

## HORSESHOE ISLAND PRESERVE

LAND DONOR: JON LUND  
OWNED BY: KLT, WINTHROP



Horseshoe Island Preserve  
(Jym St. Pierre)

Jon Lund is a sportsman. He loves hunting and fishing, especially in the remote woods of northern Maine. Jon is also a conservationist who spent his career in government working to conserve Maine's natural resources. Although these two roles are often perceived as conflicting, Jon has spent the better part of his life demonstrating that sportsmen and conservationists have common interests. He says, "All too often they end up on opposite sides, and I think that's not an accurate portrayal of their real interests."

In the mid-1930's, Jon's family moved to Augusta where his father reopened a paper mill that had been shut down during the Depression. Growing up, Jon learned about "the importance of jobs" and the connection between industry and natural resources.

He carried many of these lessons with him when he served as State Representative and Senator in the Maine State Legislature from 1965 to 1972. One of Jon's first controversial decisions was on a bill to lower water quality standards for Prestile Stream in order to accommodate the development of a sugar beet factory. Jon voted against the bill, while many of his contemporaries supported it. The business later collapsed, and investors and the State lost money. He says, "Having served as Kennebec County Attorney, my initial interest had been in criminal law. However, after the Prestile Stream case, I found a significant interest in conservation."

While serving as State Attorney General, Jon worked to demonstrate the economic and social benefits of renewable natural resources. "I grew into it as issues came along. I thought they were important to Maine. I can fully understand that we need jobs. The place where I disagree is when they say we either have to have jobs or a good natural resource base in Maine. It's not an either-or situation. I think you can conserve natural resources and still have industry."

His family had a camp on Hodgdon's Island on Lake Cobbosseecontee, where Jon spent summers fishing, sailing, and canoeing. Remembering Horseshoe Island in particular, Jon saw the value in preserving as much of it as possible, and set out to acquire property on the island.

His chance came when he joined the National Resources Council of Maine, where he met Cobbossee Lake summer resident Dorothea A. Marston. Dorothea

remembered canoeing and camping on Horseshoe Island as a young girl and shared Jon's interest in preserving it.

They made a plan. Dorothea owned a partial interest in property on Horseshoe. She sold her share to Jon. "Then I had to chase down the other owners." After lengthy correspondence, Jon managed to secure title to a piece of Horseshoe Island. He held on to the property until the late 1990's, when he learned about the Kennebec Land Trust. "I was in agreement with the goals and processes that KLT was following and I had a lot of confidence in the people who were active in it." In 1997, he donated 7 acres on the northeast arm of Horseshoe Island to the Kennebec Land Trust.

For Jon, donating the property put his government experience into action. Now retired, he focused his attention on public access. "What good is a conserved area if no one can visit it?" In order to increase public access

on Hodgdon Island Preserve, which was donated to KLT in 1994, Jon and his brothers volunteered to lay out a walking path there. "It's one of the few places in the area where you can walk for an hour and not hear traffic." With this one successful island trail completed in 2009, Jon and his brothers have proposed a second project — the KLT Horseshoe Island path — one more bridge between interests of the community and the environment.



Jon Lund (Jym St. Pierre)

*Jon Lund is the kind of hunter-naturalist-conservationist every sportsman and –woman should aspire to be: Keenly aware that all creaturely life, human life included, depends on healthy habitat and that any civilization worthy of the name must protect the wild world from which it has sprung.*

— Robert Kimber, Author



Jon Lund and Mort Libby (Theresa Kerchner)