



Vol. 16, no. 1 / Spring, 1999



Jym St. Pierre

ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 22, 1999

∞ Save the Date ∞

KLT's Annual Meeting will be held at the Ladd Center in Wayne. Besides a good way to connect with fellow conservation-minded folks, there will be plenty of great food, hikes and canoe excursions.

Look for more details in a mailing this summer.

KLT ENTERS CYBER SPACE !

New Web Site Launched at www.tkl.org

KLT has its own user-friendly web site thanks to volunteer webmaster Julie Meham.

Use your browser to get you to "http://www.tkl.org." The site highlights lists of properties protected by KLT, volunteer information, dates and locations of KLT field trips, KLT Board of Directors and Advisory Board Members, and how to become a

KLT member. Soon, Julie will add photographs and information about all KLT properties. Next time you are on the Internet, check our site and tell your friends and neighbors about it, too. The site offers another way to educate people about the value of conserving land in their own communities. If you have suggestions for other KLT topics you would like to see on the site, mail Julie. Just click on her address on the home page.

We welcome your ideas!

Inside

- 2 President's Letter
- 4 Summer/Fall Field Trip Schedule
- 6 Kennebec Highlands Acquisition Underway

Board of Directors

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James Connors, 1st VP	N. Monmouth
Robert Mohlar, 2nd VP	Readfield
Sandra Crockett, Treas.	Winthrop
Norm Rodrigue, Secy.	Manchester
Dave Courtemanch	Mt. Vernon
David Dominie	Readfield
Matthew Dwyer	Manchester
Diane Friese	Vienna
Glenn Hodgkins	W. Gardiner
Ann Judd	Fayette
Cynthia Kuhns	Mt. Vernon
Howard Lake	Readfield
Diana McLaughlin	Wayne
Jeffrey Musich	Monmouth
Collin Therrien	Augusta
Paula Thomson	Fayette
Clyde Walton	Fayette
Robert Weston	E. Winthrop



*"Thank you, Mr. Besse ...
... I liked your forest because it is new to us but old."*

So writes a fourth-grader to the donor of Kennebec Land Trust's most recently acquired property. Last fall, Albion Besse, whose family long resided on a historical farmstead in Wayne, gave 55 acres of the farm's woods to the KLT as a legacy for future generations. This winter, Theresa Kerchner, who helped with the creation of the Besse Historical Conservation Area, joined teacher Jennifer Baack on a field trip to this property for 20 fourth-graders from the Wayne Elementary School. The result is a portfolio of hand-written letters and pictures given to Mr. Besse by these students. These letters give define what is has meant to me working with our land trust for the nearly 10 years I have served on the KLT board, almost from its beginning. This experience has brought me great satisfaction, as it links the landscape of our community with a sense of purpose larger and more enduring than I am.

As my term approaches an end after two years as your land trust's president, I realize that this may be the last chance I have to correspond with you in this capacity. Since I want to make this message count, I can do no better than recite from the letters of the fourth-graders written following their visit to Mr. Besse's property.

"Thank you for saving some of the land to give to the land trust,"

"Today we walked in the woods and saw many of the old trees and rocks that were moved by the glaciers."

"I picked out this tree as my favorite... . I hope that the land is there forever."

"I am having fun researching your land. Thank you for taking care of this land."

"I like how you gave the land to the land trust instead of having house lots. It is cool to learn about history when it is about a certain place."

"We have been learning a lot about your farm. We hope the Besse farm stays here in Wayne a long time!"

"I like your farm because you put a lot of work into it."

"I think it was very nice of you to give some of your land to the Kennebec Land Trust because everybody can come and enjoy it and it will be saved forever."

That about says it all. Thank you, Mr. Besse. And thanks to each of you who, like him has given some of your precious land to KLT, and through KLT to all who live or visit here in the future. Thank you, Diana and George Gibson, the Avery/Smith Family, the Wyman Family, Ruth Grauert, the Elliott Farr Family, Dr. and Mrs. Robert O'Malley, John and Bep St. Andre, the Weston Sudds Family, the Alice Mathews Family, Jon Lund and John Jannace.

And thank you, dear member and KLT supporter, for you have made this land trust thrive.

Jeff Pidot



ADDED VALUE FROM YOUR APPRECIATED SECURITIES

Consider the benefits of a donation

Many people don't realize the advantages of contributing appreciated securities to a charity instead of making a cash donation. If you are thinking about making a significant donation (say, \$1,000 or more), you might consider the benefits of contributing appreciated securities from your investment portfolio. It is easy to do, involves no additional cost to you, and can afford you significant tax savings that actually reduce the financial impact of the donation. You can ask your broker or investment advisor for help in selecting securities in the amount you wish to give but with the lowest cost basis so as to maximize your tax savings. Once you've made the decision, call us at 377-2848 or have your broker do so and we can help work out the details.

An example tells the story. Say you want to make a donation of \$1,000 to KLT. Of course, you can make out a check for this amount, and you will receive a tax deduction accordingly. But let's say you bought stock a few years ago that has significantly appreciated in value. If you sell \$1,000 worth of that stock, you will pay a hefty capital-gains tax. Instead, if you instruct your broker to transfer \$1000 worth of that stock to KLT, you pay NO capital gains tax AND you get the full amount of the appreciated value of the shares (\$1000) for purposes of an income tax deduction. The value of the donated securities to a charitable organization is the same as cash, but you realize the extra advantages of avoiding capital gains tax and getting a tax deduction based on the appreciated value of the shares.

KLT SLIDE SHOW DEBUTS

Coming soon to a meeting near you

KLT President Jeff Pidot addressed the Augusta Kiwanis Club at a luncheon in March. To the nearly 100 Kiwanis members present, Jeff gave a slide presentation about KLT's accomplishments and hopes for the future. The KLT slide show was assembled by Andy Fisk, using the extraordinary photography of Jym St. Pierre. The Kiwanis Club presentation was well received, with many in the audience praising the slide show. Thanks again to Andy and Jym for this great work.

KLT is pleased to present this slide show and talk (which can be tailored to suit, running 15 to 30 minutes) to area organizations, including lake associations, schools, conservation commissions, planning boards and other community groups and clubs. Let us know when and where, and we'll be there.

CONTRIBUTORS

Dave Courtemanch
Diane Friese
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Jeff Musich
Jeff Pidot
Jym St. Pierre
Norm Rodrigue
Paula Thomson

Advisory Board

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Wayne, ME
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4

Summer Field Trips



Fall Field Trips



Wyman Memorial Forest

Join Norm Rodrigue and forester Harold Burnett on this tour of the 40-acre Wyman Memorial Forest in Readfield. Learn about last year's ice storm restoration harvest, forest practices, and the natural regeneration of the site.

Saturday, July 17 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Bad weather date: Sunday, July 18

Meet: Case Cemetery, Route 17, Readfield

Leader: Norm Rodrigue, 622-6204 (h) 629-0122 (w)

Dexter Ecology Exploration

On this walk, we will discover up close the natural plant and wildlife communities living on the Dexter Property, from big trees to little ferns. Bring your guide books and appetite for adventure and help us check for rare plants and other finds. Expert and amateur naturalists alike are welcome!

Saturday, July 31 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Bad weather date: Sunday, August 1

Meet: North Monmouth Fire Station

Leader: Jim Connors, 933-4293

Fogg Farm Nature Walk

For more than two centuries the Fogg family worked hillside fields and forests in Readfield. After the family had to sell the farmstead, most of the land was subdivided. One 15-acre wooded piece was deeded to the town with a conservation easement granted to KLT. This trip will coincide with Readfield Heritage Days. Walking is not difficult, but there are no developed trails, so wear sturdy shoes.

Sunday, August 15 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Rain or shine.

Meet: Readfield Fairgrounds, Church Road

Leader: Jym St.Pierre, 685-9662

Norris Island Canoe Trip

We will meet at Riverbend Campground and canoe up the Dead River to Norris Island -- the largest and highest in Androscoggin Lake. If you bring your own canoe or kayak there is a small (\$3) launch fee. Or you may rent a canoe at the Campground (524-5711). Pack life jackets, paddles, lunch, and water.

Saturday, September 11 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Bad weather date: Sunday, September 12

Meet: Riverbend Campground, Route 106, Leeds

Leader: Howard Lake, 685-3529

Mount Pisgah Traverse

Mt. Pisgah the way few get to see it! We will head in to Nancy's Bog and then up and around the back side of Mt. Pisgah to explore the various woodland, wetland, and geologic features around the mountain. The route will be pieced together along old roads and snowmobile trails, and will include some bushwacking and rough walking. Pack your own lunch, snacks, and plenty of water.

Saturday, October 9 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Bad weather date: Sunday, October 10

Meet: North Monmouth Fire Station

Leader: Jim Connors, 933-4293

Vaughan Woods Walk

Get out and enjoy the last of fall at the beautiful Vaughan Woods in Hallowell, one of KLT's first conservation easements and favorite places. We will walk the trails through the woods and fields of this historic and ecologically important property, a relatively easy and very rewarding hike of 2 miles.

Saturday, November 6 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Bad weather date: Sunday, November 7

Meet: call ahead

Leader: Jeff Pidot, 626-8583 (w) or 622-4394 (h)

All Trips are **FREE**, & guaranteed to be fun - BRING ALONG FRIENDS & FAMILY

For more information and to register for these FREE field trips, please call the trip leader listed or Paula Thomson at 685-9541

KLT REPRESENTED AT NATIONAL LAND TRUST RALLY IN WISCONSIN

5

Jeff Musich brings back much from his trip to the Midwest

Each year KLT sponsors one or more board member to attend the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) annual Rally. The LTA serves as a national voice for the land trust movement by providing technical advice and resources to private land trusts such as ours. Last Oct. 17-20, 1998, KLT board member, Jeff Musich attended the rally in Madison, Wisconsin. We asked him some questions about his experience.

Jeff, what events did you attend at the Rally?

"I attended several workshops which focused on growth issues and land trusts. Among these was a workshop discussing various non-traditional financing strategies for acquiring land through use of limited development plans. Other workshops I attended included one on tax and estate planning, one on writing successful grant proposals and one on writing and interpreting conservation easements. All the workshops were well organized and interesting."

From your conversations with land trust members across the country, how does KLT compare?

"The most striking things I learned from my conversations with trusts from different regions of U.S. is that the availability of funding for stewardship activities and professional staff is more readily available in other states, particularly in areas where land values are higher than in Maine. There are many trusts the size of KLT with a full-time staff or an executive director. I believe this will be an issue that KLT will need to address in the future."

Would you recommend KLT members in addition to board members attending a future Land Alliance Rally?

"For me, the rally was one of the most invigorating experiences I can recall in recent memory. It was quite different than a typical conference. The commonality among the attendees and commitment to the land trust movement was very motivating. I encourage any conservation-minded person interested in land protection to attend one of these rallies."

Dedication at Besse Historical Conservation Area

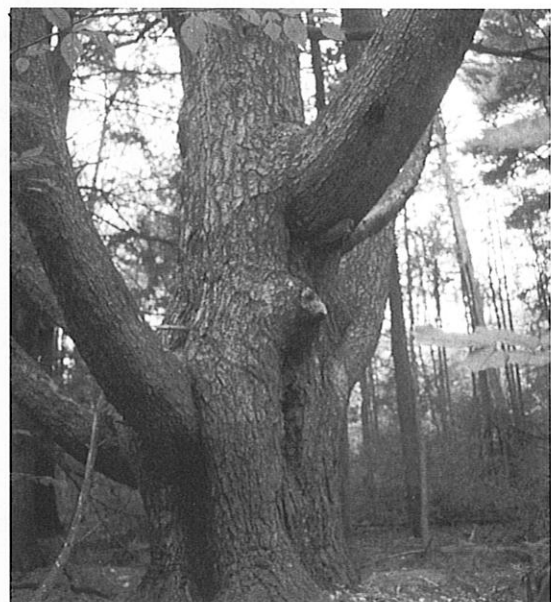
Special thanks to all who helped

There will be a dedication ceremony at the Besse Historical Conservation Area in Wayne on Saturday, June 12 at 10 AM. Present will be Wayne Elementary School students who recently visited the property and studied its history (see President's Message in this issue). KLT recognizes and thanks, in addition to Albion Besse, all those who participated in this project, including Steve Webb (who crafted the property's sign to be unveiled at the ceremony), Art Poole, Sean Siragusa, Bob Engdahl, Bob Clunie, Betty Bennett, Neala Jennings, Jennifer Baack, Jim Perkins, Theresa Kerchner, Jim Connors and Howard Lake.

For more information about the Land Trust Alliance, you can contact the Alliance's website at:

www.lta.org
or call our office
at 377-2848

The 1999 rally
will be held in
**Snowmass,
Colorado**
in October



Jim St. Pierre

KENNEBEC HIGHLANDS PROPOSED FOR PURCHASE

KLT is assisting in effort to purchase largest tract of public land in Central Maine

The Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA), of which KLT is a member, has initiated an ambitious effort to publicly acquire the spectacular 6,100-acre Kennebec Highlands tract, within the towns of Rome, Vienna, and Mount Vernon. The Highlands extend from McGaffey Mountain north to Watson Pond, east to lands that abut Long Pond, Blueberry Hill, and French's Mountain (two existing publicly-owned areas), and west to land around Boody Pond. The Highlands include the highest peak in Kennebec County, five completely undeveloped ponds, miles of pristine streams, extensive wetlands and six deer wintering areas. The area has a long tradition of public use including fishing, hunting, hiking, biking, and snowmobiling. It is remarkable that such a large undeveloped tract with such a sense of remoteness still exists in central Maine, a short distance from Augusta, Waterville and Farmington.

The BRCA has joined in partnership with the Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands which will eventually hold title to the lands and coordinate management. The lands will be permanently protected from development, forests and wildlife habitat will be sensibly managed and the public can be assured of continued access for fishing, hiking, skiing, snowmobiling and other outdoor recreation. When complete, the Kennebec Highlands will be the largest tract of public land in central Maine.

In March, \$200,000 for Phase I (1,100 acres) of the project was granted by the Land for Maine's Future Board, pending a \$100,000 match from private donations. With help from KLT, BRCA is moving ahead with a campaign to secure the private funding. Phase II of the project will be dependent on the availability of land acquisition funds currently being debated in the Legislature.



THE KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

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