



## KLT JOINS KENNEBEC HIGHLANDS PROJECT

Since our last report on the Kennebec Highlands (Spring 1999), this once-in-a-great-while project continues to move forward. Fundraising is continuing, initial purchases of some of the parcels has been approved, and public awareness is growing. The KLT board is proud to announce it is officially joining with the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) to develop a coalition of central Maine organizations to help make the Highlands a success.

The Kennebec Highlands are more than 6,000 acres of land located in the central Maine towns of Vienna, Rome, and Belgrade. The parcels proposed for purchase include six mountains - with two of the highest peaks in Kennebec County - five pristine ponds, and many miles of trails for hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing.

No central Maine property of similar size or value is available for purchase. We are facing a unique opportunity to conserve a large portion of land for permanent public use as well as protection of the Belgrade Lakes watersheds.

To date, BRCA has raised \$300,000 in pledges, Land for Maine's Future grants and donations. The total acquisition is expected to cost \$3 million. Of this amount, BRCA will raise \$1.2 million in order to leverage the remaining money from a second Land for Maine's Future proposal to be submitted this year. The KLT will fundraise with BRCA in order to make the purchase of the Kennebec Highlands a reality.

Negotiations with the 17 landowners are progressing well, with options negotiated and secured on half of the properties - including the largest, core parcel. We expect these negotiations will be completed within the next several months.

We still need to raise the final \$700,000. If you know any businesses or individuals who might be interested in donating to this important project, or you wish to volunteer to help in other ways please contact any KLT board member, visit the Highlands Project website at: [www.KennebecHighlands.org](http://www.KennebecHighlands.org) or call (207) 397-5945.



**HELP US PROTECT THE HIGHLANDS!**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Dear Readers,

This issue of the KLT newsletter features recent progress in land protection, highlights stewardship programs, and reports on membership activities.

While there are many projects on our plate right now, two are of note. If you have not yet heard, we purchased another 100 acres on Mount Pisgah in Winthrop. What is outstanding about this recent purchase is the incredible support provided by members and supporters of the Trust. It is very encouraging and heartwarming to see so much support and financial backing for our efforts. The purchase was made possible by your generous contributions in response to the annual appeal, and to an additional focused fundraising appeal conducted by the Board. Many thanks and much gratitude for your continued support.

To the east of Mount Pisgah, the 6,000-plus acres Kennebec Highlands project is a very significant, even audacious, regional project conceived and launched by the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance that has already received major support from the Land for Maine's Future Program and local fundraising. The KLT Board voted to endorse this project by adding our name to a coalition of organizations actively supporting the project through fundraising. I urge your support for this important project.

This year will mark our second year of responsibility for the stewardship and use of Norris Island in Androscoggin Lake -- a responsibility that would go unfulfilled without the support and active involvement of residents and lake users in Wayne. Beginning this season, we adjusted our camping policies to better accommodate use of the island by "commercial" outfitters, such as the LL Bean Outdoor Program. This year the stewardship committee will be adding outhouse facilities to assure healthful conditions at the campsite and at the cabin. In addition, the Board adopted a plan offering the use of the cabin to members of the KLT as a place of refuge, relaxation, and renewal.

Expanding our membership is a major effort this year, and taking stock of our initial gambit -- asking members to recruit new members has yielded some early results. The Education and Membership committee is hard at work developing a focused membership campaign for land owners around Parker Pond in Mt. Vernon and Fayette. We hope to convince our "neighbors" on various parcels we own or manage to join the Trust. Early returns on the mailing are very encouraging.

Once again it is a pleasure to highlight some of the many incredible accomplishments of the KLT, a testament to the talent and dedication of our Board and members.

Sincerely,

*Jim Connors*

### **Board of Directors**

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Paula Thomson	<i>Fayette</i>
Clyde Walton	<i>Fayette</i>
Robert Weston	<i>E. Winthrop</i>
Henry Whittemore	<i>Readfield</i>

## **WE'RE ON THE WEB**

**www.tkl.org**

If you have not yet visited our new website, please do. Webmaster and KLT member Julie Mecham has created a great site that has loads of good information - and more to come.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO**



**FOR PROVIDING  
US WITH OUR  
SITE.**

### **1999 Annual Fund Was Our Best Ever!**

Many thanks to all of our members and supporters who contributed more than \$12,000 to this year's 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!**



### **KLT Property Information Sheets Available Soon**

Beth Connors, from Monmouth, has volunteered to develop information sheets on two of our properties -- Mount Pisgah and the Besse Farm. These information sheets will present a property map, travelling directions, significant natural features, available activities such as hiking, biking, or skiing, and the KLT management plan for the property.

These information sheets will be available to people attending KLT field trips, and to KLT members who want to visit the properties on their own. We hope to eventually construct a visitor kiosk at certain properties that would display these and other materials.

These information sheets will be available on the KLT website and in print by June.

## **ANOTHER MOUNT PISGAH PARCEL SECURED**

On January 6th, the KLT purchased an additional and strategic 100-acre parcel on Mount Pisgah in Winthrop. This is our third parcel, bringing to 182 the number of acres permanently preserved for the public's enjoyment on this popular local mountain.

For years the KLT has focused on the Mount Pisgah area in order to complement the state's ownership on the mountain. Mount Pisgah is a very special place and we want to keep it open to the public for a long time to come. This newly acquired, 100-acre parcel connects the KLT's and the State's ownership to create a sweep of open space and recreational land from the Shores of Dexter Pond up and over the peak of Pisgah.

We look forward to continuing our work with the Mount Pisgah area landowners in order to expand the conservation area even more.

The purchase of the 100-acre parcel was made possible in part by a limited special fundraising campaign conducted in conjunction with the 1999 annual campaign. Friends and members responded very generously because this was an important piece of property that was purchased for a good price.



### **Special Thanks to the Pisgah Campaign Contributors**

James F. Connors  
Stephen & Sandra Crockett  
Chester M. & Deena V. Day  
Diane Friese  
John & Patricia Gannett  
Diane & George Gibson  
Cheryl Harrington  
Glenn Hodgkins  
J&S Oil Company  
Ann Judd & Ron Giard  
Judy & Kevin Kane  
Kennebec Savings Bank  
Howard & Brenda Lake  
Diana McLaughlin  
Robert G. & Joan Mohlar  
Jeff & Elaine Musich  
Mary Brown Parlee & Joseph Bauer, Jr.  
Jeffrey Pidot  
Charles & Lorraine Ravis  
R. Collin Therrien  
Paula Thomson  
Ben Townsend & Dorcas Miller  
Lloyd & Constance Irland  
Clyde Walton  
Jeffrey & Allison Wells  
Robert N. Weston  
John S. Williams





## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Jan Tewksbury Belz	Tara Jeffers
Nicholas Bennett	Jos. A. Bauer IV
Stephen & Catherine Curtis	Beth L. Koester
Paul & Mowita Ducharme	George LaPointe
Victoria Eleftheriou	Dr. Dervilla McCann
Judith A. Feinstein	Kent Nelson
Dana J. Gross	Dennis & Sandy Phillips
Honor O. Williams	

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

### **2000 SUMMER FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE**

*Come join us for these free and fun trips!*

#### **Saturday, June 3 1-3:00 pm - National Trails Day at the Vaughan Woods**

Join us for a National Trails Day hike through the beautiful and historical trails of the Vaughan Woods in Hallowell, one of KLT's first conservation easements and favorite places. We will walk about 2-3 miles through woods and fields and along and over Vaughan Brook -- relatively easy terrain and wondrous scenery! (Rain date: June 4)

Call Jeff Pidot, 626-8583 (work) or 622-4394 (home) to arrange the meeting place.

#### **Sunday, August 13 10:00 - 12:00 pm - Fogg Farm Nature Walk**

For more than two centuries the Fogg's worked hillside fields and forests in Readfield. In the 1980's when the family sold the farm, one 15-acre piece was deeded to the town with a conservation easement granted to KLT. This trip will coincide with Readfield Heritage Days. Walking is not difficult, but wear sturdy shoes.

Call Jym St. Pierre, 626-5635 with questions. Meet at the Readfield Fairgrounds, Church Road

**For more information and to register for these field trips,  
please call the trip leader listed or Paula Thomson at 685-9541**

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**2000 Annual Meeting**  
**August 20, 2000**

*- more details to follow -*

#### **CONTRIBUTORS**

Jim Connors  
Diane Friesse  
Andy & Karen Fisk  
Jeff Musich  
Jym St. Pierre, photography  
Paula Thomson

## **NOTES FROM THE FIELD**

### **Norris Island Cabin To Be Available for Member Use**



The Norris Island property in Androscoggin Lake was acquired by the Kennebec Land Trust in 1997. The property includes a seasonal cabin located along the north shore of the 27-acre island.

This year the Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce completion of the final phase of the management plan, begun in 1997. The plan calls for continued improvement of the cabin as a permanent facility for use by the KLT membership. A reservation system will be established and annual stewardship needs for the facility provided by users of the cabin.

Following construction of outhouse facilities this spring, the cabin will be made available to members through a telephone reservation system. Availability will be dependent on the completion of the outhouses in the next few months.

**If you would like more information on the cabin, please call  
Jeff Musich, Stewardship Chair at 933-3159.**

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**THE KENNEBEC LAND TRUST**

PO Box 261 Winthrop, Maine 04364

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

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# FIELD TRIP AND SERVICE HOSTEL

## ❧ Camp Bearnstow ❧

### Parker Pond, Mount Vernon

In 1994 KLT was granted an easement on a spectacular 60-acre Parker Pond lakefront property in Mt. Vernon by owner Ruth Gruaet who purchased the property in 1945. The first building was constructed in 1880 along the shore and others followed during the early 1900's. Camp Bearnstow, is an educational facility located on the northeast end of Parker Pond near the Vienna town line. Bearnstow in Gaelic means: "a child's village."

KLT is hosting a field trip to Bearnstow on Saturday July 29 (raindate July 30) from 10AM until noon. KLT members are encouraged to come and hike, canoe or swim and enjoy this special place. Bring your picnic lunch for after the tour. No registration is necessary but if you have any questions about the event please call Paula Thomson at 685-9541 or Ann Judd at 685-3159.

On July 5-9, Gruaet is hosting a service hostel camp, with the intention of opening up old logging trails for hiking and birding. For more information about Bearnstow go to their website at: [www.bearnstow.org](http://www.bearnstow.org).

#### Directions to Bearnstow:

Continue on Route 17 West in Readfield to Kents Hill. Bear right onto Route 41; continue eight miles and take a left onto Seavey Corner Road in Mt. Vernon (before the Mt. Vernon County Store). Travel 2 miles and take a left onto the Ithiel Gordon road. Continue one mile and take a right at the entrance to Bearnstow. Watch for Land Trust signs.

