



Glenn, Sara, Anna, and Ben Hodgkins (Contributed)

The Headlands Preserve on Parker Pond is one of central Maine's hidden gems. The Land for Maine's Future Board had an easy decision to support this project.

— Tim Glidden, Director, Land for Maine's Future Program.

PARKER POND HEADLAND PRESERVE

LAND DONORS: ERIKA KARP AND TONY DILLER,
HODGKINS ADDITION TO PPH PRESERVE
DONATED BY: GLENN AND SARA HODGKINS
OWNED BY: KLT, FAYETTE

The trail on KLT's 100-acre Parker Pond Headland parcel features 5,000 feet of rocky shoreline, an old-growth hemlock stand, and impressive granite ledges. Each year, hundreds of hikers visit this woodland preserve and hike a path that showcases the property's rich, complex, geologic, and human history.

An abrupt transition between young hardwood and mature hemlock marks the boundary between the 100-acre Parker Pond Headland and the 42-acre Hodgkins Addition to the Headland. The two parcels, with their very distinct forest stands, are important habitat for many of Maine's familiar plant and wildlife species.

Regarding Parker Pond, Tony Diller says, "My sister Erika and I inherited the land from our parents, Van and Berta, in 1989. They had bought it in two different transactions. The first, from Central Maine Power in 1954, included the northernmost tip of the headland, with the wonderful ledges where many have enjoyed picnics and swims. The second transfer was a land swap: the Parker Lake Shores developer agreed to trade some of Van and Berta's lakefront on Fellow's Cove in return for all of the "backlot." The backlot included the cliffs, old-growth hemlocks and the steep, rocky slope opposite Birch Island."

For the Hodgkins family, a serendipitous online search led them to the 42 acres

in Fayette that became the Hodgkins Addition to Parker Pond Headland. After visiting the property, Glenn and Sara Hodgkins knew the rolling hills and dense hardwood forest were more than just an ideal family summer camp. It was perfect property for a community land trust. Donating land to the Kennebec Land Trust had been on the Hodgkins' agenda for several years, and Glenn in particular saw the donation as an important part of his work as a land conservationist.

"Conservation has always been very important to me; it's the most important volunteer activity that I do." With twelve years on the KLT board, and two years as president, Glenn is dedicated to the KLT cause. He believes that a childhood outdoors in southern Maine was the root of his interest in conservation. "Maine is a special place that I value." His work as a hydrologist, studying Maine's waterways, has only reinforced his commitment to be proactive in public land work.

Tony Diller's experience on Parker Pond was similar. "When Erika and I

were kids, we spent many hours hiking and exploring this area, swimming off the rocks, and learning about the different sorts of trees and plants. We had some great picnics, especially on the 4th of July. Even the loons joined in. Helen Cushman, a local naturalist, was often in the woods with us and would introduce us to which mushrooms we could eat and which ones were poisonous. When I was a bit older I used to camp out on top of the cliffs, sleeping in the 'bear cave.' Fortunately the bears left me alone."

Asked about their donation, Tony says, "Anyone on the lake can see immediately that the Parker foreshore is a very prominent part of the lake. Our parents realized the importance of preserving this land in as natural a condition as possible. Erika and I share their sentiments and have done what we think Van and Berta intended. We could see that making an agreement with the KLT would preserve the land in its natural state and the whole lake community would benefit, into the future."

Preserving Maine's forests is also a top priority for Glenn, whose goal is "to conserve what are currently the common woodlands, because eventually they won't be so common."

Glenn and Sara Hodgkins are, in many ways, unique donors to the Kennebec Land Trust. Although they don't have childhood memories of playing on the Hodgkins Addition trails, or a family legacy there to preserve, they share the same commitment to Maine's natural landscapes as the people who were committed to preserving the northern part of the Parker Headland.



Artist Ian Ormon at Parker Pond (Jane Davis: 2008)



Swimming at Loon Island, left to right: Chig Dollof, Erika Diller, Helen Cushman (famous local newspaper woman and story teller), friend Judy Adams, David Kirk, Cush (Norm) Cushman, Van Diller, Clayt Dollof (Contributed, circa 1955)

Parker Pond shoreline (Sarah Fuller)