

KENNEBEC RIVER NATURAL AND HUMAN HISTORY

The Judy Kane Preserve includes 300 feet of shoreline on the Kennebec River, which originates at Moosehead Lake and runs roughly 170 miles southward to meet the Atlantic Ocean. The head of tide, or “Cushnoc,” as the Abenaki called it, is in Augusta, forty miles from the mouth of the river, and about a mile north of the Preserve.



Photograph: Avery Siler

The Kennebec has supported human life for thousands of years, providing water, transportation, and a thriving fishery for Abenaki Indians. It is from an Abenaki language that the river derives its name, which means “long quiet water.”

Samuel de Champlain traveled up the Kennebec as far as Merrymeeting Bay in 1605 when he explored and mapped parts of modern-day New England and Canada for the French. In the early to mid-1800s, the river became a hub for shipbuilding. Rufus Page built the first icehouse at Tott’s Point in Richmond in 1826, leading to a booming ice industry along the river’s shores. Today, the Kennebec continues to be an important waterway for Augusta and Maine.

In addition to its role in human history, the Kennebec River plays a vital role as habitat for many species of wildlife and aquatic life. Many anadromous fish, including Atlantic salmon, alewives, and sturgeons, travel upstream along the river to spawn. Sturgeon can often be seen leaping out of the river in early summer.

Today, the Kennebec boasts among the largest runs in America of Atlantic and shortnose sturgeons, as well as of alewives, which are a critical food source for many species ranging from otters and seals to ospreys and eagles.

The Kennebec’s spawning runs revived after the removal of the Edwards Dam in 1999. The dam, built in 1837 for hydropower, had drastically reduced the habitat and population of spawning fish, and its removal has allowed for an effective revitalization of the river’s ecosystem.



shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*)

Photograph: Timothy O’Connor, imby (in my backyard) network

A Partial List of Bird Species in the Preserve and along the Kennebec

American crow
 American redstart
 bank, barn, cliff, rough-winged, & tree swallows
 bald eagle
 black-capped chickadee
 black-throated green warbler
 blue jay
 chipping sparrow
 common goldeneye
 common raven
 kingfisher
 Northern parula
 osprey
 ovenbird
 red-eyed and warbling vireos
 scarlet tanager
 spotted sandpiper
 tufted titmouse
 veery
 white-breasted nuthatch
and many species of wintering waterfowl!

ABOUT KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

Founded in 1988, 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.

Protected properties include Vaughan Woods in Hallowell, Howard Hill in Augusta, Davidson Nature Preserve in Vassalboro, Mount Pisgah in Winthrop, and Curtis Homestead in Leeds. Most KLT conservation lands offer public access in all seasons for hiking, paddling, birdwatching, skiing, and just enjoying nature. A full listing of Kennebec Land Trust properties and their recreational uses, and an interactive map with directions, can be found at our website: www.tklt.org.



Kennebec Land Trust depends on the generous donations of our 1050 community members. **We hope you will join us!**

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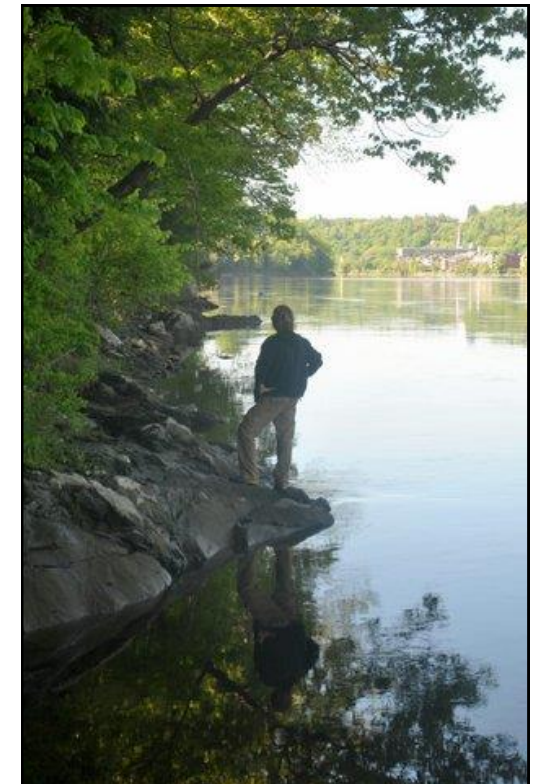
*Thank you for contributing to this brochure:
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*Brochure design and research: Avery Siler
 Updated: June 2022*



KENNEBEC LAND TRUST JUDY KANE PRESERVE KENNEBEC RIVER CONSERVATION CORRIDOR

AUGUSTA, MAINE ~ 26 ACRES



Brian Kane

With the help of our members, we have conserved over 7,300 acres and over 50 miles of trails for everyone.

KENNEBEC LAND TRUST JUDY KANE PRESERVE

Welcome to KLT's 26-acre Judy Kane Preserve on the eastern bank of the Kennebec River! Whether you're bushwhacking or paddling, the Judy Kane Preserve's shoreline rocks are a lovely spot to admire scenic views of Hallowell, Memorial Bridge, and the Maine State House.

PROPERTY HISTORY

The Preserve's acreage shows evidence of past human settlement and farming, including a cellar hole and spring just south of Kennedy Road and a foundation along the river. Old apple trees dot the property. Younger and early successional tree species coupled with barbed wire fences suggest past agricultural use of the land.



Photograph: Avery Siler

A cemetery lies on a neighboring lot along the property's southern border, its beautiful headstones telling the story of Chelsea's nineteenth century farm families.

FLORA AND FAUNA

The Preserve features stands of white pine and hemlock interspersed with smaller hardwoods including red maple, white birch, and beech.

In addition, several shagbark hickory trees with their scaly strips of bark dot the southern border of the property. This tree, uncommon to the region, produces sweet nuts, which were once a staple food for some Native American tribes. Known for its strength, hickory wood is often used for furniture, flooring, and tool handles.



Photograph: Avery Siler

CONSERVATION HISTORY

Kevin Kane and his family donated the preserve to KLT in memory of Judy Kane in 2014. Their generous gift, a contribution to our 25th Anniversary Capital Campaign, could provide the first link for an east side Kennebec River Conservation Corridor.

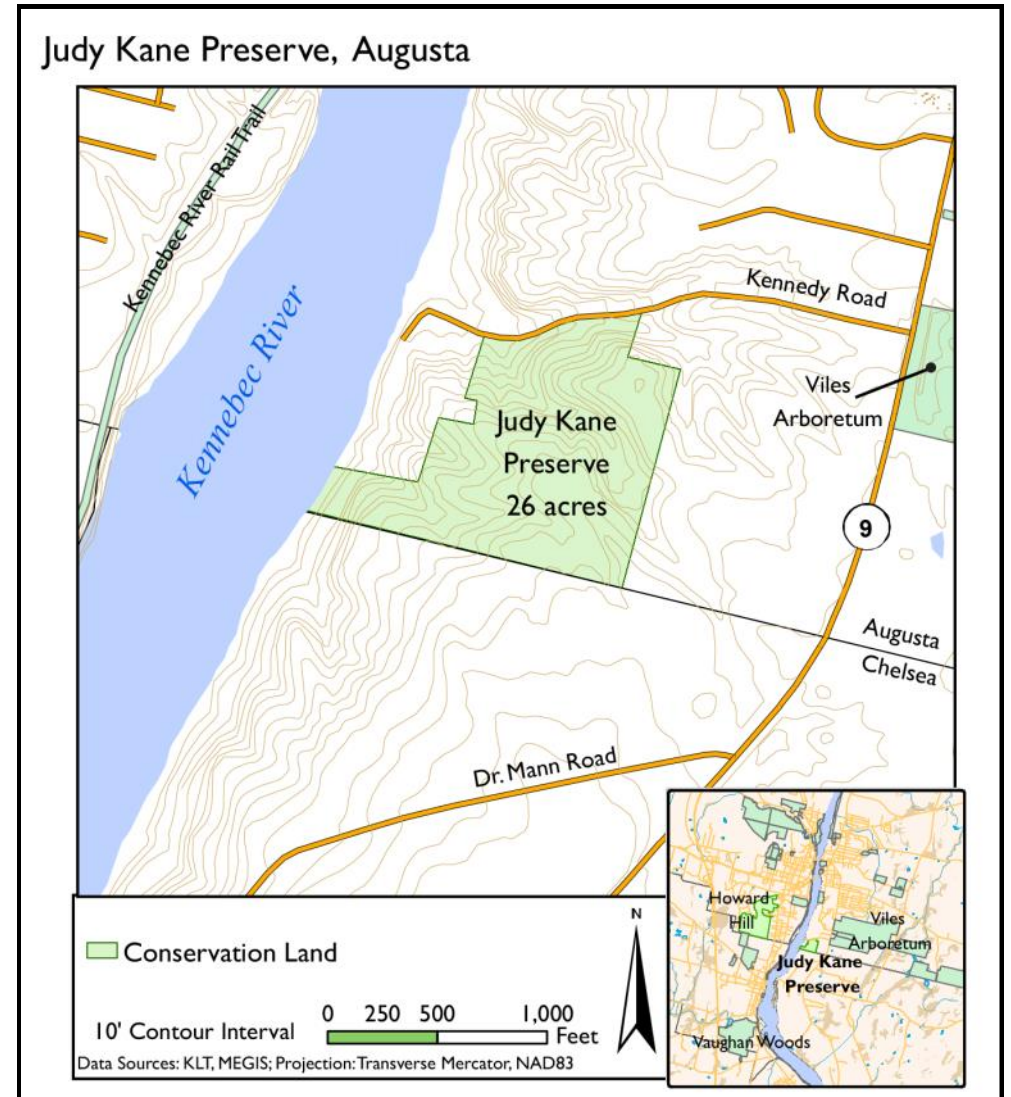
In donating this conservation land, KLT's first property in Augusta, Kevin noted:

When some land on the river came for sale in the 1990s at a very good price, my wife, Judy, and I grabbed it with vague notions of what the 'purpose' might be, and with the joy of knowing we had a 'foothold' on the Kennebec.



Judy Kane

It is with greatest pleasure that we honor Judy's conservation principles by donating the little piece of unique property on the river to KLT and the people of Kennebec County.



Access: The property can be accessed by boat from the Hallowell and Augusta boat launches. By foot, it is accessible from Kennedy Road.

Allowed Use: While this property does not currently have trails, it is open for hiking, cross-country skiing, and other low impact recreation. Bow hunting is allowed only with permission from KLT. **ATVs, four wheelers, camping, and fires are not permitted.**

Directions: Take Route 9 south from the rotary intersection with Cony Street and Route 202. After about 1.4 miles, turn right onto Kennedy Road and continue about half a mile.