

Spring
08

LAND LEGACY

A NEWSLETTER OF THE KENNEBUNK LAND TRUST

*"Take care of the
wild places and
they'll take care
of you."*

Suzanne McGettigan,
NH singer/songwriter



Kennebunk Land Trust 8th Annual Dinner & Auction

On Friday, May 2nd, the Board of Directors and staff of Kennebunk Land Trust will host the Trust's biggest fundraiser of the year. This year's Eighth Annual Dinner and Auction is expected to be the best yet! Benefit Auctioneer Kathy Kingston and local favorite Joe Foster will preside over the festivities, so there'll be no shortage of laughter and positive repartee! This year's event includes both live and silent auctions, with a terrific line-up of items. Travel opportunities abound with destinations such as Stonington, ME; Cuernavaca, Mexico; Manciano, Italy; South Africa; Culebra; Quebec, Canada; and Sunday River Resort. You will be enticed to bid high on fine art from accomplished area artists Anne Gable Allaire, John Andrews, Frank Handlen, Nadine Schoepfle and others. We are very happy to also include chimney cleaning, cordwood, garden loam and accessories, household services, and gift certificates to the area's finest business establishments and restaurants. Please visit the KLT website at www.kennebunklandtrust.org to preview a great selection of available auction items.

In conjunction with the event, the Board is again sponsoring the annual raffle. The first prize winner

will have a choice of destination – either Bermuda or the Napa/Sonoma Wine Region of California, the lucky second prize winner will receive \$300 in gift certificates to use any way they like at The Colony Hotel, and the third prize winner will receive a generous gift certificate for Dinner for Four at The Nonantum Resort. Tickets are \$20/each and are available through the Trust office. Drawing will be held the night of the event, but one need not be present to win.

Once again the evening will be catered by Bill Munette and Robb Schoonmaker of The Silver Tureen with three delicious entrees offered: Filet Mignon, Halibut and a Vegetarian Risotto. Before dinner, guests will be treated to fabulous hors d'oeuvres, preview begins at 5:00pm. As most of you know, seating is limited and reservations must be made in advance so it's not too early to call the Trust office to reserve your place for the evening. Reservations are \$55/per or \$100/pair. Please plan now to attend this annual good time in support of land conservation in the Kennebunk/Arundel region. Call the Trust office to make arrangements at 985-8734.

KLT and Stewardship

by Don Gobeil, Stewardship Chair

The Kennebunk Land Trust's mission is to acquire and/or receive parcels of land, easements and funds in order to preserve and protect the natural areas and character of the Kennebunk/Arundel region. Our mission includes promoting conservation and related educational efforts, and collaboration with like-minded organizations.

From this guiding principal, the role and function of the KLT Stewardship program takes its cue. In the Summer 2007 edition of the KLT Newsletter (available at the KLT website - www.kennebunklandtrust.org), a descriptive and informative summary was presented on the varied responsibilities associated with our ongoing stewardship activities. From pounding nails, clearing brush and generally maintaining and enhancing the opportunities for people to interact with the natural environment, an active and vibrant stewardship program forms a vital component of the Trust's overall mission.

But stewardship is also much more. In whatever tasks we undertake, we must never lose sight of the fundamental reason we volunteer for the work we do. That is to uphold the conservation values associated with the property and to help in any way we can to perpetuate a donor's hope and desire to protect for all

time something so special to them. And the thought of the unselfish generosity represented in a gift of land or easement to KLT is never far from the thoughts of those of us who are involved in this effort. And it also represents a significant responsibility as we continue our involvement with the KLT that we ensure that we utilize every resource at our disposal with skill and sensitivity to the wishes and aspirations of the original landowner.

Additionally, however, the reality of managing KLT property also spills far beyond the property line. For every easement we manage, or parcel we own, we are inexplicably connected to a larger community. We become neighbors to others and part of the fabric of the local area. We seek to integrate ourselves into the neighborhood by interacting with abutters, becoming aware of local concerns and issues, and by generally just trying to fit in.

But looking beyond these core functions and responsibilities, active stewardship must also incorporate flexibility in how it performs its duties. As a group made up of volunteers, the skills associated with the individual members of the group continually changes. Knowing what the group can efficiently and capably accomplish is important, but equally important

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President's Message by Bill Grabin



Wild Kennebunk! A few weeks ago, amidst one of our many snowfalls this winter, I glanced out our living room windows to see a Barred Owl sitting on our deck railing. It sat there and assessed its surroundings, then flew up to an oak branch at the edge of the yard and continued to survey the landscape for perhaps twenty minutes. The following morning, a look through the same windows revealed a dark, sleek fisher moving through the line of trees at the yard's edge. And this week, another first for us; a very cute, little Northern Sawwhet Owl came and perched on our deck railing for three hours, basking in the midday sun like a cat on a windowsill. Most views out our windows don't provide such dramatic results, but if there's one thing that experience has reinforced time and again: the more you look, the more you see.

Many of Kennebunk Land Trust's protected properties have provided me with great and often unexpected sightings. At the end of the trail that runs down to Alewife Pond, I've seen a number of striking warblers in springtime, including both Black Throated Blues and Black Throated Greens. Along the path that runs through the woods at the pond's edge, I've been greeted by groups of beautiful little Golden-Crowned Kinglets. These are among the smallest of songbirds, typically 4" in length and weighing less than 1/4 ounce, perhaps half the weight of a Chickadee.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Pileated Woodpecker has a wingspan of 29" and is the largest woodpecker in North America (unless reports of the presumed extinct Ivory Billed Woodpecker prove out). Along with its size, the flame red crest atop the black and white profile makes it a sight to behold. Often the Pileated is seen before it's heard. Its territorial call can sound like a jungle creature, and the loud drumming sound it produces as it searches for insects in large, aging trees can be equally distinctive. The tall pines across the river (and just a touch downstream) from KLT's Picnic Rock are one place frequented by a pair of Pileateds.

Perhaps the best luck I've had with bird sightings and songs on KLT properties has been at the Webber Hill Preserve that runs down to the Mousam River, just below the Blueberry Plains. The Rose-Breasted Grosbeak is a pretty bird with a pretty song that's sometimes described as sounding like a Robin that's taken voice lessons. Some of the most truly striking birds one may encounter there in spring and summer are the Baltimore Oriole (the male is brilliant orange and black) and the Scarlet Tanager (the male is brilliant red with black wings). There's no mistaking either of these when you're fortunate enough to see one. And one day last June as I walked the trail there along the river and was looking up through the trees, a Bald Eagle floated by. I've seen eagles along the lower Mousam in January and February but this was my first local non-winter sighting.

I'm tremendously grateful that so many have worked hard and contributed the necessary financial resources over the last 35 years to enable KLT to protect over 30 properties covering nearly 3500 acres, as well as several miles of frontage along the Kennebunk and Mousam rivers and many smaller brooks and streams. And the protected properties add life throughout the area, as wildlife that "resides" there make regular forays beyond those property lines to explore the greater community. We encourage you to get out and take advantage of this great resource. And when you do, or even if you're just driving by, keep your eyes open! You never know what you might see.

KLT and Stewardship...continued

is accessing and acknowledging its weaknesses or gaps in needed expertise. Finding and fostering external relationships with knowledgeable groups and individuals is vitally important to achieving our mission. Whether it is tapping the collective experience and resources of statewide or nationwide conservation groups, or seeking local answers to specific local issues, drawing on external resources can make a volunteer group stronger and more effective.

As our organization grows, so do our responsibilities and expectations. We must strive not only to maintain the property assets that have been generously entrusted to us in the traditional stewardship sense, but also to evolve and seek ways to take advantage of some of today's available technical resources. For example, digital mapping in the form of a Geographic Information System (GIS) is rapidly becoming the new paradigm of how information is cataloged and disseminated. The days of simply taping a few town tax maps together as the mechanism of displaying and sharing information about our properties is changing. Today, it is possible not only to computerize the mapping of our properties, but also to add the associated property data, i.e. acreage, zoning, plant and wildlife features, surveys, etc. into a comprehensive land database. While we are not quite there yet, the general direction and usefulness of the

process has been underscored by an ever-increasing number of conservation organizations.

Creating useful, informative, accurate and visibly attractive depictions of our properties is not only more efficient in the overall stewardship effort, it also allows the Trust to present a more polished, professional image to outside groups and individuals. The reality is that getting KLT's message out in today's cluttered digital world is enhanced by our capability to embrace and adapt to this new technology. Additionally, reaching a whole new generation of young people in the hope of enlisting their support and involvement in our mission requires that we adapt to their embrace of technology as an integral part of everyday life.

In closing, the concept that best summarizes the stewardship of KLT property is the idea that there is no detailed formula that can be universally applied to all our varied properties. No three ring binder can be created that can be handed down to successive boards that can document the myriad of issues that will surely arise. We must continually draw upon the talents available within our group, as well as seek talent and ideas from others outside our organization if we hope to be successful in achieving our mission.



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2008 Calendar Project Truly a Gift!



Once again, accomplished bird watcher and photographer, Geoff Dennis, made a significant contribution to KLT by donating the use of his wonderful bird photographs for the 2008 KLT Calendar Project. Many of you are familiar with Geoff's work and some attended his KLT benefit bird slide shows in years past. Geoff's patience and perseverance is apparent in his work and those who have had the pleasure of bird watching with him understand his abiding respect for wildlife. We are indebted to Geoff for his generosity.

We thank Melissa Pelletier, proprietor of Brown Fox Printing, who again this year donated her technical talents and created a great layout and design for the KLT calendar. Melissa also extended a considerable in-kind contribution on the production of our latest edition.

And our sincere thanks go to Myriam Roderman who coordinated the assembly and final preparation of each and every calendar. Her many talents and uncounted hours of volunteer service continue to be a true gift to the Trust.

Those of you who have not already acquired a copy of the 2008 desk calendar may do so by contacting Suzanne at the KLT office, 207.985.8734. The cost is \$10.00 plus shipping and we do have a few copies remaining. Our thanks to all of you who supported this fundraiser.

Welcome!



KLT Welcomes A New Administrative Assistant

The Board and Executive Director are happy to welcome Suzanne Craig as Administrative Assistant for the Trust. Suzanne began working for the Trust in January, setting a positive course for the office in 2008. A long-time Kennebunk resident, Suzanne brings a variety of talents to the position and a keen sensibility for keeping the many facets of the Trust's work in order. We are fortunate to have her as a part of the KLT team! Please feel free to call the Trust office, 985-8734, to say hello and welcome Suzanne. She makes her home in Kennebunk with her husband, Scott, and their two children, Mike and Betsy.



Trust Welcomes New Board Member

Tony Liguori has been an outdoors person all his life. He has broad career experience in aviation and business program management, and is a retired Brigadier General from the USAF. His passion for outdoor recreation and strong desire to share knowledge and experience with others led him to become a registered Master Maine Guide. Fortunate for KLT, Tony has served on the Trust's Stewardship Committee for nearly two years and in that role has made innumerable contributions in the field. We are now very pleased to announce Tony's appointment to the Board of Directors. Tony and his wife, Connie Lou, live in Kennebunk.

Thank You for 2007 Support!

The Board of Directors and staff of Kennebunk Land Trust extend sincere thanks to all of our supporters for their generous contributions and acts during 2007. If your name is not among them, please make your gift in 2008. We also gratefully acknowledge those who so graciously support our annual dinner and auction. A listing of those supporters appears in the auction program.

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