

The Kennebec Land Trust NEWS

Volume 22, No. 1 / Summer 2005

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Summer Hours
Tues/Thurs. 10am - 4pm



Art and Conservation

Debby Sewall, KLT Board Secretary

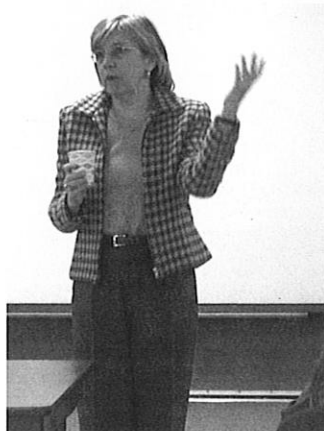
KLT's third annual Lyceum, held in March at the Ladd Center in Wayne, explored the connections between landscape painting and conservation. From the earliest settlers' facing an apparently limitless frontier to the present day, when that wilderness has diminished to an alarming degree, artists have tried to capture Maine's landscapes. Thanks to their work, we have a record of how things looked and can make educated guesses about how people have related to the land. Our speakers not only offered a glimpse of Maine as artists have viewed it over time, they illustrated the role that art can play in preserving the natural world.

Dr. Martha McNamara, University of Maine, introduced the broad themes in American landscape painting from the colonial period to the Civil War. We were able to see the conflicting impulses of respect for nature and the desire to tame it, often played out within the same painting. Dr. Donna Cassidy, University of Southern Maine, focused on Marsden Hartley and the Katahdin Region. Even those who haven't visited Baxter State Park have seen Hartley's famous paintings of the region - often Mt. Katahdin is identified with Maine at its best and cited as a successful example of conservation. Our final speaker, Maine author Carl Little, offered an overview of contemporary Maine landscape artists. Their work, widely divergent in technique and locale, brings remarkable intelligence, sensitivity and boldness to bear on our incredibly beautiful state and its vulnerability in the face of accelerating development.



Dr. Martha McNamara
Photograph: Norm Rodrigue

The public is welcome to explore the Lyceum theme further on June 11, July 23rd and October 1, as three Maine artists lead outdoor painting workshops on KLT lands - see enclosed field trip schedule for details. In March, 2006



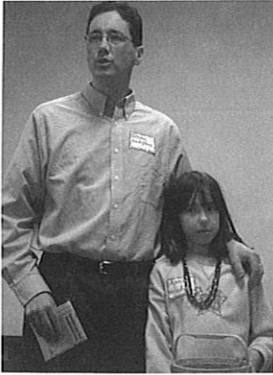
Dr. Donna Cassidy



Carl Little
Photographs: Jym St. Pierre

KLT is planning an art exhibit at Slate's Restaurant in Hallowell featuring some of the paintings done at these workshops. Please join us then, and be prepared to appreciate anew the landscapes we are protecting right here in our own area. Many thanks to the Ladd Recreation Center and the Kennebec Art Association (KVAA) for cosponsoring this year's series - the collaboration between nature and art worked perfectly! Many more thanks to KVAA, the Ladd Center, and our own KLT volunteers for fabulous refreshments. Finally, KLT deeply appreciates the financial support we received from Gloria, Lincoln and Robert Ladd and the Maine Arts Commission and the Maine Humanities Council, for their Community Arts and Humanities Grant. Thank you all for making it possible for us to enhance our appreciation of both art and the natural world.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Glenn and Anna Hodgkins
Photo: Norm Rodrigue

On an early morning walk along Nancy's Bog in Winthrop in May, I was reminded of the good work that the Kennebec Land Trust is doing. My seven year-old daughter Anna was enthralled by the many large and beautiful trilliums in the woods along an old logging road. She was excited enough about the many species of warblers, swallows, and other birds that she recorded them all as we went. I can't tell you how comforting and gratifying it is to me to know that those trilliums and warblers will always have a home here.

When my wife and I moved back to Maine in 1994, Mt. Pisgah was one of the first places that I took her. Looking out from the fire tower toward Nancy's Bog, I was amazed how much undeveloped land remained. Now over 700 acres on the mountain, including the bog, are protected by KLT. Our seven year-olds and our 70 year-olds will always have a place to wander and wonder.

In this newsletter, you'll read about several other KLT properties that will always remain in their natural state, protecting our wildlife and water quality. In the last few years, we have opened new trails so that more people can enjoy our local woods and waters. My dream is that large numbers of our seven year-olds will come to know and love our conserved lands. Our vision for the future of our area depends upon it.

In Trust,
Glenn Hodgkins

Save the Date

17th Annual
Kennebec Land Trust
Membership Meeting
Sunday, August 14th, 2005
Maple Hill Farm, Hallowell

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Julie Mecham

KLT MISSION STATEMENT

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

KLT ADDS TO JAMIES POND

Norm Rodrigue, KLT Development Chair



Photograph: Norm Rodrigue

It may surprise some of you to know that even as we were wrapping up our \$500,000 Kennebec Landscapes capital campaign last year, KLT was quietly negotiating the purchase of a critical 18-acre residential lot in Manchester. This property, located on the Collins Road, was important not only due to its unspoiled hardwood and softwood forest, but because it bordered almost one-half mile of an existing Jamies Pond trail.

KLT moved quickly to save this parcel from development. In order to do so, we needed to borrow the \$35,000 purchase price. Our plan was to pre-acquire this property and then sell it to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to add

to the Jamies Pond Wildlife Management Area. Due to budget constraints, the Department was only able to raise \$17,000. In spite of this shortfall, the KLT Board voted to convey the property to IF&W and raise the \$18,000 balance. The Friends of Jamies Pond campaign got underway in late May.

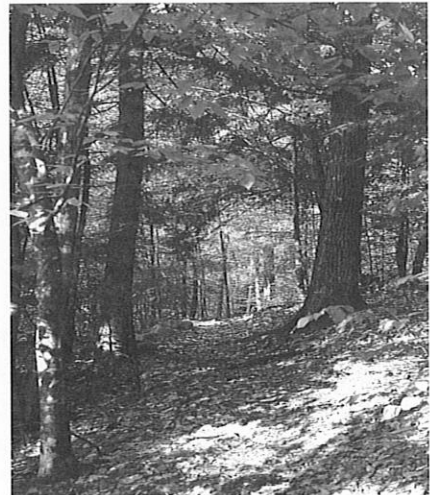
The importance of this property and the work of the Kennebec Land Trust was highlighted in a letter we recently received from Roland D. Martin, Commissioner of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

"I want to take this time to personally thank you and the members of the Kennebec Land Trust for your assistance in acquiring the Carlson Lot for inclusion in the Jamies Pond Wildlife Management Area..."

Previously KLT assisted MDIFW by pre-acquiring the 85-acre Norton Lot, for later acquisition through the Land for Maine's Future Program. These two acquisitions are proof positive that the Kennebec Land Trust has lived up to its mission of working cooperatively to protect natural features in Central Maine...

I have been made aware of the impressive list and variety of projects that KLT has engaged. At MDIFW we look forward to more years of cooperative ventures with the Kennebec Land Trust. Once again I want to thank you on behalf of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for your assistance and generous actions in these important acquisitions."

If you haven't visited Jamies Pond, you owe it to yourself and your family to hike its trails, paddle along its shore, visit its island and simply enjoy the wildlife and solitude of this remarkable 700-acre preserve. And if you want to feel really good about doing your part to protect Jamies Pond, become an official **Friend of Jamies Pond**. Your gift will help us retire our debt and put us in position to save the next property. Feel free to call me at 207 622-6204 for further information about this important conservation effort.



Photograph: Norm Rodrigue

Family Field Trips, Trails, Signs and Brochures

Jim Connors, Chair, KLT Stewardship Committee and Theresa Kerchner, Stewardship and Education Director

KLT's volunteer stewards have been busy with new projects this winter and spring. Many thanks to all of our volunteers for their efforts on behalf of our members and communities.

Winter in the Woods

Marianne Perry, Readfield Conservation Commission



Photograph: Jym St.Pierre

Some months ago, members of the Readfield Conservation Commission brainstormed ideas as to how best to showcase some little-known public land called the Town Forest--a remote, 100-acre area well-suited for hiking and skiing. This land is monitored by the Readfield Conservation Commission and the Kennebec Land Trust, since it is adjacent to KLT's 100 acre Macdonald Conservation Area. After some discussion, it was decided to have a fun day in the woods - complete with sleigh rides, a cookout, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, information dissemination and, naturally, a marshmallow roast. Also, since the KLT is involved with this parcel of land, a collaboration between these two organizations was planned.

Sunday, February 13, 2005 turned out to be the Perfect Day for a woods celebration. The temperature was comfortable, the snow manageable and the sky a brilliant, cobalt blue. A cooking and eating area was created at the site of the old farm. Hot dogs, hot cocoa, cookies, brownies, apples and chips were served to a host of hungry nature enthusiasts. People arrived on skis, snowshoes, sleds and on foot to participate in this free winter event. At least 80 people were in attendance! (Although the horses were unable to come, a huge—c. 190 pound—Newfoundland dog named Henry became a major attraction for both young and old.)

Our appreciation is extended to the Readfield Blizzard Busters Snowmobile Club, whose members worked hard to groom the trails at this site to make them "user friendly." A big thank you is also extended to the numerous individuals involved in making the fun in the woods happen. Mark February 12, 2006 - for a similar "happening" next year, because of the very successful outcome of this, the first Woods Event.

New Trails at the Tyler Conservation Area

Peggy Barnes, Tyler Conservation Area Steward

I am happy to report that we had a very good work day on Saturday, May 14th (the one non-rainy weekend day of this spring!). We were able to get a great start on some trails in the Tyler Conservation Area. A good turn-out of many enthusiastic neighbors spent their morning getting started on what we hope will become an extensive trail system. More trails and trail work to come in the near future! A heartfelt thanks to all of those who helped on Saturday; in the future we look forward

to including many others who were interested but were unable to join us on that day. And please, come and enjoy the trails.



New Sign and Brochure Sturtevant Farm Scenic Area, Fayette

KLT extends many thanks to Steward Beth Craigie, Fred Craigie and land donor Arn Sturtevant. Beth, Fred and Arn have had a busy winter at the Sturtevant Farm Scenic Area (KLT's 22.5 acre scenic easement on Baldwin Hill in Fayette). They constructed and erected this attractive new sign, and Arn designed and wrote a brochure that is now available at the viewpoint. The brochure includes a sketch and identifies each of the mountains that are visible from this beautiful hill in Fayette, as well as offering historical background about the farm.



*KLT Sturtevant Farm Scenic Area
Photograph: Arn Sturtevant*



Zac Sager Photograph: Tom Mickewich

Information Kiosk at Curtis Homestead

Tom Mickewich, Curtis Homestead Co-Steward

Thanks to the efforts of Boy Scout Zac Sager of Monmouth, we have a 3-panel information kiosk at the Curtis Homestead Conservation area. The structure, which is similar to those used by the Maine Department of Conservation at many locations around the state, will greatly enhance our efforts to communicate with visitors. Part of the kiosk will be used for posting general information, including a trail map, bird list and important tick warnings (!) A major portion of the kiosk will contain displays on the human and natural history of the land (based on our new brochure design) in addition to background

about current educational and research projects.

Zac organized and carried out the construction of the kiosk as the community service part of the requirements for his Eagle Scout rating. He obtained donations of the materials for this approximately \$1000 project and completed construction in mid-October of 2004. Donations were received from the following businesses: Russ and Sonia Godbout of By The Board Lumber, Mt. Vernon; Knowles Lumber, Monmouth; Litchfield Lumber, Litchfield; Mariner Lumber, Brunswick; Audette's Hardware, Winthrop; A&A Hardware, Greene; Portland Glass, Augusta; Red Roof Deli, Leeds; Wilbur's Antiques, Greene; Morgan's Auto Sales, Greene; IGA, Greene; and Dave's Appliance, Winthrop. We thank them all for their help.

Zac also had help from several of his fellow scouts, and others, in the building process. The following people donated a total of 95 hours in the construction of the kiosk: Mike and Jeff Hanscom, Mike Hook, Brian and Mike Farnsworth, Gabe Seder, Kirby and Todd Buchheit, Casey Ballard, and Cindy and Charles Sager. KLT extends many thanks to all of these individuals.

Zac reports that he learned many things as he worked through the project. "It takes a long time to plan a project and carry it out well, so start early. Always, always, always have a backup plan to your backup plan." And finally, "Finishing something large that you start brings great satisfaction." We greatly appreciate Zac's willingness to take on this project for the Curtis Homestead and the Kennebec Land Trust, and we're very pleased indeed with the results. Well done, Zac.

NOTES FROM MAIN STREET

Theresa Kerchner, Stewardship and Education Director

A Month to Remember and May Botany for Beginners

May 2005 will be remembered for its rainy weather. The lakes are spilling over shorelines, and flashboards and woodland streams are running full with spectacular waterfalls, wide flood plains, and the daily symphony of song birds. This weather is challenging for Maine's farmers and gardeners, but in some ways I have not minded the deluge. Cool weather has kept the black flies at bay, and the spring wildflowers and shrubs are glorious (the shadbushes were the stars of the Kennebec County shrub show!)

I usually find myself debating between gardening and botanizing on my days at home in May. Since the rains have kept me from the garden, I have been free to take to the woods. On May 21st I led a morning wildflower walk at the New England Forestry Foundation's (NEFF) Allen Whitney Memorial Forest, where we work closely with NEFF stewards Doug Ide and Garry Hinkley. KLT Board member Bob Mohlar and his wife Joan and I had the opportunity to talk about KLT's conservation work and our bordering lands - Gannett Woods surrounding Shedd Pond, and Wyman Forest. Listed below are the common spring wildflower and shrubs that we identified that day and others that I have seen often on KLT lands this month.

If you are a beginner to plant identification, there are a number of books that I would recommend: *Newcomb's Guide to Wildflowers*, and all of Marilyn Dwellers guides: *Spring Wildflowers*, *Summer and Fall Wildflowers* and *Trees and Shrubs*. Happy summer - hope to see you in the field!



NEFF botany walk Photograph: Garry Hinkley

bird on the wing (*Polygala paucifolia*)
blue bead lily (*Clintonia borealis*)
blueets (*Houstonia caerulea*)
dooryard violet (*Viola septentrionalis*)
Dapne (*Daphne mezereum*)
dwarf gingseng (*Panax trifolius*)
goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*)
false Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*)
fly honeysuckle (*Lonicera canadensis*)
foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)
Jack in the pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*)
trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*)

painted trillium (*Trillium undulatum*)
rhodora (*Rhodora canadensis*)
red trillium (*Trillium erectum*)
shadbush (*Amelanchier spp.*)
Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum pubescens*)
starflower (*Trientalis borealis*)
trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*)
white avens (*Geum canadense*)
wild oats or little merry bells (*Uvularia sessilifolia*)
Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*)
windflower (*Anemone quinquefolia*)
yellow crowfoot (*Ranunculus abortivus*)

Thank You Lyceum, Office and Field Volunteers!

Jane Andrews
Jamie Ault
Peggy Barnes and Family
Brooke Barnes
Nat Bell
Roy Bouchard
Andy Bosworth
Rob Bryan, *Maine Audubon*
Ginny Coady
Beth and Fred Craigie
Chris Dimeo
Maddy Edwards

Deb Fahy, Exec. Dir., KVAA
David Foster
Ellen Gibson, *Vaughan Homestead Foundation*
Bea Horne
Charlie Jacobs
David Kahl
Penny Markley, President & Members KVAA
Ed Lake
Ron Joseph, *USFWS*
Mort and Barbara Libby
Jessie Macdonald
Donna and Tom Mickewich

Monmouth Academy
Ecology Students
Darlene Steele,
Director, Ladd Rec. Center
Jym St. Pierre
Arn and Leda Sturtevant
Mary and Tom Sturtevant
Paula Thomson
Tom Vigue
George Viles
Karen Fisk & *Augusta Unitarian*
Universalist Youth Group

Welcome New Members

Jim & Beverly Abbott
 Charles & Nancy Abrahamsen
 Enoch Albert & Sharon Knopp
 Brian Alexander
 Edward & Jeanne Austin
 Peter & Karen Bickerman
 Brian & Laura Boudreau
 Susan D. Bulba
 Dr. James F. Butler
 Gregory & Parise Chamberland
 Sing Cheong & Alison Chu
 Phil St. Pierre &
 Martha Everatt-St. Clair
 John & Priscilla Connor
 Frederick & Judith Degnan
 Harvey Dinerstein & Kate Grant
 Stanley Eller & Margaret Duston
 Howard & Patricia Ellis
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 Ruth K. Hertz
 Miriam B. Hoddinott
 Athill W. & Alice L. Irvine
 Mary R. Jackson
 Kenneth & Sandra Johnson
 Walter & Karen Kalka
 Steve Knight
 Carolyn Ladd
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 Kathleen Leyden
 Virginia Long
 Mary Beth Maloney
 Marlene McMullen-Pelsor & James Pelso
 David & Eva Miller

Charles G. Munier, D.M.D.
 Lindsay & Mark Nelsen
 Elizabeth & Kurt Nelson
 Richard & Joanne O'Connor
 Joseph O'Donnell & Joan Price
 William Overbey
 Scott Overbey
 Laurence H. Pearson
 Patrice Putman
 Beatrice Kay Reynolds
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 Mary Beth & John Stanek
 Ms. Susanne Stiefel, PhD
 Robert & Anita Thayer
 William & Eleanor Thompson
 Julie & Cameron Weaver
 Carol & G. Douglas Whittier
 Winthrop Area Chamber

Curtis Homestead Brochure Completed Thanks to Mort and Barbara Libby and LPK!

Many thanks from all of us at the Kennebec Land Trust to KLT Advisory Board Members Mort and Barbara Libby for funding the design work and printing of the enclosed Curtis Homestead brochure. Our appreciation also goes to the dedicated staff at LPK (Libby, Perszyk, Kathman): Rick Conner, Senior Design Director, and Melanie Fairchild, Brand Account Leader. Brochures are now available at the Curtis Homestead Conservation Area in Leeds, our Winthrop office and the Leeds Town Office.



Vaughan Woods Public Access Conduct Policy

Please remember to leash your dog at all times when in the Woods.
 Carry-in and carry-out, that includes your pets! If you see some trash, take it home, please.
 The Woods are a special treasure, please do your part to make the experience
 enjoyable for everyone. Thank you.

*The Vaughan Woods is privately owned by the Vaughan Homestead Foundation
 and is protected in cooperation with the Kennebec Land Trust.*

Natural History Notes from KLT Stewards

I believe it was Sunday May 8, a gray, drizzly, cool afternoon. On reaching the **Torsey Pond Nature Preserve** shoreline, we were astonished at the number of tree swallows flying low or skimming the surface between the marsh and bog islands and over the open water as far as the eye could see.

Wouldn't dare claim an accurate number, but from a sector count would guess 1000 to 1200 birds, maybe more. Two days later with blue skies and warm sun there were only a handful out there. Had they been attracted to an insect hatching? *Tim Sniffen, Readfield Conservation Commission*



On a fine May 7th morning at **Nancy's Bog** the following species were seen or heard: many warblers (black throated green, black and white, black throated blue, yellow rumped, chestnut sided, pine, yellow, common yellow throat, ovenbird), swallows (rough winged, barn and tree), blue headed vireo, rose breasted grosbeak, Canada goose & yellow bellied sapsucker. *Jennifer McLean, Steward & Glenn Hodgkins, KLT President*

On a spring walk at the **Walter W. and Alice B. Reynolds Forest**, one can see flowers unfolding, skunk cabbage, an abandoned cellar hole far in the forest, two or three dams/mill sites that once were typical of the economic power of Maine (well, maybe Massachusetts then) ... a moose spine by the edge of the brook, beaver sculptures and the allure of the water from pools to falls. The walk can take from about 45 minutes to two hours, depending on if you have time to let your imagination and your senses run free. *George Viles, Steward*



THE KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

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For additional details and information about the KLT call our office at 377-2848
or check our website at www.tklt.org





Kennebec Land Trust 2005 Summer and Fall Field Trips

For directions, additional information and registrations,
call KLT, 377-2848 or visit our website: www.tkltr.org

July 9 **Curtis Homestead Conservation Area Mycology Foray**
9:30 – 11:00 am
Maine Mycology Association & Curtis Co-stewards Tom & Donna Mickewich

Join members of the Maine Mycology Association and KLT stewards for an easy walk on the Curtis Homestead trails to identify and hunt for wild mushrooms. Bring a basket for your collection and a magnifying glass if you have one. Participants are welcome to bring specimens from home for identification, especially if you have something unusual.

July 16th **Littoral Plants and More, Camp Bearnstow, Mt Vernon**
Leaders Ruth Grauert and KLT Board Member, Clyde Walton
Time 10 am to approximately 11:30

Walk the trails through the 60 acre KLT easement at Camp Bearnstow with Camp Director Ruth Grauert and KLT Board Member Clyde Walton. Learn about the camp's variety of vegetation, a registered State of Maine "Big Tree," an Alleghany serviceberry. See erratic boulders, ground pines and many other natural history wonders. Admission for this walk is free, but phone Camp Bearnstow to register: 293-2280.

As part of its 2005 Landscape Painting and Conservation program, the Kennebec Land Trust is offering plein-air (out of doors in natural light) painting sessions. Both beginners and experienced painters will have an opportunity to work with guest artists in various media. Participants are welcome to display work at a benefit art show at Slate's Restaurant, March 2006.

July 23rd **Plein Air Painting at the Vaughan Homestead, Hallowell**
9:30 am - noon
Maine Artist Marc Poirier

Registration is required. Members free; non-members, \$3.00. Rain date, Sunday July 24.

The Vaughan Homestead overlooking the Kennebec River in Hallowell will be the location for the second KLT plein-air painting program. The 166-acre Vaughan Woods property is privately owned by the Vaughan Homestead Foundation and protected in cooperation with the Kennebec Land Trust. This program is co-sponsored by the Vaughan Homestead Foundation.

August 20 **Family Canoe Trip and Picnic at the Perkins Woods, Androscoggin Lake, Wayne**
10 am - approximately noon
Jane and Stan Davis, Perkins Woods Stewards

Meet at the public boat launch on Rt. 133 in Wayne. Bring your canoe or kayak, picnic lunch and bathing suit if you like to swim. We'll paddle across the cove to the KLT Perkins Property. A short trail leads through a magnificent grove of old pine and hemlock, a shady place for a picnic on a hot day, or you can continue along the trail until it ends at a rocky point looking across Androscoggin Lake. This is a good place for a swim and lunch. Adventurous souls can rock-hop the shoreline or bushwack through the property looking for the tupelo trees.



Landowners John and Pat Perkins

**August 14 ~ Kennebec Land Trust Annual Meeting & Field Trips ~
Maple Hill Farm, Hallowell**

September 10th

Getting to Know our Woods: A Family Walk, Fogg Farm Conservation, Area, Readfield

Judith Graber and Julia Hanauer-Milne
9 to 11 am, easy terrain and pace



This walk will explore common plants, trees, birds and animal signs. Fogg Farm, a 15-acre wooded parcel with a brook and an easy walking trail of less than 0.5 miles, is an ideal place for young and old alike to learn about the world around us.

We will provide some identification materials for the trees, plants and birds we expect to see; additional guides are always welcome. We will gear the materials to the young (ages 3-10), but all are welcome. Parents should accompany children on the walk. Please contact the KLT office or Judith Graber (623-0893) for more information.

September 24 Vaughan Homestead Foundation Program

The Case for Reinventing Conservation Easements

Jeff Pidot, former KLT President, Maine Deputy Attorney General
Speaker at 2:00 pm, followed by a walk in the Vaughan Woods at 3:00 pm.

A resident of Hallowell, Jeff has recently concluded a fellowship with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy studying conservation easements across the country. Over the past year Jeff has written and spoken extensively on the problems and promise of conservation easements as a permanent public interest in private land, and how well those varying interests are holding up across Maine and across the country. Jeff returns to the Vaughan Homestead where as a representative of the Kennebec Land Trust he helped the Gibson family create a conservation easement on Vaughan Woods in 1990. **Advance reservations required.** Please call 622-9831 after Sept. 1, 2005 to reserve.

October 1 Plein- air Painting, Gott Pasture Preserve, Wilson Pond, Wayne

9:30 am - noon
Maine Artist Lois Strickland

Registration is required. Members free; non-members, \$3.00. Rain date, October 2nd
Third and final KLT plein-air painting session with Lois Strickland at the scenic and historic 75-acre Gott Pasture Preserve.

October 15 Annual Vaughan Woods Work Day

9:00 am - 1 pm

A community work day organized by KLT steward Andrew Fisk, Paul Johnson, the Hallowell Conservation Commission and the Vaughan Homestead Foundation. Volunteers will spread wood chips, clear brush and enjoy the remarkable beauty of the Woods. Please bring gloves, wire snips, shovels, and loppers. Contact Gerry Mahoney, Hallowell Conservation Commission, 622-9659 for more information. Meet at Hall Dale High School parking lot, Maple Street, Hallowell.



November 5 Vaughan Homestead Foundation Program

Frontier Conflict along the Kennebec during the 18th Century

William Fowler, Director of Massachusetts Historical Society

Advance reservations required. Please call 622-9831 after Sept. 1, 2005 to reserve