

Geology, Soils, Ecological Diversity, and Wildlife Habitats

Geology and Soil

The bedrock at Hales Pond is layered metamorphic rock of the Sangerville Formation, Silurian in age (419-444 million years). Thinly bedded micaceous schist of this formation is well exposed along the southwestern shore of the pond on KLT property where the layering is tilted steeply to the west. Beds were originally layers of silt and mud deposited in a deep ocean. During the last ice age, the rocks were draped with glacial till, an unsorted mixture of materials from clay size to boulders left by the glacier as it melted. There are also a few erratic boulders scattered through the woods.



Fisher— January 9, 2023 MDIFW camera

Wildlife – MDIFW Mammal survey

MDIFW conducted a mammal survey on the Preserve in January 2023. They documented many species, including fisher, bobcat, red fox, gray fox, white-tailed deer, and gray squirrel. All of these species are abundant in the area, but predators can be harder to spot since they are more active at night. Gray foxes are a relative newcomer to our area. Historically, they occurred in York and Cumberland County, but have expanded into central Maine in recent decades. Fisher and bobcat populations have also grown in recent years, likely a result of ample forested habitat and food resources.

A partial list of Bird Species:

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Hermit Thrush
Turkey Vulture	Wood Thrush
Red-shouldered Hawk	Ovenbird
Barred Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch
Belted Kingfisher	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Scarlet Tanager
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat
Downy Woodpecker	Northern Parula
Hairy Woodpecker	American Redstart
Pileated Woodpecker	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Black-and-white Warbler
Common Raven	Pine Warbler
Great Crested Flycatcher	Black-throated green Warbler
Brown Creeper	



Common yellow throat

Phil Downes

A partial list of Plant Species

American beech *Fagus grandifolia*
White pine *Pinus strobus*
Eastern hemlock *Tsuga Canadensis*
Black ash *Fraxinus nigra*
Highbush blueberry *Vaccinium corymbosum*
Cinnamon fern *Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*
Rice cut grass *Leersia oryzoides*
Ditch stonecrop *Penthorum sedoides*
Marsh mermaid-weed *Proserpinaca palustris*
Mountain holly *Ilex mucronata*
Blue-flag iris *Iris versicolor*
Silvery false spleenwort *Deparia acrostichoides*
New York fern *Paratheapteris novaboracensis*
Red trillium *Trillium erectum*
Painted trillium *Trillium undulatum*
Allegheny monkey-flower *Mimulus ringens*
Hop sedge *Carex lupulina*

Land Conservation and Community

Albert and Effie Ferguson approached KLT in March of 2021 about protecting their Hales Pond property which Albert Ferguson and John Moore had purchased in 1960. In August 2022, at the time of their donation to KLT, Albert and Effie and John Moore's companion, Marilyn Donnelly, noted:

In memory of John Moore, it gives us great satisfaction to gift this land to the KLT for preservation. The beauty this land exhibits with the gorgeous pond and tall trees will forever be a peaceful place for the public to enjoy.

In recognizing the value of this conservation land to the community, Mark Robinson, Fayette Town Manager stated:

The Town of Fayette wishes to express its great appreciation to the Ferguson and Moore families for their generosity and forward thinking along with our gratitude to the KLT for its continued investment efforts to conserve special lands throughout Fayette.

These places are critical natural areas at the heart of natural resource protection.



KLT's land conservation programs are a hopeful example of how conservation organizations and private landowners are making a big difference in Maine and the world. Permanently protected and well-managed lands sequester carbon—a natural climate solution.

Thanks to those who contributed their time and expertise: Cheryl Ring, Howard Lake, Robert Marvinney, Eric Doucette, KLT trail volunteers, Ethan Ross, Tucker Schulze, Eric Stinnesford, Jean Luc-Therault, Tyler Keniston, Julie Urban, and Shenell Webb, Wildlife Biologist, MDIFW.
Text: Theresa Kerchner August 2023



HALES POND WOODLAND

PRESERVE

74 ACRES

FAYETTE, MAINE

PROPERTY DEDICATION

AUGUST 17, 2023



Marie Ring

KENNEBEC LAND TRUST
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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.

Welcome to the Kennebec Land Trust's
Hales Pond Woodland Preserve
We hope you enjoy your visit!



This beautiful and topographically varied property features 2,700 feet of undeveloped stream and pond frontage, vernal pools, and biologically rich woodland and wetland habitats. Remote Hales Pond, with a maximum depth of 50 feet and an average depth of 14 feet, supports a warm water fishery and a diversity of emergent and aquatic plant species. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) has mapped much of Hales Pond as Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat.

A small wetland cove along the southeastern portion of the property has excellent plant diversity despite its small size. An intermittent stream flows into this cove and its edges support good fern diversity, as well as habitat for amphibians.



Eastern pondhawk dragonfly
Erythemis simplicicollis

On the northwestern property edge is a small, pocket swamp with stunted Black ash, abundant ferns and sedges, and shrubs such as highbush blueberry, and mountain holly. Both of these diverse wetlands provide opportunities for viewing the foraging behaviors of many species of dragonflies and birds.

People and the Land—Wabanaki

The natural environment you see around you—the wildlife, wetlands, waters, and woodlands—have long been valued by the Wabanaki, Maine's indigenous peoples. Native Americans fished, foraged, and hunted in this region long before the first European farmers arrived in Fayette. Many of the natural resources found here, including brown ash trees (*Fraxinus nigra*) are of cultural significance to the Wabanaki. Today we recognize the Wabanaki people's long stewardship of the lands that we call Maine and the ongoing and important role they have in shaping the future.

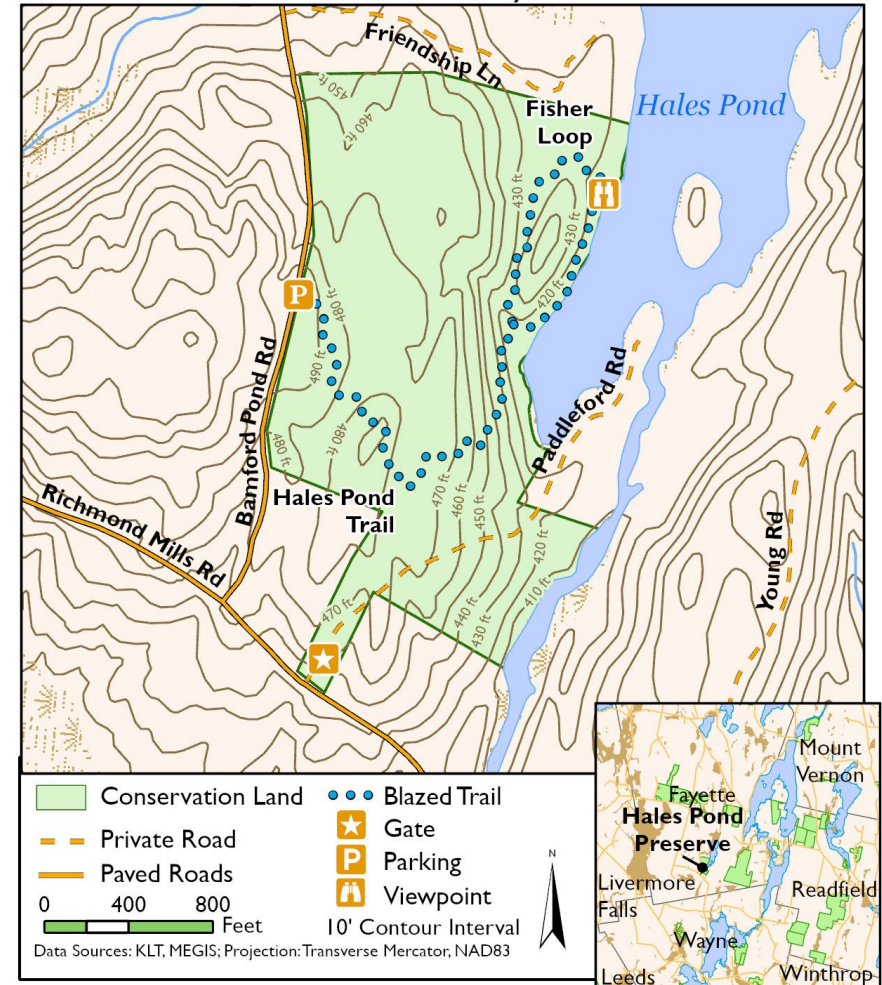


Kennebec County 1879 Maine Historical Atlas

Fayette—19th century

The 1879 map of Fayette shows the location of W. H. Richmond's Wooden Ware Factory, which harnessed the waterpower of Hales Brook. The impressive mill foundations are still visible today from Richmond Mills Road. U.S. Census data suggests that W. Henry Richmond (b.1835), his wife, Clara, and their three daughters were residing on a farm on the east side of Bamford Pond Road near today's trailhead. You can see the foundations of their home to the north of the trail. In 1880 the value of their 42-acre farm was \$1455. Richmond is listed as a millman in the 1880 census, so he was likely more involved in the mill operation than with agricultural production. Part of the land that was donated to KLT was formerly owned by W. L. Small. In 1880 the 170-acre Small farm had a value of \$3150. An impressive barn on the property was burned by the Fayette fire department in 1990.

Hales Pond Woodland Preserve, Fayette



Trails: The 0.45 mile Hales Pond Trail winds through wooded uplands, crossing rock walls indicative of 19th century farming and pasturing. The trail briefly follows an old woods road near the pond before crossing a stream via footbridge. After the crossing, the 0.4 mile Fisher loop takes you along the beautiful shore of Hales Pond and atop an impressive bedrock spine perched above a long narrow gully. Total out and back distance, including the loop, is 1.3 miles.

Public uses: KLT manages this Preserve to protect wildlife habitat and water quality as well as for low-impact outdoor recreation, including nature observation, hiking, hunting, and fishing.

No Dogs: For the protection of Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat **dogs are not** allowed on the property.

Directions: From Wayne, take Pond Road north to the four-way intersection with the Berry, Walton, and Richmond Mills Roads. Continue north on Richmond Mills Road for approximately 1.3 miles, turn right onto Bamford Pond Road. Continue 0.3 miles to a parking area and sign on the right.