

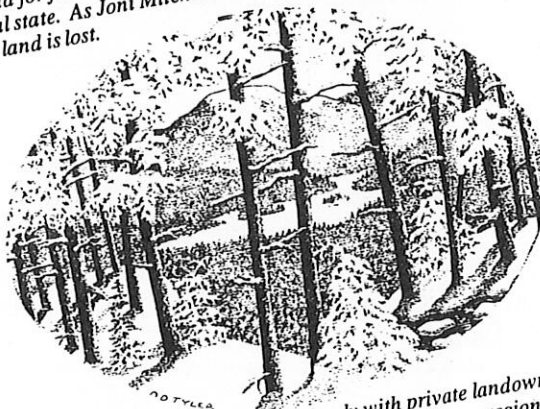
KLT launches "Islands of Hope" campaign to preserve important properties

THE KENNEBEC LAND TRUST
P.O. Box 261, Winthrop, Maine 04364

Dear Friends:

Recently, at a national land trust conference, one of the featured speakers said, "If you want to make a positive, personal impact, save land. Practically nothing we can do in our lives will make more of a difference a hundred years from now. Our children will be gone, our personal endeavors largely forgotten, but land preserved will serve the many and stand as a tribute to our care and forethought."

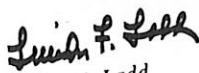
How true! We recall little of Governor Percival Baxter's political and business agenda. His legacy is the land he saved for us and for future generations. It is also true that land appropriated for development rarely returns to its natural state. As Joni Mitchell used to sing, once they "pave paradise and put up a parking lot," that natural land is lost.



The Kennebec Land Trust has been working closely with private landowners over the past nine years to permanently protect many beautiful and important natural sites in our region. Now the land trust is taking on its most ambitious project yet, a \$150,000 campaign to save some of our most wonderful special places, including a large part of Horseshoe Island in Cobbossee Lake, the entirety of Norris Island in Androscoggin Lake, and old-growth forestland along Dexter Pond on the slopes of Mt. Pisgah. We are calling this campaign "Islands of Hope" because it will conserve areas that demonstrate the optimism of the human spirit.

Already each member of the Board of Directors of the Kennebec Land Trust, as well as many friends, have made generous contributions and pledges of support totaling over half of the campaign goal. Now it is up to the rest of us. We sincerely hope you will make a commitment to support this effort to preserve some of our most special places, these Islands of Hope.

Thank you,


Lincoln Ladd
Campaign Co-Chair


Lila Segal
Campaign Co-Chair

Protecting life and land in Kennebec County

The Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) is a private, nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to preserving the natural features, working landscapes and fragile ecosystems of western Kennebec County. Since its founding in 1988, KLT has protected more than a dozen areas.

More than any other feature of the landscape, lakes define the natural character of our region. Because of their rarity, scenic beauty, and ecological and recreational importance, KLT has identified protection of islands and shore lands as a top priority.

Generous landowners have agreed to convey to KLT, at less than market cost, several extraordinary properties. These include parcels on Horse-shoe Island in Cobbossee Lake, the entirety of Norris Island in Androscoggin Lake, and land along Dexter Pond on the slopes of Mt. Pisgah.

KLT is seeking financial support from individuals and businesses to secure the long-term conservation of these magnificent properties. The total budget for this campaign is \$150,000. It's an ambitious goal, but we believe the people who live in and visit central Maine appreciate the value of

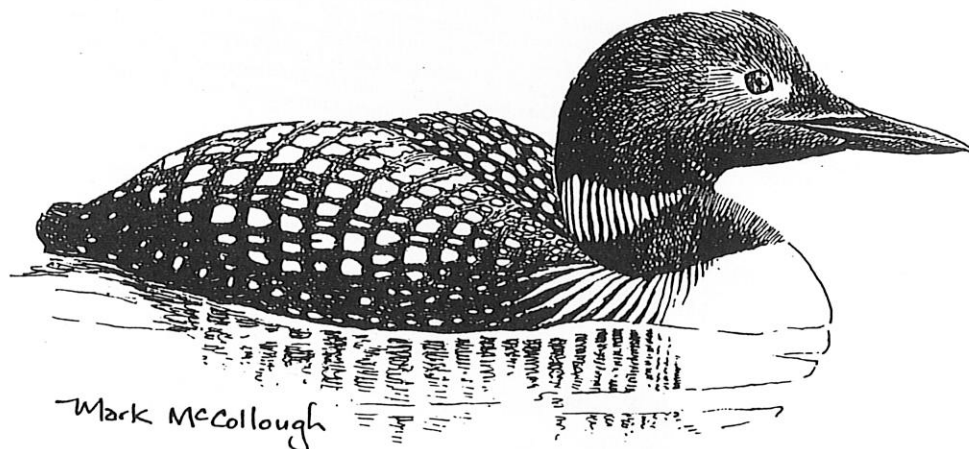
open space areas such as these. And we know that the chance to protect these areas is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that we cannot let pass.

Generations of families have enjoyed the natural beauty of Cobbossee and Androscoggin lakes and Mt.

Pisgah. Your support of the campaign to preserve these key properties can help ensure that future generations will be able to appreciate these wild areas as cherished "Islands of Hope" in an increasingly developed landscape.

In the northwestern part of Kennebec County is one of the most beautiful spots in New England... people know it, and love it, and come to find in this delightful place perfect freedom from the rush, hurry and bustle which characterizes city life, and which are so wearing to nerves and brain.

-- History of the Town of Wayne, 1898



Conserved Properties ☐ Proposed for Conservation ☒



Horseshoe Island

Lake Umbagog and its surrounding region still maintains its primitive charm... Numberless wooded islands greatly enhance the spectacular beauty of Umbagog's broad expanse. Some are of horseshoe shape, making snug harbors.

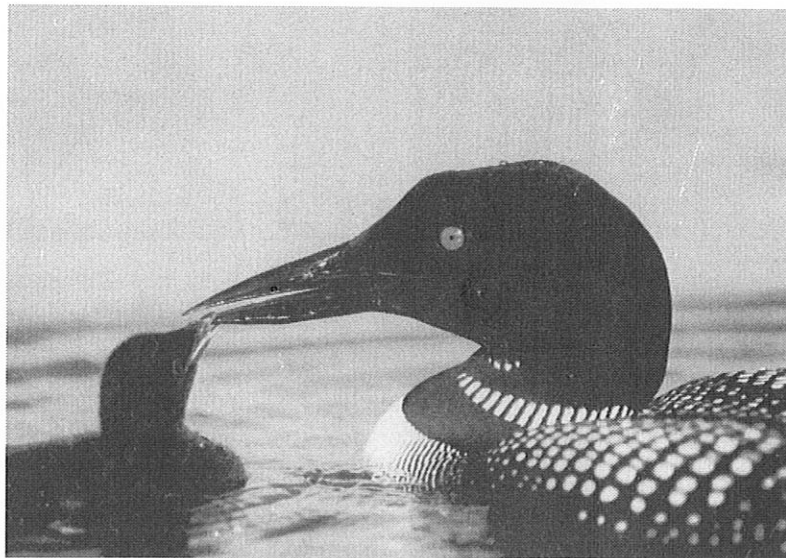
— Kennebec Lakes Region,
The Playground of Central Maine, c. 1940

In recent years, KLT has been working with private landowners to protect some of the most important properties in Umbagog Lake. In 1993, KLT purchased Perry Island, the largest undeveloped island in the lake. This is maintained as a nature preserve open for passive public use. In 1994, KLT received as a gift the southern portion of Hodgdon Island and several adjacent islets from the Elliot Farr family.

Now KLT has an opportunity to acquire two spectacular adjoining properties on nearby Horseshoe Island, the largest island in Umbagog Lake. Together these parcels comprise 14 forested acres with more than 2,600 feet of unspoiled shoreline. If we succeed in protecting these two properties, other owners have indicated that they may be willing to donate or sell at bargain prices their lots to KLT. So an initial investment could result in even more significant properties available for conservation on Horseshoe Island.

In the interior of the island, mature hardwoods predominate. In spring, the translucent foliage of maples, beeches and birches lights up the island. In summer, the deep green of the broadleaf trees spreads from shore to shore. In autumn, the woods

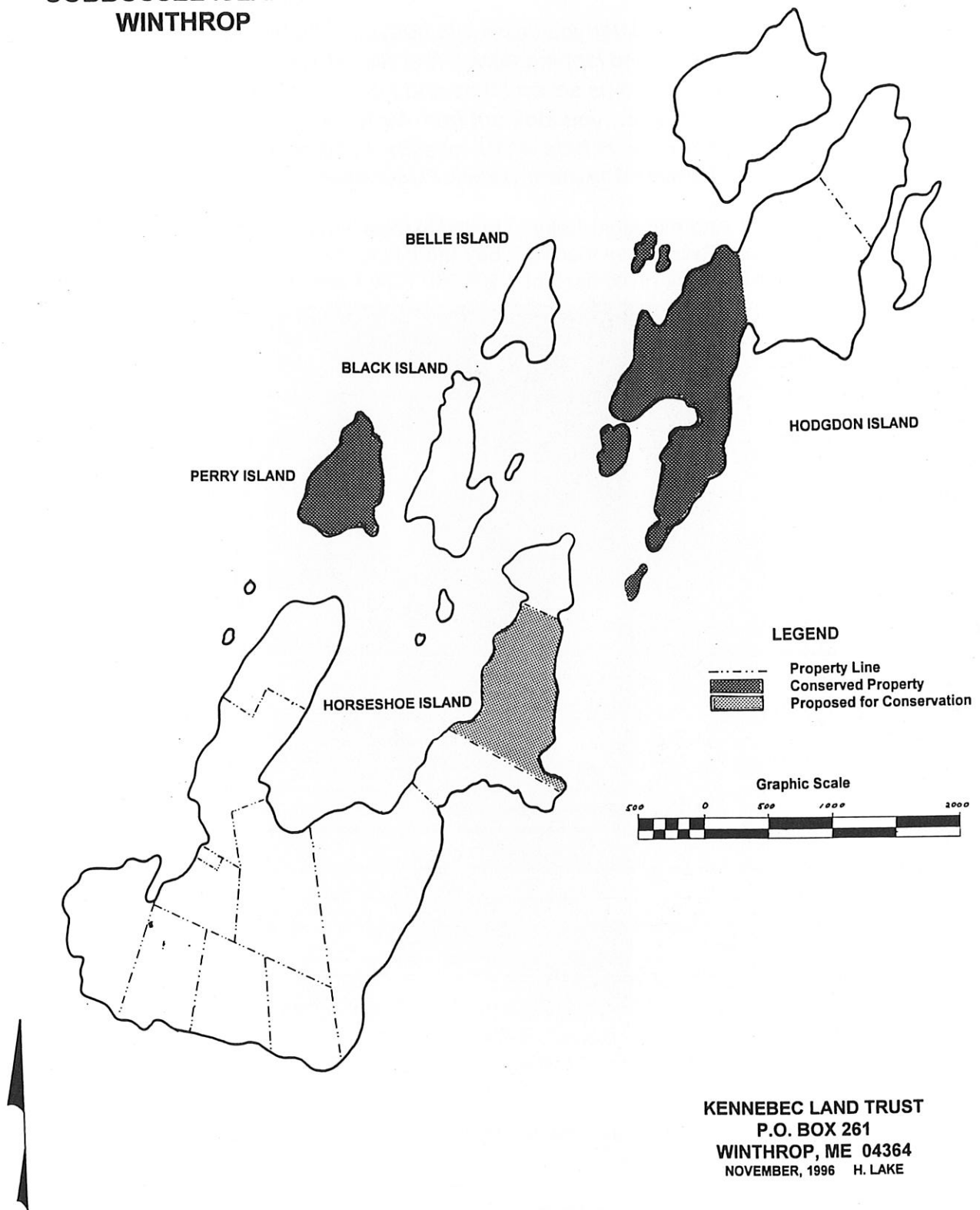
turn resplendent with fall reds, oranges and yellows. In winter, the bare trees stand frozen guard over the understory plants hidden beneath the insulating snow. Along the water's edge evergreens elbow the hardwoods for space in the sunlight. Pines, cedars, and firs crowd the shore as boats, canoes and windsurfers glide past.



Umbagog Lake supports one of the largest populations of loons in southern Maine. The birds often gather in a protected harbor of Horseshoe Island

KLT has obtained a legal option to acquire the first two properties on Horseshoe Island. The total cost is \$35,000, less than half of the estimated value of these spectacular properties.

**KENNEBEC LAND TRUST
COBBOSSEE ISLANDS
WINTHROP**



**KENNEBEC LAND TRUST
P.O. BOX 261
WINTHROP, ME 04364
NOVEMBER, 1996 H. LAKE**

Norris Island

...a few miles later you cross into heaven. The birches and pines and lapping waves feel like a blessing. Wayne contains seven lakes and ponds, notably Androscoggin...you look out from Morrison Heights and see miles of blue water, swatches of islands...

-- Katherine Whittemore, Historic Preservation, 1989

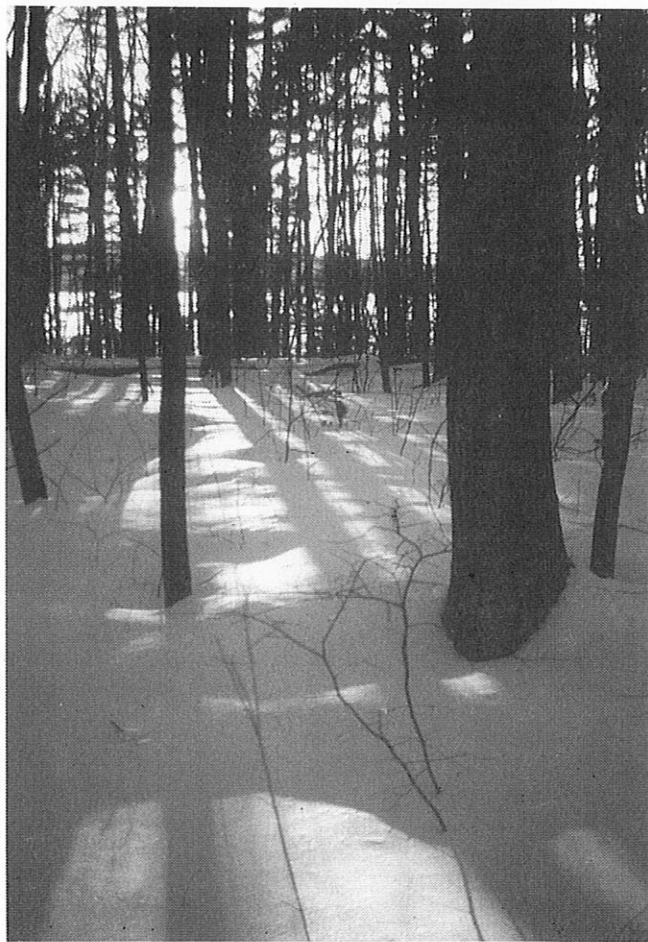
Among the islands of Androscoggin Lake, Norris Island is extraordinary. Rising more than 50 feet above the surrounding waters on its base of granite bedrock and sandy soils, Norris has outstanding scenic, wildlife, historical and recreational values. It is the largest and highest of the islands in the lake. Virtually all 27 acres of the island are wooded. Mature pine and oak trees, along with a shrubby understory, provide habitat for a variety of bird, mammal, and invertebrate species typically associated with this increasingly scarce type of forest ecosystem.

An unusual black sand beach of biotite mica offers an easy landing for local visitors, including those from several children's camps on the lake and many others who visit Norris. A simple, inconspicuous camp on the north end of the island, built by a previous owner, could serve as a base for educational and stewardship activities.

Recognizing the superlative qualities of Norris Island and the rare chance to preserve a site so significant, the KLT Board of Directors has com-

mitted to raise enough money by August, 1997, to buy the island. Not long ago, the island sold for \$98,000. Now, thanks to the generosity of Kennebec

Savings Bank, KLT has an opportunity to purchase the island for less than \$64,000. To encourage protection of Norris Island, a generous donor has made a pledge through the Maine Coast Heritage Trust of \$20,000 toward acquisition of the island by KLT. To qualify for this challenge grant, KLT must raise an equal amount locally. So, including stewardship funds, we must raise more than \$50,000 to save Norris Island.

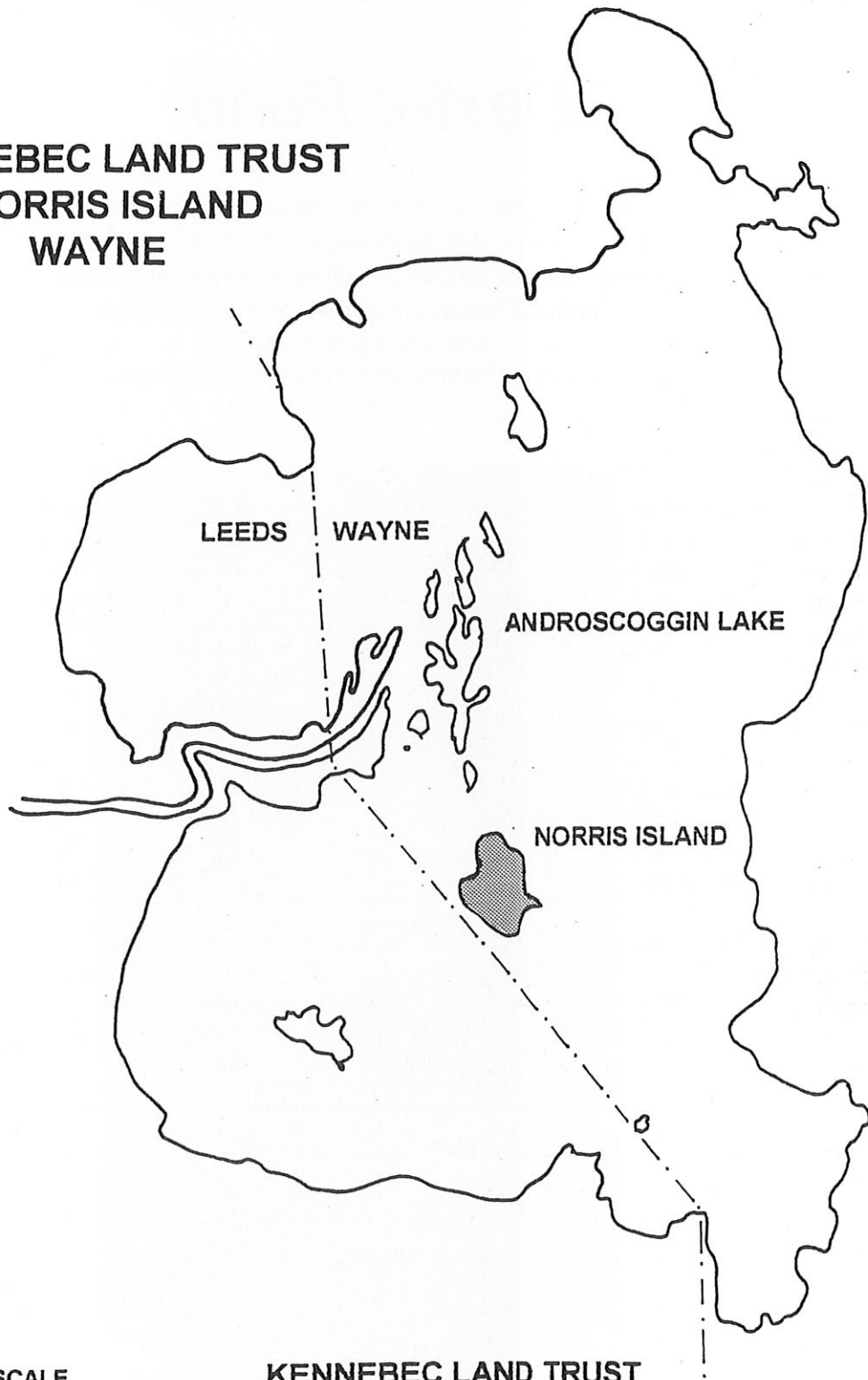


Norris Island supports a mature ecosystem with a variety of plants and animals.

Bald eagles sometimes roost in the island's tall pines. If KLT cannot raise enough money to buy the island, suburban homes and cottages may roost on the island instead. Already it is zoned for residential development and more than one private buyer is interested in gaining ownership.

Protecting Norris Island presents one of the greatest challenges KLT has ever faced. But it also presents an opportunity to rescue one of the greatest "Islands of Hope" in our region.

**KENNEBEC LAND TRUST
NORRIS ISLAND
WAYNE**



GRAPHIC SCALE



1 INCH= 1/2 MILE

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MAY 1997 H. LAKE**



Dexter Pond

Islands are havens. They are natural laboratories of extravagant evolutionary experimentation...Island biogeography is no longer an off-shore enterprise. The problem of habitat fragmentation has begun showing up all over.

*-- David Quammen, **The Song of the Dodo, Island Biogeography**, 1996*

Not all islands are surrounded by water. Scientists have recognized that mountain tops and other isolated areas have characteristics similar to patches of dry land in a lake or sea.

Rescuing some of these islands of upland habitat is as important as preserving conventional islands, both for their aesthetic beauty and biological significance.

For years, KLT has been interested in conserving the Mt. Pisgah region. In 1995, Robert and Maril O'Malley conveyed to KLT its first property there, 17 acres in Wayne on Dexter Pond. Then, in 1996, KLT was presented with an extraordinary opportunity to acquire, from the estate of William Cutten, an adjoining 55-acre parcel of mature forest land on the slopes of Mt. Pisgah.

Forest ecologists who have inspected the Cutten

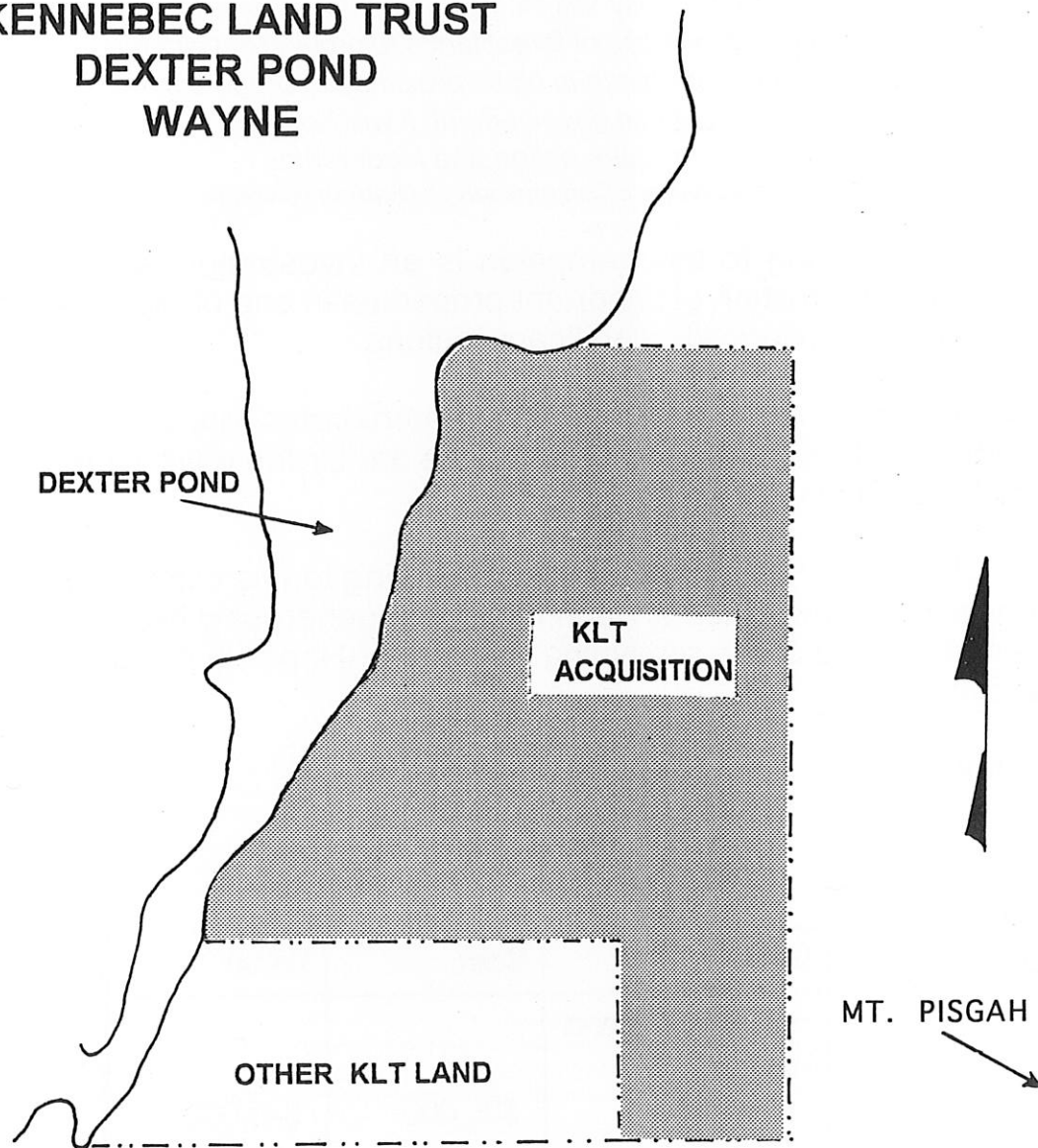


property believe it contains some of the largest, oldest – and therefore most ecologically important – trees in the region. There are huge red pines and white pines, as well as an impressive hemlock grove. Hardwood species include maple, basswood and ash. The property also includes the site of one of the earliest homesteads in the region.

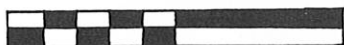
KLT had to move quickly to save this unique old grove forest stand from the chainsaw. To purchase the Cutten parcel, KLT committed reserve funds and took out a loan. Those monies now must be repaid to KLT's Emergency Acquisition Fund. The Land Trust needs to raise enough to cover the acquisition price and establish a long-term stewardship fund.

The Cutten property on Dexter Pond near Mt. Pisgah being protected by KLT contains many majestic old-growth trees, such as this white pine.

**KENNEBEC LAND TRUST
DEXTER POND
WAYNE**



GRAPHIC SCALE



1 INCH = 500 FEET

**KENNEBEC LAND TRUST
P.O. BOX 261
WINTHROP, ME 04364
NOVEMBER 1996 H. LAKE**

The challenge

The opportunity still exists in southern Maine to set aside a few areas of forest lands to provide a welcome counterbalance in close proximity to urban and suburban development. It will, however, require action and leadership.

-- Governor's Commission on Outdoor Recreation

Contributing to this campaign is an investment that assures permanent protection of important properties in one of Maine's most beautiful and historically significant regions.

Contributing to this campaign demonstrates that you understand how profoundly affected we are by the environment in which we choose to live.

Perhaps most importantly, contributing to this campaign shows that you are rich enough in spirit to generously help preserve some of the remaining "Islands of Hope" in our shared landscape.

Thank you!

"Islands of Hope" campaign budget

Goal	Cost	Value
Horseshoe Island Parcels		
Parcel 1	\$35,000	\$45,000
Parcel 2	—	40,000
Norris Island	63,000	100,000
Dexter Pond Parcel	42,000	65,000
Subtotal	140,000	250,000
Stewardship Fund	10,000	10,000
Total	\$150,000	\$260,000

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President's message

Sometimes you have no choice but to act.

Last winter the Kennebec Land Trust began raising funds for our largest land preservation effort yet. We knew the tremendous value of the properties on Horseshoe Island and Dexter Pond which we wanted to protect. However, this spring, in the course of soliciting Kennebec Savings Bank for a corporate contribution, suddenly we were presented with an offer we simply could not refuse. Mark Johnston of Kennebec Savings suggested that an even better way for the bank to participate was to provide KLT with the opportunity to preserve yet another significant island property – 27-acre Norris Island in Androscoggin Lake.

Mark says, "We were ready to auction Norris Island when KLT called. The island would have sold for a significantly higher price to a private owner, but it would have been less accessible to the public and likely would have become developed. Conveying Norris Island to KLT at a bargain sale price allows the bank to participate in this campaign in a more meaningful way."

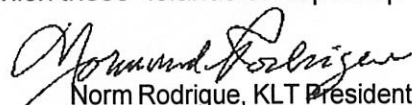
In addition to offering the island to KLT at a significantly reduced price and giving us the summer to raise funds, Kennebec Savings Bank is making

a major cash contribution. "We believe that preserving some of Kennebec Valley's special places is important to the communities we serve," explains Mark.

Thank you, Kennebec Savings Bank. We hope your generosity will be an inspiration for everyone.

It is now up to all of us to pitch in and make it happen. As our campaign budget shows, the lands we are saving at Horseshoe, Norris and Dexter are a worthwhile investment both from a conservation and an economic point of view. For every dollar we spend, we receive about \$1.75 in value. An excellent return.

We already have donations and pledges for half of the \$150,000 campaign goal, including a wonderful \$20,000 challenge grant for the Norris Island purchase. But there is little time left and a lot of work to do. Your support is needed to make this campaign a success. Please be as generous as you can. Our board, campaign co-chairs and friends are working hard to make this dream come true. I hope you can join us on August 24 to celebrate the magnificent gift to our communities and to our children which these "Islands of Hope" represent.

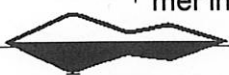

Norm Rodriguez, KLT President

KLT Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Kennebec Land Trust and a celebration of the "Islands of Hope" campaign will be held on August 24, 1997, at the Augusta Country Club. If you are a KLT member, an invitation will be mailed to you soon. If you are not a member, please call 685-3159 for more information.

KLT hosts Land Trust conference

KLT joined the Hallowell Conservation Commission in hosting the 1997 Conference of Maine Land Trusts on May 3 at Hall-Dale School in Farmingdale. Jay Espy, president of Maine Coast Heritage Trust, principal sponsor of the annual conference, described the meeting this year as the best ever. One highlight was a guided tour of the nearby Vaughan Woods, where KLT holds a conservation easement on 155 acres of magical forests, streams and trails. An exhibit on the historic significance of the Vaughan Woods prepared for the conference by KLT is on display this summer in Hallowell City Hall.



KLT Board of Directors

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James St. Pierre, Readfield

Paula Thomson, Fayette

Benjamin Townsend,
Chelsea

Robert Weston, E. Winthrop

"Islands of Hope" campaign giving levels

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10,000	Island Saver
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$5,000	Island Protector
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,000	Island Conserver
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500	Island Keeper
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250	Island Sponsor
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100	Island Sustainer
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	Island Supporter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	

In addition to cash contributions and pledges, gifts of appreciated securities are most welcome. These have added tax advantages for donors.

Calling KLT

To reach the Kennebec Land Trust, please call our Winthrop phone number: (207) 377-2848.

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