

The Kennebec Land Trust NEWS



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KLT CONSERVES WILDLIFE HABITAT, FARMLAND, AND FORESTLAND

Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director



Seaward Mills Stream Conservation Area, Vassalboro
Photograph: Theresa Kerchner

Thanks to **KLT members, land donors, and business supporters**, we have six new conservation projects to celebrate! Following a year in the woods and fields, lands committee meetings, and conversations with donors and community leaders, KLT has conserved 280 acres in Winthrop, Wayne, Manchester, Litchfield, and Vassalboro:

- Longtime **Vassalboro resident Elizabeth Cole** donated 42 acres to KLT in June. This valuable property on the Seaward Mills Road includes over 15 acres of hay and corn fields (farmed by Vassalboro resident Dana Suga), woodlands, and 3,800 feet of stream frontage on historic Mill Stream. Mill Stream, which flows from the outlet of Three Mile Pond into Webber Pond is an alewife passage and is habitat for great blue herons, brook trout, and many other Maine wildlife species.

Glenn Hodgkins, KLT Board member, recently conducted a bird inventory with members of the Augusta Bird Club. Please call us for our latest bird list.

- In late May, **Helen Holman of Litchfield** donated a 70 acre conservation easement that features early successional woodlands and wetlands bordered by Magotty Meadows Brook. This restored landscape now supports many species of wildlife including ruffed grouse, woodland birds, waterfowl, beaver, and deer. Helen's commitment to restoring this land, which was formerly mined for gravel, is visionary.

- Long on our conservation priority list, the 80-acre **KLT Hutchinson Pond Conservation Area** was transferred to the Trust in January of 2011 as mitigation for wetlands alterations resulting from CMP's grid expansion. The Hutchinson Pond property features 1,600 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Hutchinson Pond and high value wetland, woodland, and field wildlife habitat. The property is in close proximity to KLT's 90-acre Bog Pond Conservation Area and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's 800-acre Jamies Pond property. With stewardship funds donated by CMP, KLT will maintain fields for woodcock, chestnut-sided warblers, brown thrashers, eastern towhees, and field sparrows, and will provide opportunities for public recreation, including canoe and kayak access.

- KLT's newly purchased 43-acre addition to the **Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat** connects two forested sections of existing conservation land to create a valuable wildlife habitat corridor. The 330-acre Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat includes a half-mile of shoreline on Webber Pond, a trail system, and a new wildlife habitat viewing platform constructed by KLT volunteer stewards Ian MacKinnon, John and Betsy Melrose, and Kents Hill School students. Thank you volunteers!

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Stewardship walk, Holman Conservation Area, Litchfield
Photograph: Nathalie Woolworth



Hutchinson Pond, Manchester
Photograph: Norm Rodrigue



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Members and Friends of KLT!

Now (finally!) we have moved back into the warm months of the year, away from the austere beauty of winter into the vibrant colors of summer. Snowshoes and winter boots have their place, but it is always wonderful when we can venture outdoors wearing nothing more than a light shirt, pants, and a pair of walking shoes. You will find that KLT has created many opportunities for you and your family and friends to enjoy the outdoors this summer, and we hope you find at least one activity that suits your outdoor interests. We value your support of KLT – given in so many different ways – and we try to reciprocate by providing interesting opportunities, from bird watching to kayaking to walking to outdoor drawing and painting, for you to enjoy the outdoors and to become better acquainted with our properties. You can find our many activities described on the KLT website at www.tkl.org. Or, if you like, we can notify you of planned activities by email. Gina Lamarche, our talented Program Assistant, prepares a beautiful monthly e-flier of our ongoing KLT calendar and sends it to all who have provided us with their email addresses. You can contact Gina through the website or by calling the KLT office (377-2848).

As you know, KLT runs almost entirely on the support of its members, who continue so generously to donate time, financial support, and some very special lands. Recently we have undertaken a new program -- our Legacy Society -- designed to encourage members who can to make a single, long term donation to KLT. You can become a member of the Legacy Society by including KLT in your estate planning. There are a variety of ways in which this can be done, from a simple bequest in your will to investing in a KLT Life Annuity, in which you make your gift now and receive a Life Annuity during your lifetime. You will be hearing more about the Legacy Society program in the next few months. We have created this program to better ensure the long run financial vitality of KLT.

We also bid a sad but very fond farewell to long term KLT Board Member Andy Fisk. Andy was instrumental in our initiation of the Kennebec Woodlands Partnership (see page 7), our volunteer steward for the Vaughan Woods, as well as a committed board member. Andy will be taking the helm at the Connecticut River Watershed Authority where we wish him the best of luck as he continues his stellar career of natural resource protection.

In closing, we welcome Patrice Putman of Winthrop, who recently joined the KLT Board of Directors. Patrice has an exemplary history of civic involvement, having served on the Winthrop Town Council, chairing its Comprehensive Planning process. Patrice is a nurse, a lawyer, and a staff educator at Maine General Hospital. She brings an interest in all the ways in which our connections with the natural world support our over-all health. Welcome, Patrice. ~ **Cheryl**

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KLT OUTING CLUB

Nathalie Woolworth, KLT Conservation Assistant

Although I have come to love a solo walk in the woods or a solitary sunset paddle, I grew to appreciate and love the places where I now go alone because I spent time outdoors with other people. Until I graduated from high school, this time was spent with my family, especially my brother, who shares a need to breathe fresh air and feel open space. After high school I signed up for a three-month outdoor leadership course in Baja, Mexico, where I learned the beauty of making friends while hiking, sailing, and kayaking. At college the next year, many of my friendships grew from trips to Baxter, Popham, or Sunday River. Spending time outside with people – my age, younger, and older – has taught me new skills, increased my ecological knowledge, and prompted me to see beauty in new places. The recently created KLT Outing Club (KLTOC) will provide Kennebec County residents and visitors with opportunities to make new friends while enjoying the region's natural beauty and learning from those who venture out with them. If you are interested in learning more, please visit our website for more information!



Photograph: Brian Kent



Photograph: Margaret Munford

The Kennebec Land Trust Outing Club (KLTOC) is a new outdoor activity-oriented club offering a wide variety of outdoor events to young, active adults 21 years of age and older. KLTOC brings together those who share a love of nature and outdoor activity. KLTOC is FREE to KLT members or \$5.00 per outing. Bring a Friend!

Whether you are new to the Kennebec Land Trust or are already a member, the KLTOC is a great way to explore the outdoors, get to know Kennebec Land Trust properties, and socialize with a fun, friendly, young and active group.

**KLTOC is
Sponsored by:**

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KLTOC 2011 Schedule:

Parker Pond Headlands Hike

Saturday, June 25, 2011, 10:30 a.m.

Join the KLT Outing Club for a hike at Parker Pond Headlands in Mount Vernon followed by an optional lunch at the Olde Post Office Café in Mt. Vernon.

Paddle, Picnic, and Swim at Perkins Woods on Androscoggin Lake

Saturday, July 30, 2011, 10:30 a.m.

Join the KLT Outing Club and Nathalie Woolworth, KLT Conservation Assistant and kayak guide, for a paddle and picnic! We will meet at the Wayne Yacht Club at 10:30 a.m. and paddle to Perkins Woods (Wayne) for a picnic and swim, followed by ice cream at Tubby's in Wayne.

Sunset Paddle to Sunset Beach on Hodgdon Island, Lake Cobbossee

Saturday, August 27, 2011, 4:30 p.m.

Join the KLT Outing Club and Nathalie Woolworth, KLT Conservation Assistant and kayak guide, for a sunset paddle to Sunset Beach on Hodgdon Island, where we will picnic and swim.

Small-Burnham Hike

Saturday, October 8, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

Join the KLT Outing Club for a hike at Small-Burnham in Litchfield, followed by a harvest/local foods potluck in celebration of KLTOC's first season.

Public Policy Information

Kennebec Land Trust directors, staff, and members have taken note of current conservation policy issues in Maine and Washington DC. As a service to our members, we are providing contact information for several organizations that are addressing these important topics.

1. As part of their statewide work, the Maine Land Trust Network (MLTN) is tracking policy issues that have significant implications for land trusts and land conservation. Specifics about conservation-related bills and contact information for Maine legislators can be found at:

http://www.mltm.org/resources/public_policy.html

<http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/townlist.htm>

2. Current information about conservation and environmental bills in the Maine Legislature is available from:

Maine League of Conservation Voters

<http://www.mlcv.org/index.asp>

Natural Resources Council of Maine

www.nrcm.org/2011_legislative_bill_tracking.asp

KLT WINTER FIELD TRIPS



Photograph: Tom Mickewich

Family Winter Fun at Curtis Homestead Conservation Area, Leeds

The second "annual" Family Winter Fun Day was held at the Curtis Homestead Conservation Area in Leeds on the afternoon of Sunday, January 23. The air was "brisk" (i.e. cold!) but there was plenty of snow, and a good time was had by all forty or so hardy souls who came to ski and snowshoe and enjoy the beauty of the Curtis Homestead on an old-fashioned Maine winter day. After spending time on the trails, we all welcomed the warmth of the bonfire around which we gathered to enjoy hot chocolate, cookies and brownies, toasted marshmallows, and good conversation. We hope to see you all there next year.

~ Tom and Donna Mickewich, stewards and field trip leaders



Photograph: Cynthia Pelliccia

Perkins Woods Snowshoe, Wayne

On February 12, an enthusiastic group of around 35 people snowshoed the KLT Perkins Woods and Shoreline in Wayne. The weather was great and the snow was perfect. Looping around the property, we saw the variety of landscapes that makes this property so special. Theresa Kerchner provided some interesting commentary on the grove of large hemlocks and pines, the pitch pine stand, the tupelo trees, and the history of the property. We may do this again next year!

~ Jane and Stan Davis, stewards and field trip leaders

Jamies Pond Conservation Area Snowshoe, Manchester

The March warm-up and rain didn't squelch the Jamies Pond snowshoe trip. The rain stopped for the afternoon and the sun even briefly greeted the 15 spirited souls, ages 4 on up, who showed up for the trip. We explored the newer trailhead off the Meadow Hill Road, established on a parcel of land that KLT helped conserve in 1999. This trailhead is probably the least used of the Jamies Pond access areas, providing easy access to the pond as well as to several vernal pools and over 7 miles of trails and 840 acres of woodland. The parking area is 1.5 miles down the Meadow Hill Road, on the south side.

Snowshoers enjoyed a nice snow pack, crossing streams over packed snow down to Jamies Pond and taking a break at the "point" to enjoy the stillness of the ice-covered water. We made a loop through the conifers of the lower pond trail and came back through the scenic Vernal Pool trail, past some of the many glacial erratic boulders that dot the landscape.

~ Tom Bartol and Barbara Moss, stewards and field trip leaders



Photograph: Tom Bartol



KLT Newsletter Sponsor

The Kennebec Land Trust is sponsoring
Old Hallowell Day's 5K Road Race
on Saturday, July 16, 2011.

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!



Photograph: © Marty Thornton

KLT WELCOMES SUMMER INTERNS!

Aaron Kaplan

I am a rising Senior at Bates College majoring in Environmental Studies. I have had a love for the outdoors since I was young, and I came to appreciate Maine's beautiful landscape after spending eight summers at Camp Kieve in Nobleboro, Maine. I am fortunate to have had experiences as a youth that instilled in me the importance of conserving natural beauty for future generations, and I look forward to working with KLT and its partners to ensure the conservation of these landscapes. During my time this summer I hope to learn more about land conservation, increase my ecological knowledge, and improve my GIS mapping skills. I also can't wait to work outside, building and maintaining KLT trails!



Connie Kent

I am from Essex, Vermont, and grew up spending summers at my family's cottage on Lake Cobbosseecontee in Winthrop. I just finished my first year as a graduate student in the University of Vermont's Historic Preservation Program, and I'm excited to be interning with KLT this summer. I will be researching the agricultural history of the Gott Pasture Preserve and am also interested in learning about grant writing and other aspects of working for a small non-profit.



Amanda Lavigueur

I am a sophomore at Colby College majoring in Environmental Policy and Economics-Mathematics. I am Assistant Director of the Colby Volunteer Center, a regular volunteer at the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter, and a member of the Colby Outing and Organic Gardening Clubs. As a member of the Colby Social Entrepreneurs, I have increased my understanding of work in the non-profit sector. I am excited about the opportunity to intern with the Kennebec Land Trust this summer as a way to link my interest in the non-profit sector with my love for the outdoors and my ardent desire to protect the environment. In the future I hope to be an influential person in environmental policy, but for now I enjoy spending time in the outdoors and with my lovely brood of pets, including bearded dragons and cockatiels.



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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.

HOWARD LAKE RECEIVES MAINE PHILANTHROPY AWARD FOR 22 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

Deb Sewall, KLT Director and Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director

In recognition of his twenty-two years of dedicated work with the Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) to conserve Kennebec County's natural landscapes, Winthrop attorney Howard Lake received a Maine Philanthropy Award for outstanding long-term community service on April 6, 2011, at Colby College. Colby College's Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement presents the Philanthropy Awards annually to exceptional individuals from a central Maine high school, the College, central Maine, and the state.



Howard Lake and Theresa Kerchner at the Philanthropy Awards ceremony, Colby College. *Photograph: Scott Davis*

Howard helped found KLT in 1988 and has served on the Board of Directors and as pro bono legal counsel and advisor to KLT ever since. He has also served as President of the Board. Howard's legal work for KLT, which includes site visits, consistently adds up to over four hundred hours a year. In addition to the countless hours of legal work he does for KLT, Howard is a volunteer steward for the 100-acre Macdonald Conservation Area in Readfield. As a volunteer steward, he blazes and maintains trails and regularly records the condition of the property's natural features and wildlife.

The public benefits of Howard's charitable work can best be appreciated by visiting the more than fifty properties he has helped to protect, including Mount Pisgah in Winthrop, Jamies Pond in Hallowell, Davidson Conservation Area in Vassalboro, and Webber-Rogers Farmstead in Litchfield. Howard's quiet diligence over the past twenty-two years has provided residents of and visitors to Kennebec County with opportunities to hike, snowshoe, ski, and hunt on KLT's conservation properties.

Upon his acceptance of the Maine Philanthropy Central Maine Award at Colby, Howard remarked,

I am surprised and humbled to receive this award. None of us do this for the recognition. Helping our communities is only part of the motivation; the real reward is how volunteer service makes you feel inside. When I get thanked for my "work" on behalf of KLT I find it a bit humorous, since I don't think of the time I devote to KLT as "work."

Howard's efforts to ensure future generations the opportunity to enjoy the rural character of the region and the state extend beyond his work with KLT. He also serves on the Boards of the League of Conservation Voters, the Winthrop Chamber of Commerce, and until recently the Friends of Baxter Park.

Donald Sussman, Peter Garrett, John Koons, and Colby seniors John Perkins and Julia Bruss were also recognized for their philanthropic work.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Peter Bandy | Richard Dutile | David & Diane Landry | Michael & Tiffany Simoneau |
| Linda Barrett | Donna & Kenneth Estes | Margaret & Tom Lane | Susan & Ron Simons |
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| Dale Marie Clark | Ann & Stephen Inseria | Perry & Anna Ryerson | Cynthia Phinney & Paul Wilson |
| Peggy Cross | Rebecca Lamey & Maggie Stickle | Mary Sheridan & Matt Crane | |

Continued from cover page...

● In December of 2010, KLT purchased an 8-acre addition to the **Mount Pisgah Conservation Area in Winthrop**. The scenic wooded hills, streams, ponds, and wetlands of the 700-acre Mt. Pisgah Conservation Area provide important wildlife habitat and opportunities for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, and hunting. KLT has conserved nine parcels surrounding Mount Pisgah since 1995 and holds an easement on the Town of Winthrop's Mount Pisgah Community Conservation Area (also known as the Fire Tower parcel). Our newest property, purchased with member and business donations, will enhance the existing Fire Tower trail.

● This spring KLT purchased 25 acres adjacent to **Pickerel Pond in Wayne** from Nan and Rich Lincoln. Pickerel Pond and the surrounding wetlands and woodlands are recognized statewide for their important wildlife habitat values. KLT's new property is adjacent to a 90-acre parcel owned by the Town of Wayne. Two landowners with contiguous properties, including the Reiters on the Lord Road, have contacted KLT about conservation planning. Wayne KLT members donated generously to this purchase – thank you!



Mount Pisgah fire tower.
Photograph: Brian Kent



South shore of Pickerel Pond, Wayne
view to east. Photograph: Theresa Kerchner

As the summer begins, we are also awaiting news from the Land for Maine's Future Board about KLT's proposal to purchase a conservation easement on the 240-acre **Meadow Brook Farm in Fayette**. Operated as a dairy farm by Berndt and Elaine Graf since 1983, this property is directly adjacent to KLT's Sturtevant Farm Conservation Area and will extend KLT's work to protect farmland, water quality, and wildlife habitat in Fayette, and to increase public access to recreational lands there.

In celebration, KLT will hold dedications for these new conservation lands, the dates of which will be released in the coming months.

KLT Lands Committee: Bob Mohlar, Chair; Jim Connors, Cheryl Harrington, Theresa Kerchner, Howard Lake, Bob Marvinney, Patrice Putman, Clyde Walton.

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



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



QUESTIONS?

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB AT

WWW.TKLT.ORG



Join Us for Our Annual Meeting and Field Trips!

Sunday, August 21, 2011, Androscoggin Yacht Club Family Potluck and Cookout

KLT Perkins Woods, Androscoggin Lake, Wayne ~ Photograph: Jane Davis