

2017 MOUNT PISGAH CAMPAIGN: 94-ACRE ADDITION, NEW TRAILS, AND Highbush BLUEBERRIES — OVER 1,040 ACRES FOR EVERYONE!

Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director



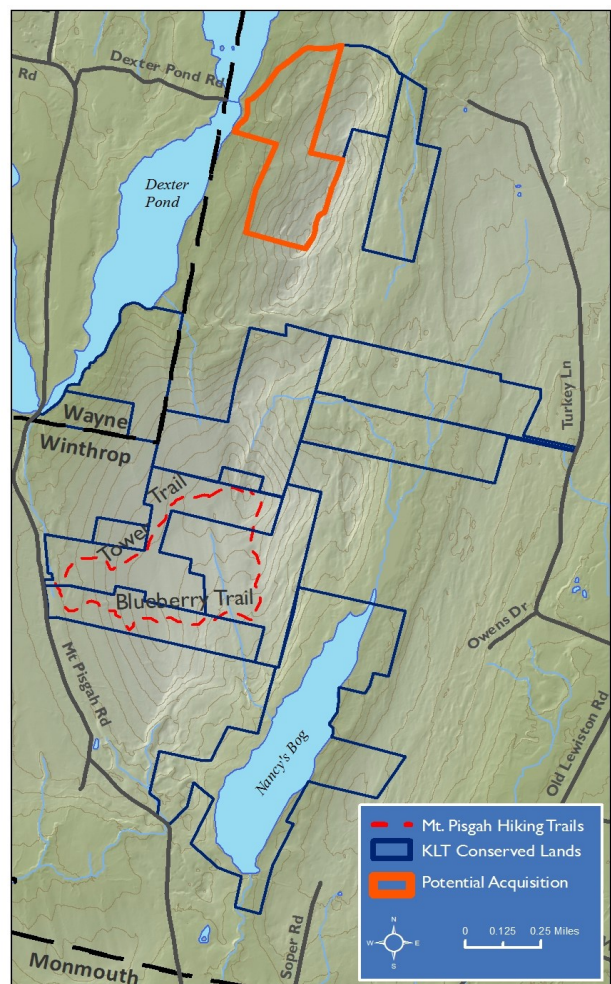
Brian Kent

Each year, thousands of hikers visit KLT's 950-acre Mount Pisgah Conservation Area in Winthrop and Wayne. With two trails to the 803-foot summit and its historic Maine Forest Service fire tower; a recently cleared four-acre highbush blueberry field (see enclosed brochure); and hundreds of acres of woods and wetlands, Mount Pisgah is a popular destination for those who love the outdoors, including hikers, hunters, skiers, and snowmobilers.

As KLT's largest conservation property, Mount Pisgah also protects water quality in the Cobbossee Watershed and provides valuable habitat for many of Maine's wildlife species, including species like bear and moose that need extensive home ranges.

We are in the initial stages of planning a campaign that will allow us to purchase up to three new parcels that total about 150 acres and feature impressive ledges and vernal pools; to build a beautiful new trail along the Mount Pisgah Ridge; and to maintain our current trails and the new highbush blueberry clearing. The map on the right shows one of the three parcels we hope to acquire.

We will officially launch the campaign in March. However, donations for Mount Pisgah can be made in advance, and they make inspirational holiday gifts! Please call the office if you have any questions, and thank you in advance for your support.



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PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings, KLT members and supporters,

On August 21, more than one hundred members gathered at Camp Winnebago on beautiful Echo Lake for KLT's twenty-eighth annual meeting. We honored land donors and our dedicated volunteers and interns, and we recognized that together we are sustaining an impressive land conservation organization in Central Maine.*

For those of you who couldn't attend, the 2016 annual meeting program is enclosed. It recognizes:

- KLT's most recent land donors, including William Granville Besse, David Lawrence, John Orestis and Barbra Crowley, and Dorothy Washburne;
- 2016 summer interns Toby Smith and Josh Caldwell;
- volunteers Vinnie Birtwell, Joyce Rivers, and Norm Rodrigue; and
- former board members Eric Doucette and Mike Seitzinger.

The meeting closed with an award for KLT's longest-serving Board member, Bob Mohlar of Readfield. Country doctor, gentleman farmer, pioneering conservationist – these are all terms that describe Bob, one of the founding members of the Kennebec Land Trust.

Bob lends both simplicity and elegance to everything he does. He started by coining the name "The Kennebec Land Trust" at an early regional land trust planning session in 1989. Since then he has shown an unwavering commitment to the organization by identifying potential conservation lands and developing wonderful relationships with landowners interested in protecting their property for future generations. We will miss him and his wry wit beyond measure as he steps down from the Board after twenty-eight years of continuous service.

We are very grateful that Bob will remain involved with the organization as a member of the Lands Committee, and we hope to hear many more stories about land he has walked and people he has encountered along the way. Bob can always recognize and appreciate a "nice piece of Maine woods," and we look forward to sharing many more rambles with him in years to come.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Bob for his twenty-eight years of service on the Board of Directors, and to all of you who support KLT's efforts.



Mary Denison,
President



Theresa Kerchner,
Executive Director



Bob Mohlar

Mary Denison
President

Theresa Kerchner
Executive Director

*Thank you to Camp Winnebago and Cribstone Capital Management for supporting the Tri-Sport Challenge, the potluck cookout, and the annual meeting.

KLT CONSERVATION ASSISTANT AND INTERNS: FUTURE LEADERS

*Avery Siler, 2015 Summer Intern, returned for six weeks in late May as a KLT Conservation Assistant. Thank you, Avery, for your steady, detailed work on so many important stewardship and accreditation projects. Thanks also to the **Onion Foundation** for providing the funding for Avery's position.*

In August, after an impressive season of field and office work and research, Toby Smith and Josh Caldwell completed their internships with KLT. The summaries below highlight the many projects they tackled. Thank you, Josh and Toby! For information about KLT's internship program, visit www.tkelt.org.

Avery Siler

I was so thrilled to be back in Maine this summer working with the Kennebec Land Trust as a Conservation Assistant! I saw firsthand lots of exciting changes that had happened through the year – from KLT closing on the Howard Hill project to the great progress being made toward accreditation and beyond. But I was also very grateful for the changes that hadn't happened – the lands I grew to love last summer were, thanks to KLT's protection, still undeveloped, still open to the public, and still the same in so many wonderful ways. Peter Miller Woodland, where I was lucky enough to live again for the duration of my time in Maine, had a new trail, but the lovely lady's slippers remained, the leaves still glowed an almost neon green in the setting sun, and the birds still chirped loudly each morning.

I am thankful not only for all the land KLT works so hard to protect, but also for the many projects I got to work on this summer. I helped create a new ADA policy for KLT's trails to increase access for people of all abilities, learned the intricacies of the Land Trust Alliance's accreditation filing requirements thanks to Jane Davis and Donna Buck, carried out property inspections, and created a brochure for the wonderful Judy Kane Preserve on the Kennebec River. My time at KLT has been truly invaluable in setting me up for a career in land conservation.

Josh Caldwell

My summer internship at KLT was extremely rewarding. Employees of my age are generally made to do the grunt work at any given occupation, performing tasks they're told to do by their superiors with limited opportunity for creative work. Fortunately, this was not the case for me at KLT. Our responsibilities included drafting and sending out membership mailings, creating web pages for the KLT website, providing trail summaries for the Maine Trail Finder, maintaining trails and property boundaries, creating brochures for KLT properties, performing outreach tasks in the local community, and preparing for the annual meeting and tri-sport event hosted by KLT in August. Toby and I were also able to complete independent research projects. I chose to conduct my research on the practice of green burial and the feasibility of siting a green cemetery on a future KLT property. I truly feel that my work on this project will inspire a green cemetery initiative, and I am honored that I had the opportunity to work on such an important topic for the land trust.

Toby Smith

This past summer with KLT was an awesome experience. It was a gift to be able to spend the summer working in the Maine woods, learning how to bog-bridge properly and how to outline and create new trails, as well as the basics of preserve management. In the office I had the opportunity to write my first grant and to conduct a fascinating research project on Mt. Pisgah and its precious history of blueberry picking. Being in the office also gave me a great perspective on how a small land conservation organization works. Theresa, Jean-Luc, and Gina are some of the most tireless workers I've met, and I'm in awe of what the three of them accomplish. I'm extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to work with and get to know the people in the organization. I look forward to seeing what else they have in mind for the wild lands of Maine.



Josh and Avery building a bridge at Peter Miller Woodland Conservation Area.



Jean-Luc, KLT's Stewardship Director, Toby, and Josh at KLT's annual meeting.



Toby installing a new sign-in box at Hodgdon Island.

NOTES FROM THE STEWARDSHIP DESK

Jean-Luc Theriault, Stewardship Director

Our field work season received an early boost last spring with the return of summer 2015 intern Avery Siler. Avery did such a fantastic job of ticking off an ever-growing to-do list last summer that we decided to invite her back to help us get a head start on the busy summer season in 2016. We did our best to make full use of her excellent writing, field work, and graphic design skills. Avery always had a positive and inquisitive outlook as she plowed through property dedication preparations, property inspections, assessments of KLT's trails to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations, interpretive sign design, and website updates. She will be missed, both in the office and in the field. Avery – we wish you luck in your future endeavors.

Summer 2016 interns Josh Caldwell and Toby Smith arrived in June just as Avery was leaving. The former lacrosse rivals picked up right where Avery left off: assisting with website updates, doing trail maintenance, adding new trails to the Maine Trail Finder, maintaining boundaries for property inspections, and helping with public outreach. Please take a moment to read Josh and Toby's excellent research project reports on green burials and the history of blueberry picking at Mt. Pisgah.

With the help of volunteer stewards and the interns, two new trails will soon be available to the public. Keep an eye out for a new one-mile loop trail near the Parker Pond Headland Preserve in Fayette, featuring lowbush blueberry picking and a black spruce bog. At the Hutchinson Pond Conservation Area in Manchester, look for a new loop trail with views of Hutchinson Pond and a beautiful bog. Many thanks to 30 Mile River Watershed Association, Camp Vega, Maranacook Community High School, Kents Hill School, and Monmouth Academy for your help installing bog bridging, clearing trails, and hauling brush from the newly cleared highbush blueberry field at Mt. Pisgah.



Wildlife viewing platform built by volunteer stewards Molly and John Melrose on the west side of Webber Pond Rd. in the Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat Preserve.



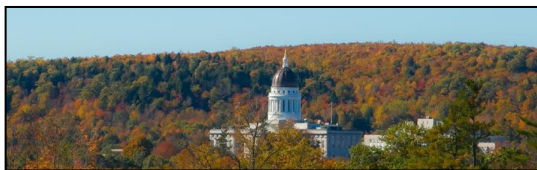
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MANY THANKS TO THESE FOUNDATIONS FOR THEIR SUPPORT:

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

Bruce Bell, Nat Bell, Sue Bell, Jerry Bley, Dana Boas, Donna Buck, John Bunker, **Camp Vega**, Andy Lilienthal, **Camp Winnebago**; Ginny Coady, Jim Connors, Bridget Convey, Cheri Cooledge, **Cribstone Capital Management**, Lisa Crowell, Elizabeth Davidson, Jane and Stan Davis, Jed Davis, Manchester; Steve DeAngelis, Mary Denison, Eric Doucette, Rebecca Dorr, Judy Feinstein, Tamara Whitmore, **Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed**; Sarah Fuller, Ronn Gifford, Dean and Margot Gyorgy, Dan Holman, Jeff and Connor Ireland, Charlie Jacobs, Jeff Janell, Kevin Kane, Brian Kent, **Kents Hill School**, Howard and Brenda Lake, **KLT Land Donors, Stewards, Office and Field Volunteers, Directors and Advisors**, Scott Longfellow, Jon Lund, Merry Gallagher, **Research Fishery Biologist** and Lisa Kane, IFW Education Coordinator, **Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**; Rich Garini, **Sports Medicine, MaineGeneral**; Shane Duigan and Oliver Markewicz, **Maine Forest Service**; **Maranacook Community High School**, Bob and Cheryl Marvinney, Janie Matriciano, Brian Meldrum, Molly and John Melrose, **Monmouth Academy**, Joelle Morris, Cathie Murray, Martha Nielsen, Jim Perkins, Betsy Poulin, Susan Redmond, Joyce Rivers, Norm Rodrigue, Jym St. Pierre, Joe Sanders, Julie Davenport, **Sappi**; Deb Sewall, Andy Shultz, Mary Simpson, Bob and Cleo Skolfield, Tim and Luvia Sniffen, Ken and Sue Spalding, Rebecca Stanley, Joseph Stevenson, Jeremy Bell, **The Nature Conservancy**; Lidie Robbins, **Thirty Mile River Watershed Association**; Andy Tolman, **Town of Winthrop**, Amy Trunnell, Dick Watson, Mike Watts, **Verso**; Patsy West, **Viles Foundation**; Mike Waters, and David Yarborough.



LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE BOARD REDUCES FUNDING FOR HOWARD HILL BY MORE THAN HALF

In July 2014, with Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as our agency sponsor, the Land for Maine's Future Board (LMFB) allocated \$337,500 to KLT for our 164-acre Howard Hill project. In October 2015, the funds were awarded to KLT by a vote of 5-2. The Howard Hill project, which is valued for its scenic, natural, community, recreational, and historic values, was thoroughly vetted by the LMFB based upon consistent criteria and a program that has focused on the public benefits of land conservation for twenty-nine years. KLT followed all of the rules and conditions in our LMF agreement. We negotiated this transaction in good faith and expended significant time and resources to bring this project to competition. We are proud of this project, and we appreciate the tremendous support we have received from the City of Augusta, our members, foundations, and business partners.

Last month, on October 25, in an unprecedented reconsideration of its earlier decision, the LMFB voted arbitrarily to reduce KLT's award from \$337,500 to \$163,500. This action, which threatens the integrity of the LMF program, has set back our ability to provide public access to Howard Hill for hiking, snowshoeing, bow-hunting, mountain biking, and community programs that benefit people of all ages and incomes. Despite this challenge, we remain committed to the project. We will continue to work with the City of Augusta and for the people who live in and visit Maine's Capital. Thank you for your support as we evaluate next steps and move this project forward. *Photograph by Norm Rodrigue*

UPCOMING WINTER PROGRAMS...

Sustainable Balsam Fir Tipping and Wreath-Making

Workshop at Ladd Recreation Center, Wayne

Saturday, December 3, 1:00 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.

Eighth Annual Family Winter Fun

Curtis Homestead Conservation Area, Leeds

Sunday, February 5, 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.

Gordon Bok & The January Men & Then Some:

Music for the Land

Sunday, March 12, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

A Benefit Concert for the Kennebec Land Trust at Longfellow's Greenhouses, Manchester

Tickets \$50 per person - on sale after January 30.

A limited number of scholarship tickets will be available by lottery. Please contact the KLT office for information.

For further details on these programs, including directions and rain dates, visit www.klt.org or call 207-377-2848



28TH ANNUAL MEETING AND TRI-SPORT CHALLENGE

**AUGUST 21, 2016
125 IN ATTENDANCE**

**SPONSORED BY:
CRIBSTONE CAPITAL AND
CAMP WINNEBAGO**

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR INDIVIDUAL AND RELAY TEAM WINNERS!

WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL:

PEGGY
BARNES

MEN'S INDIVIDUAL:

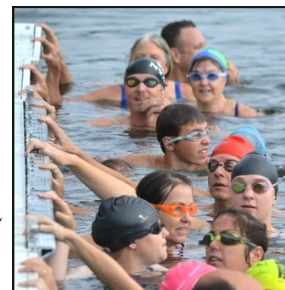
BOUKER POOL

UNDER 18 WINNER:

LEVI LILIENTHAL

RELAY WINNERS:

LUCA DEANGELIS
TYLER DEANGELIS
MARY ERB



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lance Benner	Cynthia Giguere-Unrein	Brian Osborn	Anne Washburne & Josh and Evan Sucidlo
Sarah & Carl Bois	Daryl Grabarek & Linda Sousa	Michelle Paradis	Dorothy Washburne
Robert Charles	Peter & Sherry Hockmeyer	David & Ellen Randall	Dace & Jonathan Weiss
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Office Hours:

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



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2017 Kennebec Land Trust
Lyceum
*Maine Birds: Habitats,
Ecology, Conservation*

March 16, 2017 -

Ron Joseph, Wildlife Biologist
Maine Birds and Their Habitats

March 23, 2017 - Kelsey Sullivan,
Maine Department of Inland
Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW)
*Maine's Conservation and
Management of Woodcock,
Waterfowl, and Grouse*

March 30, 2017 - Dave Brinker,
Maryland Heritage Program
*Goshawk Habitat and
Conservation*



Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat, Vassalboro
Photograph: Phil Downes

Ladd Recreation Center, Wayne 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Snow Date: April 6, 2017

Supported by Gloria, Lincoln, & Robert Ladd