



## Curtis Family Homestead Donated to KLT

Former Governor Kenneth Curtis and his sister, Rebecca Meredith, have given their 360-acre ancestral homestead to the KLT. The property, which will be named the Curtis Homestead Conservation Area, is located in Leeds about 1 mile south of Androscoggin Lake, near the Bishop Hill Road and the Bog Road. The property will be managed for its significant wildlife and recreational resources. The Curtis family has owned the land since the 1830s, according to the former Governor who grew up on the farm in the 1930s and 40s.

The property includes portions of the Monmouth-Leeds bog on its eastern boundary, and is covered with mature pine and hemlock stands (not to mention a notable stand of sassafras in its most northern known occurrence), and unusual oak stands on the dry hummocks within the bog.

We're extremely pleased that Governor Curtis and his family have entrusted us with the perpetual management of their homestead. This is another important addition to our inventory of protected lands. A stewardship committee has been formed to develop a management plan for the property. If you are interested you can contact the steward, Andy Bosworth (933-6023), or Collin Therrien, Board Director and Stewardship Committee chair (622-0996)



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### We're growing ! Acre by acre & member by member

We now are almost 400 members who are the stewards for over 1,300 acres in Kennebec County. The more land we protect the more members we need. Please tell your friends and neighbors about what we do. Take a minute and ask a friend to join.

**Contact Doug  
Scott (933-2229 /  
adscot1@ibm.net)  
for a membership  
packet.**



**WE'VE PURCHASED 100 MORE ACRES ON PISGAH! - SEE PAGE 4**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Dear Members & Friends,

Well, I have served you as president for one year, and I look forward to one more year of working with you in this capacity on the important task of conserving and caring for crucial open spaces and natural resources in our communities. In past messages I have expressed my admiration for the dedicated work of our diverse Board of Directors and Committee Members. I continue to marvel at what we can do together and the profound understanding I have gained of the importance of members and supporters to the success of our good work.

### **Board of Directors**

James Connors, Pres.	<i>N. Monmouth</i>
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Jeffrey Musich, V. Pres.	<i>Monmouth</i>
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Diana McLaughlin, Sec'y.	<i>Wayne</i>
Tom Bartol	<i>Manchester</i>
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Jeffrey Jannell	<i>Winthrop</i>
Ann Judd	<i>Fayette</i>
Howard Lake	<i>Readfield</i>
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Robert Mohlar	<i>Readfield</i>
Norm Rodrigue	<i>Manchester</i>
Debbie Sewall	<i>Hallowell</i>
Collin Therrien	<i>Augusta</i>
Clyde Walton	<i>Fayette</i>
Robert Weston	<i>E. Winthrop</i>
Henry Whittemore	<i>Readfield</i>

We have accomplished a lot over the last few years. We have received a tremendous vote of confidence from land owners who continue to entrust to our care valuable pieces of natural wildlands and family homesteads. The Curtis family donation this year has cemented a widespread recognition that the KLT is a strong viable organization capable and able to accept the long term responsibility of holding and caring for land. We have made modest gains in membership numbers, but remarkable gains in member support. The average level of membership giving has risen and the 1999 annual fund campaign was the largest ever. While still an all-volunteer organization we have matured in experience and capacity to a point where we are able to take the initiative in purchasing key parcels of land as they have become available.

There is more to do, of course, as witnessed by the items in this newsletter. We continue to be contacted by landowners who are interested in maintaining the open undeveloped nature of their properties. We continue to work with landowners and community members on several projects that will yield spectacular results when they are consummated. And we have an important stewardship responsibility to carry out on all of our parcels.

I am particularly excited about the opportunities inherent in preparing a stewardship plan for the Curtis Family Conservation Area. This task will test our skills and stretch our capabilities, but it will also broaden our leadership role in our communities, our management abilities, and our decision making processes. We welcome and need all of your help.

The basis for succeeding in all of this is all of us -- board members, regular members and supporters, and community residents. So I look forward to another year of incredible accomplishments with your full support.

Sincerely,

*Jim Connors*



## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

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Jeff & Allison Wells  
Craig & Beth Snider  
Gary Higginson  
Paul & Michelle Binette  
Jeffrey Suleski  
Jim Botz  
Gregory & Linda Nelson  
Harold & Judith Berliner  
Edward F. Libby  
Alan & Margaret Grometstein

Gary & Teresa Erhart  
Sarah & Harold Evans, Jr.  
Brett & Jane Eberle  
Stephen A. Cowperthwaite  
Kingsley & Sarah Kelly  
Ken Wilson & Alison Brown  
John & Kathleen Volante  
Lee & Sue Knorr  
David & Kathleen Gideon  
Dean & Jeannine Wells

*We are growing – acre by acre and member by member.*

### 2000 Annual Fund Off To A Strong Start

Many thanks to all of our members and supporters who have contributed more than \$6,000 to the 2000 annual fund.

Your donations work hard for the KLT - we are an all-volunteer organization with little overhead costs. So annual fund monies go right to where they do the most work -- on the ground.

There are a lot of projects in the wings that we will be talking about in future issues. Your contributions make that work possible.

**THANKS!**



### More Land on Androscoggin Protected

Thanks to the generosity of Nancy Brackett, 40 acres of unusual and rare plant habitat has been permanently protected on the shore of Androscoggin Lake. Nancy donated this property to the Trust this past August. The property is located on the west shore of the lake and contains significant wetland habitat and is documented to have been surveyed in the last century by the acclaimed naturalist, Kate Furbish.

Nancy came and spoke to us at the annual meeting. Her enthusiasm for our work is truly infectious, we hope to have many more members as eloquent as Nancy.

**THANKS!**



# ONE MORE PISGAH PURCHASE!

## 106 More Acres Brings Total to 320 owned by KLT

The KLT has acted quickly to acquire another 106 acre parcel in the lovely and widely visited Mount Pisgah Conservation Area. The Trust exercised its right of first refusal this August when the owner received a valid offer to purchase the property from someone else. The Board carefully scrutinized this other offer and voted unanimously to proceed. It was felt this was an opportunity not to be missed.

The parcel is located on the southeast shoulder of Mt Pisgah and is contiguous with the State of Maine lot. The property extends easterly down fairly steep slopes to several ownerships including the Oliver lot which contains Nancy's Bog. This parcel further extends the sweep of open space that extends from the shores of Dexter Pond and Stream up and over the mountain down into the valley.

Even though the prior owner harvested the larger hardwoods during the winter of 1998/1999, the fully wooded lot remains a central part of the visual quality of the mountain as viewed from vantage points in Winthrop, notably from the Metcalf Road. This parcel still contains a mixed growth of small to medium northern hardwoods, with interspersed hemlock, hop hornbeam, and white pine stands. There is reason to believe that given the bedrock ledge outcrops that investigation could turn up the existence of certain rare ferns, the Fragrant Cliff Wood fern (*Dryopteris fragrans*) and the Blunt-lobed Woodsia (*Woodsia obtusa*). These two ferns have historically been found on Mt Pisgah, but the exact location and current status is currently unknown.

Thanks to all our members who worked hard to make this purchase happen.



### Fund Raising Appeal

This parcel was purchased at fair market value using funds contributed to the Trusts' capital fund thorough the annual appeal, and a loan of \$24,000 from the Maine Coast Heritage Trust revolving fund.

You will soon receive a fund raising appeal to raise the funds needed to repay the loan. A modest effort by all members will provide the funding needed to secure the protection of this core element of the MT Pisgah Conservation Area.

### CONTRIBUTORS

Jim Connors  
Andy & Karen Fisk  
Jym St. Pierre, photography



# ANOTHER GREAT ANNUAL MEETING!

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Thanks once again to the special talents of Ann Judd and her capable helpers, we had another successful annual meeting this past August. This year's meeting was special on several accounts. We were very fortunate to have Governor Kenneth Curtis and his sister, Rebecca Meredith, attend the meeting to accept our thanks for their family's gift to the KLT. As well, Nancy Brackett, the generous donor of an ecologically valuable waterfront parcel on Androscoggin Lake, was on hand to accept our thanks. Both the Governor and Nancy had very thoughtful and encouraging words for our work.

The field trips to the Curtis and Brackett properties were well attended and offered a chance for our members to get out and see our work on the ground. After some exploring and socializing in the field, there was a reception and dinner held at the Augusta Country Club.

The annual meeting is always an enjoyable event that gives our many members an opportunity to visit our properties, reacquaint with each other, and have a good and inspiring time.

We hope to see you all again next year.

## WANT TO HELP OUT?

There is much to do – from trail work, to marking boundaries, to fundraising, to helping with mailings, to just taking a walk out on one of the properties – and we would welcome your help. Give us a call and let us know about your skills and interests. Thanks!

Contact Jim Connors, 933-4293



Governor Curtis addresses the annual meeting.

**We've grown to almost 400 members and over 1,300 acres!**

**Thanks to everyone for your help and support.**

## A SAMPLE OF OUR RECENT PRESS!

# Sun Journal

Friday, July 28, 2000

## Former governor, sister donate land

By NICKLA BARNETT

Staff Writer

LEEDS - Former Gov. Kenneth M. Curtis and his sister Rebecca A. Meredith recently donated the 360-acre Kennebec Land Trust to the Kennebec Land Trust to be managed for public use.

The donated lands will be used for

by has been successful since the death of Joyce Curtis in 1988. All the existing buildings will be demolished per the family's request.

The trust will honor the past as it looks toward the future. The trust will manage the land for the benefit of the community and the environment.

The Kennebec Land Trust is a non-profit organization that was established in 1988 by

was approached by the Curtis family in early March of this year, Lake said. "There is no land trust to serve Leeds, so they came to us," he said.

With the Curtis' acquisition, the trust now manages more than 1,000 acres in the town of Leeds, Connors said.

"We are really pleased to have enough confidence in our trust to have us work the property of the land," Connors said.

## Portland Press Herald

Gov. Curtis donates family farm

The Associated Press

LEEDS - The 360 acres of fields and woods that composed the boyhood homestead of former Gov. Kenneth M. Curtis and his sister Rebecca A. Meredith was donated to the Kennebec Land Trust on Friday.

## COMMUNITY ADVERTISER, July 31, 2000

Kenneth M. Curtis and Family donate the 360-acre Curtis Homestead Conservation Area to the Kennebec Land Trust

Manchester - On August 20th, the Kennebec Land Trust will hold a reception from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Augusta County Club to honor both Governor Kenneth M. Curtis and his sister Rebecca A. Meredith's generous gift of land to the Trust. The Governor will be present at the reception.

# KENNEBEC JOURNAL

FRIDAY

JULY 28, 2000

Maine's Oldest Newspaper • Augusta, Maine

## Curtis family gives property to trust

By DAN MCGILLIVRAY

Staff Writer

AUGUSTA - The fields and woods where former Gov. Kenneth Curtis played as a child during the 1930s and 1940s will be protected through a new trust in the Kennebec Land Trust.

The 360-acre trust in Leeds is slightly more than a mile south of Androscoggin Lake, and

### INSIDE

In Georgetown, 130 acres of land next to the Maine State House will be protected through a new trust in the Kennebec Land Trust.

The 360-acre trust in Leeds is slightly more than a mile south of Androscoggin Lake, and

### ANDROSCOGGIN LAKE

Curtis Conservation Area

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## Bangor Daily News

MONDAY, JULY 31, 2000

## Gov. Curtis donates family farm

The Associated Press

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## KENNEBEC JOURNAL

Land trust's new property

Just south of Androscoggin Lake, a 360-acre property that was the boyhood home of former Gov. Kenneth M. Curtis and his sister Rebecca A. Meredith was donated to the Kennebec Land Trust on Friday.

The 360-acre trust in Leeds is slightly more than a mile south of Androscoggin Lake, and

## THE KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

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