

# LAND LEGACY

A NEWSLETTER OF THE KENNEBUNK LAND TRUST

## Wonder Brook Project Underway

by Don Gobeil

Most organizations, be they public or private, express a vision to outsiders in the form of a Mission Statement. It can take the form of a static, feel good blanket statement that lies buried in a manager's file cabinet, or it could be prominently featured and displayed in promotional materials and websites. Here at the Kennebunk Land Trust, our Mission Statement is very much a guiding ideal, referred to often by both seasoned Board members and new volunteers alike. The KLT Mission Statement guides our efforts in key areas: 1) To acquire and/or receive parcels of land in order to preserve and protect the natural areas of the Kennebunk/Arundel region, and 2) To promote conservation, educational efforts and collaboration.

Over the past couple of years, the KLT Board of Directors has made an earnest effort to assess the Trust's overall effectiveness in adhering to, and advancing the organization based upon its stated

mission. It became apparent to us that while we historically have been very effective in the areas of land purchase and easement acquisition, we also believe more emphasis on educational outreach and collaboration leading to increased public access would be beneficial. Specifically, while KLT owns a variety of land parcels scattered throughout the area, the opportunities for the public to visit and enjoy some of those properties are limited. We believe that promoting conservation values and natural resource protection includes education, and that education is connected to offering the general public more opportunities to interact with and

enjoy the beautiful natural areas that we are so fortunate to have in this region. The following case study is a good example of our recent efforts to bring a project to fruition.

Wonder Brook is a gently meandering water course that originates west of Portland Road (Route One) in the Shoppers Village area of Kennebunk. There's not much to see in this area that would give anyone an indication of what lies downstream. But when one continues downstream, one finds the area quickly transformed into a remote and naturally scenic waterway corridor. Eventually, Wonder Brook flows into the Kennebunk River in the area of

Kennebunk known as The Landing. At the heart of this undeveloped area lies a large amount of conserved land owned by the KLT and another parcel owned by the Town of Kennebunk. Access to this land is primarily from



Plummer Lane, where a small parking area awaits the visitor. The Town owned property abuts two KLT properties, Wonder Brook Preserve and Murphy Preserve, to form a protected oasis totaling approximately 80 acres. Until recently, visitors to this area could avail themselves to just over one mile of trails, with the majority located on the Town owned portion.

Yearly, the KLT Stewardship Committee designates a particular KLT holding as a 'Focus' property, meaning that over the course of the following year the focus property would receive special attention. It could mean designating

continued inside

### DO we have your e-mail address?

We are updating our technology and outreach systems at the KLT office and we want to keep in touch with you.

Please send your updated e-mail address to us at:  
[adminkennbkltr@gwi.net](mailto:adminkennbkltr@gwi.net)

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Marie Louise St. Onge

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## Stewardship Partner-Tom's of Maine

When Dee Roberts of Tom's of Maine reached out to Kennebunk Land Trust's Executive Director Marie Louise St. Onge to invite the Trust to be recipients of their corporate "Goodness Day" the Trust eagerly accepted. As part of its company-wide endorsement of volunteerism and community participation, Tom's of Maine sponsored "Goodness Day" to give back to the local community.

On a warm, sunny August day, the six-woman team of employees from Tom's hailing from Kentucky, Arizona, California and Maine worked with four KLT Stewardship Committee members to accomplish great things. The group worked on a detailed plan of upgrades at the Trust owned Alewife Woods Preserve. Over the course of the day a bog bridge was built, water bars were installed to re-direct runoff, a parking barrier was installed, blow-downs were cleared, KLT signs were put in place, and trail clean-up was completed.

The public is invited to enjoy nearly three miles of trails at Alewife Woods Preserve, located on Cole Road in Kennebunk. The preserve is open during daylight hours. Fires, motorized vehicles and camping are not allowed. FMI call the Trust: **985-8734**.



From L to R: Scott Gasperin, Abby Russell, Heather Taylor, Fiona Russell, Laura Scheel, Peter Phaneuf, Julie Sprague, Elizabeth Day, Gordon Collins and Stuart Bowen.

## Community Ballot Contribution

Kennebunk Land Trust is pleased to announce receipt of funds from Kennebunk Savings Bank's 2010 Community Ballot Program. Annually, KSB customers cast their votes for the non-profit organization of their choice. This year, KLT garnered more votes than ever! KLT is pleased and appreciative for the generosity demonstrated by this KSB program and we are very grateful for votes cast by Trust supporters. Thank you Kennebunk Savings Bank and thank YOU!

## New Board Members and Newly Elected Officers

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the recent election of officers and new Board appointments. Serving in leadership positions are: Gordon Collins, Chair; Don Gobeil, Vice-Chair; Dick Barnes, Treasurer; Ann Legg, Secretary.

Stuart Bowen and Scott Gasperin were recently appointed to serve on the Board. Both members of KLT's Stewardship Committee, they each bring broad experience and talent to the Trust. Stuart has worked as a civil engineer, in the hospitality field, and he has been a small business owner. Scott has experience in forestry, land management, and educational program management. The Board of Directors is happy to welcome their expanded participation with the Trust.



Stuart Bowen



Scott Gasperin

## Norcross Wildlife Foundation

KLT was recently awarded a grant from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation. Funding from this grant is earmarked for technology upgrades. Kennebunk Land Trust is grateful to NWF for their consideration and generous support.

## Sewall Legacy Continues

Elmina B. Sewall began her philanthropic work while living in Kennebunk. For decades during her lifetime, Mrs. Sewall was a passionate and dedicated supporter of KLT and many other non-profit organizations. Now, her generosity lives on through the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation. Kennebunk Land Trust is very proud to be the recipient of a 2010 grant award from the Sewall Foundation. Funds from this gift will be used to enhance the Trust's outreach and operations within its service area.

## LL Bean Land Trust Grant Program

Kennebunk Land Trust was recently awarded an LL Bean Land Trust Program Grant. The Board of Directors and staff of the Trust are proud to receive this honor. Funds from the grant will be used to underwrite portions of the Trust's stewardship work at its Wonder Brook Preserve in Kennebunk.

The LL Bean Land Trust Grant Program is a joint effort of Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the LL Bean Corporation.

## Wonder Brook Project Underway continued from front page

additional resources to repair or improve facilities such as trails and bridges, or repair naturally occurring problems like erosion or storm damage.

In 2009, the two contiguous preserves, Wonder Brook and Murphy, were selected as the focus property for 2010. Committee members believed the area was under-utilized, yet had the potential to offer the public a more expansive experience. The majority of existing trails were on Town property, with only about half a mile of trail on the Wonder Brook Preserve, and no trail at all on the Murphy Preserve. The Murphy Preserve lies at the junction of Wonder Brook and the Kennebunk River, but only the heartiest of individuals could take advantage of the scenic beauty it offered. KLT volunteer reconnaissance led the committee to realize that a trail expansion onto the Murphy Preserve was feasible, and it would offer a great opportunity to enhance and improve access and enjoyment of the preserve.

Once the vision of an expanded trail system in this area was discussed and accepted by the Stewardship Committee, and approved by the full KLT Board of Directors, it was time to set the project in motion. At this point, many of you are probably asking yourselves, "How hard can it be to create a new trail?". The reality of trail creation involves more than simply walking through the woods with a chainsaw. Deeds and plot plans needed to be studied in order to begin the process of finding and marking property lines in the field. Global positioning (GPS) equipment was utilized to accurately map existing trails and land features, leading to the creation of a base map that would serve as the foundation of what was to follow. Only then can the process of new trail identification and design take place. Through several bushwhacking endeavors on the part of committee volunteers, a projected trail alignment was marked in the field. Again, GPS equipment was utilized to accurately map the "bread crumb" trail and depict its location and configuration on the aerial photo base map. This graphic representation served as both a design tool and a marketing tool. We live in a visual world, and being able to convey the vision and potential of this proposal to other

people in this manner was instrumental in building support and excitement for the project.

In May of 2010, the trail project was the focus of KLT's 'Fund a Need' campaign that is part of the KLT annual auction. The support and generosity of the auction participants was heartfelt and left little doubt that we were on the right track and indeed had undertaken a worthwhile project. Armed with this support, along with funds to meet the projected costs, it was now time to get to work. This is where the organizational skills of KLT's Executive Director, Marie Louise St. Onge, rose to full view. Through her efforts, contact was made with the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) to discuss the possibility of hiring their work crews to do the actual construction. The extent of the work proposed, including a major new bridge, a couple of secondary bridges, bog crossing walkways and significant trail cutting and shaping, all indicated that this was not a project to be undertaken by KLT volunteers. Through several on-site visits and discussions with MCC leaders, a list of needed materials was generated, along with the expected labor costs to make it all happen.

Once all the details with MCC were ironed out and agreed to, the calendar was set. But simply hiring a crew from MMC is not necessarily a "call us when you're done" kind of process. In order to maximize the productivity of the hired crew, KLT agreed to handle the logistics of securing the material, delivering it to the site, and then finding a way to get the material in the woods where it was to be utilized. After delivery trucks unloaded the lumber and material to the parking area at the entrance to the preserve, a small army of volunteers set out to laboriously hand carry the supplies to the final destination. Volunteers included KLT Board members, long time KLT supporters, neighborhood residents and their children, along with area Boy Scouts and their parents. With the staging of the material complete, the bulk of the work would now be done by the MCC crews. But the actual construction is not without continued involvement by the KLT. Stewardship Committee member Stuart Bowen graciously offered his time and expertise to act as KLT's 'Clerk of the

Works' to help coordinate the arrival and set-up of the MCC crew workers, review with their leadership the design details associated with the project and generally offer whatever logistical support needed to keep the process on track. His involvement, along with that of Marie Louise St. Onge in the preconstruction process and throughout the construction itself, was instrumental to the successful outcome.

The result of this entire effort includes a new (safe) bridge over Wonder Brook, several new bog crossing walkways, and over a mile of new trails, much of it directly along the Kennebunk River. This addition, along with the existing trail network, means that there are now over 2.5 miles of trails in the combined KLT & Town properties.

Located a short distance from the center of Kennebunk, this beautiful, engaging natural area is a gem. If you haven't visited the Wonder Brook area yet, we encourage you to make a point of doing so, you won't be disappointed.

There's a bit more work to be completed, but stay tuned for information about an 'opening event' to be held later this year to formally unveil the new work and welcome visitors with tours and activities. Kennebunk Land Trust and its many volunteers are proud of the work that was done to complete this project. We think it is a demonstrable and tangible representation of a Mission Statement in use. We hope you agree.





The Board of Directors and staff of Kennebunk Land Trust extend sincere thanks to all of our supporters for their generous contributions and kind acts during 2010. If your name is not among those listed, please make a gift in 2011. We also gratefully acknowledge those who so graciously support our annual dinner and auction. A listing of those supporters appears in the auction program.

# Thank You for 2010 Support!

## Individual Household

### \$1K and Over

Daniel & Bunny Burke  
John & Nancy Cummings  
Annette Gosnell  
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Elmina B. Sewall  
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LL Bean Maine Land  
Trust Grant Program  
Norcross Foundation

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Estabrooks  
Kennebunk Savings Bank  
Foundation  
Kennebunk Veterinary  
Hospital  
Kennebunkport Inn  
Lyons Coffee Service  
Marathon Real Estate  
R & E Associates  
Seacoast Garden Club  
Tamarack Tree &  
Landscape  
The Colony Hotel  
Woltersdorf Inc.

### Up to \$99

Bowley Builders  
Mann Memorial Clinic

## Volunteerism: **So Many Ways of Helping Help**

Peter Phaneuf



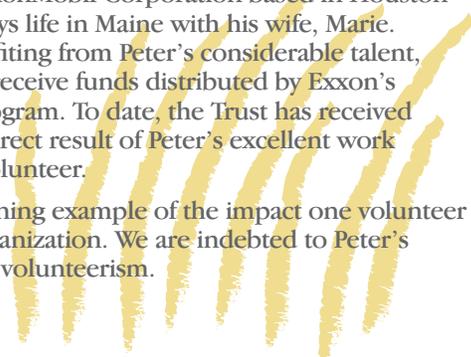
Since its incorporation in 1972, Kennebunk Land Trust has benefited greatly from the interest, commitment and generosity of volunteers. Innumerable hours are donated annually in support of vital stewardship efforts and tasks to ensure that KLT properties are protected and, where appropriate, enjoyed by the public. Much of this work is done by volunteers. The Trust's Board of Directors is comprised of talented volunteers who bring strength and consideration to the governance matters of the Trust. And many of the important clerical and administrative tasks that support and make possible the Trust's fundraisers and events are accomplished by volunteers as well. We are grateful to each of them.

Peter Phaneuf is one of those volunteers. Peter's interest in the Trust was sparked in 2002 when a friend told him about KLT's land conservation work. Since then, Peter has been a vital part of the Trust "family." He volunteers his

time and talent in every aspect of the Trust's work. Peter has given countless hours photographing auction items, posting signs on properties, serving as a Board member, responding to stewardship calls, and much more.

Peter worked for many years as a Senior Staff Supply Coordinator for ExxonMobil Corporation based in Houston Texas. He now enjoys life in Maine with his wife, Marie. In addition to benefiting from Peter's considerable talent, KLT is fortunate to receive funds distributed by Exxon's Volunteer Grant Program. To date, the Trust has received over \$11,000 as a direct result of Peter's excellent work and his choice to volunteer.

Peter's story is a shining example of the impact one volunteer can make on an organization. We are indebted to Peter's generous spirit and volunteerism.



## Kennebunk Land Trust **New Look**



### *Kennebunk Land Trust*



When the Kennebunk Land Trust was founded in 1972, it was incorporated under the name Ramanascho Land Preservation Trust (RLPT) in honor of Ramanascho, a Sagamore woman who deeded much of the Kennebunk region to early settlers. The original logo design reflected the important role this noted Native American played in the early history of Kennebunk.

Over the past 38 years, the Trust has grown from ownership of two properties to overseeing the protection of 3,400 acres. KLT has evolved into a dynamic and comprehensive organization and community partner focused on meeting the land conservation needs of the Kennebunk/Arundel region.

Given the Trust's growing responsibilities, the Board of Directors voted to adopt a new design for the KLT logo. The new design uses bold graphics and compelling imagery and color to represent the Trust's expanded community role. The use of green and blue in the logo is representative of clean air and water, wildlife and vegetative habitat, farmland, and conserved land for recreational enjoyment.

We hope you'll visit KLT preserves and enjoy what conserved land has to offer. As the Trust transitions to its new logo, keep an eye out for new signs featuring the design that will be springing up on Trust properties through out Kennebunk and Arundel.

# Kennebunk Land Trust 11th Annual Dinner & Auction

Mark your calendar for a great evening! We're happy to invite you to attend the Trust's Eleventh Annual Dinner and Auction scheduled for Friday evening, May 6th. Keeping with tradition, the evening will include both live and silent auctions. Professional auctioneer, John Boyd, will preside and local favorite Joe Foster will emcee for the evening. For a taste of something new, Destination Catering will present delicious hors d'oeuvres during the preview, followed by a delectable sit-down dinner.

You won't want to miss the outstanding items presented including gift certificates to your favorite restaurants, theatre tickets, ski tickets, apparel, hand-crafted housewares, jewelry, furniture, artwork, sporting goods and much, much more. Please visit our web site often beginning in February to preview items, [www.kennebunklandtrust.org](http://www.kennebunklandtrust.org).

Advance reservations are required and available through the Trust office, 985-8734. The cost is **\$55/person** and **\$100/two**. Remember, this is the season opener and it's a "sold-out" event annually. We look forward to hearing from you.

On Saturday, June 26th, members of the KLT Stewardship Committee hosted a public walk at the Trust owned Butler Preserve in Kennebunk. Photographer, naturalist and KLT Board member, Scott Gasperin, led the walk identifying plant life and highlighting features of the preserve.

The public is invited to enjoy the preserve for passive recreational purposes in all seasons during daylight hours. Comprised of easy terrain, the trail meanders through forested areas to the banks of the Kennebunk River.



*Kennebunk Land Trust*

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