

35th Anniversary: Looking to the Future

Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director



KENNEBEC LAND TRUST



Thanks to your generous contributions and the support of over 1,100 household members and business partners, plus our dedicated volunteers, board members, and staff, KLT has experienced significant growth and developed a statewide reputation as a conservation leader. As of October 2022 we have conserved 7,584 acres and constructed 57 miles of trails in our 21-town, 413,000-acre service region in the Kennebec River and lakes region.

KLT has always been, and will always be, committed to taking care of the lands we conserve. More than sixty-five land stewards support our stewardship program. We have helped develop the next generation of conservation leaders by hosting thirty-eight interns since 2005.

KLT's directors, advisors, members, and staff are proud of our conservation and stewardship work and committed to increasing the organization's impacts on our region's environmental, economic, and cultural well-being.

While membership dues are critical to our day-to-day work, KLT's ability to achieve our mission will also depend on larger, longer-term gifts. Each of us has a vision for what to leave as a legacy in our will. We hope you will consider KLT as you think about the future of the place we call home and the land we love.

For more information, please contact me at 207-377-2848 or tkerchner@tklt.org to arrange an in-person, phone, or virtual meeting.

Upcoming Anniversary Events

***Writing the Land: Maine* Virtual Book Launch** - Sunday, November 5, 2022

Mount Pisgah Full Moon Hike - Thursday, November 7, 2022

Small Burnham Full Moon Hike - Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Bald Eagles, Bear Cubs, and Hermit Bill: Memories of a Wildlife Biologist in Maine: Reading by author **Ron Joseph** - Saturday, February 5, 2023

Curtis Homestead Snowshoe Bushwhack - March 4, 2023

2023 Lyceum Lecture Series:

Maine's State Parks & Public Lands: Conserving Nature, Managing People, and Embracing the Future

Recreational and Cultural Importance - Thursday, March 16, 2023

Conservation of Wildlife and Biodiversity - Thursday, March 23, 2023

Looking Forward: Land Acquisition Partners and Priorities - Thursday, March 30, 2023

Field workshops to be announced in January 2023

Introduction to Mosses - TBA

Wilderness First Aid (WFA) – Tuesday, May 9, and Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Botanical Sketching - TBA

Field Day with Maine Entomological Society at Oak Hill - TBA

More events to be announced later.



Photo: Gabi Bock

Marie at Curtis Homestead CA

KLT 35th Anniversary Celebration & Annual Meeting
Sunday, August 20, at Camp Androscoggin in Wayne

KLT History – Conservation Across Generations

November, 1988: KLT incorporated

1989: First KLT annual meeting, Jym St. Pierre, President

1990: KLT organizes the Conference for Land & Trust; 152-acre Vaughan Woods conservation easement donated by Diana & George Gibson

1991: 1,200 feet of shoreline protected on Echo Lake

1993: \$42,000 raised by KLT to conserve Sheep (Perry) Island, Cobbossee Lake

1994: Stewardship Committee formed; Doug Scott hired as Membership Secretary

1995-1996: “Mount Pisgah Breakfast Club” formed; Dexter Pond and Dexter Stream parcels at Mount Pisgah conserved, including an old growth stand

1997: Islands of Hope Campaign, Norris Island purchased

1999: Firsts: website, field trips, Member of the Year award; Land Trust Alliance Rally

2000: KLT joins Kennebec Highlands project; 360-acre historic family homestead donated by Governor Kenneth Curtis

2002: First staff member, Theresa Kerchner, hired; office opened at 134 Main, 2B

2003: First annual lyceum; first annual volunteer land stewards’ meeting

2004: Kennebec Landscapes Campaign raises \$500,000; Parker Pond Headland conserved with donations from the landowner, LMF, KLT, Parker Pond Association, and others

2005-2007: KLT adds acreage to MDIFW Jamies Pond property

2006: Plein air painting: “Art and the Land” show, Slates Restaurant

2007: Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat conserved east of the Kennebec River

2008: KLT 20th Anniversary; Art Show, KLT Calendar, Abby Holman Agricultural Education School Programs

2009: KLT and the Maine Forest Service form the Kennebec Woodland Partnership

2010: *Between Person and Place* published

2011-2012: A year of awards for Kennebec Land Trust directors, staff, and volunteers

2013: First Children’s Nature Camp taught by Gina Lamarche and Nicole Rhodes; small office with high visibility - 331 Main Street, Winthrop - purchased as KLT’s headquarters

2014: Ambitious Capital Campaign launched; KLT publishes a new trail guide: *Take a Hike!*; 25th Anniversary celebration at Camp Winnebago, over 250 members attend; first property on the Kennebec River conserved - Judy Kane Parcel of the Kennebec River Conservation Corridor; KLT and Local Wood WORKS partners organize Maine’s first Local Wood WORKS conference in November

2015: KLT reaches 5,000 acres conserved with Jim and Muffy Floyd’s donation of Vienna Woods; Capital Campaign continues - 360 donors contribute; Endowment Fund grows with gifts and bequests; Howard Hill permanently conserved; October Capital Campaign Celebration at Viles Homestead

2016-2017: Mount Pisgah Community Conservation Area additions - 1090 acres conserved; Ledges Trail opens; Local Wood Works publishes *Building Maine’s Local Wood Economy, Together with Conservation*

2017: Title to the historic 164-acre Howard Hill property officially transferred to the City of Augusta, KLT holds conservation easement.

2018: KLT receives national accreditation and celebrates 30th anniversary with 6,600 total acres conserved

2019: After being renovated in 2018 by Maine Cabin Masters, the Wakefield Cabins are open for renting during the summer; Surry Hill permanently protected

2020: Second edition of *Take a Hike!* published

2021: Baldwin Hill Conservation Cemetery begins operating

2022: Hales Pond Woodland Preserve donated by Albert Ferguson and Marilyn Donnelly; **7,584 total acres conserved!**

November, 2023: KLT’s 35th Anniversary. Join us as we celebrate conservation across generations.



*Historic Mt. Pisgah Fire Tower
Photo: Theresa Kerchner*