

HISTORY OF WEBBER-ROGERS FARMSTEAD

Welcome to KLT's 117-acre Webber-Rogers Farmstead Conservation Area! Whether you came to sled down the hill or hike alongside Upper Pleasant Pond, we hope you enjoy your visit. The Webber-Rogers Farmstead Conservation Area, consisting of hayfields, a vineyard, and woodlands, was the first land in Litchfield to be protected by KLT. Landowners George M. Rogers, Jr., and Judy Rogers donated the easement to conserve the property as undeveloped open space that is available to the public for low impact recreational use. The easement includes more than 2,200 feet of wooded shoreline along Upper Pleasant Pond, as well as remnants of a turn-of-the-century apple orchard. The property is divided into three areas: the 9.8-acre farmstead area, the 15.2-acre agricultural area, and 92 acres of fields and woodlands. The agricultural area includes working hayfields and a vineyard. The Rogers family retained agricultural and forest management rights.



George M. Rogers Sr.  
Source: Litchfield Historical Society

*"I have fulfilled a lifelong dream. Through a conservation easement, I have preserved from development the land that I have loved since childhood." - George M. Rogers, Jr.*

George Rogers is a retired history teacher whose family's presence in Maine dates back to the Revolution. The southern portion of the Webber-Rogers Farmstead Conservation Area was first settled in the 1790s by John Brown, a veteran of the Revolutionary War. The Webber family first settled on the eastern shore of Upper Pleasant Pond in the 1790s. George Webber, the first settler, had served on General Washington's barge crew during the Revolution. The land was passed down through the family, and in the early 1900s Dr. Wallace E. Webber, the grandson of George Webber, Jr., bought both the Brown and the W. G. Webber farms. The Brown farm became a "summer place" for the Wallace Webber family, and the W. G. Webber farm remained a working farm. Wallace Webber employed G. Millard Rogers to farm the land. Wallace's daughter, Lydia Webber, and Millard's son, G. Marshall Rogers, met as children, and later married and became the parents of George M. Rogers, Jr., one of the donors of the easement. George M. Rogers, Jr., inherited his parents' home in the 1990s and subsequently purchased additional land in the conservation area.

*"Access to and protection of this beautiful area graciously granted by the Rogers family is a wonderful gift to everyone, those of us here now and those to come when we are gone. The undeveloped shoreline, the maturing woods which will only grow more beautiful, the remarkable bird and wildlife habitat, and the sledding hill are priceless." - Bob Mohlar, KLT Director*

THE KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

The **Kennebec Land Trust** (KLT) works cooperatively with landowners and communities to conserve the forests, lakes, streams, wetlands, fields, and wildlife that help define central Maine. KLT protects and stewards land permanently, offers access to conserved properties, provides opportunities for people to learn about and enjoy the natural world, and works with partners to support sustainable forestry and farming.



Potter's Brook . Photo: Justin Schlawin

We

have conserved over 7,500 acres of land and constructed more than 55 miles of trails.

*KLT is dedicated to protecting the landscape of the Kennebec River and Lakes Region.*

Please join us!

A full listing of Kennebec Land Trust properties and an interactive map with directions can be found at our website:

PO Box 261; 331 Main St  
Winthrop, ME 04364



WEBBER-ROGERS  
FARMSTEAD  
CONSERVATION AREA  
Litchfield, ME



Justin Schlawin

117 Acres of Farmland, Forest,  
and Shoreline

Easement donated by  
George and Judy Rogers in 2005

# HIKING TRAIL

A KLT sign on Plains Road marks the entrance to the property. After the sign-in box, cross a small bridge and then bear left



onto the 0.7 mile Shore Trail, which features beautiful views of Potter’s Brook and Upper Pleasant Pond. A sharp right turn at the end of the Shore Trail places you on the Ridge Trail, which loops back through woods and field edges to the trailhead. In the winter time,

the field on the hill provides an opportunity for excellent sledding.



We hope you enjoy your hike and are able to see or hear some of the following birds: bald eagle, great blue heron, common loon, black-capped chickadee, common raven, red-eyed vireo, hermit thrush, and Baltimore oriole.

# HISTORY OF LITCHFIELD

Originally settled as the Smithfield Plantation in 1776, Litchfield was incorporated in 1795. Long known for its farming, with more than 200 farms operating in the town in the early 1900s, Litchfield produced large quantities of apples that were sold in Boston and New York. Many of the farms, as well as the saw, shingle, grist, carding, and cider mills, are no longer in operation.

Litchfield is famous among geologists for its rich mineral deposits. The mineral complex Litchfieldite was so named because the town is one of two locations in the world where it is found. It is also one of only a few locations in the world with deposits of a deep-blue mineral called sodalite.

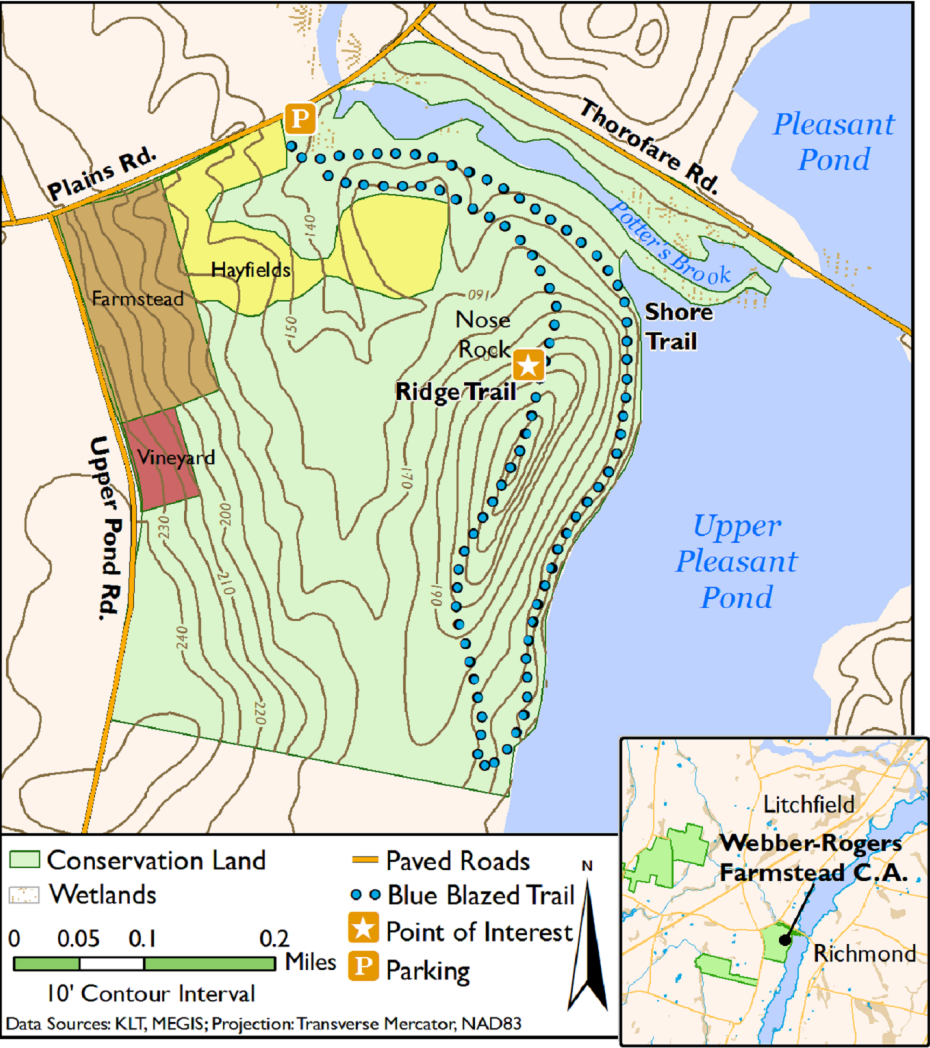
In addition to the Webber-Rogers Farmstead, KLT has conserved one fee property and four other easements in Litchfield: the Carter Pond Conservation Area and the Holman, Small-Burnham, and Samuel Hutchinson Homestead Conservation Areas.



Sarah Fuller

Brochure design and text: Simon Pritchard, KLT 2015 intern, Theresa Kerchner, and Janie Matrisciano, with information from the Historical Society of Litchfield.

# Webber-Rogers Farmstead Conservation Area, Litchfield



**Directions:** From the Gardiner area: Take Route 201 south from Gardiner. Just over 3 miles south of the Route 295 interchange, turn right onto Thorofare Road. Turn left onto Plains Road. The trailhead will be on your left just after the stream. From the Lewiston area: Take Route 126 east. Just past Waterman Farm Machinery, turn right onto Route 197. At Litchfield Corner (watch for the Brick School on the right), turn left onto Hallowell Road. Turn right onto Plains Road, passing the Fairgrounds on the left. In about three miles, the trailhead will be on the right at the bottom of a long hill. Park on the road. **Note:** Due to sensitive wildlife habitat, dogs are not allowed. In the winter, enjoy the community tradition of sledding on the hill above the trailhead! Public access to the agricultural area is limited to the snowmobile trail and the sledding hill during the winter season.