

COMMUNITY AND SMITH FAMILY CELEBRATE DEDICATION OF EZRA SMITH WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA

Theresa Kerchner

Occasional downpours did not dampen spirits on Saturday, August 4, 2018, when more than sixty hikers dedicated the Ezra Smith Wildlife Conservation Area in Mount Vernon. Friends and family of George and Linda Smith listened to welcoming comments from George and from KLT President Mary Denison, and hiked the new loop trails. Senator Angus King, a close friend of the Smith family, was a surprise guest and also had words of appreciation.

The 163-acre Ezra Smith Wildlife Conservation Area (ESWCA) is part of an extensive undeveloped forest and wetland landscape along Hopkins Stream. It features three plant habitats: a mixed hardwood-conifer forest; a 50-acre wooded fen with beaver lodges and dams; and scrub-shrub wetlands. The Smith family has spent many years exploring these woods and wetlands. George and his father Ezra, for whom the property is named, enjoyed deer hunting in the property's woodlands and wetlands. A chair that Ezra used in his last year of hunting marks a special place along the trail.

George and Linda donated their 125-acre woodlot to KLT in March of 2018, intending that the land be used to teach children about the importance of conserving Maine's wildlife and their habitats. Many friends of George and Linda and many KLT members donated to a fund that will support the long-term stewardship of the land. KLT used a portion of the gifts received in support of the property to purchase an additional 38 acres of wetlands from Charles Lord. The additional parcel runs along both sides of Hopkins Stream. Together, these 163 acres will protect water quality and provide year-round outdoor recreation opportunities for all ages.

The trails and interpretive signage were also supported by several state and federal programs:

- A Maine Conservation Corps AmeriCorps crew helped build the trails.
- A group of Maine State Prison Industries Program employees crafted the trailhead box and the wooden signs from Maine lumber.
- The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Program provided grant funding for trail-building, interpretive materials, and infrastructure.

KLT is grateful to George and Linda for their generous conservation donation – we are honored to be welcoming the public to our newest trails and are looking forward to hosting school and community groups for future environmental education programs. We hope you will visit this beautiful property soon!



From left, Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director, Jordan Tanguay, Intern; Jack Daley, Intern; Jean-Luc Theriault, Stewardship Director; Kirsten Brewer, Program Director; Becca Smith, Sue Bell, KLT Director; Josh Smith, George Smith, Edie Smith, and Senator Angus King. Photograph: Jack Faberty



KLT NEWSLETTER SPONSOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October, 2018

Carl Richards, "The Sketch Guy," writing in the September 14, 2018, *New York Times*, quoted Dan Sullivan, author of "The Dan Sullivan Question":

The moment your past becomes bigger than your future, you die.

Richards goes on to write:

I don't know if I would go that far, but I do think he is on to something very important. For starters, how can you ever expect to be where you want to be in five years if you don't start thinking, planning and talking about it now? Is that really something we want to leave to chance?

As I take office as KLT President, I am awestruck by the accomplishments of our Trust over the past thirty years and am grateful to past President Mary Denison for her three years of thoughtful leadership. I am also fully aware of both the honor and the responsibility of leading the board of KLT. As Richards emphasizes in his NYT article, focusing on and planning for future goals is a critical part of every human endeavor.

Under Theresa Kerchner's leadership, our organization is looking to the future via membership surveys and an upcoming strategic planning board retreat. We will, of course, start our consideration with a review of KLT's many accomplishments and the huge respect it has garnered in its thirty years of land stewardship.

Critical questions will include "How big is big enough?", "How do we meet the steady and regular requests of Kennebec County land owners that we take on additional conservation trust relationships?", and "How do we fund the exemplary KLT land stewardship in future years?"

Answers to these questions and many others will guide KLT in its decisions over the next five years. You as members make our work possible, and I hope you'll give us your views on where we should be three years from now.

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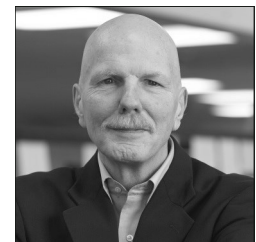
Kirsten Brewer
Membership & Program
Director

Jean-Luc Theriault
Stewardship Director

Andrew Tufts
Stewardship Assistant

All the best,

Kim Vandermeulen



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KLT BOARD AND STAFF NEWS

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER - SUSAN CALDWELL, WEST GARDINER

Susan lives in West Gardiner with her husband Jim and two sons (now off to college). She has worked for The Nature Conservancy since 1991, starting in the Oregon field office then moving to Maine in 1996. She grew up in Connecticut and attended college in Vermont. Susan loves exploring Maine with her family, friends and golden retriever, hiking, canoeing, cross-country skiing and camping.

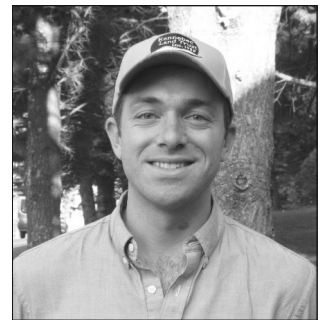


THANK YOU - BRIAN KENT, FORMER KLT PRESIDENT AND BOARD MEMBER

During our 30th Anniversary Meeting, we recognized Brian Kent of Litchfield for his eight years of service on the Board of Directors and for his leadership as President from 2013-2015. Brian's work on our 25th anniversary Capital Campaign and Howard Hill acquisition are particularly noteworthy. We also have been very fortunate that Brian attends most KLT programs with his camera in hand. Although Brian is stepping down from the Board, he will continue to assist KLT with design and architecture projects. Thank you Brian, and best wishes for your future adventures!

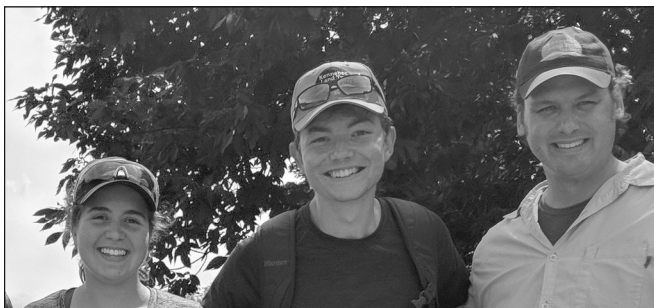
WELCOME - ANDREW TUFTS, SEASONAL STEWARDSHIP ASSISTANT

As you hike KLT's trails this fall, please stop and say hello to our newest staff member, Andrew Tufts. Andrew joined us as a seasonal, part-time employee in early October and is working closely with Stewardship Director, Jean-Luc Theriault. Together with KLT's dedicated volunteer stewards, they are busy monitoring and taking care of our properties and 45 miles of trails. Andrew has a degree in Landscape Architecture and is currently studying for his Masters Degree at the University of Southern Maine. His professional interests include heirloom apple conservation - save your questions and apples for him!



Our sincerest thank you to the Snider Foundation for their generous support of KLT's ever-expanding stewardship program.

KLT INTERNS: FUTURE LEADERS



I am very grateful to have worked with KLT this summer. Through experience in the field and in the office, I got a closer look at how non-profits function and had a ton of fun at the same time. Spending weeks creating and preparing trails at the new Ezra Smith Wildlife Conservation Area, conducting research on tick densities at the Howard Hill Historical Park, writing grants, updating the hiking guide, and finding a place for a swim in between. I loved the variety of tasks and the opportunity to travel all around Kennebec County. I have seen how talented and motivated Theresa, Jean-Luc, Kirsten, the volunteers, stewards, and board members are, and I found them

truly inspiring. They provided opportunities for me to expand my knowledge and network for future jobs and strengthened my passion for the land. A huge thanks to everyone who made this summer possible. ~ *Jordan Tanguay*

Spending the summer at KLT was fantastic. I learned countless aspects of conservation, gained insight into the management of a small NGO, got to know an amazing group of staff, board members, volunteers, and community members, and had a blast living in central Maine. Some of my favorite memories from the internship were clearing a viewshed of the Maine State Capitol at Howard Hill, working at the islands on Lake Umbagog, and building the trail at the Ezra Smith Conservation Area. Not to mention getting to meet three generations of the Smith family at the property dedication! I also really enjoyed my research into the operational, logistical, and land management aspects of KLT's conservation burial initiative. Looking forward to hearing about KLT's progress in the years ahead! ~ *Jack Daley*

UPCOMING PROGRAMS...

Sustainable Balsam Fir-Tipping & Wreath-Making Ladd Recreation Center, Wayne Saturday, December 1, 10 a.m.

Learn sustainable tipping techniques with Dave Fuller, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, and go home with a handmade fir wreath. Bring hand shears and light gloves. **PREREGISTER, \$10 for non-members, \$5 for members. Space is limited. KBrewer@tklt.org**

Tenth Annual Family Winter Fun at Curtis Homestead Conservation Area, Leeds Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.

Join KLT for an afternoon of winter fun at the Curtis Homestead Conservation Area in Leeds. Bring your own cross-country skis, snowshoes, and sleds and spend the afternoon exploring this wonderful 360-acre conservation property! Hot chocolate and snacks will be served around a bonfire in the field. Thanks to the group **Winthrop Plays Outside**, snowshoes for children and adults will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

AND...

Stay tuned for news about KLT's newly renovated cabins at **Wakefield Wildlife Sanctuary** on Cobbossee Stream in West Gardiner. We plan to open up rental reservations for Summer of 2019 later this winter!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Adrein Reju & Andy Stack, Alan Seamans, Allan & Libby Harville, Amanda & Rich Smith, Amy & Jerry Bley, Amy Trunnell, Andy Lilienthal & Laura Blaisdell, Andy Smith, Andy Tolman, Andy Walsh, Ann Gosline, Anna Hodgkins, Aram Calhoun, Betsy & Nathan Poulin, Bob & Joan Mohlar, Bob Kimber, Bob Marvinney, Brenda & Howard Lake, Brian Kent, Bruce Bell, Cathie Murray & Mike Waters, Cathy Bevier, Cathy McCue, Charlie Jacobs & Rebecca Stanley, Cheri Cooledge, Dana Boas, Dave Courtemanch, Dave Fuller, Dave's Appliances in Winthrop, Deb Sewall, Delmar Small, Derek Yorks, Donna Buck, Edward Lake, Eric Doucette, Elizabeth Davidson, George & Judy Rogers, George and Linda Smith, Ginny Coady, Gloria & Lincoln Ladd, Harold Burnett, Ina Small, Jack Daley, Jane Davis, Jane Giglio, Jane Masticiano, Janet Crane, Janet Sawyer, Jeannie Scudder, Jed Davis, Jill Ippoliti, Jim & Muffy Floyd, Jim Connors, Jim Merrick, Jim Perkins, Joan Howard, Joe Sanders, Mark & Judy Johnston, Joyce Foley, Joyce Rivers, Ken & Sue Spalding, Ken Laustsen, Kim Vandermeulen, Kennebec Valley Bicycle Club, Ladd Recreation Center, Lindsay & Mark Nelsen, Lisa Kane, Liz Hertz, Lloyd Irland, Lorraine Ravis, Lynn & Phil Lilienthal, Kevin & Mary Kane, Marc Loiselle, Mary Denison & Ronn Gifford, Mike Watts, Nat Bell, Norm Rodrigue, Patty Cormier, Patsy West, Viles Foundation, Penny Markley, Phil Downes, Ralph Record, Rich Garino, Rob & Deb Peale, Rosemary Presnar & Ish Bicknell, Sarah Fuller, Sarah Reed, Scott Longfellow, Shane Duigan, Sherry Huber, Steve Condon, Steve DeAngelis, Steve McLaughlin, Sturtevant Family, Sue Bell, Susan Caldwell, Teague Morris, Thom Harnett, Tim & Luvia Sniffen, Tom Abello, Tom Danielson, Tom Ferrero, Winthrop Public Library, Zach Harder, & **KLT Land Donors, Stewards, Office & Field Volunteers, Directors & Advisors.**



2019 Kennebec Land Trust Lyceum

Maine Insects: Ecology and Conservation

Ladd Recreation Center, Wayne

March 14, 2019

Maine Aquatic Insects: Ecology, Habitats, & Conservation

Hamish Greig, University of Maine, Assistant Professor of Stream Ecology

March 21, 2019

Terrestrial Insects: Conservation, ecology, & threats

Charlene Donabue, Maine Forest Service Entomologist, Retired

March 28, 2019

Interactions among plants and insects – the complex web they weave

Roger Rittmaster, Maine Master Naturalist



Photograph: Hamish Greig