

KLT CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AND HOWARD HILL LAND ACQUISITION

Robert Kimber, KLT Advisor

The fifteenth of October will forever remain a holiday for me. On that day, the board and staff of the Kennebec Land Trust, joined by over 100 members and supporters, gathered at the Viles Homestead in Augusta to celebrate KLT's acquisition of Howard Hill, the capstone project of the Trust's twenty-fifth anniversary capital campaign. The closing on the property had been just a week before.

That sounds a lot simpler than it was, not that pulling together a million dollars is ever a simple matter, but an already difficult task was made all the harder when Governor LePage announced in March of this year that he would withhold \$11.1 million in bonds for the Lands for Maine's Future program, \$337,500 of which the LMF board had approved for the purchase of Howard Hill. So what did KLT's board, staff, members, and supporters do? They rallied, they closed ranks, they weren't about to

let gubernatorial shenanigans deny the people of Augusta and of Maine these 164 forested acres in their capital city. Appeals went out, donations on top of previous donations came back in, and a \$500,000 loan from the Kennebec Savings Bank ensured that the October closing would take place.*

This story of adversity overcome made our celebration all the sweeter. Blessed by a gorgeous afternoon, the festivities began with pomologist John Bunker's walk in the Viles Homestead's apple orchard. After the orchard walk, a table of Maine food awaited us indoors, where Mark Johnston and Syd Sewall performed on piano and violin.

In the testimonial remarks that closed the evening, Augusta City Manager William Bridgeo expressed sentiments that resonated with everyone present when he spoke of the despair he had felt at the possibility of Howard Hill's being developed, and the great relief of knowing that it had been saved. Andrew Silsby, president of Kennebec Savings Bank, said there was another man present—his father, David Silsby—who couldn't have agreed more. David Silsby served for twenty-three years as Maine's Revisor of Statutes and Director of Legislative Research, retiring in 1991, and had also been Director of the State House and Capitol Park Commission. A long-time advocate for protecting Howard Hill, David Silsby was now seeing this goal achieved.

On the east bank of the Kennebec River, the Viles Homestead stands as a monument to the generosity and civic-mindedness of the Viles family. On the opposite bank, thanks to the determination of hundreds of Maine citizens, Howard Hill now stands as a permanently conserved scenic landmark and a reminder to both the people of Maine and the people we elect to represent us that we must never lose sight of our forests. A cause for celebration indeed.



Attendants gathered in the courtyard of the Viles Homestead for the Capital Campaign celebration.

Photograph: Norm Rodrigue

* See the enclosed Anniversary program for current a financial report.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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*** 25th Anniversary Capital Campaign Committee**

**** Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs**

Dear KLT Members and Friends,

On October 15 at the Viles Homestead in Augusta, KLT celebrated both the success of our Capital Campaign and the acquisition of five new conservation lands, including the 164-acre Howard Hill property and the 71-acre Vienna Woods Conservation easement.

Each of you—members, land donors, conservation partners, and tireless volunteers—deserves to take a bow. What a tremendous accomplishment for the organization!

At the close of the appreciation ceremony we quoted Will Rogers from his times at the Trust for Public Land:

**Show me a healthy community with a healthy economy
and I will show you a community that has its green
infrastructure in order and understands the relationship
between the built and the unbuilt environment.**

The City of Augusta and Kennebec Savings Bank are our partners in the Howard Hill project, and it is a great pleasure to work with them toward our common goal of “a healthy community and a healthy economy.” We are lucky to have such a committed community of support.

We are certainly not a group to sit around and rest on our laurels however, and we are already at work planning our future projects, including a 70-acre addition to the 800-acre Mount Pisgah Conservation Area. We are very proud of what this organization has accomplished in the last 27 years and we will be focusing our leadership role in the community towards additional conservation efforts. We will strive to maintain our protected lands as places of enjoyment for people, and valuable habitat for fish and wildlife.

You will be receiving your annual KLT membership renewal in mid-November. Please contact us at the office (207-377-2848) if you have any questions about your membership renewal or your pledge to the Capital Campaign. Thank you for your generous contributions to date!

Enjoy the wonderful autumn season and remember to take time to watch the leaves turn, listen to the calls of the Canada geese as they head south, and appreciate the winter forecasts of the woolly bear caterpillars – even the myths of nature are fun to discover!

With gratitude for all those who support our efforts,

Mary Denison
President

Theresa Kerchner
Executive Director



Mary Denison, President



Theresa Kerchner,
Executive Director

KLT INTERNS: FUTURE LEADERS

In August, after an impressive season of field work, office work, and research, Avery Siler and Simon Pritchard completed their internships with KLT. Thank you, Simon and Avery, for your good work for KLT, the land, and our communities. We miss you and wish you the best as you pursue your future academic and career paths. For information about KLT's internship program, visit www.tkl.org.



Simon Pritchard

My summer at KLT was filled with adventures. From bush-whacking on the slopes of Mt. Pisgah looking for old-growth stands, to blazing trails on Hodgdon Island, to planning the Tri-Sport Challenge, I always felt in on the action. Looking back, I am amazed by the great variety of interesting things that Avery and I experienced and were able to accomplish. One minute we were working on our grant proposals, the next we were writing fundraising letters for Howard Hill.

Some of KLT's properties will hold special places in my heart for many years to come. Running up the Tower Trail at Pisgah after work always gave me the reward of an amazing view from the top of the fire tower (I haven't been to see the new kiosk yet, but the pictures look great!). I will fondly recall building a bridge with Camp Vega staffers in Macdonald Woods. I will especially remember the home of Ken and Sue Spalding, where I stayed for the duration of my time at KLT and felt welcomed as a member of their family from the start. The wealth of experiences and friendships I made at KLT will stay with me as I finish my college career and commence applying my skills to the world of adulthood. Thank you Theresa, Jean-Luc, Gina, Ken, Sue, and the rest of the KLT family for offering me mentorship, knowledge, and a great experience. Congratulations on Howard Hill!



One of Avery and Simon's many field projects this summer.

Photograph: Jean-Luc Theriault



When Simon and Avery weren't working in the field or in the office, they helped with outreach. Red Barn, July 2015. Photograph: Theresa Kerchner



Avery Siler

My summer at KLT was simply amazing. I got the chance to live in the cabin at the Peter Miller Woodland and loved getting to know the property at close range. It was a beautiful place to live in and explore, and a way of life that I greatly enjoyed. The staff at KLT were great to work with—always happy to answer questions or explain how to do something, and just lovely people. The internship was a thorough introduction to how small nonprofits function, with both a diversity of projects and a combination of short-term and long-term projects. Jean-Luc, Theresa, and Gina generously provided me with experiences that allowed me to network and learn good skills for future jobs. More than anything, I loved exploring the landscape and helping to conserve the properties that I grew to love so dearly.



Photographs: Brian Kent

ANNUAL MEETING AND TRI-SPORT CHALLENGE

AUGUST 23, 2015
125 IN ATTENDANCE

SPONSORED BY:



CAMP WINNEBAGO

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CONGRATULATIONS TO
OUR INDIVIDUAL AND
RELAY TEAM WINNERS:

WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL:
KENDRA EMERY

MEN'S INDIVIDUAL:
NICHOLAS CITRIGLIA

RELAY WINNER:
LUCA DEANGELIS,
TYLER DEANGELIS,
MARY ERB



KLT BOARD NEWS ~ TRANSITIONS



WELCOME - KIM VANDERMEULEN, BOARD MEMBER

Kim holds a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder and a J.D. from Northeastern University. Prior to joining Alternative Manufacturing Inc., he practiced law with Vandermeulen, Goldman & Allen in Augusta, Maine.

Kim is an active member of the Maine business community, serving as the Board Chair of the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce (2014) and on the boards of the Kennebec Valley YMCA and the Maine State and Winthrop Lakes Region Chambers of Commerce. He is also a member of the steering committee for the Electronic Manufacturing Services Section of IPC, a leading electronics industry association. He was named Business Person of the Year by the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce in 2008.

Kim and his wife Linda, a nurse practitioner, reside in Wayne and enjoy visiting their children, two engineers and an architect, who are based in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego, California.



THANK YOU – LISA KANE, BOARD MEMBER

Lisa Kane of South China, who works as a Natural Science Educator with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, joined the KLT Board in 2009. Lisa has served on KLT's Stewardship and Education Committees and led many informative field trips for our members and supporters. Lisa's engaging presentations about Maine's wildlife and their habitats have inspired members of KLT as well as students from participating schools.

Lisa will continue to teach two popular annual programs for KLT: our summer Loons, Eagles, and Osprey field trip and the wildlife habitat component of the Curtis Homestead Sustainable

Forestry Education program, now in its seventh year.

Thank you, Lisa, for your service on the KLT Board of Directors and your commitment to KLT's land conservation and education programs.



THANK YOU – NORM RODRIGUE, FORMER KLT PRESIDENT AND LONG-TERM BOARD MEMBER

Norm Rodrigue of Manchester stepped down from the KLT Board in August, 2015, after more than twenty-four years of service as a Director. During his time on the Board, Norm served in just about every capacity possible: President (1995-1997), Vice President, Secretary, Chair of KLT's Development Committee (14 years!), member of the Lands Committee, and KLT volunteer photographer.

As a board member, Norm has always understood that the cornerstones of a non-profit's success are long-term fiscal planning, organizational leadership, and development. For twenty-four years he has championed this work and its associated challenges with patience, creativity, and results-oriented dedication. KLT's sound reputation is due in large part to Norm's focus on issues of governance and financial stability—work that ensures KLT a solid foundation today and for the future.

While Norm is stepping down from his direct role in KLT's regular affairs, we are fortunate that he will continue to serve as a volunteer steward at the Hutchinson Pond Conservation Area and as a member of the Lands Committee and the Board of Advisors. Norm, thank you for your commitment to KLT, to conservation, and to the land we love in Maine.



Newsletter Sponsor

KLT'S LOCAL WOOD

INITIATIVE:

WHAT'S

HAPPENING...



Mount Pisgah's new kiosk was made from local wood by Maranacook High School student Vinnie Birtwell. *Photograph: Theresa Kerchner*



Lisa Kane, Natural Science Educator, MDIFW, presents *Skins and Skulls*, a discussion on how animals survive in their habitats. *Photograph: Gina Lamarche*



Right: Bruce Bell, Sawyer, mills a board from a log harvested by Nat Bell, Logger. *Photograph: Gina Lamarche*



Shane Duigan, District Forester, Maine Forest Service, and Nat Bell, Logger, explain how to determine tree health and techniques for calculating the age of a tree. *Photograph: Gina Lamarche*

KLT'S 7TH ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY EDUCATION PROGRAM AT CURTIS HOMESTEAD, LEEDS

WELCOME NEW KLT MEMBERS!

Augusta Nature Club

Leo Behrendt

Maxine H. Blackburn

Edward & Victoria Brown

Susan Burns & John Whitney

Christina Cataldo & Tasha Dunn

Christopher Charron

Sylvie Charron & John Joseph

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS...

Sustainable Balsam Fir Tipping and Wreath-Making Workshop at the Ladd Recreation Center, Wayne

Friday, December 4, 4:00 p.m.

Join Dave Fuller, Agriculture and Non-Timber Forest Products Professional with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for a balsam fir tipping field program on how to tip sustainably, followed by an indoor wreath-making workshop. Dave will discuss how to identify balsam fir, proper tipping methods, and how to make a balsam fir wreath. Bring hand shears and light gloves. \$5 KLT members, \$10 non-members. 20 Maximum. PREREGISTER by calling 377-2848 or emailing glamarche@tklt.org.

Seventh Annual Family Winter Fun at Curtis Homestead Conservation Area, Leeds. Sunday, January 24, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Join KLT for an afternoon of winter fun at the Curtis Homestead Conservation Area in Leeds. Bring your 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.

For further details on these programs, including directions and rain dates, visit www.tklt.org.



Photograph: Pam Bell



HIKED THE HIKING GUIDE!

Since the publication of KLT's Hiking Guide late last fall, many members and friends of KLT have explored the extensive and diverse trails stewarded by the Land Trust. Board member Jeannie Scudder and many KLT stewards met twice a month to lead groups of anywhere from six to sixteen people onto the trails for birding, snowshoeing, mushrooming, swimming, identifying plants and flowers, and just enjoying the beauty and values of our preserved lands. In temperatures ranging from six degrees to ninety degrees, in feet of snow and in canoes and kayaks, a great time was had by all! Jeannie met her goal of visiting just about all of the KLT properties, meeting old KLT friends, and introducing new friends and members along the way. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the publication of the Hiking Guide, and to all who participated in the hikes! We look forward to seeing you out on the trails.



Bird watching and blueberry picking at Davidson Nature Preserve in Vassalboro, July 2015. *Photograph: Gina Lamarche*



Vineyard tour with Gerald Rodman at the Webber-Rogers Conservation Area in Litchfield, September 2015. *Photograph: Kevin Kane*



Snowshoe at Peter Miller Woodland in Vienna, March 2015. *Photograph: Kevin Kane*

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

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The Business Partners in Conservation program recognizes business leaders and companies 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 377-2848.

KLT's HIKING GUIDE, *TAKE A HIKE!*, WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH SPONSORSHIPS FROM OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS. THANK YOU!

MANY THANKS TO THESE FOUNDATIONS FOR THEIR SUPPORT:

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH KLT'S OUTREACH, EDUCATION, LANDS, LYCEUM, AND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

Steve Allaire, **Bangor Savings Bank**, John Barnes, Bruce Bell, Nat Bell, Vinnie, Tammy, and Mark Birtwell, Ellen Blanchard, Jerry Bley, Dana Boas, Donna Buck, **Camp Vega**, Andy Lilienthal, **Camp Winnebago**; Richard Coffin, Ellerbe Cole, Suzanne Colvin, **Cribstone Capital Management**, Maria Cusick, Matt Crane, Ginny Coady, Jim Connors, Elizabeth Davidson, Jane Davis, Jed Davis, Manchester; Steve DeAngelis, Mary Denison, Eric Doucette, Phil Downes, Stan Eller, Muffy and Jim Floyd, **Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed**, Sarah Fuller, Ron Giard, Ronn Gifford, Patty Gordon, Charlie Jacobs, Mark Johnston, Ron Joseph, Anne Judd, Kevin Kane, Arlene Kellmando, **Kennebec Valley YMCA**, Brian Kent, **Kents Hill School**, Robert Kimber, Craig King, Carolyn Ladd, Howard and Brenda Lake, Andy and Sheree Wess, **Lakeside Motel**; Ken Laustsen, Philip and Lynn Lilienthal, **KLT Land Donors, Stewards, Office and Field Volunteers, Directors and Advisors**, Scott and Sandra Longfellow, Jon Lund, Lisa Kane, **Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**; Rich Garini, **Sports Medicine, Maine General**; Shane Duigan, **Maine Forest Service**; Bob Marvinney, Janie Matrisciano, Diana McLaughlin, Bob McKee, Chris McKee, Robert Mulliken, Catherine Murray, Martha Nielsen, Frank O'Hara, Jane O'Rourke, Jim Perkins, Betsy Poulin, Simon Pritchard, Stephanie Ralph, Laura Benedict, **Red Barn**; Brent Mace, **Readmont Lumber**; Frank Richards, Joyce Rivers, Gerald Rodman, Norm Rodrigue, George and Judy Rogers, Joan and Reade Ryan, Jym St. Pierre, Sam Saunders, Gary Sawyer, Justin Schlawin, Andy Shultz, Mike Seitzinger, Jean Scudder, Syd & Deb Sewall, Mary Sheridan, Avery Siler, Ken and Sue Spalding, Rebecca Stanley, Joseph Stevenson, Mary Sturtevant, **Town of Winthrop**, Patsy West, **Viles Foundation**; Michael Waters



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



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2016 KLT Lyceum *Maine's Streams and their Ecology*

March 18, 2016 -

Dr. Hamish Greig,

University of Maine

*The Structure and Function of
Maine's Streams*

March 25, 2016 - Merry Gallagher,

Maine Department of Inland

Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW)

Maine's Stream Fish Populations

April 1, 2016 - Josh Royte,

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Seaward Mills Stream, Vassalboro

Photograph: Norm Rodrigue

Ladd Recreation Center, Wayne

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