

## STREAMS, PONDS AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Soon after you start on the **Great Back Lots Trail** you will cross a bridge over a shallow stream with a thick mat of watercress (*Nasturtium* species). This non-native species thrives in clear, cool water. While you are enjoying this quiet place, look for these plants near the stream:

- jewelweed**  
(*Impatiens capensis*)
- marsh violet**  
(*Viola cucullata*)
- rough sedge**  
(*Carex scabrata*)
- spinulose wood fern**  
(*Dryopteris carthusiana*)
- evergreen wood fern**  
(*Dryopteris intermedia*)



*Granville Small: on tractor, upper right*  
*Photograph: Glenn Parker, 1997*

## PARTIAL LIST OF BIRD SPECIES

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Great Blue Heron          | Barn Swallow                 |
| Spotted Sandpiper         | Eastern Bluebird             |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Veery                        |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee        | Hermit Thrush                |
| Great-crested Flycatcher  | Yellow Warbler               |
| Eastern Kingbird          | Black-throated Green Warbler |
| Red-eyed Vireo            | Pine Warbler                 |
| Tree Swallow              | Black-and-white Warbler      |
|                           | Ovenbird                     |
|                           | Common Yellowthroat          |
|                           | Chipping Sparrow             |
|                           | Song Sparrow                 |
|                           | Rose-breasted Grosbeak       |
|                           | Indigo Bunting               |
|                           | Baltimore Oriole             |



*Common Yellowthroat*

## THE STORY BEHIND THE PONDS

Delmar R. Small (1886-1977) purchased several parcels on the west side of the Pine Tree Road during the 1900s. A portion of the timber harvested on these sandy lots was sold for railroad ties. In the 1950s and 60s, sand and gravel were excavated for the Maine Turnpike and Interstate 295 projects. "Sand Hill" was completely removed and new ponds were formed by the gravel dredging operations.

Granville Small, Delmar's son, began reclamation efforts in 1977. Over the next thirty years he leveled the land with a bucket loader and washed down steep banks using a tractor-driven irrigation system. The gravel pits have been replaced with sloping fields and clear ponds with wooded edges that are now valuable wildlife and plant habitat. The Small-Burnham easement includes the ponds on the west side of the Pine Tree Road, but this area is open to the public **only with landowner permission.**

## LITCHFIELD, MAINE



The Small-Burnham Conservation Area is part of a much larger community landscape. The Town of Litchfield owns a nearby fire station, the town office, a garage, and former and currently operating gravel pits that total 140 acres. Other private organizations, including the Masons, the Fairgrounds, the Sportsmen's Club, the Cemetery Association, and the Plains Church, own an additional 115 acres nearby.

These interconnected lands, along with other Litchfield forests and farms, define the town's rural character. They provide recreational and economic opportunities, support Maine's wildlife and plant species, and protect water quality and scenic views.

 **KENNEBEC LAND TRUST** A full listing of Kennebec Land Trust properties and their recreational uses, and an interactive map with directions, can be found at our website: [www.tklt.org](http://www.tklt.org).

**Isn't it time for you to join the KLT?**

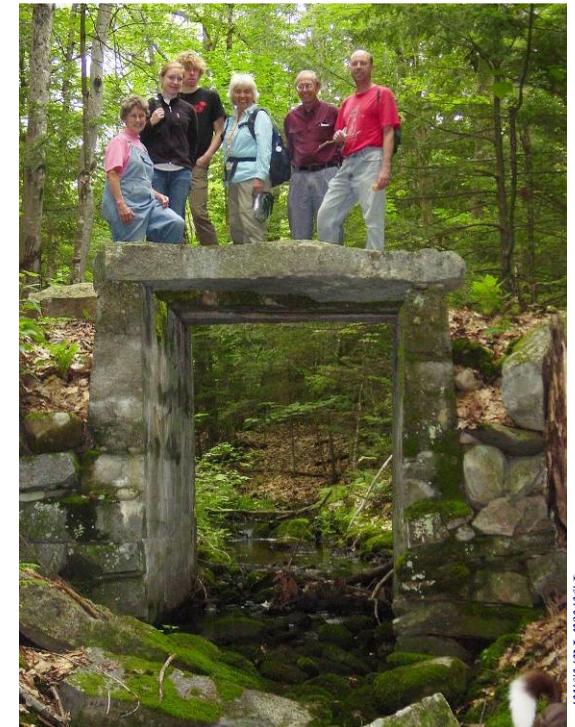
**PO BOX 261; 134 Main Street**

**Winthrop, Maine 04364 207-377-2848**

*Thanks to those who contributed expertise and time for this brochure: Jane Davis, Eric Doucette, Howard Lake, Erin Lloyd and Ben Sturtevant, Janie Matrisciano, Andrea Nurse, Delmar Small, Ina Small, Teague Morris, Stanton Bird Club, Jean-Luc Theriault and Center for Community GIS, Farmington.*

## KLT SMALL-BURNHAM CONSERVATION AREA LITCHFIELD, MAINE

250-acre Conservation Easement  
Donated to KLT August, 2010  
Land Owners: Ina Small,  
Delmar Small, & Teague Morris



The **Kennebec Land Trust** works cooperatively with landowners and communities to protect natural areas and working landscapes in the Kennebec River and Lakes Region.

## WELCOME TO KLT'S SMALL-BURNHAM CONSERVATION AREA



*Hemlock forest*

Jane Davis

In August, 2010, Ina (Hutchins) Small, Delmar Dustin Small and Teague Morris granted a conservation easement to KLT on 250 acres of woodlands, wetlands, hayfields, and ponds on the Pine Tree Road in Litchfield.\* This easement honors Granville Small (1915-2008) and the Burnhams, Delmar's (Dusty) mother's family, who once farmed here.

Granville, Ina's husband and Dusty's father, loved farming and this land. On the west side of the Pine Tree Road across from the KLT sign, there are ponds that were once gravel pits. Granville Small devoted years of his life to reclaiming these wetlands.

Ina, Dusty, and Teague still own this land. As landowners with a conservation easement, they can continue to garden, raise hay, manage their woodlands, and enjoy the beauty they find in the natural world. Their easement grants public access for low impact recreational activities and prohibits residential and commercial development.

*\*A conservation easement is a flexible tool that protects land while leaving it in private ownership. The easement – a legal document – guides future uses of a property, regardless of ownership.*

## FAMILY AND NATURAL HISTORY

The Smalls and the Burnhams have lived and worked on this land since the 1840s. As you hike the trails on the east side of the Pine Tree Road, look for these interesting natural and historical features: stone farm foundations and pasture walls; a unique black locust stand that was planted for field posts; a stone bridge built in the 1950s that provided access to the best farm soil; a glacial marine clay bank along a stream the family calls "The Nile," where clay was dug for pottery; and the remnants of a sugar house where the family once boiled thousands of gallons of sap.

The Great Back Lots Trail begins at the KLT sign and winds through a forest dominated by an impressive stand of eastern hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*). Scattered in this forest are sugar maples, yellow birch, and other northern hardwood species. For over two centuries, since settlers first arrived in Litchfield, pines and hardwoods in this woodland have been harvested for lumber and firewood, leaving hemlocks as the dominant tree species.

Today, this forest provides valuable habitat for Blackburnian and black-throated green warblers, wood thrush, as well as other Maine wildlife that are associated with mature woodlands.

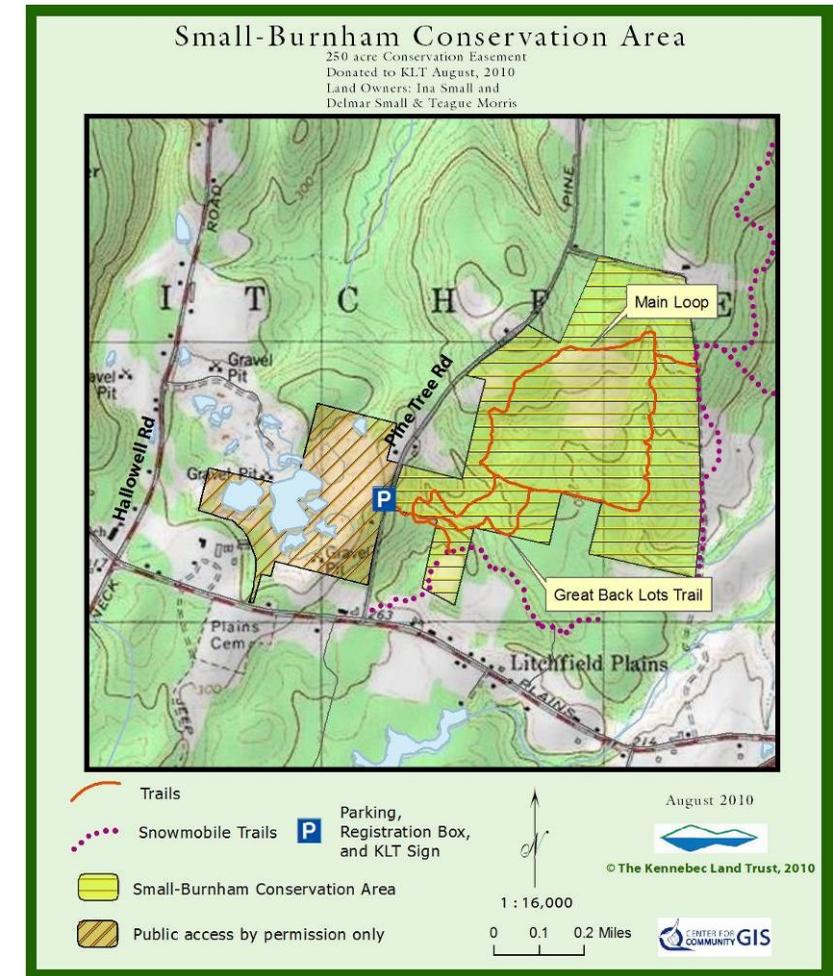
As you hike the trail you will find many fascinating mushrooms that thrive in this shady forest, including *Amanitas*, *Boletes*, *Polypores*, *Russulas*, and *Gomphus* species.



*Presumpscot Formation*

*"blue clay" along the Nile*

Andrea Nurse



**Trails and Access:** The 0.5 mile easy **Great Back Lots Trail** begins at the KLT trailhead off the Pine Tree Road. The bridge over the stream is 0.2 miles from the KLT registration box. **The Main Loop Trail** can be accessed from the Great Back Lots Trail and is 1.4 miles around.

**Directions to Small-Burnham Conservation Area Trail Head:** From Monmouth: Take the South Monmouth Road to Days Corner; Cross Route 126 and go over Oak Hill; Cross the bridge, and at the stop sign, turn left. Almost immediately take the first right onto the Libby Road. At the stop sign go straight onto the Plains Road. Take the Plains Road 1 mile to the Pine Tree Road. Turn left on the Pine Tree Road. After ~ 0.5 miles look for the KLT sign and parking area on the right. From Augusta: Take the Maine Turnpike south to Exit 103(I-295). Just after the toll booth, take Exit 51 (W. Gardiner). Turn left onto Rt. 126 East. Go 0.5 miles, then turn right onto the Old Lewiston Rd. Take the first right onto the Pond Rd. (which becomes the Plains Road in Litchfield). Go 8.1 miles, noting Black Crow Bakery on the right. Go 0.4 mi. and turn right on the Pine Tree Road. After ~ 0.5 miles look for the KLT sign and parking area on the right.