

The Kennebec Land Trust NEWS

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MOUNT PISGAH COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AREA NOW 950 ACRES!

Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director

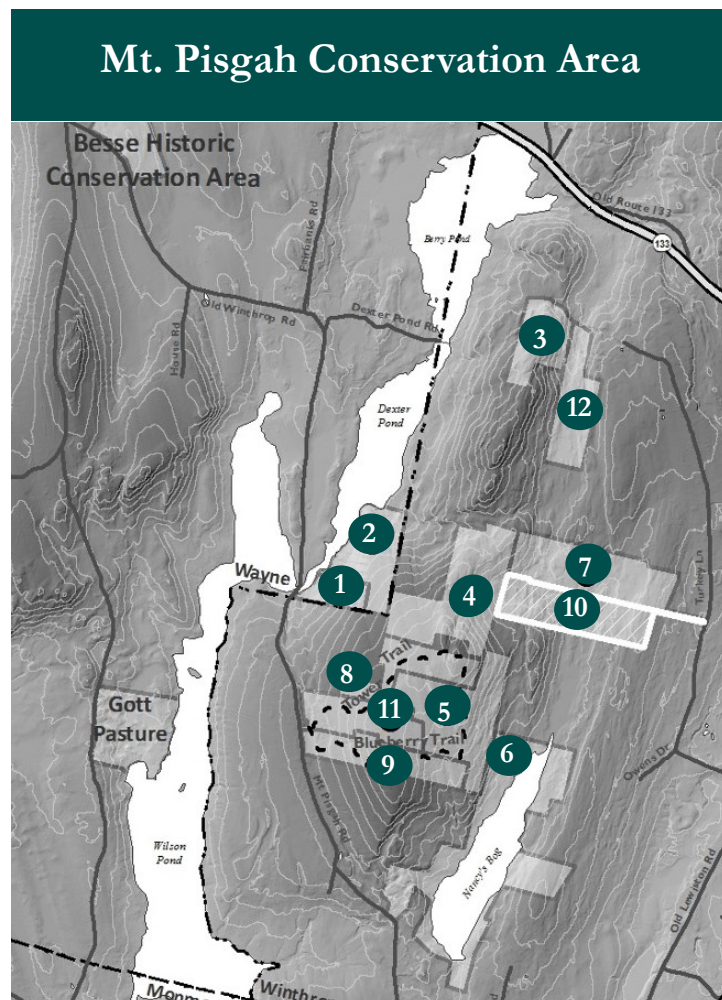
For generations, residents and visitors have enjoyed hiking, blueberrying, hunting, and snowmobiling on lands on and around Mount Pisgah in Winthrop. The 803-foot summit of Mount Pisgah features the sixty-foot former Maine Forest Service fire tower that provides spectacular 360-degree views on a clear day.

KLT's first Mount Pisgah acquisition – thirty-one acres on Dexter Stream in Wayne, a generous donation from Wayne summer residents Robert and Maril O'Malley – was the seed for today's expansive Mount Pisgah Community Conservation Area. The chronology listed below summarizes the Trust's Mt. Pisgah transactions since 1995, which now total 950 acres in Winthrop and Wayne – quite an accomplishment!

The newest addition to the Mount Pisgah Community Conservation Area, the Lachmayr parcel on Turkey Lane in Winthrop, features woodlands bordered by stone walls, wetlands with a vernal pool, three small brooks, and a section of the Hillandalers' ITS snowmobile trail.

Longtime Mount Pisgah volunteer steward Jim Connors worked on this acquisition on behalf of the Trust. The former owners, Horst and Hella Lachmayr, purchased the land from the Webb family in the 1970s as an

Continued on page 9...



Properties Owned by KLT					Year	Property	Acres		
1	1995	Dexter Stream	31	donation	7	2003	Turkey Lane	81	purchase
2	1995	Dexter Pond	46	purchase	8	2010	Fire Tower addition N	8	purchase
3	1997	North Ridge	42	purchase	9	2012	Fire Tower addition S	60	purchase
4	2000	North Side	100	purchase	10	2016	Lachmayr addition	72	bargain sale
5	2000	South Side	106	purchase	Conservation Easements				
6	2002	Nancy's Bog	224	purchase	11	2003	Town of Winthrop Fire Tower Parcel	98	donation
					12	2010	Simoneau	67	donation

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings KLT members and supporters,

Now that we have emerged from the 2016 winter that wasn't, or as my grandfather would have called it, "six months of tough sleddin'," we are able to reflect on the activities that KLT has been involved in since last fall. In January we had a chance to get all dressed up and attend the KV Chamber of Commerce Kenney Awards ceremony, where KLT was presented with the 2016 Community Service award. We were greatly honored to be recognized by the business community for our efforts in providing publicly accessible conservation land in the Kennebec Valley. Thank you to all our supporters, donors, and land stewards for all your hard work! The Kennebec Land Trust is a remarkable organization, and I was proud to join Theresa in accepting the award in front of a crowd of over 700 local business people at the Augusta Civic Center.

In March we hosted our annual Lyceum at the Ladd Center in Wayne, with this year's theme focusing on Maine's rivers and streams. We had two wonderful lectures on stream biology and endangered and rare species by Hamish Greig from the University of Maine and Josh Royte from the Nature Conservancy. The third lecture in the series was postponed until July 13, when we will hear Merry Gallagher from IF&W speak about fish populations in our local streams. We hope you can join us!

As a special added treat at the Lyceum, we featured clips from a fabulous video compilation of brooks and streams on KLT properties, created by our own Norm Rodrigue. You can see a clip of the video at <http://www.tkl.org/lyceum/>. Thank you, Norm, for capturing the beauty and sounds of these natural resources for all of us to enjoy.

Last week the purple trillium emerged at Mount Pisgah, a Sand Hill crane was spotted (and heard) at the Torsey Pond Preserve, and the fiddleheads in Fayette were ready to be harvested for dinner. I encourage all of our members to get outdoors and enjoy the spring weather, venture out for a walk on one of the KLT properties, and take the time to look for brief things on overturned stones.

All the best,

Mary Denison, President



KLT Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award

Photographs: Mark and Deanna Photography



HOWARD HILL UPDATE

Over the past several years, many KLT members, Maine businesses, and foundations made generous donations of time and money for the purchase of the 164-acre Howard Hill property. Last October, Kennebec Savings Bank provided a \$500,000 loan to KLT at a critical juncture to allow us to complete the Howard Hill transaction.

Our \$337,500 Howard Hill Land for Maine's Future (LMF) award is currently pending; we anticipate receiving funding from the State by September 2016. In addition to the LMF award, we still need to raise an additional \$199,540 to pay back our loan and meet our Howard Hill acquisition and stewardship obligations.

Please call the office if you would like additional information – thank you for your support!

NOTES FROM THE STEWARDSHIP DESK

Jean-Luc Theriault, Stewardship Director



When the new trail addition to Mt. Pisgah was completed and named the “Blueberry Trail,” hikers might have walked the length of the trail without seeing any blueberry bushes. However, many residents from Monmouth, Wayne, Winthrop, and the surrounding communities have fond memories of hiking up Mt. Pisgah with their families in the summer to collect blueberries, and if you look closely, you can still see a number of older bushes roughly a third of the way up the trail in the newly cleared four-acre field. Over the years the field has

grown in with trees that have shaded the area, decreasing the productivity of the highbush blueberries and making the bushes harder to identify.

With the help of Jim Connors, the Mt. Pisgah Community Conservation Area’s Volunteer Steward, KLT has recruited Monmouth resident Mike Simoneau to volunteer his time clearing trees that are blocking sunlight from reaching the blueberry

bushes. Because highbush blueberries thrive with adequate sunlight and regular pruning, KLT hopes to restore many of the existing blueberry plants over the next several years by scheduling regular pruning and clearing the saplings that will sprout in response to the increased sunlight in the field.

The restored blueberry field should start producing fruit in the fall of 2017. Until then, please thank the dedicated KLT volunteers and interns who will be devoting their time to bringing back the blueberry field at Mt. Pisgah!



Jim Connors and Jean-Luc in the new clearing on the Blueberry Trail.

Photograph: Theresa Kerchner



**KLT NEWSLETTER
SPONSOR**

CANOE RACK RENTAL SPACE ON HUTCHINSON POND



Hutchinson Pond Conservation Area, Manchester.

Photograph: Norm Rodrigue

KLT is now renting spaces on a rack at our 81-acre Hutchinson Pond Conservation Area – just 100 feet from the shoreline! KLT members wishing to store a non-motorized boat for the 2016 season may apply by completing a Hutchinson Pond Boat Storage Application (available online at www.tklt.org/hutchinsoncanoe/) and submitting it to KLT along with a check in the amount of \$50, the annual storage fee.

Thank you to the volunteers who built our rack in 2014: Norm Rodrigue led a crew that included Andy Smith, Toby Smith, Dan Simpson, David Ellis, Tom Simonez, and Syd Sewall. The lumber for our rack was milled by Nat and Bruce Bell from trees we harvested during our Curtis Homestead forestry program.

BUILDING KLT'S ENDOWMENT FUND

LEGACY DONORS CONTRIBUTE \$366,267 TOWARDS \$1,000,000 TEN YEAR GOAL

Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director



Photograph: Dennis Griggs

KLT depends on the annual membership dues of more than 1,040 members to carry out our current conservation and stewardship work in the Kennebec River and lakes region. While these annual dues are critical to our immediate success, KLT's future impact on land conservation in the region will depend on larger, long-term gifts. To ensure our future as a conservation leader in Kennebec County, we have established the KLT Endowment Fund.

Our Capital Campaign includes an Endowment Fund goal of \$1,000,000. To date, generous KLT donors have contributed \$82,692 in cash gifts and \$283,575 in pledges and bequests. Thank you for your commitment to land conservation!

Donors who name KLT as a beneficiary of a portion of their estates or set up life income gifts for the benefit of the Trust will be recognized as members of our Legacy Society. All proceeds from planned gifts will be invested for the long term in an endowment fund that preserves their principal. Four percent of each gift's annual income will be used for general operating purposes.

The KLT Legacy Society is a group of forward-thinking KLT supporters who care about the future of land conservation in Kennebec County and have chosen to make planned gifts that secure KLT's long-term success as a regional conservation leader. When most people think of charitable contributions, they think of immediate donations. But there are many other ways to support KLT.

Making a major gift to the Kennebec Land Trust requires great care. We would be happy to work with you and your financial advisor to create the ideal plan for you. Please contact Theresa Kerchner, KLT Executive Director, at 207-377-2848 or tkerchner@tklt.org.



Potters Brook
Webber-Rogers Farmstead Conservation Area.
Photograph: Norm Rodrigue

MAINE'S MOST VALUABLE ASSET

George Rogers, Land Donor

Both Judy and I come from families that in some cases came to Maine as early as the 1600s. On both sides, my family helped found the town of Litchfield in the late 1700s. Our family history helps explain why my feelings for the land upon which I live are so strong. As I got older, it became clear to me that I, like the five generations that preceded me, were but temporary stewards of the land. It would take just one inept steward to undo the work of my predecessors and do irreversible damage to the land that I love. I knew that I needed to find a vehicle to prevent such damage from happening, not just to my land but to land across the state. A land trust seemed to fit the bill. Life had already made it clear to me that any organization is only as good as the people of whom it is comprised. To my delight, I was introduced to the Kennebec Land Trust, which proved to be staffed and supported by capable, energetic, and caring people. I have every confidence that long after I am gone, KLT will continue to play a leading role in protecting Maine's most valuable asset, its undeveloped land.



George and Judy Rogers

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ASSISTANCE WITH OUR
OUTREACH, EDUCATION,
LANDS, LYCEUM, AND
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS**



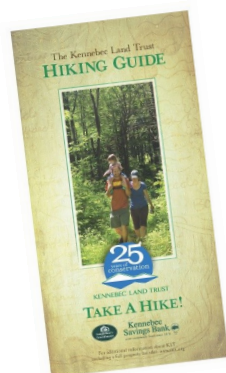
FALL 2015 ~ SPRING 2016

Nat, Nathaniel, & Eli Bell, Barbara Bixby, Jerry Bley, Donna Buck, John Bunker, Harold Burnett, Dale Potter Clark, **Cobboossee Sailing Club**, Ginny Coady, Jim Connors, Cheri Cooledge, Steve Cowperthwaite, Tom Danielson, Elizabeth Davidson, Jane & Stan Davis, Jed Davis, Manchester, Steve DeAngelis, **Mr. D's Tree Farm**; Mary Denison, Judy Feinstein, Tamara Whitmore & Chris Taylor, **Friends of the Cobboossee Watershed**; David Fuller, **University of Maine Cooperative Extension**; **Gould Academy**, Hamish Greig, **University of Maine**; Charlie Jacobs, Mark & Judy Johnston, Kevin Kane, Andrew Silsby & Kristin Hunt, **Kennebec Savings Bank**; Brian Kent, **Kents Hill School**, Robert Kimber, Margy Knight, Ken Laustsen, Gloria & Lincoln Ladd, **Ladd Recreation Center**, **KLT Land Donors, Stewards, Office and Field Volunteers, Directors and Advisors, Ladd Recreation Center**, Howard & Brenda Lake, Andy & Sheree Wess, **Lakeside Motel**; Scott Longfellow, **Longfellow's Greenhouses**, Jon Lund, Penny and Reed Markley, Janie Matrisciano, Donna and Tom Mickewich, Catherine Murray, Richard Oberg, Betsy Poulin, Norm Rodrigue, Josh Royte, Julia Tate, **Scott Simons Architects**; Syd and Deb Sewall, Mike Simoneau, Karen Simpson, Tim Sniffen, Rebecca Stanley, Joan Sturmthal, Dave Courtemanch, **The Nature Conservancy**; Amy Trunnell, **University of Maine, Farmington**, Ellen Gibson & Kate Tremblay, **Vaughan Homestead Foundation**; Andy Walsh, Michael Waters, Patsy West, **Elsie and William Viles Foundation**; **Winthrop Plays Outside**, Milt Wright

**PLEASE
PATRONIZE OUR**



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Winthrop Area Chamber of Commerce
Winthrop Commerce Center

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 (207) 377-2848.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Peter M. Beckerman	Andrew & Amy Cole	Jobs for Maine Graduates	Michael Mitchell Ransmeier
Bruce & Pam Bell	Peter & Katherine Cole	Alex Lachmayr	Susan Russell
Henry & Joan Berry	Ann E. Dorney	Laureate Zeta - Beta Sigma Phi	Peggy Schuler
Bryant & Vicki Besse	Richard & Kathryn Downing	Kathy Margroff	Stephen & Elizabeth Shafer
Barbara & Bruce Bourgoine	Gary & Deborah Dubord	Karl Matulis	Elly Simard
Chris Cameron	Melissa Hood	Margie McLaughlin	Ben & Sam Sirois
Sophie Caminiti	Ellie Hopkins	Teresa Pierce	Carl & Pat Theriault

LOCAL WOOD WORKS

Theresa Kerchner



A well-stocked white pine stand following a timber harvest in Vassalboro.

Photograph: Andy Shultz

Once upon a time, phrases like "local food" or "local wood" would have been redundant, because all our food and wood, and the jobs that went with them, were local. It has taken a few decades, but "local food" is back. In Maine and New England, many farmers are taking on the challenge of creating and finding more local markets with entrepreneurial zeal.

Can we do the same with "local wood" and develop sustainable, innovative market structures for wood products in Maine and Kennebec County?

In 2009, the Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) approached the Maine Forest Service (MFS) to discuss those questions. KLT and MFS complemented each other well, with KLT focused on conserving forestland for its ecological, recreational, and community values and MFS providing support and advice on sustainable

management. Out of their discussions came the Kennebec Woodland Partnership (KWP), with a mission to promote a landscape-level approach to forestland conservation. KWP's now-thirteen partners include industry, regulatory, and conservation groups collaborating to support and protect the region's forest products, tourism, recreation, water quality, wildlife habitat, scenic resources, and quality of life.

In 2013, KWP and three new partners (Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and GrowSmart Maine) launched Local Wood WORKS (LWW). Partners have committed to promote:

- Sustainable forestry
- Land stewardship
- Strong and resilient local economies
- Conservation of working woodlands and ecological reserves
- Reducing energy consumption and transportation costs by increased reliance on local products
- Support for landowners, loggers, processors, manufacturers, and consumers



Photograph: Jake Metzler

Two new organizations have joined LWW this year: The Nature Conservancy and the Northern Forest Center. At meetings this spring in Portland, Bethel, Farmington, and Augusta, architects and builders, forest landowners, primary and secondary wood processors, Maine agencies and universities, conservation organizations, and financial sector representatives got together to discuss ways to encourage builders and architects to include more wood in construction and heating and how our local purchasing decisions support landowners, loggers, and foresters.

We see, and taste, the local food movement succeeding in Maine. The principles for our wood economy are the same!

Continued from cover...

investment property. Alex Lachmayr, Horst and Hella's oldest son, has fond memories of time spent working on the farmhouse and barn and in the woods and orchards the family owned.

A number of years after Horst and Hella died, Alex Lachmayr and his brother visited their land on Turkey Lane and also hiked the trail to the summit of Mount Pisgah. Impressed with KLT's management of the property, they were inspired to contact the Trust about conservation options for their family's land.

Alex said the family was pleased to be able to negotiate a bargain sale with KLT for seventy-two acres. The Trust purchased the parcel for \$38,500, with funds that many of you donated to our recent 25th Anniversary Campaign – thank you for supporting land conservation on Mount Pisgah!

The Lachmayr Trust still owns twenty acres. Jim Connors, who devoted a great deal of time to this project, noted, "It was a pleasure to work with the family to help achieve their goals for conservation and recreation, while meeting some of their financial needs."

Stewardship Director Jean-Luc Theriault, Conservation Assistant Avery Siler, Jim Connors, community volunteers, and our summer college interns, Josh Caldwell and Toby Smith, will be working on a number of Mount Pisgah projects this summer, including:

Blueberry field restoration – (see page 3)

Vernal pool monitoring (Lachmayr parcel)

Trail improvements with the help of Winthrop Day of Caring students

If you see our staff and volunteers on the trail this summer, please stop and say hello. They would be happy to answer any questions about the blueberry restoration project or the trail improvements.



Hella and Horst Lachmayr



Mount Pisgah Fire Tower

Photograph: Theresa Kerchner

MANY THANKS TO THESE FOUNDATIONS FOR THEIR SUPPORT:

Betterment Foundation

Davis Conservation Foundation

Elmina B. Sewall Foundation

Elsie and William Viles Foundation

Fields Pond Foundation

Helen and George Ladd Charitable Corporation

**High Valley Fund of the
Maine Community Foundation**

Kennebec Savings Bank Foundation

LTA Excellence Program Grant

Onion Foundation

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**Maine Community Foundation
Fund for Maine Land Conservation**

Norcross Wildlife Foundation

Windover Foundation



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Tri-Sport Challenge



swim



paddle



run

Annual Meeting and Tri-Sport
Camp Winnebago, Fayette
August 21, 2016