

# LAND LEGACY

A NEWSLETTER OF THE KENNEBUNK LAND TRUST

## KLT & Huntington Common Team Up For First in Kennebunk



For the past many months, KLT staff and volunteers have been busy planning the next significant project the Trust will undertake – the Huntington Common Preserve Project. In a collaboration between the Trust and Huntington Common, the first-in-Kennebunk ADA compliant pathway and scenic overlook will be constructed for public benefit and use.

Adjacent to the Huntington campus, KLT owns a striking 13-acre preserve that runs along the banks of the Kennebunk River. Because of its location, the terrain, and the obvious beauty of the site, KLT identified it as a premier opportunity to not only invite public access, but to ensure that the preserve be reachable by the broadest possible audience.

The fully accessible pathway will meander for 300 +/-feet where the visitor will arrive at a scenic overlook with seating and seasonal plantings. The pathway and overlook are designed to accommodate visitors in wheel-chairs as well as visitors who require a sturdy surfaced walkway. At this location, the waters of the Kennebunk River may be seen and heard as they wash over river stones providing both visual and audio delight. From the overlook, a traditional woodland trail will meander for another ½ mile or so. The project will include two handicap parking spaces.

Kennebunk Land Trust and Huntington Common are proud of this joint effort. Plans for the endeavor will be completed in early spring 2013 and a public opening event will be held. Access to the preserve is open to the general public as well as Huntington residents.

Fundraising for the project began at the Trust's 12th Annual Dinner and Auction when the project was unveiled to the enthusiastic response of auction-goers. Funding for completion of the project is still needed; donations may be sent to the Trust with a notation for the Huntington Project.

## Annual Report to Community



From right to left: Marie Louise St. Onge, Executive Director, Wesley McNair, Poet-Laureate, Don Gobeil, Board Chair

On September 12th, the KLT Board of Directors hosted the Trust's Annual Report to Community. The evening included a recap of the Trust's accomplishments of 2011 and keynote presentation by the Poet Laureate of the State of Maine, Mr. Wesley McNair. Mr. McNair's comments and poetry served to underscore the significance of place and story both in and beyond our lifetimes. The well-attended event was the Trust's way of thanking their many constituents and supporters for their long-standing interest in the land conservation work of the Trust.

## Kennebunk Farmer's Market

The Kennebunk Farmer's Market is touted as being the second most popular in the State. Kennebunk Land Trust was pleased to have a presence at the Market throughout the summer, and we hope you stopped by our booth to say hello. Once we weather the months ahead, we hope to see you there again in the spring.

# Land for Maine's Future – Because It Matters to Maine

by Marie Louise St.Onge



Last fall, Maine's legislators supported a \$5 million Land for Maine's Future (LMF) component to this year's bond package. This November 6th, Maine voters will be asked to vote on Question 3, a \$5 million bond issue for Land for Maine's Future program. Kennebunk

Land Trust urges you to vote YES. On five previous occasions, Maine voters strongly approved similar land bond measures; they did this in 1987, 1999, 2005, 2007 and again in 2010. We need a YES vote again this year.

This year's question reads:

Do you favor a \$5,000,000 bond issue to purchase land and conservation easements statewide from willing sellers for public land and water access, conservation, wildlife or fish habitat and outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing and deer wintering areas, and to preserve working farmland and working waterfronts to be matched by at least \$5,000,000 in private and public contributions?

When passed, Question 3 will direct \$5 million to the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program, a program that for twenty-five years has been at the heart of efforts to conserve the best Maine has to offer. The award-winning LMF program has protected more than 530,000 acres of wildlife habitat, farmland, and unique natural places across the State. Since 1987, more than 300 land conservation projects have been completed throughout Maine's 16 counties.

By working with towns and land trusts, LMF has helped acquire properties that preserve Maine's heritage and make public access possible. Some highlights of LMF's accomplishments include:

- More than 250,000 acres of productive forestland conserved
- 1,150 miles of shoreline protected
- 158 miles of snowmobile trails secured
- Over 50 water access sites approved
- 24 State and regional parks and Wildlife Management Areas created or expanded
- 29 working farms and 23 working waterfronts permanently protected

The facts are compelling. Land for Maine's Future bond funding is money well spent. Those of us fortunate to live here know that Maine is a wonderful place to call home, and surely our guests know that Maine is a great place to visit. LMF funds help to maintain and secure the identity of this State and strengthen its traditional working industries such as family farming, wood products and working waterfronts. LMF funds are instrumental to the protection of vital recreational areas across the State, and these areas are essential factors in Maine's economic status.

In our area, LMF funds were critical to the protection of the Kennebunk Wildlife Management Area, also known as Kennebunk Plains. In 1987 and again in 1999, LMF funds were influential. Kennebunk Land Trust partnered in each phase of these protection steps. Today the "Plains" boast over 1,800 acres. The unique barrens complex is one of the top priority areas for conservation in Maine.

The Kennebunk Plains area is host to 14 rare plant and animal species. The large-scale population of Northern Blazing Star is the State's only viable site, and it is perhaps the largest in the world with over a million stems. Birders flock to the Plains to observe an unusually high number of bird species including the best mainland population of Grasshopper Sparrows and nesting habitat for Upland Sandpipers. Other birds of note include the Vesper Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, and numerous warbler species. Additionally, two rare moth species have been observed: the Broad Sallow and Trembling Sallow; and studies have indicated that eight insect species were found that have never been recorded elsewhere in Maine. No description or praise of the Plains would be complete without including mention of the Black Racer Snake. The Plains is one of only a few locations in the State where the species can be found. And finally, two reptiles listed by the State as "species of special concern" occur at the site, they are the Ribbon Snake and the Wood Turtle.

The story of the Kennebunk Plains is but one shining example of the many success stories made possible by LMF program funds. **For more information on Question 3, please visit [www.landformainesfuture.org](http://www.landformainesfuture.org) And please, on November 6th be sure to cast a YES Vote on Question 3.**

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# Day of Caring and Green Power Grant



For 11 years, employees from the North Berwick facility of Pratt & Whitney have worked with KLT staff and Stewardship Committee members on field projects. This strong and long-term relationship was forged as a result of annual participation in the United Way Day of Caring and it has grown ever since. Bridge building, erosion control, clean-up, design work, none is too challenging or messy for this great group of volunteers.

This year, we are very proud to announce that not only have we had their able assistance on important field projects that make KLT trails more enjoyable and accessible to the public, but we had one more surprise from them as well. Our friends at Pratt & Whitney are responsible for the KLT award of a Pratt & Whitney Green Power Grant. The Board of Directors and staff are delighted to take this opportunity to showcase and thank the “Pratt Team” for their generosity and their years of contributions to the Trust. Their many talents and gifts benefit the community in a very important way and the individuals themselves are inspiring. From all of us Kennebunk Land Trust – thank you so much.

# Welcome New Board Members

The Board of Directors is pleased to welcome three new members. Isabel Lescure recently joined the Board after generous volunteerism to the Trust. Isabel has extensive Development experience in the private sector as well as with regional non-profit organizations. Tom Wellman has volunteered and supported the Trust for a number of years. He is a local business owner, and has municipal and field experience that will be great assets to the organization. And finally, Beth Sandmire is the newest addition to the Board of Directors. Beth is a long-time Kennebunk resident and Trust supporter. She has served on the KLT Development Committee for two years, and she brings broad knowledge of the local community and school systems. We are delighted to welcome Isabel, Tom and Beth.



Isabel Lescure



Beth Sandmire



Tom Wellman



## Our Thanks to KSB!

Again this year, KLT was proud to be on the Kennebunk Savings Bank Community Ballot. Because of this generous program and important votes like yours, the Trust was awarded over \$1,500. Our sincere thanks to KSB and our loyal supporters for making this possible.

## Elmina B. Sewall Foundation

Kennebunk Land Trust is once again grateful to the legacy and generosity of Mrs. Elmina B. Sewall. A long-time Kennebunk resident, Mrs. Sewall was a lifelong supporter of land conservation. We are pleased to express our appreciation to the Sewall Foundation for a very generous 2012 award.



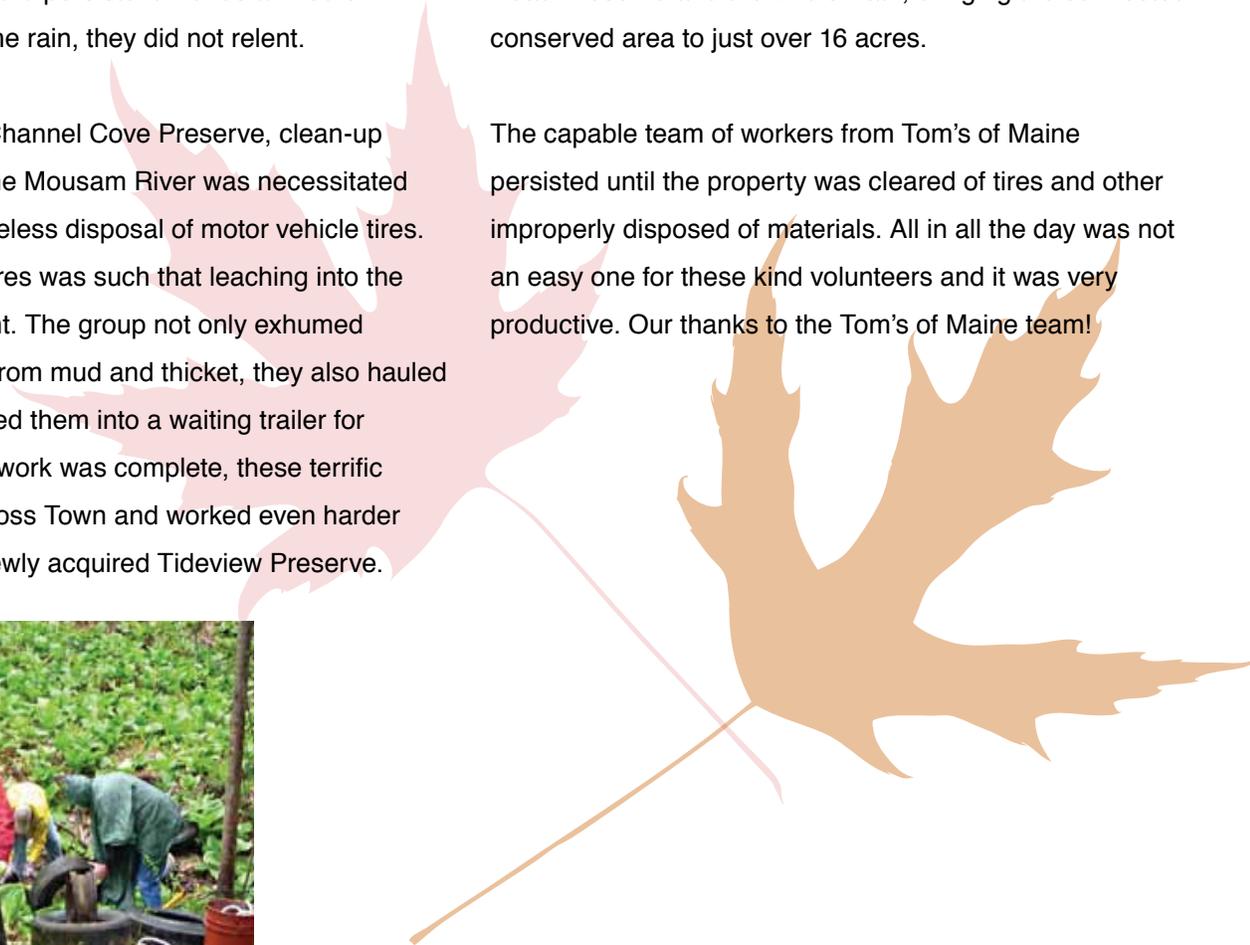
## Tom's of Maine – A Great Help

It was a rainy May day in Kennebunk, when a spirited team of volunteers from Tom's of Maine's Sanford manufacturing facility showed up to work for KLT. The Trust was in need of a clean-up effort at two of its preserves, when the group of seven very capable and persistent friends arrived on the scene. Despite the rain, they did not relent.

At the Trust owned Channel Cove Preserve, clean-up along the banks of the Mousam River was necessitated as a result of the careless disposal of motor vehicle tires. The location of the tires was such that leaching into the riverway was eminent. The group not only exhumed portions of the tires from mud and thicket, they also hauled them uphill and loaded them into a waiting trailer for disposal. When that work was complete, these terrific volunteers drove across Town and worked even harder at cleaning up the newly acquired Tideview Preserve.

The Trust was gifted Tideview Preserve in December of 2011. A gift from Sally & Bruce Blackman, the property sits adjacent to the well-known Bridle Path. This acquisition connects town-owned property with the Trust owned Sea Road Preserve and the Bridle Path, bringing the connected conserved area to just over 16 acres.

The capable team of workers from Tom's of Maine persisted until the property was cleared of tires and other improperly disposed of materials. All in all the day was not an easy one for these kind volunteers and it was very productive. Our thanks to the Tom's of Maine team!



# 2012 Annual Appeal

The beginning of the fourth quarter marks the launch of the Trust's Annual Appeal. Many of you have received, or soon will receive, our letter asking you to support the Trust's appeal by making a contribution as we near the end of this fiscal year. When you think about your life and those things that you appreciate about living and spending time in this beautiful area, open space and conserved land surely play an important role. Whether it's a coastal marsh offering a pristine view or a forested upland with an enjoyable trail, Kennebunk Land Trust's land conservation efforts help to create and sustain the character of the region and the quality of life that we all hold dear. Please make a generous donation to our 2012 Annual Appeal and help to maintain no-cost public access to some very special places. Your gifts are tax deductible.

## Our Twelfth Big Bash!

In May, the Trust hosted its Twelfth Annual Dinner and Auction. It would be enough to say it was a lovely evening, enough to say that the event was very well attended, enough to say the food was fabulous, enough to say that once again this year donors from all walks were generous and forthcoming with support and donations, and we are fortunate indeed to be able to also say that it was our most successful event ever!

The Board of Directors and staff extend robust thanks to our Prime Sponsors: Libby, O'Brien, Kingsley & Champion and Kennebunk Savings Bank for their continued strong support. We are so appreciative to the hundreds of artists, merchants and businesses who, through their generosity and regard for land conservation, make this event possible. And to our scores of volunteers who work hard to make the evening a hit – we are indebted.

## Many Thanks

### Corcoran Environmental

Our thanks to Corcoran Environmental for their donation and for enabling KLT to properly dispose of materials improperly dumped on KLT preserves.

## Grant Award

We are happy to announce that Kennebunk Land Trust was awarded a generous grant in support of outreach endeavors and a mapping project currently underway. The gift was received from the Mrs. James Sage Coburn Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Our appreciation to the Coburn Fund and Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.



*Kennebunk Land Trust*

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