



LAND AND COMMUNITY

Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, KLT MEMBERS!

For three decades we have championed land conservation and stewardship in central Maine. With support from 1,100 household and business partner members, and our Conservation Leaders and land donors, we have conserved 6,200 acres.* Our twenty-eight interns, from eighteen colleges and universities, are the next generation of leadership. KLT's work continues to benefit Maine's people, land, wildlife, and waters. **Thank you for your continued support!**

Celebrating 30 Years of Conservation

November, 1988: KLT incorporated

1989: First KLT annual meeting, Jym St. Pierre, President

1990: KLT organizes the Conference for Land & Trust; 152-acre Vaughan Woods conservation easement donated

1991: First fee property donated to KLT: Avery Preserve, with 1,200 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Echo Lake

1993: \$42,000 raised for Sheep (Perry) Island, Cobbossee Lake

1994: Stewardship Committee formed; Doug Scott hired as Membership Secretary

1995-1996: Howard Lake, Jim Connors, Wendy Dennis & Scott Davis start the "Mount Pisgah Breakfast Club"

1997: "Islands of Hope Campaign"; Norris Island conserved.

1999: Firsts: KLT website, field trips, Land Trust Rally

2000: Gov. Ken Curtis & Rebecca Meredith donate 360-acre family homestead; KLT joins Kennebec Highlands project

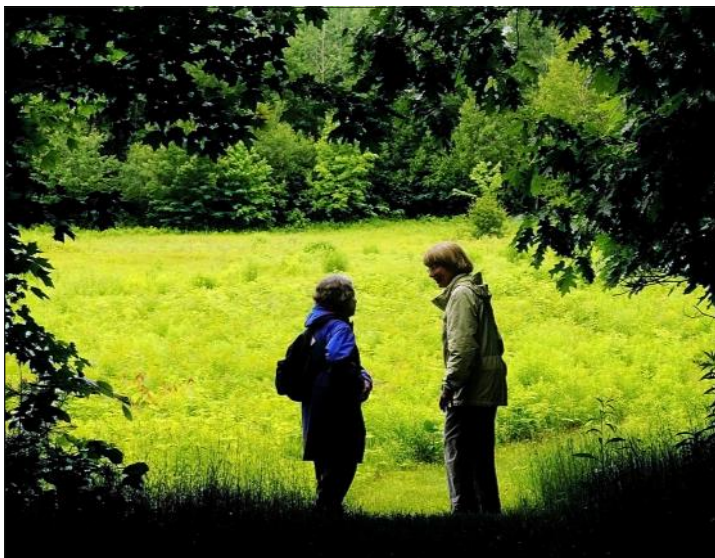
2002: Winthrop office opens; Theresa Kerchner hired

2003: First workshop for volunteer stewards; First Lyceum supported by Gloria, Lincoln, and Robert Ladd; KLT reaches 2,000 acres with Macdonald Woods donation

2004: Kennebec Landscapes Campaign raises \$500,000; Parker Pond Headland purchased with LMF funds and donations

2005-2007: First fee-owned property east of Kennebec River: Davidson Nature Preserve; Bob Mohlar, Lands Committee Chair, initiates Egypt Pond conservation project; KLT, with anonymous support, adds acreage to IFW's Jamies Pond

*See Conservation Leaders - pages 5 & 8



Davidson Nature Preserve, Vassalboro, ©Kennebec Journal, Joe Phelan

2008: 20th Anniversary Art Show; KLT-LPK Calendar; Abby Holman Agricultural Education School Programs

2009: KLT and the Maine Forest Service form the Kennebec Woodland Partnership

2010: *Between Person and Place* published

2011: **Leaders and Luminaries Award** - Norm Rodrigue, KLT Development Committee Chair

2013: 331 Main Street office purchased; Elmina B. Sewall Foundation funds Local Wood WORKS (see page 10)

2014: First Kennebec River property conserved: Judy Kane Kennebec River Parcel; ambitious Capital Campaign launched; *Take a Hike!* published; 25th anniversary celebration, Camp Winnebago, Echo Lake

2015: KLT reaches 5,000 acres with Vienna Woods donation; Endowment Fund grows with gifts and bequests

2016-2017: Total of acres conserved on Mount Pisgah reaches 1,090; Ledges Trail opens; accreditation application completed; 342-acre Rosmarin and Saunders Family Forest donated

2017: Howard Hill property transferred to the City of Augusta; with Ezra Smith Wildlife Conservation Area, KLT reaches 6,200 acres; conservation burial project begins

May, 2018: 1,100 household members, 43 miles of trails, 75 land stewards and office volunteers, 17 directors, 28 advisors, and three professional conservation staff



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In the wake of a recent flurry of news stories and editorials regarding the impact of conservation land on municipal property taxes, I thought our members might be interested in a few facts about land trusts in Maine, and KLT in particular, pertaining to how we all contribute to the local tax rolls. So, with apologies to *Harper's Index*, I present the following:

<i>Total acreage in the State of Maine under conservation:</i>	4,200,000
<i>Amount of that conserved acreage owned by land trusts:</i>	155,000
<i>Amount of land trust-conserved acreage that is tax exempt:</i>	30,000
<i>Percentage of all tax exempt conservation land in Maine owned by land trusts:</i>	0.33%
<i>Total conserved acreage owned (not easements) by KLT:</i>	3,985
<i>Amount of KLT-owned conserved acreage that is tax exempt:</i>	48.41
<i>Number of tax exempt acres on which KLT makes payments in lieu of taxes:</i>	9.41
<i>Number of tax exempt acres considered wetland/wasteland by the municipality:</i>	39
<i>Percentage of all KLT conservation land that is completely tax exempt:</i>	0.098%

Most of KLT's conservation land is taxed under a "current use" classification as open space so that the conserved acreage will remain on the municipal tax rolls. For those properties that are not eligible for open space classification due to the existence of structures on the property, we make a payment to the municipality in lieu of taxes in recognition of the fact that our properties receive municipal emergency response coverage and other townwide benefits. We have wonderful working relationships with our local municipalities, who appreciate the value of well-managed green space in their communities.

If anyone has any questions on the data I have provided above, please don't hesitate to call our office for additional information. I hope to see many of you at the annual meeting in August to celebrate our 30th anniversary!

All the best,

Mary Denison, President



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THREE NEW KLT PROPERTIES - 370 ACRES CONSERVED FOREVER



Egypt Pond Conservation Easement, Vienna and Chesterville - Located off the Egypt Pond, Soper, and Allen Roads, this expansive 238-acre conservation easement encompasses mixed woodlands, hayfields, wetlands with vernal pools, and most of the shoreline of remote Egypt Pond. This generous conservation donation will forever protect outstanding natural scenery, water quality, working woodlands and farmland, and important wildlife habitat. The existing State of Maine public boat launch provides public access to the waters of Egypt Pond, a popular fishing destination.

Stewart Myers and his late wife Maureen first came to Egypt Pond in the 1970s, when they purchased land on the north shore. Stewart wrote of that trip, "We looked out from our campsite at a prospect of undisturbed beauty and solitude. Maureen would be as happy and grateful as I am to know that the pond will remain in all essentials just as it was then". After the closing in late December 2017, Howard Lake, KLT's volunteer attorney, commented: "It has been such a pleasure to work with Stew and his late wife, Maureen, to conserve this beautiful piece of Maine. The conservation of undeveloped shoreline and having available boat access makes Egypt Pond a true gem."

Ezra Smith Wildlife Conservation Area, Mt. Vernon -

In March 2018, after donating the 125-acre Ezra Smith Wildlife Conservation Area to KLT, George Smith noted, "Linda and I have enjoyed KLT's trails and programs, and we chose them especially because of their commitment to teaching kids about conservation. Our woodlot will be used to teach kids about wildlife and wildlife habitat, and we're very excited about that." This summer, KLT stewardship director Jean Luc Theriault and our summer interns will be constructing a new trail on the property that will include wetland and wildlife habitat interpretive signs. A small parking area on Route 41 will provide safe access for school groups, hikers, and hunters. The Ezra Smith Conservation Area, which features a 50-acre wetland and hardwood and conifer forests along the beautiful Hopkins Stream corridor, will be open to the public for year-round outdoor recreation, including hiking, nature observation, fishing, and hunting. Please join us on Saturday, August 4, for our property and trail dedication!



Left to right: Amanda Dow-Smith, Dave Courtemanch, Tom Ferrero, Bob Marvinney, Syd & Deb Sewall, Jean-Luc Theriault, Linda Smith, Andy Tolman, George Smith, & Sue Bell

Effie L. Berry Conservation Area, Hallowell - The recently signed City of Hallowell - KLT Effie L. Berry conservation easement ensures that eight acres of the Stevens School historic campus will be permanently protected. This newly conserved City property will protect wildlife habitat and wetlands, enhance access for public recreation, and provide trail connectivity to the adjacent 164-acre Augusta Howard Hill Historical Conservation Area. Thank you to Hallowell Conservation Commission members, to the City of Hallowell, and to Matt Morrill of Mastway Development, for your conservation vision and steadfast commitment to this project.



Earth Day 2018, property dedication. Photo: Kevin Kane

WELCOME 2018 SUMMER INTERNS

During their eight week internship, our hard-working college students tackle an impressive number of projects: trail building and maintenance; invasive species control; educational programming for school-aged children and property visitors, research focused on important conservation topics, writing press releases and grant proposals, and assisting with routine office work. For more information about KLT's summer internship program and to view past intern research projects visit tklt.org/internship.



Jack Daley I'm a rising sophomore at Harvard College pursuing a degree in environmental science, and I can't wait to join the team at KLT! Having grown up just outside of Boston, I've always had a deep love and appreciation for the landscapes and communities of New

England. I'm thrilled to have the chance to work on land stewardship in central Maine and I'm particularly looking forward to my research project, which will be focused on establishing a conservation burial ground on a new KLT property. At a broader level, I'm interested in the field of conservation because of its unique blend of science, sustainability, community, and public policy.

At college, I'm involved with the undergraduate Conservation Society, the Mission Hill after-school community service program, and our satirical newspaper, Satire V. In my free time, I love escaping to the outdoors (especially fly-fishing and hiking), spending time with my younger brother, and reading.

Jordan Tanguay Hello!

I'm from Fort Kent, Maine, and am a rising junior at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, majoring in environmental studies with a minor in public health. Being an outdoor enthusiast, when I'm not studying I can be found skiing, biking, hiking, kayaking, fishing, or doing any other outdoor sport I can think of.



Having grown up in the gorgeous outdoors of Northern Maine, I am passionate about fostering a sustainable environment and improving the health of humans. Coming to St. Lawrence has taught me even more about the importance of ecosystems. I have explored the woods, rivers, lakes, and mountains of Maine, but more recently I have also developed a deep affection for the Adirondack Mountains and the vast grasslands of upstate New York. As a result, I feel privileged to join KLT this summer. I'm excited to learn about the operations side of conservation and land management, while creating positive change in the lives of others.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS & FUNDS IN 2017

Conservation Burial Project

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Corporate Matching Gift Program

Endowment

Douglas & Jessie Macdonald Gift Fund

Local Wood WORKS Partnership

Elmina B. Sewall Foundation

Operating-Stewardship Program

Farnsworth Fund of the
Essex County Community Foundation

Ezra Smith Conservation Area

The Lucas R. St. Clair Gift Fund

Howard Hill

The Windover Foundation

Operating

A Component Fund of the
Maine Community Foundation

Onion Foundation

Tina Snider & the Snider Foundation

Operating-Internship & Stewardship Program

Helen and George Ladd Charitable Foundation

Silverseed Fund of the
Maine Community Foundation

This list includes Foundations and Donor-Advised Funds that have given \$1,000 or more to KLT in 2017. See Mount Pisgah report on Page 6 for additional Foundations.

OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS



Matt Mullen is the Director of Parent Giving & Programs for Colby College. Raised in Winthrop, he and his family live in Augusta at the base of Howard Hill. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Kennebec Valley YMCA, and formerly served on the capital campaign team for the Charles M. Bailey Library and the Board of Advisors for New England Music Camp in Sidney.



Tom Ferrero grew up in Connecticut and upstate New York and now lives in Vienna, Maine. Tom is a painter and jewelry/metal artist and an art teacher at Maranacook Community High School in Readfield. In the summers he teaches classes at Camp Laurel, where he has been the Department Head of Metalsmithing for more than a decade. He enjoys hiking, camping, and snowshoeing and would like to improve his white water canoeing skills.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW DONORS & NEW MEMBERS - OCT 1, 2017 - APRIL 26, 2018

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Sandra & Charles Wright*

*Ezra Smith Campaign Donor

THANK YOU KLT CONSERVATION LEADERS

KLT's twenty-seven **Conservation Leaders** are far-sighted members who are able and willing to give \$1,000 or more annually in combined membership dues or in pledge donations. These donors are part of a committed group of members who understand that the Trust's current and future conservation work and financial sustainability depends on larger long-term gifts. We deeply appreciate their support of KLT and land conservation.



View of Androscoggin Lake, Wayne. Photo: Zach Harder

LYCEUM 2018: MAINE'S AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

Bob Kimber, KLT Advisor

The animals we're most likely to find on wildlife calendars and greeting cards are, for the most part, furry or feathered: mother polar bears, sea otters, wolf pups. Mammals ourselves, we have an understandable affinity for warm-blooded creatures. So it was a treat at this year's lyceum to focus on amphibians and reptiles, our cold-blooded cousins whose biological makeup and life strategies differ so radically from our own.

Unless my copy of *Maine Amphibians and Reptiles* happens to catch my eye on the bookshelf and I revisit it once again, I can easily forget the turtle species that are less likely to cross my path. So I was grateful for IF&W wildlife biologist Derek Yorks' review of all Maine's turtles, with special attention to Blanding's and spotted turtles, found primarily in southern Maine, and to wood turtles, whose remarkable intelligence has made them desirable pets, but has also much reduced their numbers by making them prey to collectors for the pet trade.

Colby College biology professor Cathy Bevier began her comprehensive overview of Maine's salamanders and frogs with the mudpuppy, a large salamander ranging from eight to twelve inches long and not native to Maine. A Colby professor was studying this exotic animal in 1939, and it somehow managed to escape his lab and wind up in the Belgrade Lakes watershed. Professor Bevier then turned to Maine's eight native salamanders, the blue-spotted salamander being one that often appears in great numbers on spring nights as it crosses Maine roads on its way to breeding pools it shares with wood frogs and spring peepers. Apropos frogs, Professor Bevier expressed particular affection for the mink frog, a rather secretive close relative of the bullfrog and the green frog.



Mink Frog, Photo: Cathy Bevier



*Tom Danielson, Lyceum Field Program in April, 2018.
Rosmarin & Saunders Family Forest. Photo: Jane Davis.*

In the final program of the series, devoted to the ecology and management of vernal pools, Professor Aram Calhoun of UMO reviewed some of the research she and her assistants have conducted to determine how amphibians use vernal pools in their breeding cycles, and what management measures should be adopted to protect the habitats that are so crucial to the survival of these species. Elizabeth Hertz of Blue Sky Planning Solutions then discussed the process and problems involved in translating the research findings into workable management plans.

What I took away from this year's lyceum was not only enlightenment about the lives and habitat needs of Maine's amphibians and reptiles, but also great respect and admiration for the wildlife professionals—many of them young and up-and-coming—in academe, in Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and in consulting companies working to ensure the future of these remarkable animals.

YOUR CONSERVATION LEGACY

KLT Endowment Fund Now \$373,940 of \$1,000,000 Goal

Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director

Every year more than a thousand KLT member households support our land conservation, stewardship, and trail projects and our educational programs. Thank you for your generosity!

While membership dues are critical to our immediate day-to-day success, KLT's future land conservation work will depend on larger, longer-term gifts. To ensure our future as a conservation leader in Kennebec County, we have established the KLT Endowment Fund. Up to now we have received \$103,166 in gifts and \$261,925 in bequests and pledges toward our ten-year Endowment Fund goal of \$1,000,000.

Any donor who names KLT as a beneficiary of a portion of his or her estate or who sets up a life income gift for the benefit of the Trust will be recognized as a member of the Legacy Society. All proceeds from planned gifts will be invested for the long term in our Endowment Fund that preserves their principal. To date, we have earned \$12,015 in interest on our Endowment Fund. Read below to hear from some of our Legacy Society members, Luvia and Tim Sniffen.

Each of us has a vision for what we would like to leave as a legacy, and we hope you will consider leaving a gift to the Kennebec Land Trust. The following language can be used in your will:

I give to Kennebec Land Trust, a non-profit land conservation trust located in Winthrop, Maine, with Tax ID Number 01-044-0729, the sum of \$_____ [or _____ percent of my estate] to be used for the general purposes of The Kennebec Land Trust.

Please contact Theresa Kerchner, KLT Executive Director, at **207-377-2848** or tkerchner@tklt.org for additional information about our Endowment Fund, planned giving, and our Legacy Society.



Maine Lands for Family, Friends, and the Next Generation

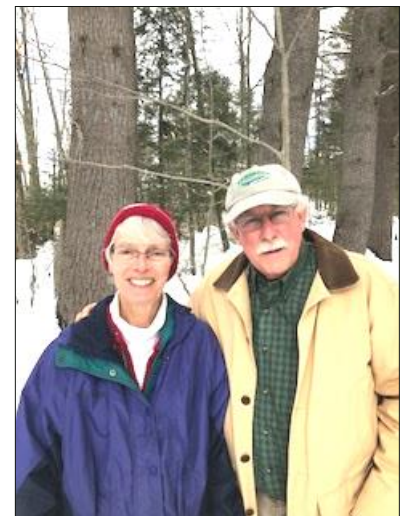
Luvia and Tim Sniffen, KLT Conservation Leaders

Luvia and I came to Maine in 1978, drawn in part by the open space still to be found in this corner of our country. Luvia grew up in inner city Chicago but found joy in her northern Wisconsin camp experiences. I loved the woods and waters of southern Virginia, and I was saddened on each return home to find another special place gone. One of the best gifts we could give our boys was the chance to grow up with lots of outdoor opportunities, and happily we found that possibility here.

Work with the Conservation Commission in Readfield introduced us to the Kennebec Land Trust. KLT supports our town in many ways on many projects: acquiring grants, holding easements, building trails and bridges, surveying and protecting critters (salamanders to goshawks), creating attractive maps and brochures, and all the time offering pleasant folks to be with.

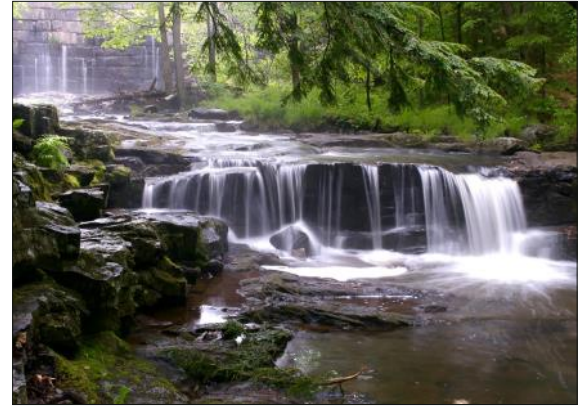
We know Maine too will change, but thanks to wise foresight and planning, many natural areas here will remain, and they will be open for everyone's enjoyment. Our family finds this a wonderful area to live in or to visit. We believe generations to come will benefit from the work of the Kennebec Land Trust.

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts." - Rachel Carson



THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

The Business Partners in Conservation program recognizes business leaders, companies, and organizations in our community who have made significant contributions of cash, goods, and services to support the regional conservation efforts of the Kennebec Land Trust. To learn more about this program, please contact the KLT office at (207) 377-2848.



*Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead
Photo: Norm Rodrigue*

CONSERVATION LEADER

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Camp Winnebago
Cribstone Capital Management
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Business Partners as of April 26, 2018.



HORSESHOE ISLAND, COBBOSSEE LAKE

In December of 2016, KLT acquired a new, 26-acre parcel on Horseshoe Island in Lake Umbagog from an anonymous donor. With the addition of this property we will be able to expand our trails and permanently protect 3,317 feet of shoreline for the enjoyment of future generations and the benefit of wildlife. When KLT agrees to accept a new property, we are responsible for monitoring and managing the property in perpetuity. The cost of this financial responsibility varies with each property we acquire. The Trust has a designated stewardship fund that helps support all of our annual stewardship costs. The interest from this fund is dedicated to projects like trail development, property maintenance, and annual property monitoring and taxes. To date we have raised \$3,375 towards our \$8,000 Horseshoe Island stewardship fundraising goal.



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M. - Th. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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30th Annual Meeting & 5th Tri-Sport
Camp Winnebago, Fayette
August 19, 2018

Tri-Sport Challenge



swim



paddle



run