The Kennebec Land Trust News

No. 14 Fall 1997

Islands of Hope Campaign a Success!

The "Islands of Hope" are protected.

The Kennebec Land Trust's campaign to preserve 27-acre Norris Island in Androscoggin Lake, 14 acres on Horseshoe Island in Cobbossee Lake, and 55 acres of old-growth forest along Dexter Pond, truly an ecological island, has been a resounding success.

This was no small undertaking. Since the campaign began over a year ago, dozens of volunteers have worked hundreds of hours to raise thousands of dollars to save these spectacular landscapes. Land trust directors, members and friends have called, written and visited with neighbors and community businesses to raise the \$150,000 needed. In fact, we have exceeded our goal and our wildest dreams.

The campaign began with a far more modest objective. In late 1995, the Kennebec Land Trust had borrowed more than \$40,000 to purchase a tract of mature forest along Dexter Pond on the slopes of Mt. Pisgah to protect it from the chainsaws. The parcel was being actively marketed by the owners and there was strong interest by a speculator in the timber value and potential for shorefront development. KLT was able to rescue the area, but needed to repay the emergency loan.

During the summer of 1996, shortly after planning began to raise funds to pay off the debt on the Dexter Pond parcel, a long time member of the land trust approached the board about the possibility of conserving two remarkable lots on Horseshoe Island. Horseshoe is probably the best known island in Cobbossee Lake. Together the two lots encompassed 14 acres with 2,600 feet of unspoiled shoreland. KLT simply could not pass it up.

The Kennebec Land Trust had raised money in 1992-93 to acquire Perry (formerly Sheep) Island which is adjacent to Horseshoe Island in Cobbossee Lake. Then, in 1994, the Elliott Farr Family had donated half of neighboring Hodgdon Island to the land trust. The KLT board realized immediately that the chance to protect 14 acres on Horseshoe island was extraordinary. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to add to the growing "collection" of preserved island properties in the middle of one of the most popular and beautiful lakes in the region.

In the autumn of 1996, the KLT board of directors faced a major decision. Could a small, all volunteer group, which had raised less than half as much in its only previous land purchase effort, now undertake a \$100,000 capital campaign? Under the leadership of then-president Norm Rodrigue, the land trust decided to test community support for such a challenging preservation effort. We formed a campaign committee, with Lila Segal and Lincoln Ladd as cochairs, and set a goal of trying to quietly raise \$60,000 in cash and

pledges by spring before reaching out to the broader community. The campaign was christened "Islands of Hope."

In the waning weeks of 1996 and the early months of 1997, we contacted many land trust members and conservation-minded friends. The response was encouraging. It looked like we would be able to begin the public phase of the campaign on schedule. Then suddenly we were faced with our next major challenge.

Howard Lake, a KLT board director and past president, visited Mark Johnston, vice president of Kennebec Savings Bank, to ask for their support. Kenne-

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Our Mission

The Kennebec Land Trust was formed in 1988 by local citizens who want to work with landowners and communities to protect the natural features, working landscapes, and fragile ecosystems of the Kennebec River and Lakes Region. KLT is a private, nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to preserving these treasures so that we do not spoil the very qualities that make our region a special place to live and visit.



Islands of Hope —

from page 1

bec Savings not only agreed to help, but offered the land trust a chance to protect yet another spectacular island property. The bank had recently foreclosed on 27-acre Norris Island in Androscoggin Lake. Rather than auction the property, the bank offered to sell Norris Island to KLT at a price below

fair market value. In addition to the bargain sale, Kennebec Savings offered to make a cash contribution, allow the land trust to place the island under option, and help with publicity to raise the funds required for purchase.

As exciting an opportunity as this was, the land trust was already committed to raising \$100,000 for the Horseshoe Island and Dexter Pond parcels. The KLT board had serious concerns about how much it could take on. After polling several potential donors and discussing the matter at

length, it appeared doubtful that all the additional funds could be raised and the land trust board, with great reluctance, decided that we could not acquire Norris Island at that time. Fortunately, Kennebec Savings Bank gave us another week to think about it.

A few days later, several KLT board members attended the annual Maine Land Trust Conference, co-hosted by KLT, in Hallowell. There, with the help of Rupert Neily of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, we were introduced to a conservation-minded family, who, when told about the Norris Is-

land situation, pledged a \$20,000 matching grant. That was all it took. The same afternoon we called Kennebec Savings Bank and told them KLT was committed to including Norris Island in our Islands of Hope campaign and increasing our goal to \$150,000.

\$150,000 \$125,000 \$100,000 \$75,000 \$50,000 \$25,000

Thank you to the hundreds of people who made donations to help us go over our campaign goal. With your help we floated the loon to the top!

The rest, as the saying goes, is history. The list of donors in this newsletter shows there has been a great outpouring of support. Indeed, we have received nearly \$160,000 in contributions and pledges, significantly exceeding our goal. Contributions have ranged from \$20,000 to \$5. All are gratefully accepted.

Now these Islands of Hope are protected. We have acquired ownership of the Horseshoe and Norris Island properties. Our loan for the Dexter Pond parcel has been repaid and our emergency acquisition fund replenished. Money has been added to our Stewardship Fund for long-term man-

agement of the new lands. But there is more.

\$0

Our small, all volunteer local land trust has matured. We will work hard to keep our members and contributors as lifelong friends. It is gratifying to know that our efforts to preserve some of the best of our shared landscapes are supported by so many friends, neighbors, communities and businesses.

We hope that you will take the time to visit our newest protected places, these spectacular Islands of Hope. Thank you.

Islands of Hope Campaign Committee

Wendy Dennis Lincoln Ladd Howard Lake Jeff Pidot Lorraine Ravis Norm Rodrigue Doug Scott Lila Segal Ken Spalding Jym St. Pierre Bob Weston

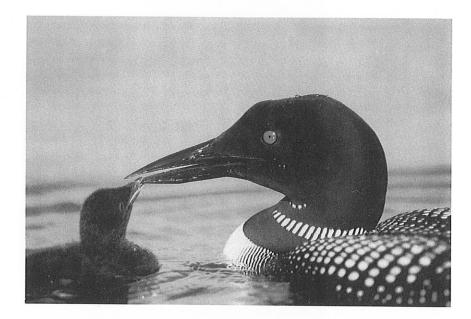
Kennebec Land Trust Islands of Hope Campaign Contributors

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John & Gail Appleton
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Loons often gather in the protected harbor of Horseshoe Island in Cobbossee Lake. Now two spectacular properties on Horseshoe Island—comprising 14 forested acres with more than 2,600 feet of unspoiled shoreline—have been permanently protected by KLT.

Norman T. Baldwin The Bandy Family Trust Brooke E. Barnes Carl & Betty Barnes Stasia Baron Wallace & Barbara Barrows George Bass Joseph A. Bauer, Jr. & Mary Brown Parlee Walter Belden Severin & Cynthia Beliveau Jemelie, Paul, Mike & Matt Bessette Frederick & Lisa Best Jerry Bley John Blouin Bruce & Peggy Bornstein Cal & Carol Boston David E. Boulter Elizabeth Bowen Heinz & Madeline Brandt Carol W. & Seward B. Brewster John & Charlene Bridge in memory of Paul & Mollie Bailey

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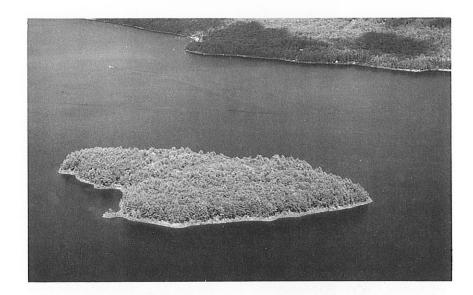
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Norris Island is the largest, highest, and perhaps the most beautiful island in Androscoggin Lake. Now the entire 27-acre island—with its mature forest, extraordinary sand beach, and historic importance—has been permanently protected by the Kennebec Land Trust.

Nancy Hill Hope Hilton Peter Hirsch Glenn & Sarah Hodgkins Jeanette Hopkins Leonard C. Horne & Bridgette E. Horne Dr. Michael A. Hoyt Mr. & Ms. Donald Huff William & Elizabeth Hufnagel Lloyd & Constance Irland in memory of John E. & Marion C. Irland Jamie Isaacson & Kris Lapp Mr. & Mrs. William Isherwood Mark & Ginger Ishkanian Mrs. Neala W. Jennings Michael V. Jennings Nancy Rocke Johnson Phillip E. Johnson & Priscilla D. Johnson Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. L. Johnson, III Todd L. Johnson Gilliam Johnston

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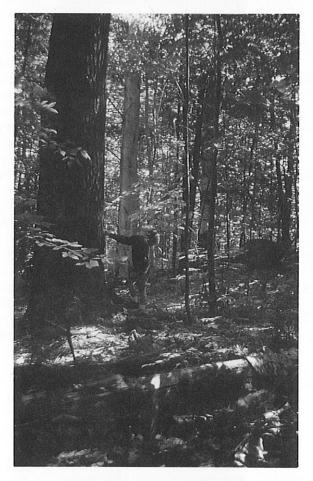


William Nye

Carol Oberdorfer Dick O'Connor Suzanne O'Connor Steve O'Donnell & Judy Brooks Dr. & Mrs. R. D. O'Malley Pamela Riley Osborn Marsha O'Rourke & Dan Buck Philip G. & Sylvia Palmer Carroll Paradis Gary R. Peachey Sidney R. Peachey Rob & Deb Peale Mrs. Ruth D. Pearce William H. Pelletier Madeline Perazzi John C. Perkins Larry & Nancy Perkins David & Shirley Petherbridge Jeffrey & Ginny Pidot Steve Pond Peter Prescott Carol Lund Price Carol Profy Al Prysunka & Romaine Turyn Larry & Steph Ralph Charles & Lorraine Ravis Linda Ray Hazel Raynes in memory of Charlie Raynes Robert D. Reed Dr. & Mrs. Walter A. Reiter, Jr. Gail Rice George Richardson Harry & Dee Richardson Celia & Isadore Risen Norm & Lynne Rodrigue William & Karen Rogers Constance L. Rowley Arthur Roy H. Allen & Diane Ryan Dan & Joyce Sackman Dr. & Mrs. John H. St. Andre Jym St. Pierre & Wendy Shaw Robin Salvatore Rebecca Foster Sandlin Robert L. Sands Vincent & Bernice Sarnowski Bruce & Nancy Schatz Nancy & Bill Schenck Charlie Schumann Douglas & Ingrid Scott Jean Scudder Lila Segal Eugene & Millie Sexton Kate Sheehan & Peter Weiskel Marty, Silvia & Jon Silverman Jeffrey Simoneau June Skillings Bernard & Mary Slofer Jack D. & Anita G. Smart Jane G. Smith Mimi Smith Tim & Luvia Sniffen Ken & Susanne Spalding Constance Spellman **Hugh & Betty Stephens** Joyce T. Sterling Priscilla & Dan Stevens David & Hazel Stevenson

John Stevenson

T. D. O. & P. B. Stevenson
Joan Sturmthal
Mark Sullivan
Brent & Cheryl Surowiec
Rick Tardiff
Betsy Jane Taylor
Kay & Gene Taylor
Henry & Dorothea Thacher
R. Collin Therrien
Ben & Sue Thomas
Paula Thomson
Phil & Heather Thorp



The Cutten property on Dexter Pond contains many majestic old-growth trees, such as this white pine, as well as the remains of an historic farmstead. Now the 55-acre parcel has been permanently protected by KLT as a key piece in a growing quilt of conserved lands in the Mt. Pisgah area.

Andy & Susie Tolman
Jessica, William, Kathleen &
Allan Toubman
Ben Townsend & Dorcas Miller
Phillip Tribou
Robert F. Turner & Sue A. Neal
Mr. & Mrs. Hilton O. Twombly
Mary & John Tyler
D.D. Tyler & Harry R. Tyler, Jr.

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American Express Augusta Fuel Company Ballard's Bay Loon Company Berry Dexter Wilson Ponds Watershed Association **Berard Communications Blouin Motors** Camp Androscoggin Camp Tekawitha Central Maine Power Company Charlie's Motor Mall Cobbosseecontee Lake Association CommTel Dorle's Everett J. Prescott, Inc. Elsie & William Viles Foundation Fox Photography Services Gardiner Savings Institution Helen & George Ladd Charitable Corp. Hoyt Chiropractic Center IBM Insure Thomas J & S Oil Company John Hancock Insurance Company Kennebec Savings Bank Kippewa for Girls Letter Systems Printing Longfellow's Greenhouses Maine Coast Heritage Trust The Nature Conservancy Northcenter Foodservice Corp. Northern Wings O'Connor GMC

Peachey Builders
Pierce Atwood
Pine State Trading Company
Saunders Manufacturing
Shaw's Supermarket of Augusta
Shop 'n Save
State Cable TV Corporation
Tex-Tech Industries
United Way of Kennebec Valley

Thank you!

President's Message

So how does it feel to be KLT's new president? There are four feelings that come quickly to mind, but I'll save the most important for the end of my message. I feel excited, and daunted, and challenged. It's exciting because here we are at the end of a successful fundraising campaign, pressing forward with the acquisition of magnificent island properties, uplifted by a large and generous group of supporters. KLT has helped to protect 15 parcels in the nine short years of its existence. In many respects, KLT is the envy of many small land trusts around Maine.

It's daunting for me, because KLT has had great leadership in the past, which accounts in no small measure for its successes to date. Each of KLT's past presidents (Norm Rodrigue, Howard Lake, Wendy Dennis and Jym St. Pierre), assisted by an able and dedicated Board and cadre of supporters, have created a legacy of accomplishment. To say that it's a hard act to follow is an understatement.

It's challenging because, even while KLT has enjoyed a track record of acquisitions with the promise of more to come, we should now turn to focus on the second major part of our mission.

After KLT acquires a parcel of land or a conservation easement, our next and equally important task is to see to the property's long term protection and stewardship. This is why we set aside stewardship funds for the properties we acquire, including as part of the proceeds of our just completed capital campaign. We must now increase our efforts to monitor our protected lands, provide for and maintain trails where appropriate, post suitable signs and boundary markers, and, when useful, prepare and implement management plans. We must demonstrate to our land donors. supporters and communities that we are good caretakers of the properties entrusted to us.

For this reason, I have significantly increased the size of KLT's Stewardship Committee and asked Norm Rodrigue, our immediate past president, to lead this flagship committee's work. If KLT members are interested in participating in this work, I hope they will

call Norm at 622-6204.

Regardless of whether you can directly join in KLT's enhanced stewardship efforts, please plan to visit your land trust's publicly accessible properties soon, and regularly. As a member and supporter of KLT, you've helped to create what we are and what we accomplish. So be sure to get out there and see and touch the land you have helped to protect.

Enjoy a walk through the magnificent and historic Vaughan Woods in Hallowell, or paddle out to the expansive beach on Norris Island in Androscoggin Lake, or visit one of our open fields or old-growth forest stands. Just by your presence, you are helping to care for this land and for your community. And that brings me to the fourth and most important feeling I have about my new role as your land trust's president: the sheer joy of working to protect a land-scape I love.

Thank you for your generosity and conservation-mindedness.

Jeff Pidot

KLT Activities

Much of the recent work of the Kennebec Land Trust has been focused on completing our Islands of Hope campaign. However, KLT has also been busy on many other fronts. For instance we have:

- continued discussions with landowners on a variety of conservation projects;
- conducted field trips to two of our newest conservation properties and held our annual meeting;
- elected several new board members and new officers;
- visited the properties protected by KLT as part of our steward-

- ship monitoring and purchased new signs that will publicly identify each area;
- organized the annual autumn work party to cleanup and repair trails at the Vaughan Woods in Hallowell;
- secured widespread coverage of our activities in the news media, including front page stories in the Kennebec Journal and Capital Weekly and a program on State Cable;
- participated in a conference on protection of Cobbossee Lake and the Readfield Heritage Days;

- sent a representative to the national Land Trust Rally which was held this year in Savannah, Georgia;
- helped build and attended the dedication of new trails at the Jamies Pond conservation area in Hallowell, Manchester and Farmingdale;
- submitted comments on state proposals to continue the tax status of land trust properties and to expand funding support for local conservation projects in Maine.



Annual Members Day Features Island Field Trips and Party

During the afternoon of August 24, 1997, KLT sponsored boat tours to two of the Islands of Hope properties the land trust had been raising money to protect. Members and friends had an opportunity to see up close Horseshoe Island in Cobbossee Lake and Norris Island in Androscoggin Lake.

Late in the afternoon, dozens of KLT members and quests gathered at the Augusta Country Club in Manchester for a celebration of the Islands of Hope campaign and the ninth annual membership meeting of the Kennebec Land Trust. Gifts of appreciation were presented to those who had helped lead the campaign, including Lila Segal and Lincoln Ladd, Capital Campaign Co-Chairs: Jon Lund, who assisted with the Horseshoe Island acquisition; Mark Johnston, Vice-President of Kennebec Savings Bank, who arranged for Norris Island to be sold to KLT at a bargain price; Bob Weston, Capital Campaign Coordinator; and Norm Rodrigue, retiring KLT President and fundraiser extraordinaire.

At the membership meeting, Norm Rodrigue thanked retiring board directors John Archard, Pat Brewester, George Dragonetti and Ben Townsend for their contributions to KLT. In Treasurer Sandy Crockett's absence, Norm also presented the financial report. KLT is in fine financial shape.

Lincoln Ladd and
Lila Segal were
presented awards
at the annual
members meeting
for helping to
lead KLT's
successful Islands
of Hope
campaign.



Re-elected as directors were Howard Lake, Jeff Pidot, Paula Thomson and Bob Weston. Glenn Hodgkins had previously been elected to fill the unexpired term of Alice Arlen who resigned when she left the area. Four new directors were elected: Cindy Bastey of Hallowell, Diane Friese of Vienna, Ken Knight of Augusta, and Jeff Musich of Monmouth. Officers elected by the board included Jeff Pidot, President; Jim Connors, First Vice-President; Bob Mohlar, Second Vice-President; Sandy Crockett, Treasurer; and Norm Rodrigue, Secretary.

In his Lands Committee report, Jim Connors explained that KLT had been focusing on the Islands of Hope properties. However, progress was also being made on protection of other lands, including sites in Fayette, Gardiner and Manchester. Jym St. Pierre gave the Outreach Committee report. He mentioned publication of

the newsletter, media coverage, a special display about the Vaughan Woods, exhibits at several conferences and fairs, and the field trips held earlier in the day.

Norm Rodrigue described how the Stewardship Committee was working on monitoring of boundaries and management plans for protected properties. On behalf of the Membership Committee, Ann Judd reported KLT had more than 400 members. Bob Weston, chair of the Development Committee, thanked Lila Segal and Lincoln Ladd for their leadership in the capital campaign.

Finally, Jym St. Pierre presented a slide program illustrating the surpassing beauty of the many properties the Kennebec Land Trust has worked with landowners to protect over the past nine years.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to those who organized the celebration and meeting.

KLT Tradelands

People support the work of the Kennebec Land Trust in many different ways. Some give money, some give time, some give land, some give easements. From time to time, supporters give properties to KLT which are not of high natural importance. The donors understand that the land trust will sell those properties and use the proceeds to protect lands that are directly within our mission.

KLT is finalizing the sale of a small, undevelopable shoreland lot in Readfield. Money from that sale will support our acquisition and stewardship efforts.

We have another tradeland lot available comprising more than 13 wooded acres in an attractive rural location on the Mt. Pisgah Road in Wayne. It has been soil tested for one home. The asking price is \$12,000. For further information, contact the Davis Agency, Monmouth, 207-933-4441.

Illustration credits: Mark McCollough, page 2; Randy Ury, page 3; Fox Photography, page 4; Jym St. Pierre, pages 5 and 7.



KLT Board of Directors

James Connors, First Vice President, N. Monmouth

Robert Mohlar, Second Vice President, Readfield

Sandra Crockett, Treasurer, Winthrop

Normand Rodrigue, Secretary, Manchester

Cynthia Bastey, Hallowell

David Courtemanch, Mount

Vernon

Wendy Dennis, E. Winthrop
Diane Friese, Vienna
Glenn Hodgkins, W. Gardiner
Ann Judd, Fayette
Kenneth Knight, Augusta
Cynthia Kuhns, Mount Vernon
Howard Lake, Readfield
Jeffrey Musich, Monmouth
Kenneth Spalding, Wayne
James St. Pierre, Readfield
Paula Thomson, Fayette
Robert Weston, E. Winthrop

Membership in the Kennebec Land Trust, which includes a subscription to this newsletter, is available at the following suggested annual dues levels:

\$15.00
\$25.00
\$50.00
\$100.00
\$250.00

In addition to cash contributions, gifts of appreciated securities and tradelands are most welcome. These may have added tax advantages for donors. Occasionally, the Kennebec Land Trust makes its membership list available for mailings by other like-minded organizations. Members who do not want their names exchanged should send written notice to KLT.

Calling KLT

To reach the Kennebec Land Trust, please call our Winthrop phone number: 207-377-2848. Jeff Pidot, KLT President, also welcomes calls. He can be reached at 207-622-4394 (home) or 207-626-8583 (office).

The Kennebec Land Trust
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