

FLORA AND FAUNA

Horseshoe Island's varied habitats - the wetlands, the shoreline, and the interior forest - support a diversity of plant and wildlife species. If you hike the northern loop trail counterclockwise from the cove, you will walk through an open understory and a mature forest stand dominated by red oaks, white pines and eastern hemlocks.

One uncommon, interesting shrub found on Horseshoe—wicopy (*Dirca palustris*), blooms very early in the spring and prefers calcium-rich environments.



wicopy flowers (*Jane Davis*)
leaves (*Theresa Kerchner*)

A PARTIAL LIST OF HODGDON ISLAND BIRDS

American crow	Eastern wood-pewee
American goldfinch	Gray catbird
American robin	Great blue heron
Bald eagle	Great-crested flycatcher
Baltimore oriole	Herring gull
Barred owl	Mourning dove
Belted kingfisher	Northern flicker
Black-and-white warbler	Red-eyed vireo
Black-capped chickadee	Ruby-throated hummingbird
Black-throated green warbler	Song sparrow
Blue jay	Swainson's thrush
Cedar waxwing	Turkey vulture
Common grackle	Veery
Common loon	White-breasted nuthatch
Downy woodpecker	Wood duck
Eastern kingbird	Wellow warbler
Eastern phoebe	

FOREST AND CONSERVATION HISTORY

In the 18th and 19th centuries, farmers on Cobbossee Lake used the lake islands as woodlots and sometimes as pastures. In the late 1700s and 1800s, island trees were harvested for lumber and fuel wood. Following this era, the forest regenerated into the stand you see today, with some of the white pines and red oaks now over 100 years old. Today, natural forces, including wind, climate change, insects and diseases, continue to change this forest stand.

When agriculture declined in central Maine in the mid-19th century, newcomers, some of whom were relatives of early residents, came to Cobbossee Lake to enjoy the quiet, beauty, and outdoor opportunities the lake provides.

Today, Kennebec Land Trust volunteers maintain trails and monitor these island properties so that they will be available to the public year-around for generations to come.

Allowable Public Uses: hiking, swimming, picnicking, skiing, nature observation, hunting.



Sarah Fuller

ABOUT KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

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. Our properties feature more than 50 miles of trails for everyone.

Protected properties include Vaughan Woods in Hallowell, Curtis Homestead in Leeds, Mount Pisgah in Winthrop, Parker Pond Headland in Fayette, Davidson Nature Preserve in Vassalboro, and Webber-Rogers Farmstead in Litchfield. Most KLT conservation lands offer public access in all seasons for hiking, paddling, bird watching, skiing, and hunting.

A full listing of Kennebec Land Trust properties, their recreational uses, and an interactive map with directions, can be found at our website: www.tkl.org.



Jym St. Pierre

Thanks to those who contributed expertise and time toward this brochure: Jon Lund, Erik Lund, Wendy Dennis, Steve Brooke, Nathalie Woolworth, Nick Lund, Robert Marvinney and Jym St. Pierre. ~ Text : October, 2010



HORSESHOE AND PERRY ISLAND PRESERVE COBBOSSEE LAKE WINTHROP



Jym St. Pierre

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**KENNEBEC LAND TRUST
HORSESHOE AND PERRY ISLAND PRESERVE**

Welcome to KLT’s 49-acre Horseshoe Island Preserve and 6-acre Perry/Sheep. The island’s beautiful interior forest, and undeveloped shoreline and wetlands, provide a quiet place to walk, ski, and observe wildlife.

Horseshoe Island has also been known as “Allen Island”, and Cobbossee Lake is variously referred to as Lake Cobbosseeconte, Winthrop Pond, or Cobbosseeconte Great Pond. Although both the shape and the names of Horseshoe Island and Cobbossee Lake have changed over time, the natural resources - wildlife, wetlands, waters, and forests - have been valued by people, both resident and migratory, for thousands of years.

**PREHISTORY, HISTORY,
COBBOSSEE WATER LEVELS**

Archeological evidence suggests that as early as 7,500 years ago, during the Middle Archaic period, people fished and hunted on Cobbossee Lake, as do residents and visitors today. The name Cobbosseeconte is said to mean *place of the sturgeon*. This Native American name probably referred to the confluence of Cobbossee Stream and the Kennebec River, as it is unlikely that sturgeon have ever been in Cobbossee Lake.



Wendy Dennis

Two hundred years ago, before dams were built at the Cobbossee outlet, the lake shoreline and KLT’s islands looked very different from what we see today.

A photograph take from the south end of the lake shows the “Dismal Swamp” as it might have looked hundreds of years ago when water levels were much lower.

The first dam on Cobbossee, constructed in the late 1830s, was only two feet high. Today’s dam, at nine feet, was built in 1917. Before the lake was dammed, KLT’s lands on the northwest arm of Horseshoe were connected at low water to KLT’s Sheep/Perry Island. When the lake level was nine feet lower, it would have been possible for farmers to herd animals to Sheep Island from the shore of Cobbossee Lake just east of Horseshoe Island. This is likely how Sheep Island got its name.

HORSESHOE ISLAND GEOLOGY

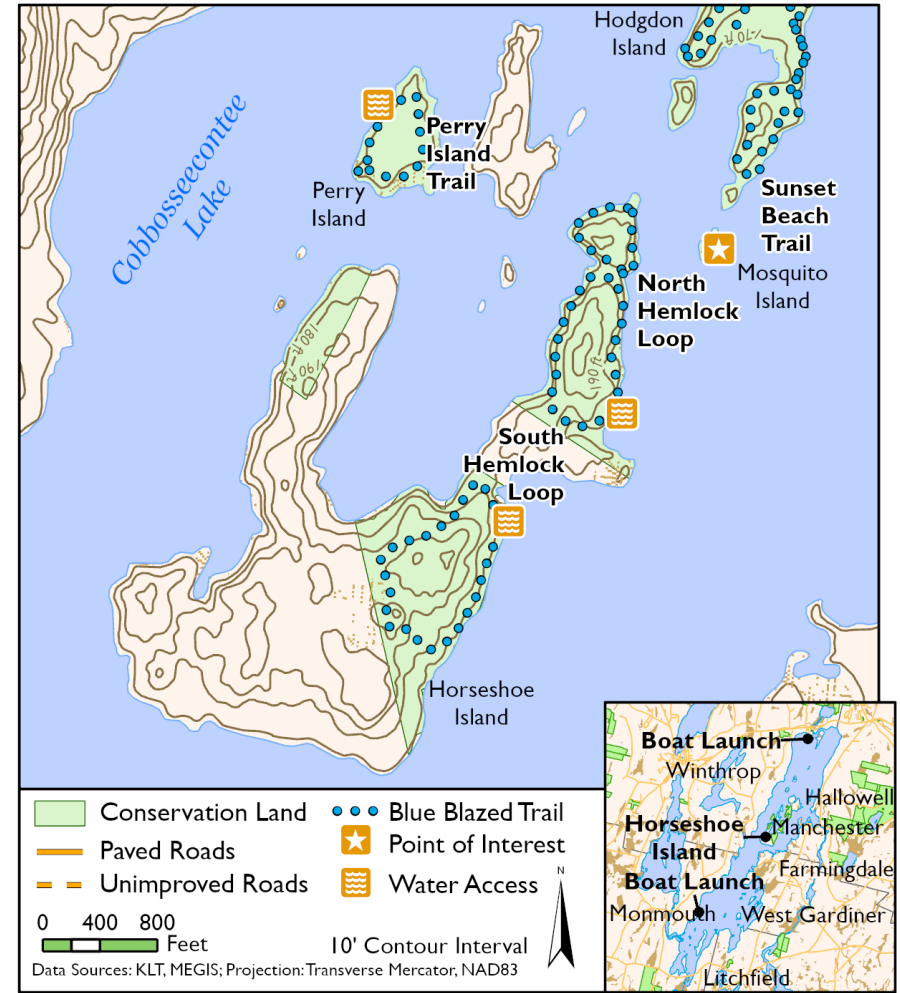


Jean St. Pierre

If you arrived at KLT’s Horseshoe Island trailhead by boat or skis, you are standing on metamorphic rocks that are roughly 420 million years old. All the islands of the northern part of Cobbossee Lake are underlain with a fascinating collection of geological units (including thinly bedded marble, thinly bedded schist, rusty units, and granite pegmatite) that are well exposed along the shores of the islands. The metamorphic rocks (marble and schist) are Silurian in age, meaning that the original sediments that formed these rocks were deposited around 416 to 443 million years ago.

As marble weathers, it releases calcium and other minerals into the soil, a process that often creates botanically rich environments.

Horseshoe Island Preserve, Winthrop



Access KLT’s Cobbossee Islands by watercraft in the summer. Hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing provide access when the lake is frozen. There is a public boat launch on the Southwest shore in Monmouth, on the north shore in Winthrop, and small access point at the intersection of Pond Road and Collins Mills Road (Cobbossee Outlet) in Manchester.

Horseshoe Island Preserve KLT owns roughly 49 acres on Horseshoe Island. A KLT sign on the northwest shore of the eastern arm marks the start of the 0.8 mile North Hemlock Loop trail that follows the perimeter of the island through a beautiful mixed conifer-hardwood forest. A bridge connects the northern tip of the arm to the southern portion of the northern loop. The South Hemlock Loop trail is most easily accessed from the eastern shore, and is a 0.6 mile long loop.

Hodgdon Island Preserve KLT’s 17-acre property on the southern part of Hodgdon Island begins at a sand beach at the trailhead on the western shore. A KLT sign and registration box marks the beginning of a 1 mile loop trail that features old growth red oaks, a northern white cedar stand, and marble outcrops.

Sheep/Perry Island Preserve This 6-acre island is the largest undeveloped island on the lake. A sign-in box on the western shore of the island leads to a 0.3 mile loop trail.