

Welcome to KLT's

120-ACRE GANNETT WOODS and
40-ACRE WYMAN MEMORIAL FOREST



WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR VISIT!

KLT's Gannett and Wyman properties provide valuable habitat for many of Maine's wildlife species, including ducks and loons, beaver, deer, songbirds, and an occasional moose. Gannett Woods includes about 1.15 miles of pristine shore frontage on Shed(d) Pond. Wyman Memorial Forest features the 665-foot peak of Monk's Hill. The properties are adjacent to the 700-acre Allen-Whitney Forest, which is owned and managed by the New England Forestry Foundation. Totalling over 850 acres, the contiguous parcels benefit from returns to scale, with each parcel increasing the ecological value of the others. These conservation areas are open year-round for low impact recreation and nature observation. We hope you enjoy your visit!

GEOLOGY

As you hike the trail, look for the bedrock outcrops at the intersection of the Wyman and Gannett trails. These layered sedimentary rocks were changed (metamorphosed) due to extreme heat and pressure over 300 million years ago.

Shed Pond: Now and Then

Thirty-seven-acre Shed Pond is home to a variety of warm water fish species, including chain pickerel, yellow perch, hornpout, and American eel. Most fishing occurs during the winter, with pickerel being the primary catch. Shed Pond has a maximum depth of ten feet. The warm, muddy bottom provides good habitat for aquatic plants. Mears Brook flows from the south end of Shed Pond into Little Cobbossee Lake.

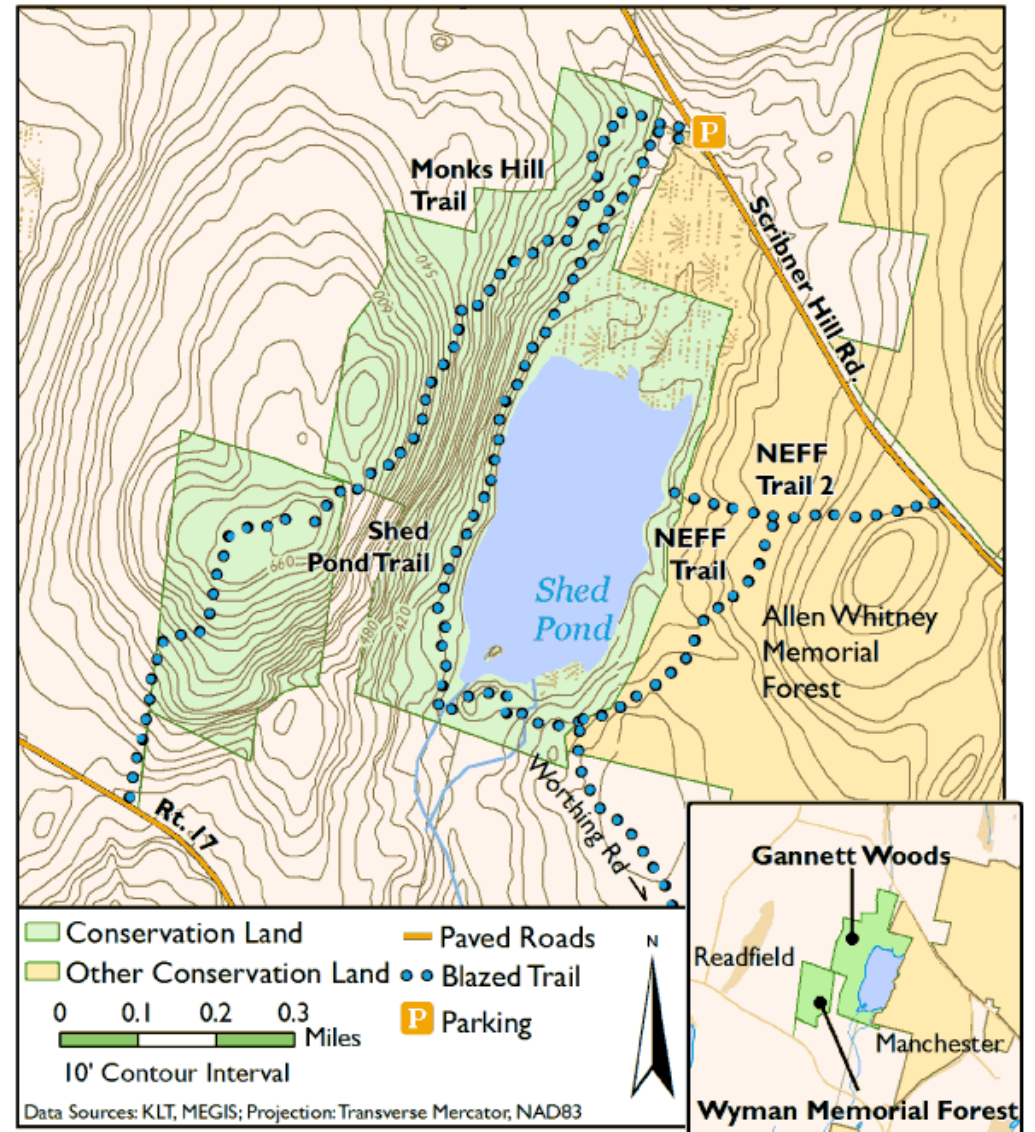
Family History – the Story Behind Shed Pond

In 1783, John Shed of Tewksbury left Massachusetts after his service in the Revolutionary War. He moved to Winthrop, Maine (part of Massachusetts until 1820), where he married Betsy Hall and bought the lower half of Settler's Lot #117. The newlyweds built a farm on the property just north of a pond that bears their family name. Native Americans who once lived, hunted, and fished in Kennebec County had tragically been decimated by diseases and the French and Indian Wars by the time John Shed moved to this area.

In the winter of 1805-1806, John Shed was harvesting ice on the pond when his team of horses crashed through the ice. Though badly injured, Shed was able to claw his way out of the frigid water. After this harrowing experience, he required full time care, which cost him a large portion of his farm. Later, Captain John Gage acquired the property around the pond and named the water body in honor of John Shed.

Between 1925 and 1933, Walter Wyman, co-founder of Central Maine Power, bought several tracts of land surrounding Shed Pond. Perhaps Wyman envisioned using the pond as a source of water for his cattle. He had deeded rights to dam the pond and flood the surrounding area. An earthen dam was constructed in 1945.

Gannett Woods, Manchester & Readfield

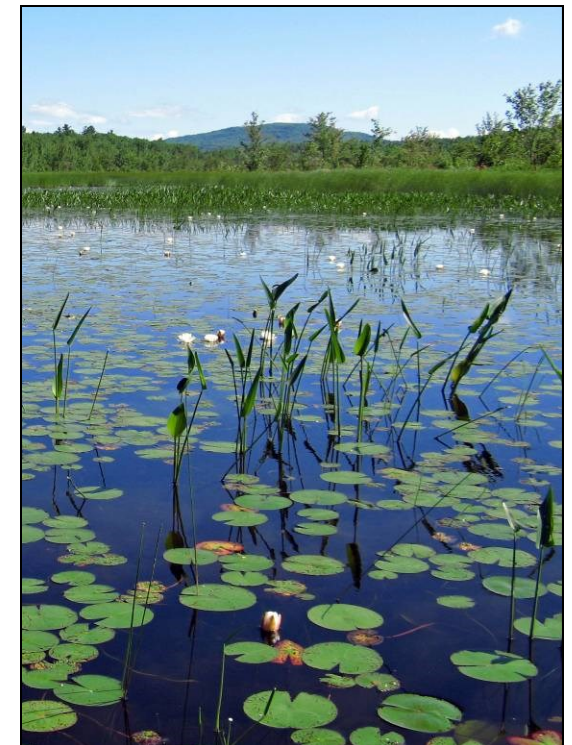


Directions to Gannett: Take Route 17 to Route 135. Go north on Route 135 for 1.2 miles to Scribner Hill Road. Turn southeast on Scribner Hill Road for 1 mile. Look for a KLT sign on the right. The trailhead is on Scribner Hill Road on the north side of Shed Pond. After the granite bridge, the first left is the snowmobile trail that follows the western side of Shed Pond. If you don't take this left, the second left is a wooded path (blue blazes) that climbs Monk's Hill and connects to the Wyman Memorial Forest.

Directions to Wyman: Take Route 17 to Case Cemetery in Readfield near the Manchester line. Park at the cemetery. Walk W about 300 yards along Route 17. A KLT sign marks the access point (trail begins halfway between CMP poles #88 and #89). The first few hundred feet through the woods aren't blazed. The first section of the trail follows a stone wall along an old woods road. As you near the crest of the hill, keep an eye out for double blazes indicating that the path and woods road diverge. Look out for poison ivy!



GANNETT WOODS AND WALTER S. AND ALICE B. WYMAN MEMORIAL FOREST Manchester/Readfield



Conservation Across Generations

KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

Gannett and Wyman Conservation History:

William Wyman, Jr., Margaret Hazzard, Patricia Murray, and John Ingraham donated the “Walter S. and Alice B. Wyman Memorial Forest” in 1993. John and Patricia Gannett purchased the Gannett Woods in 1987 and generously donated their property to the Kennebec Land Trust in 2004.

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.



Boy Scout Troop 622 works on the Gannett Woods trail.

Find out more at www.tkl.org.

Kennebec Land Trust
PO Box 261
331 Main Street
Winthrop, Maine 04364

Thank you to those who contributed expertise, time, and other resources for this brochure:

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207-377-2848

Birds of Woodland and Wetland

Common loons, osprey, hooded mergansers, and many other waterfowl can often be spotted at Shed Pond. While walking through the woods, keep an eye out for the following:

Red-shouldered hawk	Yellow warbler
Spotted sandpiper	Black-throated blue warbler
Eastern wood-pewee	Yellow-rumped warbler
Alder flycatcher warbler	Black-throated green
Least flycatcher	Blackburnian warbler
Great-crested flycatcher	Pine warbler
Eastern kingbird	Black and white warbler
Winter wren	American redstart
Very	Ovenbird
Wood thrush	Northern waterthrush
Solitary vireo	Yellowthroat
Warbling vireo	Scarlet tanager
Red-eyed vireo	Rose-breasted grosbeak
Song sparrow	Evening grosbeak



Public Uses

Gannett Woods and Wyman Forest are open to the public for nature observation, hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing, and hunting.

Snowmobiling is allowed on designated trails. **ATVs** and motorized vehicles of any kind **are not** permitted. **Dogs:** Out of respect for other hikers, dogs should be under voice command or on a leash. Please pick up after your pets.

Monk’s Hill

Monk’s to Wymans: During the late 1700s, the Monk family lived atop the 665-foot hill in Readfield that now bears its name. Remains of the original farm foundation are still visible. When Central Maine Power co-founder Walter Wyman bought land around Shed Pond in the 1920s and 1930s, he also acquired the top of Monk’s Hill. Used as farmland through the 1940s, the hill became a favorite spot for the Wyman family. It offered first-rate blueberry picking and outstanding views of the countryside. Though forests have replaced the fields, there are still excellent views from the hilltop in winter and spring.



Howard Lake

The Forests at Wyman and Gannett

The eastern slope of Monk’s Hill features a beautiful enriched northern hardwood forest dominated by sugar maple, white ash, and hop hornbeam. This forest stand is below bedrock outcroppings layered with calcite veins and thinly bedded marble. Minerals leaching from the bedrock, especially calcium, enrich the soil and create habitat for several rare plant species. A dense hemlock forest between Shed Pond and the steeper sections of the eastern slope is important deer wintering habitat. Wyman Forest includes a red pine plantation and an even-aged white pine stand which grew in where there were once farm fields.