

LAND LEGACY

A NEWSLETTER OF THE KENNEBUNK LAND TRUST

Spring 2025

Hello KLT Community,

I am so glad to be writing to you again to welcome the start of spring.

Lately, I've been reflecting on the land and how nature offers a sense of calm. Why is that, I wonder? While the experience is unique for everyone, I'm drawn to nature's stability in an ever-changing world. For centuries, it has provided a home for plants and animals—and thanks to your generosity, it will continue to do so in Kennebunk for generations to come.

Land trusts ensure a place to land, now and forever. Your support keeps these landscapes protected, accessible, and thriving—for wildlife, watersheds, and the community. Whether offering a sanctuary for plants and animals, a quiet space for reflection, or opportunities for hands-on learning, together, we create a lasting impact.

In this newsletter, you'll read how purple martins have returned for the first time in seven years, finding a home at Madelyn Marx Preserve. Once-forgotten American chestnut trees are taking root at For All Forever and Alewife Woods Preserve. Walkers and hikers find solace on our trails, reconnecting with nature and each other. And student-designed seasonal posts now stand at Alewife Woods, inspiring future conservationists.

This is what it means to protect land in perpetuity. Because of you, this work continues, ensuring that people, wildlife, and nature always have a place to thrive. Thank you for being part of this mission and helping make conservation not just a promise, but a certainty.

Thank you for your continued support, and let's keep this work going strong for years to come!

- Sandy



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**Administration &
Development Manager**

Nancy Trottier



Kennebunk Land Trust

In this edition:

- Committee Corner
- Earth Day Auction!
- New Board Members
- Nature Walk Series
- Upcoming Events

It was another busy year for the Stewardship Committee!

This team clears our trails, build bridges, monitors the properties, and develops plans for land management. Our trails get heavy use as more people seek nature and outdoor recreation, and we are so grateful for this team.

Thank you to the volunteers who put in great effort to keep our trails open. Your work makes it possible for everyone to safely enjoy the great outdoors.

If you are interested in volunteering, we will be scheduling spring trail cleanup and more. Contact KLT for details.



Volunteer form here!

Land Stewardship Corner



Volunteer Work Days



Trail Remediation Projects



2025 Nature Walks!

April 5 - For All Forever
Featured Partner: Habitat for Humanity

May 3 - Alewife Woods
Featured Partner: Animal Welfare Society

June 7 - Wonder Brook Park
Featured Partner: Kennebunk Free Library

July 5 - Butler Preserve
Featured Partner: Brick Store Museum
Special Theme - History of Picnic Rock

August 2 - Hope Woods
Featured Partner: The Center

September 6 - Alewife Woods
Featured Partner: Kennebunk Outfitters x Hoka Shoes
Special Theme - Preparedness for Hiking and Walking the Outdoors

October 4 - Oxbow Preserve
Featured Partner: The Center for Wildlife
Special Theme - Beaver Activity!

All walks are from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Registrations are appreciated, and walk ins are welcome!



Kennebunk Land Trust
kennebunklandtrust.org
info@kennebunklandtrust.org

Our Ever Popular Guided Monthly Nature Walks!

Join us the first Saturday of the month walk and marvel at nature's wonderful mysteries. Enjoy nature with an experienced guide in a relaxed, informal and curious style.

2025's nature walk program is special!

We are partnering with a different local organization each month to learn about their work while exploring the natural world.

Save the Date Earth Day Auction!

April 22 - 29, 2025



Local items, trips, goods, and more!

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Fundraise for Land Conservation!

Sharing our Preserves

Programs across our protected lands

KLT is working with the American Chestnut Foundation to plant chestnut trees on our preserves, preserving the genetics of Maine trees. This will help restore chestnut groves in native locations and diversify the chestnut gene pool in preparation for new climate and pest challenges.



For All Forever Preserve

In June 2024, students from the elementary school art programs in RSU 21 painted four posts representing each season. These posts were fitted with a birdhouse on top, and thoughtfully installed at Alewife Woods Preserve for all to enjoy!



The successful establishment of a Purple Martin colony at Madelyn Marx Preserve is the result of nearly a decade of partnership between by York County Audubon and KLT. Breeding was first after gourd installation in 2016. Plans are now in place to expand the site and support this declining species.

New Board Members

Welcome!

Aaron Nalezny

Several years ago, Aaron moved to Maine sight unseen for a job with a local bank. Growing up, he always enjoyed being outdoors, be it on the water, in the woods, or simply in the backyard.

The Maine perspective of conserving natural resources dovetailed nicely with his personal experiences, making him grateful to be a part of KLT - an organization supported by so many dedicated volunteers and the generous Kennebunk community.



Beth Sandmire

We are so excited to have Beth Sandmire back on the KLT Board!

Beth has lived in Kennebunk since 1994, and has been passionate about land conservation and the environment her whole life.

Beth worked as a Speech/Language Pathologist and is currently a seasonal local history tour guide. She enjoys walking the local nature trails with her dog, spending time traveling with her husband and kids, and being outdoors whenever possible.



We opened a new preserve!

Tributary Preserve stands as a shining example of community collaboration. A local landowner generously



donated the land, then dedicated volunteers hiked through the woods to design trail routes. Students, neighbors, and businesses joined together to haul lumber, cut materials, construct bridges, rake paths,

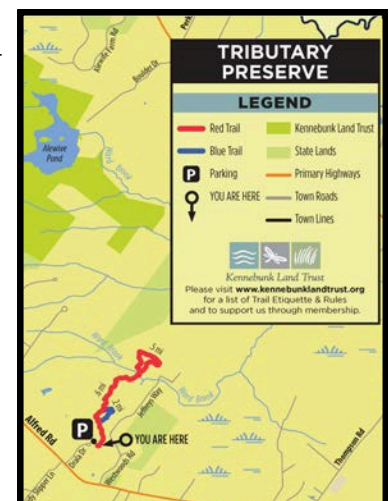


and dig signposts—building the preserve piece by piece.

Today, this collective effort has created two miles of woodland and wetland trails, now open to the public within 50-acres of protected forest habitat.



Tributary Preserve shows what is possible when a community comes together for a common goal. We can't do it without you!



What we've been up to!



Monthly Nature Walks



Kicking off a Strategic Planning Process



Volunteer Work Days

Coming up in 2025!

ONGOING - Monthly Nature Walks

First Saturday of Each Month; rotating locations

We are partnering with a different local organization each month to learn about their work while exploring the natural world.

25th Annual Earth Day Auction

April 22 - 29, 2024. Online.

Fundraise for conservation!



May Migration Bird Walks - For All Forever Preserve, 7 a.m.

- Sunday, May 4th
- Wednesday, May 14th
- Sunday, May 18th
- Wednesday, May 28th



Led by local birder and photographer Ken Janes.
Great for beginner and experienced birders alike!

Seaside Summer Soiree & 'Nature's Canvas: Unveiled' Art Auction

July 10th, Colony Hotel

Take home a piece of our preserves
through artist creations!



Fall Social and Annual Meeting,

September, 2025

KLT's year-in-review celebration with the
community



6th Annual Pumpkin Hunt

October 1st - 31st. Hope Woods.

Scavenger hunt for pumpkins through the woods with a
candy reward!



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**THANK YOU TO OUR
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Kennebunk Land Trust

2025 Newsletter



Kennebunk Land Trust

Permanently conserving and stewarding land to benefit natural and human communities.



Ways To Support Our Work

Gifts of Stock

Gifts of Land + Assets

Estate Planning + Bequests

Monthly Memberships

One Time Donations

Be a part of the mission!

Your contribution maintains trails, develops educational programs, holds community events, and more!

Reach out or visit us online for giving options.

kennebunklandtrust.org/giving



Support us here!