

LAND LEGACY

A NEWSLETTER OF THE KENNEBUNK LAND TRUST

Former Governor Angus King to Address KLT's Annual Meeting by Richard Barnes

In a period of economic uncertainty for the nation and our state, why should protection of the land and the landscape merit attention? Where does attention to land conservation fit in the civic priorities for Maine and for the Kennebunk region? These and other related questions will form the backdrop for the theme of the Kennebunk Land Trust's Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 21. Former Governor Angus King will be the guest speaker at this event, which will highlight KLT's work over the year and provide insight into these challenging questions.

Over the past year, the Trust has and continues to focus its efforts on revitalizing and expanding public access to several of the properties that have been preserved over the Trust's 39-year history. Through the support of our many hundreds of donors and scores of volunteers, new signs have been erected, improvements made to parking spaces, trails and views improved at properties as varied as Alewife Woods Preserve, The Secret Garden, Mousam River Wildlife Sanctuary, and Wonder Brook Preserve.

The Board of Directors and staff invite you to come and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres, meet with Angus King and Trust friends, see a slide show highlighting the beauty of the preserved land and shore in all seasons, and hear brief reports on the recent work of the Trust as we recognize the many persons who have helped to make so much happen.

Former Maine Governor Angus King, who championed the preservation of the environment and open space during his eight years in office, will focus his remarks on the current

statewide context for land conservation and its importance to Maine's economic future. Over the past few years Maine's political leaders have understandably emphasized the need to "grow more jobs" in the state, and have emphasized legislative reforms designed to make Maine a more hospitable place for business and job growth. Angus King's message will help reinforce the link between growing our economy while also celebrating and preserving Maine's well renowned open land and waterfront.

In 2006, GrowSmart Maine, a project funded by a wide consortium of businesses, public policy and economic development organizations, commissioned the Brookings Institution to develop a report titled *Charting Maine's Future: An action plan for promoting sustainable prosperity and quality*

places. In the introduction to the report, the authors offered this assessment of one of the most important assets that Maine has in its effort to improve the economy, which they labeled "The Maine Brand." In a burst of optimism, the report states:

Moreover, the economic wheel may now be turning in Maine's direction. As the search for quality places widens and grows in importance, Maine possesses a globally known "brand" built on images of livable communities, stunning scenery, and great recreational opportunities. Likewise, as "innovation" becomes a more important force in the economy, Maine's reputation for Yankee ingenuity, resourcefulness, and craftsmanship means even more. On several counts, in short, Maine is surprisingly well-positioned for the future. (Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program, 2006, p. 6)



"Beauty and seduction is nature's tool for survival because we will protect what we fall in love with."

Louie Schwartzberg,
Cinematographer

Yesterday and Tomorrow – **A Legacy** by Marie Louise St. Onge



This past year, Kennebunk Land Trust incorporated and embraced a new logo. The new design uses fresh, new imagery and color to convey the Trust's crucial community role. As we set about the task of installing updated preserve signs, we thought it would be appropriate to archive one of the preserve signs depicting the original KLT logo.

To that end, we chose to donate a sign to the Brick Store Museum's permanent collection. The specific sign chosen for this gesture was an easy decision for the Trust to make – the "Madelyn Marx Preserve." Entrusting this particular sign to the Museum ensures the long-term institutional and community memory of the Trust's enduring work through the years, as well as the significant contributions of one of the Trust's founding Director's, Madelyn Marx. Madelyn is the only original Board member who has served continuously from the incorporation of KLT in 1972 to the present.

In 1998, with a \$60,000 contribution from an anonymous donor, KLT purchased the 24-acre parcel located between Rte. 9 and Kennebunk Beach. In a ceremony honoring Madelyn's

dedication and accomplishments to land conservation, the preserve was named "Madelyn Marx Preserve."

Listed among her many endeavors and contributions are: the creation of the first Kennebunk Conservation Commission in the late 1960s, recipient of a Ford Foundation grant that provided seed money for the founding of KLT, co-founder and secretary/treasurer of the first Maine Association of Conservation Commissions, secretary of the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission, and an incorporator of the Vaughn Island Preservation Committee. She worked tirelessly to help form the Friends of Intelligent Land Use, a group that opposed a \$750 million oil refinery complex proposed in 1973 for Sanford, which would have forever affected 18 communities. She was the first woman to serve on the Kennebunk Zoning Board of Appeals, and served in the position of Director of Audubon and Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children. Madelyn is quoted as saying "My mother (Elizabeth Nedeau) was a conservationist. She loved the trees and the outdoors. I picked it up from her."

All of us at KLT are immensely grateful for Madelyn's many contributions to the Trust and to the broader community that she continues to call home. As a result of her decades of service, KLT has developed into an integral and vibrant organization dedicated to improving the quality of life through conservation and education. It is entirely fitting that as we look forward to continuing our mission in the future, we can also take pride in knowing that such an important part of our history will be remembered and honored.

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Executive Director

Marie Louise St. Onge

Kennebunk Land Trust

11 York Street
Kennebunk, Maine 04043
(207) 985-8734
kennbklt@ghi.net
www.kennebunklandtrust.org

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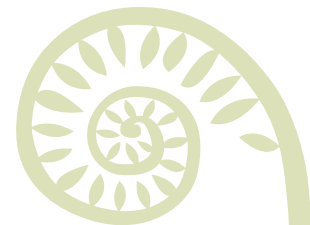


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KLT Raffle Winners

Congratulations and thank you to the happy winners of the annual Kennebunk Land Trust Raffle:

First Prize: Jim Chadbourne

Second Prize: Karen Scontras

Third Prize: Suzanne Roux

Kennebunk Land Trust **11th Annual** Dinner & Auction



It was indeed a very pleasant evening! The skies were clear, temperatures ideal, and our wonderful friends turned out to support our biggest fundraiser of the year. Throughout the early spring solicitation period, artists, merchants and businesses very generously endorsed the work of the Trust by donating items, gift certificates, and great vacation opportunities for inclusion in the auction. Staff and volunteers busily made innumerable preparations so that the evening would be perfect – and it was. And thanks to the widespread generosity of donors and supporters, the Trust exceeded its budget and the night was a huge financial and social success. Our sincere thanks to all who participated.

Former Governor Angus King **to Address KLT's Annual Meeting** continued from front page

In retrospect, the severe financial and economic downturn that began one year later obviously made the report's assessment of Maine's imminent opportunity for upturn premature, to say the least. Nevertheless, the underlying message remains true today. Maine needs to be faithful to its fundamental strengths as new economic life is beginning to breathe in our communities, especially here in Southern Maine and York County. The revitalization currently underway along Main Street in Kennebunk and in nearby communities are welcome signs of this emerging economic recovery. As we rebound, these underlying strengths cannot be taken for granted, however. Later on in the 2006 report, the Brookings authors' issued a warning sign that also remains true today:

Recent development patterns are beginning to give some cities and towns new life. . . . However, suburbanization is increasing government costs and degrading the state's small towns and environment—its true "brand." The good news here is that the state's overall quickening growth has brought new populations

to many of the state's traditional regional hubs— many of which were losing population in the 1990s. But for all that, widespread suburbanization and sprawl are driving up costs and may well be damaging the state's top calling card—its scenic beauty, the feel of its towns, its quality of place. (Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program, 2006, p. 8)

Arundel, Kennebunk and Lyman are positioned in the middle of these dynamic forces, potentially bringing change that is both good and ill. When economic activity picks up again, the pressures to return to the days of sprawl will still be present. Kennebunk Land Trust, joined by our sister land trusts throughout the state, will remain committed to conservation and suitable partnerships that keep our region both attractive to business and to the high quality of living that binds us all to these communities.

Please join us on Wednesday, September 21st, and celebrate our accomplishments as well as our commitments, as we review the year and outline our plans for the future!

The Secret Garden – Not a Secret for Long!

By Gordon Collins

The Kennebunk Land Trust (KLT) staff and Board of Directors are guided by the Trust's mission of preserving and protecting natural areas in Kennebunk, Lyman and Arundel. Two years ago, the Board of Directors spent time reviewing the Trust's mission from a strategic point of view. Out of this effort came a list of priorities to further guide our work. At the top of that list was the effort to increase communication and education with our supporters and the communities we serve about the Trust's work, and to make the properties that we steward more accessible to the public.

As you may remember, we started acting on this priority when we initiated work at Wonder Brook Preserve off Plummer Lane in Kennebunk in 2010. Don Gobeil, KLT Board Vice Chair, wrote an engaging article in KLT's Winter 2011 newsletter about work on this beautiful piece of property which was completed with invaluable assistance from the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC).

Earlier this year, when the Stewardship Committee met to select a focus property for 2011, they chose the preserve known as The Secret Garden. The Secret Garden is a nearly 40-acre parcel located behind the Evergreen Cemetery on Port Road in Kennebunk. The preserve is comprised of wetlands and upland forest surrounding Lake Brook. It was generously donated to the Trust in 2008 by long-time KLT supporter OP Jackson. OP joined the Trust in 1984 and served for six years as its President at a time when the Trust had no professional staff, only volunteers. Under his leadership, the Trust preserved nearly 900 acres of land in Kennebunk. More recently, OP not only donated this 40-acre parcel known as The Secret Garden, he also donated two other parcels as well – a 13-acre parcel and a 14-acre conservation easement. OP's land donation totals nearly 70 acres and his financial commitment to the Trust is outstanding. Kennebunk Land Trust is extraordinarily grateful to OP Jackson for his ongoing generosity and his exemplary leadership.

The 40-acre Secret Garden Preserve safeguards important wildlife habitat and provides protection to Lake Brook and many of its tributaries. Lake Brook flows through and out of The Secret Garden and eventually into the Atlantic Ocean near the Lower Village of Kennebunk. Access to this wonderful property is through an old woods road at the rear of the Evergreen Cemetery. The Trust is very grateful for the generosity of the Board of Directors of the Evergreen Cemetery for their willingness and cooperation in allowing access through their property to The Secret Garden.

The former woods road at the rear of the Cemetery is located next to the green cemetery maintenance building. The Secret Garden property begins just a few hundred feet in from the beginning of the woods road. Boasting both mixed deciduous and evergreen forests, there are also low wetland areas with views of Lake Brook and its tributaries.

Several ridges run approximately east to west through the middle and southern portions of the property along with a north-south

ridge that runs along the western edge. Most of the forest is high canopy with areas of fern, patches of low bushes, and young evergreens. Wildlife is abundant with evidence of deer, fox, squirrels, woodchuck and many birds including notably a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers. The Secret Garden is an outstanding property worthy of preservation as important green space and natural habitat.

In 2010, the Stewardship Committee began the process of breaking trail for access into the preserve. As a participant in the 2010 United Way of York County's Day of Caring, volunteers from KLT along with a crew from Pratt & Whitney in North Berwick built the first leg of the trail system leading to Lake Brook and installed two bog crossings.

Selected as the 2011 focus property, The Secret Garden Project was chosen for the Annual Fund-A-Need effort at this year's Annual Auction. Concurrent to this, Marie Louise St. Onge, the Executive Director of the Trust, contacted the Maine Conservation Corps to assist in the development of the full trail system. Early in the year with snow on the ground, Don Gobeil, member the KLT Stewardship Committee and Board Vice Chair, again used his expertise to layout the proposed trail network. Personnel from MCC visited the property several times over the past few months to refine the path of the new trail and to determine material requirements for bridging. The MCC team began their work in early July and remained on site for three weeks to accomplish the trail installation.

As envisioned, the trail will start at the center of the southern boundary of the Evergreen Cemetery and move to an initial contact with Lake Brook. From there it will follow close to the western border of the property where it will cross a tributary of Lake Brook. The trail then turns to the left and will generally follow the southern boundary where it will cross another tributary of the brook. At the eastern border the trail will once again cross Lake Brook before heading diagonally northwest across the property to rejoin the trail coming south from Evergreen Cemetery. All in all, the trail will cover approximately 1.5 miles and is considered easy to moderate walking. The Maine Conservation Corps will be aided and directed as they were last year at Wonder Brook Preserve by Stuart Bowen, member of the KLT Stewardship Committee, and Marie Louise St. Onge, KLT Executive Director.

The anticipated timeline for full completion of this project is the summer of 2012. Throughout the fall, KLT stewardship volunteers will work to blaze the installed trail, and in the spring signs will be installed. All of us at Kennebunk Land Trust invite you to stay tuned for the announcement of the opening celebration in 2012. We hope to see you there!

The Secret Garden is another of Kennebunk Land Trust's properties which is close to the center of Kennebunk. It joins Wonder Brook Preserve and the Mousam River Wildlife Sanctuary as being easily accessible and a nearby natural area to visit.

Wonder Brook Preserve – A Hidden Treasure By Tony Liguori



On Saturday, September 10th, Kennebunk Land Trust (KLT) will host an opening celebration at the Trust owned Wonder Brook Preserve. Join us from 10:00am to noon and enjoy a short stroll or a great hike, whichever suits your fancy. We'll have refreshments on hand for you to enjoy and volunteers will be available to introduce you to this very special place.

Over the past year, the KLT Stewardship Committee has worked on a project to develop a trail system interconnecting two KLT properties and a Town-owned parcel. The goal of this undertaking was to provide a true nature experience within minutes of downtown Kennebunk.

For many years, the Town-owned property has had a trail system but it was in need of repair. The two Trust properties, known as Wonder Brook Preserve and Murphy Preserve, did not have trails but their locations provided an obvious invitation to increase and improve public access.

As the Trust explored possibilities, it quickly became apparent that to accomplish a project of this magnitude would require more than a weekend and a generous band of volunteers. KLT contracted the services of the Maine Conservation Corps. The two teams that worked at the site last fall were instrumental in the implementation of critical stages of the effort. And did they do a great job! With help from members of the Trust's Stewardship

Committee, talented volunteers from across the community were equally essential to the project's success. Volunteers included: area Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, New School students, basketball moms, soccer dads, and Pratt & Whitney employees to name a few. The result of this fabulous collaboration of everyone's generosity and talent is what some are naming "...a hidden treasure, right in our backyard...."

The entrance to the trail at Wonder Brook is readily identified and well-marked with signs and red blazed markers. The initial section of trail is "easy" and you will immediately find yourself in a setting of high-canopy hardwood with low-growth forest ground cover consisting of ferns, deciduous shrubs and various woodland flowers. After a short walk, you will begin to descend and then come to a bridge crossing over the fresh waters of Wonder Brook.

From this point, the trail meanders following the flow of the brook to its confluence with the Kennebunk River. This section of trail is considered "moderate" with descents and climbs that cross small ravines which, during periods of heavy run-off, feed the brook.

At this point, the surrounding forest is comprised of both hardwood and softwood that in some areas provide two or more stories of forest canopy, providing excellent habitat for a variety of birds and other wildlife. You'll want to listen for the Pileated Woodpecker, watch for the White Tail Deer, and many, many other

forest denizens. Each of these species, as well as others, leaves their mark where they live – whether in tree bark or in the soft dirt at the trail's edge.

As you continue on the trail and approach the Kennebunk River, you will note the ocean's tidal effect. At high tide, the river's depth rises by several feet; at low tide, it can be possible in some places for the river to be shallow enough to wade across. As a matter of interest, just down the river there once were a series of locks that served the early Maine wooden shipbuilding industry. On a high tide, the wooden sailing vessels were floated downstream to Kennebunkport and the Atlantic Ocean beyond.

The trail then follows the Kennebunk River upstream offering spectacular views of the river and frequent sightings of various waterfowl that inhabit the area. This portion of the river is also known for its brown trout fishery which captures the attention of many local fishermen.

Continuing along the trail, you will transition away from the river and into stands of softwood pines. As you wind your way through the woods, now following 'white' blaze trail markings, you continue your return trek to the parking area.

We are certain you will enjoy your outdoor experience at Wonder Brook and will want to return again and again to savor this very special place – preserved for you by Kennebunk Land Trust. Please remember to leave nothing behind but footprints so others may also enjoy the "wonders" of Wonder Brook Preserve.

As always, your comments and recommendations are welcome. You can reach us at 985-8734.

To visit Wonder Brook Preserve travel one half mile from downtown Kennebunk on Rte. 35 (Summer St.) to Plummer Lane, just before the light at Sea Rd. take a left onto Plummer Lane. The lane jogs to the right and ends in the parking area where you will find the KLT information kiosk.

Come see for yourself the "wonders" of Wonder Brook Preserve.



2011 Annual Appeal

At the beginning of the fourth quarter, land trust Board members and staff will extend their request for your participation in the Trust's Annual Appeal. Outreach this year will include letters and telephone calls to invite your comment and request your contribution.

As you consider our request, we hope you will take the time to ponder the many ways in which the land trust enriches your life. Conserved land is an invaluable asset to individuals and community. Green spaces support clean air, protected river frontage promotes clean waterways and watershed areas, open fields promote agricultural land uses, forested trails offer no cost public access to residents and visitors providing opportunities for low impact recreation such as hiking, skiing, fishing, and bird watching to name a few.

The economic benefits of conserved land are innumerable including, for example, a reduction in stresses on municipal infrastructures and the enhancement of property values. Not only is an individual's quality of life improved by having nearby protected lands for enjoyment and respite, but a town's identity is enriched through the protection of historic land practices and scenic vistas.

We hope that you – our constituents – will make a generous tax deductible gift to further the work the Trust began 39 years ago. Please join us in helping to conserve what is special about the Kennebunk/Arundel region – and leave a legacy for your children and theirs.



Kennebunk Land Trust

11 York Street Kennebunk, Maine 04043
(207) 985-8734 kennbklt@gwi.net
www.kennebunklandtrust.org

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