89 acres of woodland, wetlands, and a Scenic View Area on their family homestead.

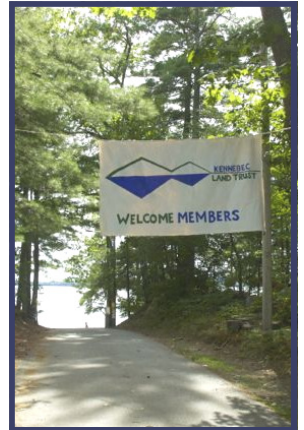
**Mary Griffith Lynch** of Fayette for her donation of the David Pond Woodland Conservation Area; 67 acres with woodlands and wetlands, vernal pools, and over 1500 feet of undeveloped shoreline.

Arn Sturtevant spoke eloquently about the land and conservation:

*Today, unsteady, fast-changing and unsure times are upon us! It seems we...have increasing need for respite, for breathing space, for shelter from the onslaught, for a place to renew happiness and soundness of mind...Kennebec Land Trust is...a welcome help in protecting...significant islands of refreshment and soul-nourishing beauty for the enjoyment and lasting benefit of generations to come. We thank you, KLT, for being such an important part of responsible planning for our future!*

KLT's dedicated Program Director, Gina Lamarche, coordinated another remarkable Annual Meeting!

Thanks to **Cribstone Capital Management, a Private Wealth Advisory Practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.**, for sponsoring KLT's 2012 Annual Meeting.



*Norm Rodrigue*



*© Jym St. Pierre*



Stan Eller

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings KLT members and friends,

It's a joy to be a part of KLT's conservation efforts and great successes. This year we have received numerous awards and have been chosen by the Land Trust Alliance to be part of its national "Excellence Program." We are recognized as a model of public stewardship, volunteerism, land conservation, and partnership building, and are highly regarded for our conservation vision. Our success is reflected in the generosity of our donors and members who share their time, talents, and resources. We have much to be proud of as we create a conservation legacy for our communities. As we prepare to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013, think about all that has been accomplished in the past twenty-five years and all that can be accomplished in the next twenty-five.

Mt. Pisgah — what a success story! Twenty-five years ago I hiked Mt. Pisgah with my wife Peg and our two young daughters. The day was hot; the trail was rutted, steep, and difficult for short legs. At the top we climbed part way up the fire tower, had a picnic in the open field, picked blueberries, and stored memories of the beautiful views. At the 2012 KLT Annual Meeting I hiked the Mt. Pisgah trail again with Peg and our oldest daughter Allyson. This time the trail meandered through beautiful woods and across bog bridges to reach the summit and the fire tower, which has new stairs. The view was just as beautiful as it was twenty-five years ago!

This fall, with your support, we purchased sixty new acres on Mt. Pisgah, including the old blueberry fields. Over the past twenty-five years the Kennebec Land Trust, the Town of Winthrop, and many friends and donors have made it possible to conserve 800 acres on Mount Pisgah; the Mount Pisgah Conservation Area is now the most visited of all the lands owned by KLT.

All of KLT's 2012 Annual Appeal funds were committed to land acquisition. We have conserved a major portion of the shoreland around Little Cobbossee Lake in Winthrop, and significant funds have been directed to the Mt. Pisgah Legacy. We are still raising funds for these new conservation lands and we hope that you'll consider becoming a part of this legacy in your community.

The KLT board welcomes our newest member, Mike Seitzinger, an attorney living in Augusta. His dedication and expertise will be most valuable to KLT's upcoming major membership drives and capital campaigns. Sue Liebling is leaving the board to attend to a number of pressing family needs. We thank her for many years of dedicated service and are thrilled that she will continue to be one of the KLT stewards for Camp Bearnstow.

John Melrose has provided the KLT development committee with excellent leadership but will be leaving the board due to other professional obligations. He will continue as a steward at the Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat. We offer many thanks for his ongoing commitment to KLT.

Justin Schlawin, KLT's 2011-2012 Conservation Assistant, recently accepted a full time position with the Maine Natural Areas Program. Congratulations to Justin and our thanks for his excellent work for KLT.

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 an extra walk in before the snow flies!

Hope to see you on the trails,

*Stan Eller*

Stan Eller, KLT President



A group of Wayne families on a Sunday Pisgah hike.  
Photograph: Evan Barden



## KLT INTERNS: FUTURE LEADERS

*Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director*



Theresa Kerchner

Teresa Withee, Hallowell native and Bowdoin College Berkley-Tyre Environmental Fellow, completed her ten-week KLT internship in August. Teresa's interest in conservation grew from her childhood experiences in the outdoors. This summer Teresa and KLT Conservation Assistant Justin Schlawin built a new trail on KLT's Meadow Brook and Sturtevant Conservation Easements, improved KLT's trails on the Cobbossee Islands, and accomplished many other stewardship projects.

Teresa also focused on outreach and membership development, studied the resource base and feasibility for a new hardwood market in Kennebec County, wrote press releases and a grant, and composed many thank you notes! Thank you Teresa for your good works for KLT. We wish you the best as you pursue your future academic and career paths.

For information about KLT's Ronald Joseph internship: [www.tkl.org](http://www.tkl.org).

### FROM TERESA WITHEE, KLT SUMMER INTERN

My summer working alongside KLT staff and volunteers as an intern was a truly educational and motivating experience. Each person I met possessed a love for the environment and a desire to protect it for our use and the natural world's use, making each of those people an inspiration to me. From this experience I gained skills that I feel will be helpful in whatever career I eventually choose: skills like grant and press release writing, engaging with the public for educational purposes, and doing effective research. The very fact that my summer research project was on a topic I had absolutely no previous knowledge of (timber harvesting) had an unexpected bonus in that it allowed me to learn about an environmental issue that I hadn't considered before. I hope to bring what I learned from this experience to a state or national environmental organization next summer.



Working on the Meadow Brook Farm Trail.  
*Photograph: Justin Schlawin*



KLT Staff 2012, left to right: Justin Schlawin, Conservation Assistant, Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director, Teresa Withee, 2012 Environmental Fellow, Gina Lamarche, Program Director

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## NOTES FROM THE STEWARDSHIP DESK

*Justin Schlavin, Conservation Assistant*

This summer has been very productive for KLT! Staff, interns and volunteer stewards have done great work on our properties. You may have seen Bowdoin College Fellow Teresa Withee and me out on the



KLT NEWSLETTER  
SPONSOR

trails this summer working on multiple projects, including the creation of a new trail at the Meadowbrook Farm Conservation Area, the widening and improvement of several other trails, and the development of new maps for KLT preserves.

Property stewards have also accomplished a great deal during the field season. We now have a new parking lot, trail and sign at the Hutchinson



2012 Sustainable Forestry Days at Curtis Homestead.  
Lisa Kane, MDIFW.  
Photograph: Pam Bell

Pond Conservation Area, significant progress has been made in planning a new trail on Mt. Pisgah, and new bog bridging was installed at Gannett Woods thanks to the Manchester Conservation Commission and the Maine Conservation Corps. Thanks to all who have helped maintain KLT's properties!



Gannett Woods volunteers. Photograph: Garry Hinkley



2012 Sustainable Forestry Days at Curtis Homestead.  
Photograph: Jane Davis



Hutchinson Hike, October 2012.  
Photograph: Norm Rodrigue

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



**SPRING 2012 ~ FALL 2012**

**Many thanks to these foundations for their support:**

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## KLT'S WINTER PROGRAMS:

### BALSAM FIR TIPPING AND WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOP AT KLT'S ECHO LAKE WATERSHED PROPERTY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 10:00 A.M. PREREGISTER

Dave Fuller, Agriculture and Non-Timber Forest Products Professional, will discuss how to identify balsam fir, proper tipping methods, and how to make a balsam fir wreath. Please bring hand shears and light gloves and come dressed for an outdoor winter hike in the woods. \$5.00 per person to cover the cost of materials. Indoor location TBA. MAXIMUM: 20



Photograph: Manon Whittlesey

### FAMILY WINTER FUN AT CURTIS HOMESTEAD CONSERVATION AREA, LEEDS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2013, 1:00-3:00 P.M.

Join KLT for an afternoon of winter fun at the Curtis Homestead Conservation Area in Leeds. Bring your own cross-country skis, snowshoes, and sleds and spend the afternoon exploring this beautiful 360-acre conservation property! Hot chocolate and snacks will be served around a bonfire in the field.

### SOUP MUSIC AND STRINGS

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2013, 3:00 P.M. HIKE, 5:00 - 7:30 P.M. DINNER AND MUSIC

Hike Torsey Pond followed by light dinner and Open Mic at Olde Post Office Café.

\$12 Adults, \$6 Children, includes dinner. PREREGISTER. If you're interested in playing at this event please call 377-2848.

KLTOC is Sponsored by:



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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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.*

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Photographs, top to bottom: Theresa Kerchner, Brian Kent

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**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.**

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October 27, 2012

Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director  
 Board of Directors and Staff  
 Kennebec Land Trust  
 P.O. Box 261  
 Winthrop, ME 04364

Dear Theresa and Board Members:

Thank you for the check. After hot tears flowed freely, all the way to the bank, I have finally managed my mixed-emotions and have let go of the land and water, with their treasures that are now officially yours. But I know that my family and I can still enjoy the birdsong and wildlife habitats.

We thank you all for your interest, time, energy and fortitude!

Very truly yours,

*Mary Oatway*



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*Female Black Bear ~ Photograph: Tom Sears*

March 21 - Snowshoe Hares: A Keystone Species in Maine's Northern Forest

Professor Daniel Harrison; University of Maine, Department of Wildlife Ecology

March 28 - The Challenges of Deer Management in Maine: Population Trends and Habitats from  
Southern to Northern Maine - Lee Kantar, Deer Biologist, MDIFW

April 4 - Maine's Black Bears: Ecology and Habitat - Randy Cross, Bear Biologist, MDIFW

Snow date: April 11. Ladd Recreation Center, Wayne