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# A Word From Our Director

*Tom Bradbury*

Often when I'm out and about, which is admittedly less than it once was these days, I'm routinely asked, "So, how is the Trust doing?"

"Fine," I respond automatically before too quickly concluding, "We continue to move forward." Short and sweet. Where we are moving to and why, and the complexities involved with each step that is taken is generally left unstated, not because I'm unwilling or unable to give it, but because to do so would require a commitment of time that I'm not sure my listener would care to commit to. Simply stated, for a full time staff of three we have a lot going on.

I'd like to think that it was easier in the early days. It wasn't really, but I'd like to think that. We were all volunteers then and we had a dream. We saw our town changing and we thought that if we could just set aside those special places that everyone loved, then the essential beauty and character of our community would remain largely the same for our generation and all that would follow. How that would actually happen was a bit vague at first, but with an unbridled optimism, the energy and enthusiasm of youth and a public that cared, a great deal was accomplished. One island protected in time led to all but one in Cape Porpoise harbor being preserved. Properties at Goose Rocks Beach were set aside and forest holdings that created wildlife corridors and trail systems were acquired. With persistence and the hard work of our Trail Stewards, that trail system grew to 25 miles of often interconnected paths through the woods. Island camping was watched over by a dedicated group of Island Stewards. Access points to the shore were donated or purchased, and all that we owned both protected nature and allowed for the passive enjoyment of all, for free and forever.

But inherent with the idea of offering something

free and forever came challenges, some obvious, others surprises of culture or nature. We knew from the start that we would have to raise the funds needed in order to create and maintain our mission. Thankfully, at the beginning we didn't know that true figure. We just had faith in our membership and they never let us down. We

continue that work today, trying to broaden our base of support for the benefit of us all. We knew that we would have to move from a volunteer organization to a staff when our holdings reached a critical mass. That happened twenty years ago, at which point we started the design and construction of our headquarters.

We also knew that with each added property there would come added responsibilities that we would have to deal with.

What we didn't know was that our children would stop playing as we had, that unstructured play would drop to just minutes per day and that they would know little of the landscape that surrounded them. When that happened, we created an educational program that started at the Consolidated School in Kennebunkport and later spread throughout the district. It now even includes a Gulf of Maine class comprised of Kennebunk High School and University of New England students in which KHS participants earn college credits. What's more, the KHS alternative education class has grown to be an active part of what we do.

We never fully realized the extent of our town's history, but when artifacts began being discovered on our island holdings we created an archaeological program to unlock our land's secrets. What is being found proves that people have been part of this special place not for hundreds of years, but for thousands. With that



knowledge we became active participants in the First Light Program, a learning journey with the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet and Mi'kmaq communities.

Above all, we never could have imagined that rising sea levels due to a changing climate would severely threaten our promise to protect our holdings forever. When that knowledge became clear, we responded vigorously to take our Gulf of Maine program to scale. We founded the Kennebunkport Climate Initiative, a separate 501-C-3, which became The Climate Initiative as it gained national stature. In just two short years an amazing Board of Directors and Board of Advisors have been created to assist a staff of 21 employees across the nation. They are doing some amazing work, providing hope for our future.

These things, and many more, are as interconnected as our trail system, all leading us down new and exciting paths every day. It's a lot to get into a brief conversation. That's why we've created this magazine, to try and bring you up to date with some of the work that is currently taking place and to allow you meet some of the people behind it. We hope that you will enjoy learning more about us. More than that, we hope that you will learn enough to want to become a Trust member. It's only by all of us working together for a common cause in this special place that so much has been and can be accomplished. It's only by all of us working together that we can keep Kennebunkport the beautiful place that we love to call home. We would be grateful for your support.



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# Celebrating a Half Century of Preservation

Kennebunkport Conservation Trust Commemorates 50 years with release of a new book  
*To Preserve Forever*  
*The History of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust*  
1973 — 2023

To Preserve Forever- The History of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust 1973 — 2023 is a 213-page, hardcover book, chronicling the 50-year history of the Trust through words and images. Many people have put their heart, soul, sweat equity, monetary and real estate contributions, both large and small, into a common belief — preserving land for use by current and future generations, and to managing properties in a way that reflects the natural and cultural heritage of Kennebunkport.

KCT volunteer, former treasurer and past board member David Jourdan spent the last year writing this book. “When KCT executive director Tom Bradbury and I started talking about celebrating our 50th anniversary, I thought it would be great to try to summarize our past in a coffee-table book about the history of KCT. With Tom onboard, I began by sorting and organizing boxes, drawers, and tubs of records stored at our headquarters. I came to appreciate the nearly complete archive of our five-decade history of activities. Tom had the foresight to have many historical and contemporary photos scanned over the past fifteen years, and with volunteer support; this archive amounts to nearly 160,000 images,” Jourdan said. He continued, “But the volume of items is not important; rather, the value lies in the content. The real benefit of the exercise in archiving the collection was to at least glance at most photos, allowing me to get a sense of what is there: who we were, what we have become, the process of becoming, funny anecdotes, memorable events, and knowledge that can guide our future. I have tried to capture some of this heritage in this work.”

Drawing from years of historical documents, vintage images from the KCT archive along with new images by photographers Tess Johnson, Bob Dennis, and others, the book contains dozens of member interviews and a foreword by Ellie Dow Sanderson who has been involved with the Trust since its beginning.

According to Jourdan the book “explains the origins of the organization in the 1960s and tells of its founding in 1973. There is a narrative of each decade covering major events, the evolution of the Trust, and member anecdotes. A complete record of land acquisitions and a list of major contributors are included. A historical timeline running through the book shows how developments in environmental movements, happenings in pop culture, disasters, and discoveries occurred in the context of KCT’s history.”

Jourdan concluded “The production of this book was a labor of love and a rewarding undertaking. I hope the membership (and future members) will enjoy the story and appreciate being a part of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust.”

The book is scheduled to be released in December 2022 and will retail for \$100-with 100% of the proceeds to benefit the Trust. It can be pre-purchased under the Engage: Shop KCT tab at <https://www.kporttrust.org/>. You can also pre-order by sending a note and payment to Kennebunkport Conservation Trust, PO Box 7004, Cape Porpoise, ME 04014.



To  
Preserve  
Forever

The History of the Kennebunkport  
Conservation Trust

1973-2023

# Arnie Amoroso, in His Own Words, on 50 Years at the Trust

*Shelley Wigglesworth*

Arnold Amoroso may be best known as a teacher at Kennebunk High School. The now retired educator worked in the English Department at Kennebunk High School from 1966 through 2004.

A native of Natick, Massachusetts, Amoroso came to Maine after being offered a secondary position at Kennebunk High that included an assistant football stipend, and a young Tom Bradbury became one of his charges.

He and his wife, Grace, lived in Kennebunkport at Anvil Apartments, the old blacksmith shop on Ocean Avenue across from the foot of Elm Street. They later welcomed a son into their family.

Amoroso said his appreciation for conservation began when he was a child and grew throughout his life. "When I was a first grader, I would ride my bike the half mile up Walnut Hill to my grandmother's house and pass a giant corn field stretching somewhere off into the distance. By fourth grade, 'Beaconsfield' had replaced that corn field with ranch houses on slabs, rapidly built and soon occupied. Close by, at the Weathersfield development the same was happening, after the building of the Quartermaster Army research and development lab where high tech clothing and survival gear was designed and tested. The result was a boom. Beyond the loss of corn fields and open space, was that the Natick population grew from 13,000 to 27,000 between my first and seventh grade years. That change made an impression on me." He continued, "Later, while living

in Kennebunkport from 1966-1969, the condominiums across from The Colony were constructed, and quiet grumblings accompanied the lost vista at the end of the river. I began to see that Kennebunkport too, was vulnerable, not to large housing developments but to the loss of the spaces that helped to define

character of the town.

In 1969 I got an MA fellowship, and we were in Orono for a year. We returned from Orono to Cape Porpoise. We rented an apartment from Hale Whitehouse, and I somehow met with Tad Dow. . .

He and Sandy Brook, editor and owner of the then York County Coast Star, would spearhead a campaign to purchase Vaughn's Island to save it from becoming a housing development. Hard to believe now, but that was a surprising, and

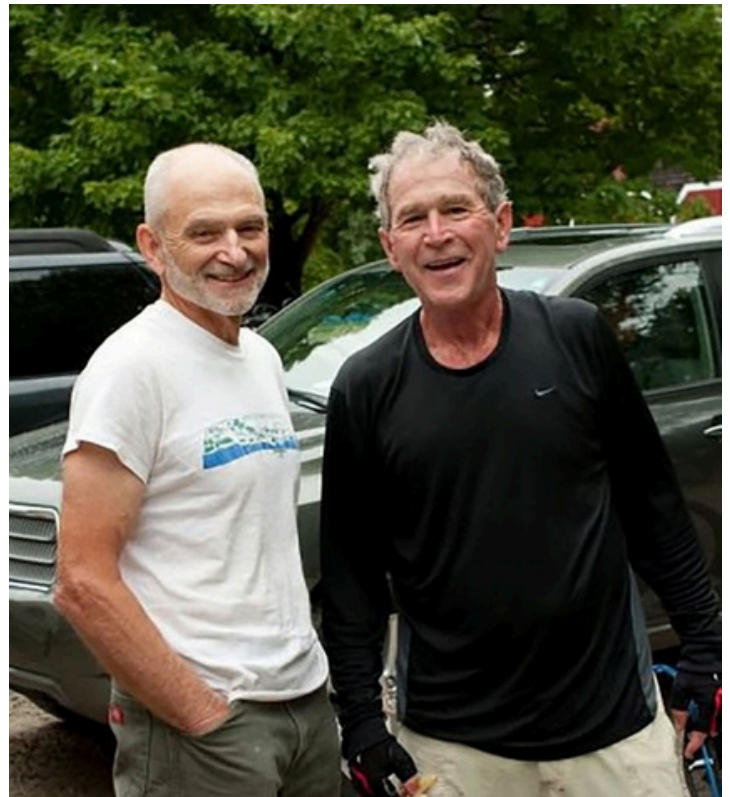
probably to some foolish endeavor, and that is how I became involved with the Trust."

Sometime later, Amoroso attended a meeting to set up a group that could become a vehicle for people to donate land and receive a tax reduction. "In April of 1973 six of us met in Hale Whitehouse's parlor, I believe with the lawyer John Bradford, who explained the bylaws he had drawn up that we were about to sign. I know that in addition to Grace and me, the group included Ralph Smith, Peter Sargent, Dorcas Zeiner, and Hale Whitehouse. I don't recall any meetings in the first year. The donation vehicle existed, and we just waited. By the time we were meeting at Bradbury's, the board had grown and



included Steve Emmons who suggested we needed to conduct meetings more under Robert's Rules. Up to that time open discussion was the norm. When Marion Fretz left town, I became President of the Trust, by default and remained for a long time," he quipped.

Today, almost a half century later, Amoroso remains involved and active in the Trust and currently serves on the Board's Governance Committee. He spoke of his memories of the Trust over the years, beginning with the annual Phil Matthews Lobster Bake. "I recall the struggles, some now humorous in hindsight, like carrying chairs down the stairs at Atlantic Hall, loading them in Steve Emmons' and Peter Sargent's trucks, and transporting them, precariously balanced, to the end of Langsford Road for use at the Phil Matthews Lobster Bake. The tables followed later and were difficult to load but



easier to extract from the dining hall—no stairs. At the end of the evening the process reversed, having lost one or two of the carriers whose evening had ended early. I particularly recall Steve who negotiated the stairs even after he was sick. For all of us, about midnight, the job completed felt good. In those first years we also put up a modest tent. Peter Sargent was the supervisor as we fought to raise that thing, set the posts, and pound in the pins at the perimeter. Never, in those early years or later did we face a storm that would have tested the efficiency of our tent raising—a good thing.

The Phil Matthews Lobster Bake also included fireworks. "In the early years, we transported the tubes for the explosives (or whatever the fireworks people call that product) out to Vaughn's Island where the professionals would set them off. The next morning those heavy, residue covered tubes would be returned to the end of the long Matthews pier where we would carry them, hands and clothes blackened, to the Atlas truck to be transported back to New Hampshire. Phil Matthews had been the basketball coach of the owner at Atlas, in later years Atlas provided a surprisingly spectacular show—all for free, in remembrance, transporting and setting them off on a barge themselves. This left the tube carrying by us unnecessary- grateful I was, and grateful we all were that the Matthews/Bull families

hosted that festivity — the land, the lobster, and so much help for twenty years. I have the tee shirt. I was fifty-three when it began and seventy-three when the party ended."

Another memory shared was one of unexpected satisfaction felt in the ritual of mowing the lawn at the Trust. "This will seem a strange highlight, but some relatively few years ago Karl Pepin coached Mark Roller and me in the operation of the Walker lawn mower that the Trust had purchased second hand at a fair price. However, it had sat in the barn unused for a couple of years because different people had tried to operate it and found it too responsive and hard to control. With a bit of practice, we discovered that it was not only easy to operate but was the most efficient piece of equipment we had. Mark and I would meet at the Trust, usually on Monday mornings, and mow the lawns and occasionally the trails, one of us with the weed whacker, one on the Walker. I enjoyed that time. Mark was easy to work with and standing on the hill by the Emmons house I always felt a comfortable satisfaction surveying the reassuring result that for one more week the old yellow machine had run flawlessly, and the grounds were back in shape."



On a humorous, yet poignant note, Amoroso recalled Peter Sargent's secretary reports and sign making skills years ago. "The report, in his handwriting or maybe his printing, was sometimes fairly challenging to read but as far as any of us could tell, covered adequately the details of the previous meeting. He accepted our teasing with a smile. The signs that he produced were Peter unique as well. Often produced on found pieces of plywood, they almost didn't have to be read for someone to know that whatever festivity they were identifying was somehow connected to the Trust. Like other changes in the organization, the professional replaced the amateur, but who we were and are, was expressed in those early signs."

Brushes with well-known political figures have also peppered Amoroso's years at the Trust. "When Chuck Leahy died, his wife, Susan, planned a remembrance for her husband, and the Trust was either asked or offered to assist with the plans and execution. Both Susan and Chuck had been lawyers in New Hampshire and worked with at least one other well known in the firm. On this day Jerry Mullen and I directed the parking that would and did eventually line up along both sides of Route 9. As the time neared, cars extended on the east side from the beginning of the Leahy driveway down the highway beyond Beachwood Avenue and approached the Batson River bridge. When people emerged from the parked cars, they often walked well into the road, and I was concerned that drivers clearing the bridge would push their speed up the hill. I suggested that they walk on the rough but safer terrain to the right of their vehicles. Few listened. A short while before the ceremony began, a woman drove up and parked close to the car in front as per my signals. Beside her a gentleman sat quietly, unconcerned with the trek they would have to make up to the Leahy home. Momentarily, I noticed that the gentleman was former Supreme Court Justice, David Souter, who I later found out had worked with the Leahy's in the law firm. I asked the woman if she would rather drive up to the garage next to the house. 'Would it be all right,' she asked. 'Well, I think Susan would certainly want you to,' I said. The Justice never said a word. She pulled out onto the road and disappeared down the driveway. We clearly didn't want the former Justice to be picked off by a distracted vacationer. I always liked

Souter, especially his humility. I'm glad I saved him."

Looking back on the Trust progress over the decades, Amoroso said, "I don't think any of us saw this organization arriving where it is today. In the early years we were asked, 'What is this Trust thing?' 'You're trying to do what?' Well, good luck with that.' Only slowly did we begin to hear, 'You know. I'm glad this group exists.' Following Hale's we met at Bradbury's, the library, the library annex, in the cold of the Emmons barn and eventually the present building. Now there are miles of trails, a lighthouse and additional islands, an endowment, and more, clearly a lengthy list. It's enough to say that people generous with time or funds or both have helped the organization to arrive. I will say that a vacation town with summer people and established roots makes success more likely. People want to protect their memories. The Trust has been able to provide some of that.

When it comes to his favorite Trust locations,

Amoroso said. "I used to travel four or five times a week with the dog (leashed) from Craig Woods to the trolley line (natives say the car tracks) eventually arriving at Tyler Brook, to walk, run or snowshoe the mile long oval a couple or three times, becoming familiar with every stone, dip or low branch along the way. Knowing a place that well creates a comfort that you come to rely on." He concluded "Many people in Maine and around the country have found spaces that they enjoy for solitude, exercise, and eventually lose to change or development. KCT has acres and acres of land and trails where that will never happen. In that, people have something to rely on, something they know they'll never lose. That must be reassuring to most in a community. And for me, beyond the acquisitions, the organization has brought me into contact with like-minded people I might never have met. That's important to an introvert with hermetic tendencies. I rely on those associations and often recall the ones that I once had."



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# Meet Dorcas Zeiner, Founding Member of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust

*Shelly Wigglesworth*

91-year-old Dorcas (Eldridge) Zeiner was born and brought up on Meserve Lane off North Street in Kennebunkport. "I was a Townie or a Village kid, as they called us. Dad moved us to Portland when I was a sophomore in high school."

In 1950 she married Charles Zeiner and lived in Portland for 4 years, later moving to Vermont for another nine years. When her husband was transferred again to Portland, Maine the Zeiner's and their four children moved back to her hometown of Kennebunkport. "We lived in Wildes District for 23 years," she said. During that time, Dorcas worked for the Town of Kennebunkport, eventually becoming the assessor of taxes. In 1984 she retired, and she and Charlie moved to the Rockland area.

It was while living and working here in her hometown of Kennebunkport in the late 1960's and early 1970's that she connected with a group of like-minded individuals who loved the natural beauty of the area and realized the benefits of preserving places which could be open for all to share and enjoy, always.

She and a handful of others who shared this belief and passion began a grass roots effort to form what would become the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust. "I was the last to join the board of KCT directors when it was just starting out. The Trust was, of course, Tad Dow's dream. Peter

Sargent, Hale Whitehouse, Ralph Smith and I were all trying to keep up with Tad most of the time." Later Tom Bradbury took over the day-to-day operations, which Dorcas was happy to see. Add a little "I knew Tom since his high school years, and knew he was the right

one for the job. I also knew his folks, Virginia, and Milton. I guess you could say Tom and I are still good buddies."

Dorcas recalled that the early KCT meetings were held at Tad and Ellie Dow's home. "Our first 'totally ours' project was the Village Green. When it came up for sale, we were all flabbergasted. We wondered where would all that money to purchase it come from? We finally came up with the idea of an auction and we were off. That is how it all started. It was a lot of work, but the auction got the ball rolling



and called attention to what we were doing. Our next accomplishment was having Vaughn's Island turned over to the Trust. A.B. 'Sandy' Brook and Frank Small were big helpers there," she said.

Close to a half century later, Dorcas is still involved, interested, and continues to support the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust. She said her favorite Trust property is Vaughn's Island. "It will always be my favorite spot. Even before the Trust acquired the property, we had picnics and cook-outs there. It was a sea glass hot spot too." Her second favorite property is the James Wood trail on 25 North Street.

This trail begins on the east side of North Street, barely one hundred yards from the Town parking lot. The footpath winds around a 15-acre woods and includes views of the tidal inlet at Mast Cove, with a 24-foot ravine crossing, and an arched bridge over a firebreak that was dug in 1947 to help stem the spread of the great fires in Kennebunkport and other parts of York County, Maine that year. James Wood was donated by David and Lisanne James. "That is my old stamping ground- it was my childhood back yard, so to speak, being so close to Meserve Lane."



*Photo by Tess Johnson*



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# Our Newest Director- Charlie Buckley

*Shelley Wigglesworth*

Charlie Buckley was introduced to the Kennebunks over 20 years ago when his wife Robin's parents moved here to lead the Sea Road Church. The New York natives instantly fell in love with the community and vowed to move here one day. That day came in 2019 when Charlie, Robin, and their family moved to Kennebunkport to open their business -- Kennebunk Outfitters. "The move not only allowed us to be closer to our two older children (Tyler, 25 and Hannah, 21) who were based in Boston, but it also allowed us to raise our youngest son Briggs, 10 in a small-town setting with a sense of community," Charlie said.

A 1995 graduate of Brown University, Charlie spent 24 years in finance in NYC, before moving to Maine. Throughout his life, Charlie said the outdoors has always been his passion, and he and Robin raised their kids enjoying the outdoors in all four seasons. They enjoy running, cycling, hiking, tennis, golf, fishing and skiing. The family's passion for the outdoors ultimately led them to open Kennebunk Outfitters and for Charlie to become involved with the Trust. Charlie said his number one goal, and the goal of Kennebunk Outfitters is one and the same, and that is "to serve the local community." He explained "We are committed to enhancing peoples' outdoor experiences here in the Kennebunks."

The Buckley's idea for opening Kennebunk

Outfitters grew organically from their desire to have a local option available to purchase apparel for outdoor activities. "We noticed people had to drive 30-40 minutes north or south to find a pair of sneakers, hiking boots, or any other technical outdoor apparel. We saw an opportunity to build a business where



people could be 'outfitted' locally for an outdoors lifestyle," he said, adding "we were also very conscientious of the brands we chose to partner with and offer at KO. We chose only those brands that are responsible environmentally and socially and priced in an inclusive manner. The brands we have are sold at the price you'll find online but with a very personal level of service."

In addition to being on the KCT board, the Buckley's and Kennebunk Outfitters have partnered with the Kennebunk Rotary to support the CS3 program, the Kennebunk Environmental Action Team by sponsoring a 5k road race to raise money for their courtyard landscaping

project, and they are co-hosting the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust Trail Fest, as well as creating a Turkey Trot Road Race this upcoming Thanksgiving Day.

When asked about his desire to be on the Trust board, he said "I believe Maine, and the Kennebunks' community is special and that we are stewards who have an obligation to care for this special place the way those before us have."

# A Tribute to KCT Founding Member Peter Sargent

## As Told by the People Who Knew and Loved Him.

Shelley Wigglesworth

Peter Edward Sargent was born January 13, 1950. He passed away October 19, 2014, after a long battle with Younger-onset Alzheimer's disease. His obituary stated "Peter was a caring and devoted man to his family, friends, and the Kennebunkport community. His passions ran deep - music, conservation, bicycling and volunteerism. His entrepreneurial spirit resulted in the successful

establishment of Cape-Able Bike Shop. Peter's heartfelt commitment to cycling put generations of people onto two wheels and left a legacy in southern Maine. Peter lived his life with a spirit of adventure, enjoying every moment of every day."

Eight years have come and gone since Peter passed away, though memories of him are alive and well. Friends, family, and the greater community eagerly shared some of their fond memories of this man whose influence, guidance and spirit will continue to live on through them in not just memories, but in how they live their lives.

### **Tom Bradbury, Executive director of the KCT**

"Peter was instrumental to the success of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust. He was there to help at every turn and approached every activity with great energy, enthusiasm, an infectious optimism, and a fun-loving spirit. He was our conduit to youth in the

community and an ambassador to all. We miss him terribly to this day. Our only comfort is that his memory always brings a smile."

### **Theresa Lush Violette, Cape Porpoise native**

"Peter was an amazing man who was patient, kind, and fun. As a child, I always loved riding my bike

around the head of the cove to his shop or stopping by in a boat I'd tie at the back door. He was a stop-in-and-chat type of guy. There were many folks like that back in the day. If there was any way I could 'help' Pete, even as a 9- or 10-year-old, he would put me to work. I'd help him get new bikes out of boxes to put them together, oil chains, put bikes in storage at the end of the day, and he'd teach me as I watched intently as he fixed bikes. I tried not to get in his way. However, when too many of us locals got to playing around, he'd tell us it's time to go. On special days he'd send us kids to Bradbury Brother's Market to get snacks we



could all have together at the shop. He helped all of us get the right bike for us! One summer when we were all into dirt biking, with his help, we made a BMX trail near his shop to race around. It took a long time to make! After work we had timed races. At that time, it was the best. Pete even invited us kids, some evenings with our parent approval, to go on bike rides

with him-long rides. I treasure these memories of my childhood with him and his shop being right across the cove.”

**Jane Sargent Smith, Peter ‘s cousin**

“Peter was a naturalist: eat right, get enough sleep, no alcohol, no smokes, no weed, no experimentation with chemicals. He was a Dump Parade volunteer and had the first and only bike shop on a wharf on the road to Cape Porpoise. Later his Cape-able Bike Shop building incorporated wood from the old Narragansett. Peter had a great disdain for pompous asses, ostentatious disgusting wealth, liars, and cheaters. He was always there for me in every way during all my challenges. He



was my hero, my trusted friend, my confidante. I miss him badly. His virtues and community respect and down Maine genuine personality will live on forever. He’s also famous for buying dozens of the circular navy-blue boxes of Danish shortbread cookies, and in lieu of Xmas cards, hand delivered every box to friends and relatives annually a few days before Xmas. I never thought I’d miss those; but to not have Peter bring one to the house, I now buy myself one and put it under the tree and think of him.”

**Christopher Godin**

“Peter was the best. When my bike was stolen in high school, he financed a new one for \$5- a week! He was such a good soul, but at the same time didn't put up with any disrespect. I met him when I lived in Cape Porpoise in 5th grade back in 1975. His shop was at the top of Crow Hill then. He was a mentor to young kids like me. He was a blessing to our community and is sorely missed.”

**Geoffrey Dardia**

“Cape Able Bike Shop was the hub for a small group of cyclists in Kennebunkport. From the age of 9, I spent most of my days over there with my great childhood friend, Mike Pickering, helping Peter out at the shop in exchange for parts for our bikes. We worked for parts and Wink's sandwiches until we were old enough to collect a paycheck. Every day, we would ride over to Cape Able, drop our bikes on the grass and walk up the wooden ramp where we would see Peter standing at the top with his big smile, bushy beard, and his wise crack of the day. Peter was always quick witted and never missed an opportunity for a perfectly timed joke, jab, a life lesson, or some (then unappreciated) knowledge of his favorite music he listened to from his solar powered radio. Besides teaching us how to assemble and repair bicycles, Peter also taught us how to be conscious about nature and the need to preserve it. Peter was ahead of the times when it came to being resourceful and recycling. Every time I drive by the old Cape Able Bike Shop on the way to ride at Smith Preserve, I automatically reminisce about those warm, fun-filled childhood summer days in Kennebunkport with my best friends and can still picture Peter in there with a wrench in his hand, and a big smile on his face.”

**Mike Pickering**

"I was one of several wayward boys who hung out at Peter's bike shop. Much like Geoff and I, a lot of people who hung out and showed a passion for hard work and biking eventually became employed by Peter in an unofficial capacity. Peter's no-nonsense brand of humor in concert with passion for biking left with us an instant favorable opinion of Peter. This was at an age when most grownups were overbearing and generally avoided. Peter was a father figure to a lot of us. He recounted his life experiences with us, including a lot of bands and music we were interested in at the time. There was never a time when the bike shop wasn't full of hip and 'alternative' music before it became a genre. Peter allowed us to work in exchange for parts and updates to our BMX bikes. I think he allowed us to do this only because we showed the passion and drive to put in the work. He was knowingly or unknowingly teaching us life lessons. I and the 'crew' will be forever grateful for Peter and Cape-Able for that period of our upbringing."

**Bruce Cacho-Negrete**

"Pete was a huge influence on my life. When we moved to Kennebunk, I was overweight, and we were dirt poor. We were staying at a family friend's house

that was around the corner from Cape-able. I didn't know anyone my age, so I used to wander into his shop and look at the bikes. I started talking to Peter and learned that we both had a deep love of baseball. So, I started to come into the shop to talk baseball with him. And I did it a LOT. I have no idea how a grown man had the time and patience to talk to a chubby, grubby little 12-year-old so much, but he always found it. Eventually, he learned that we couldn't afford a bike. So, he offered me one and let me work it off in the shop even though I knew NOTHING about fixing bikes. So, I spent a few months working for him. I surely cost him money because I couldn't even do the simplest tasks like replace a tire tube. I think I popped like four tubes before he realized I was best off just sweeping the shop. He also fed me lunch pretty much every day I "worked" for him. That bike was my first step to eventually losing weight and getting healthy, which started me down the road to self-confidence. When I got into the University of Chicago, Pete gave me a Cape-able bike bag that I brought with me to college and wore proudly on my bike there. Sometimes, I wonder if I would have ever gotten to Chicago if Peter hadn't shown me such kindness. He was literally my first friend in Maine."



**Peter Philbrick**

"For many years Pete Sargent had a shop at the end of my road (Arundel Road, Kennebunkport) and was THE bike man to go to. Everyone in the neighborhood knew Pete as one of the nicest people around. He helped so many kids with bike problems and very seldom if ever charged a youngster for his services. My kids stopped there all the time and he was always willing to talk to them and help or offer advice about which bike to have or how to fix a problem."

**Gail Roller**

"Peter was a character with a heart as big as you can get. He would hand write the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust meeting minutes and get everything to fit on one sheet of paper so that he didn't waste paper. Pete rode his bike everywhere and helped to make us all conscious of the need to conserve and recycle - he was a master at both."

**Harold Burbank**

"Peter was a speaker at my Kennebunk High School graduation. He was a philosopher at heart. He loved young people and pure ideas, not material trappings. He lived his beliefs. He was a noble soul."

**Pam Newsome, Peter's sister**

"Peter was my quirky brother living in the woods. At the age of 21 he made the decision to settle in Kennebunkport and do it his way. He bought land and built his own house. He built Cape-Able Bike Shop from the ground up and mentored many local youths there, employing them and letting them 'hang out'. He was continually involved as a volunteer in many community efforts, absorbed in giving back to the town he now called his own. He was a founding member of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust and did almost anything they asked him to do in the over 20 years he served on the Board. He co-chaired the 350th Anniversary of Kennebunkport. And he loved and participated in the Dump Parade. I so admired Peter who was so true to himself, the life he wanted and all he gave back to his forever home, Kennebunkport."

**Terri Bauld**

"When I first moved to Kennebunk in the 1980s, I didn't know anyone. I wanted to do the trek across Maine, so I went to Cape Able Bike Shop. There I met Peter Sargent who helped me get what I needed. He was so

helpful- he would talk me out of buying so many things 'too much, or you don't need it.' What a salesman I thought, he cared more about me than making money. When he found out I was new to the area he told me about his wife Karen's local bike group, The Zippy Bike Group. I ended up joining and met many very welcoming Kennebunk area folks. Peter helped us through the years with bike assistance, stories, and kindness. He was a great guy."

**Hugh Spiers**

"Peter was a great guy. Years ago, I was trying to quit smoking for the umpteenth time. I decided that if I took up cycling it would help -but I didn't want a super expensive bike. He basically built a bike out of used parts for me. I wanted a touring bike, drop bars but I wanted them set high because of neck and back problems. I wanted a rack to carry stuff. I wanted a gel padded seat and I wanted it all under \$200! He did it all! The one and only flaw was the aluminum rimmed rear wheel which I egged by popping spokes. He explained it was because I was a big guy and when I stepped on the pedal, I torqued the hub to the point that spikes pulled out of the rim and 'tacoed' the wheel. He found a steel rim and installed it for free. Before local artist Cookie Davis/Dominique London had driver's license or a car, Peter set up a payment plan so Cookie could purchase a bike which he was VERY proud of! It was his only mode of transportation. When I was working at Sweetser I wanted some bikes for kids. He gave me at least a dozen bikes for free. Whenever those kids saved enough money to buy their own bike, I would take them to see Pete. He would talk to them for a bit, find out what their wants and needs were and would personally fit them to their dream bike. They loved it. He told me of the annual Cape-Able Century ride, a hundred-mile round trip to Winnepesaukee. He encouraged me to participate, I did, and I completed it! I miss our chats. I miss his shop. I miss his encouragement and kindness. With Pete's passing our community lost something and someone that might never be replaced."

Peter's legacy lives on in his wife Karen MacGregor, son Mac and two grandchildren.



# Looking Back at Goat Island Restoration

*Scott and Karen Dombrowski*

The Kennebunkport Conservation Trust acquired a 5-year lease to Goat Island Lighthouse back in April of 1993 and was awarded the deed to the property through the Maine Lights Program in 1998. Thousands of volunteer hours and countless donations went into making the buildings and grounds a place where visitors could safely enjoy the beauty of the island. This was a daunting task as the existing buildings and grounds had gone uncared for over a number



of years. Renovations of the house's interior from when President George H. W. Bush was in office, along with an old radio tower, filled a 40 foot dumpster that sat in the middle of the island. It took years to figure out how to get rid of it. Only 2 or 3 of the leaking crank out windows worked. The hung ceilings were mouse ridden, Luanne doors and fluorescent lighting filled the downstairs, and most of the house had old indoor outdoor carpeting. Something had to be done for the old girl!!

In 2007 a benefactor made it possible for the Trust to make the dream of fully renovating the island a reality. It took 3 years to acquire the appropriate permits, one of which was from the Historic Preservation Commission, and another three years of construction and renovation. The Trust had to pick an era to renovate the island to and the mid 1950's was chosen. This enabled the

covered walkway, that was washed out in the blizzard of 1978, the bell tower that was dismantled in 1962 and the fuel house in the backyard, also dismantled in the 1960's to be rebuilt. It also allowed for running water and electricity in the keepers' house.

Phase 1 and 2 Archaeological digs took place and it was discovered that the present keeper's house is built on the rubble of the previous 1833 stone house that failed due to poor mortar. This raised the

house enough so that a storm wash over wouldn't damage the house as much. That was a very exciting day uncovering the bits and pieces of the former foundation. The chore of researching what the buildings, inside and out, looked like was then undertaken. While there are many photos of the exterior buildings, only one picture of the interior of the kitchen was found, enabling the kitchen cabinets, walls, and wall color to be recreated. Finding a sink from the 1950's era was challenging, so we were excited to discover a period porcelain sink while digging through an old tractor trailer in Boston that a rehabber/collector had saved for re-use. The Trust purchased a Big Chill fridge from Canada that looked the part. . It was caught in customs for a couple months, but well worth the wait. The stove is a 1950's reproduction. It has glasstop cooking which really surprises everyone who sees it, but it is true to

the era! Those that remember the metal edges on the Formica counter tops will appreciate that they completed the look! Much of the original interior flooring was uncovered and was remarkably usable. The dining room, living room and all of upstairs had beautiful Douglas Fir flooring that was uncovered and brought back to great shape with some repair work, sanding, staining and sealing. The dining room had 4 layers of various coverings on top of the Fir flooring. It felt like an archaeological dig! The kitchen and bathroom floors could no longer be the asbestos tile that were there, but a good match was found, although every tile had to be cut from a 12 x 12 to a 7 x 7 tile per historic preservation. The painting of the interior of the house was like putting the frosting on the cake. Believe it or not, Sherwin Williams has a 1950's era color palate, so although we only knew the yellow color of the kitchen, we were able to use colors from the 1950's for the rest of the house. Those old Luanne doors throughout the house? A generous woman who was renovating her house that was built in the 50's gave us all of

her interior doors-and every one fit perfectly, even the correct swing!!

Only a few pictures of the inside of the covered walkway were found, but that was enough to make an accurate replica. The Trust was given a grant to create a series of "through the years" photos there but opted instead to use the grant for monitors with rolling pictures to keep the area as clutter free as possible. Stepping into it kind of takes your breath away and transports people back in time. The pictures show the daily life on Goat Island, and even include photos of past keepers back to the 1800's. The roofs of the buildings had to be changed from red to green. Finding the right shingles proved to be quite an undertaking. They were eventually found, but had to be shipped from out west.

While rebuilding the bell tower we asked the Kennebunkport Historical Society if we could trade the original bell, that had been moved to the front of their building when the bell tower was torn down, for a bronze US Lighthouse Service bell that was from the offshore bell buoy. They generously agreed, and it was quite a day when the bell was lifted back into



place on the seaward side of the tower. We were very thankful for the big machinery that was there to do the heavy lifting.

You may ask, "How this was all done on an island?" The answer is that one of the contractors had a Vietnam era landing craft on which he was able to bring out full size excavators, dump trucks and even a rolling field office/work building. The crews worked very well together and all loved bringing this wonderful landmark back to its former glory. Those who come visit today can land on a beautiful dock, enjoy picnicking, touring the lighthouse and walking the jagged coastline of the island. Goat Island has truly gone from a diamond in the rough to the jewel of Cape Porpoise harbor thanks to all of your generous donations.



# Meadow Woods Preserve

Bridging the Gap Between Conservation and Recreation in a New Way for All to Enjoy-- Always

*Shelley Wigglesworth*



Tucked along the route 9 border of Kennebunkport and Biddeford, between Mills Road and Oak Ridge Road is the Meadow Woods Preserve, the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust’s current preservation project. Forty-eight acres of this parcel of land was formerly owned by the Bryant family of Kennebunkport and was used in the family excavation business for many years. In 2018 the land went on the market and the KCT seized the opportunity to purchase it and create a new area of protection. As an added bonus, the land serves as a gateway to an abutting 138 acre parcel that had been donated to the Trust in 2011 by William and Lorraine Hutchins, a three acre parcel that was donated by the Cluff family, two lots donated by Gloria and Eric Moline and two Oak Ridge Road properties purchased by the KCT: two from the Spang family -51.5 acres and 25 wetland acres respectively, 29 acres of purchased Pensco property and 50 acres of land purchased from the Dombrowski family. The combination of these properties totals 371 acres of Trust owned land and 137.6 acres owned by the town, totaling 508.6 acres of woodland and wetland protected land.

When completed, Meadow Woods Preserve will have an outdoor gathering space, a pond, stretches of trails, granite bench resting areas throughout, a pavilion, natural stonework areas, a dog recreational area, and places for educational opportunities for the community. “Our hope and intent is to bridge the gap between conservation and recreation in a new way for all to enjoy for all time,” KCT executive director Tom Bradbury said.

KCT Board of Directors’ president and project leader Russ Grady added “The Trust has a history of buying land for conservation which we leave it as is. Meadow Woods Preserve is different, as we purchased the land in an altered state and worked the soil to bring it back to its natural state. It’s especially important to note that the only areas we have, and will, re-work or alter are old, reclaimed excavation pits or areas filled with construction debris. These areas equal approximately 5 acres, which represents roughly 1% of the total acreage of the entire preserve.”

Grady elaborated on the process of restoring the land to its natural state. “We’ve had biologists, ecologists and other environmental experts explore the entire preserve to identify plant species, wildlife habitat and to look for the presence of endangered or protected plants and wildlife. We’ve done this because we want to be sure those areas are known and forever protected. Any potential trails on the property will be far from any of these areas.”



The importance of preserving wetlands in our ecosystem is crucial, as wetlands provide water filtration for rivers and streams, as well as being habitat for a number of Maine wildlife species. “The active preservation of wetlands locally is a valuable teaching tool which will also be incorporated into the existing Trust in Our Children educational programs for grades K – 12. We see this as the perfect opportunity to show one and all how a private site, whose surface was stripped of its topsoil and its water courses altered, can be brought back to a significant wildlife habitat, a place of beauty and a source of community pride.” Bradbury said. He continued, “The meadow is being named in honor of Patsy Bray Mahoney, and we are extremely excited about all that is happening there. The pavilion is named in honor of William and Lois Samuels. Lois served on our Board for many years. She always offered straight forward, honest, and sound advice and was a wonderful and generous KCT friend and supporter. Granite benches will also be dedicated to various people.” The entire Meadow Woods Preserve project is expected to be completed by the Fall of 2023.

FMI on the Meadow Woods Preserve, and how you can contribute, please visit:  
<https://www.kporttrust.org/donate-1>



**For Happy Tails on the Trails...**



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1121 Portland Road  
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207-985-4774  
[www.manvet.com](http://www.manvet.com)

The advertisement features a large, vibrant photograph of a golden retriever sitting on a green lawn, looking directly at the camera with its mouth open in a happy expression. To the right of the dog, a vertical trail of eight grey paw prints leads from the top to the bottom of the page. The background of the right side of the advertisement is a light blue color.

# Arundel Conservation Trust: Our History and Future

Joan Hull



The Arundel Conservation Trust (ACT) is an all volunteer, independent, and self-financed chapter of the Kennebunkport Conservations Trust. ACT is dedicated to the conservation of Arundel's unique natural, recreational and scenic resources for all to enjoy, creating a stronger and more vibrant community. While "young in years" ACT has accomplished much thanks to the significant efforts of our dedicated volunteers and the generosity of our greater community.

### ***Arundel Conservation Trust, the early years.***

In 2016, Arundel town leaders were evaluating the need for a new Town Hall building. The existing Limerick Road facility, next to the fire station, was badly overcrowded, technology-deprived, and flirting with non-compliance in several federal & state laws concerning ADA access. This was during a time of debate concerning Arundel's inclusion in the RSU21 school district and highlighted a need to find new ways to build greater community and understanding in Arundel. The site search for a new Town Hall presented an opportunity to purchase 47 acres on

Limerick Road. While this property acreage was more than what was needed to build a new town hall, it offered the benefits of being centrally located, with possible access to the Eastern Trail.

ACT's founding members, a group of six people sharing a common vision to advance our community, saw the new Town Hall situation as a great opportunity to do something more than just a building to house town government. The founders envisioned a way to preserve the unique rural character of Arundel and to give residents a way to come together in building something for our future. As ACT's founders talked about their vision, it became clear that the new Town Hall was an opportunity to also build places where people young and old could experience and preserve nature, learn about trail-building, and be part of creating something bigger than themselves. With this "long-view" in mind, the ACT Founders met with the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust ("KCT") to see if they could take us under their wing and teach us how to create a conservation trust. KCT talked it over and then offered to help and support us! In 2017, the Arundel Conservation Trust ("ACT") was established as a fully independent and self-financing chapter of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust. Shortly thereafter KCT transferred stewardship of two Arundel properties, the Welch and Cluff preserves, that had been bequeathed to them.

ACT worked out and signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Town of Arundel, with the understanding that if the town purchased the 47-acre Limerick Road property, ACT would purchase the 37 acres behind the 10-acre new Town Hall site. KCT offered to loan the money to ACT, which made the purchase of the Limerick Road property in December of 2017 possible.

In late 2018, ACT was legally incorporated in the State of Maine. ACT now held stewardship of three Arundel properties, totaling nearly 100 acres, and has made solid progress in paying back our loan to KCT. ACT's Board of Directors had grown to a full board of fourteen members.



### **ACT Lands and Trails**

In 2019, ACT volunteers built the Welch Woods Preserve trail loop, located on River Road, Arundel. The Welch Woods trail is an easy 1/2-mile loop that travels through woods and ferns to the shore of the Kennebunk River. Thanks to the Cub Scouts' bench project, hikers are rewarded with a place to sit and enjoy the river view. The Welch Woods provided the first public access to the Kennebunk River in Arundel in generations.

**The Arundel Community Trails** is our 37-acre flagship property, located behind Arundel's new Town Hall on Limerick Road. The trailhead for the Multi-Use (Yellow) Trail was built in 2020 and is conveniently located down a short path from the Arundel Town Hall parking lot. The Multi-Use Trail is 1 mile long and connects directly to the Eastern Trail. We are grateful to the Boy Scouts from our three towns and in particular to our two Eagle Scouts and their projects. The first project built the bridge linking the ACT Multi-use Trail to the Eastern Trail connector trail. The second project built four beautiful benches at the ACT Community Trails trailhead and along Duck Brook.



ACT's Limerick Road property also boasts a Mountain Bike Flow Trail or "Pump Track," built and opened in late 2020. At nearly 1/3 of a mile long, the Pump Track utilizes the natural landscape to create banks, berms and roller features to provide a "biking playground" for all ages and abilities. In 2021, ACT started clearing and construction of the Red Trail, a 3/4-mile trail for both pedestrians and cyclists, that will meander and flow through the forest connecting the Town Hall parking lot and the Eastern Trail. Work on the Red Trail will continue and hopefully complete in 2022.



The 40 acre Cluff Preserve, near Sinnott Road, features big open fields, frontage along Goff Mill Brook and beautiful woodlands. In the future, ACT hopes to repair the access bridge and provide a small parking area, several walking trails and a nature trail along Goff Mill Brook.



### **ACT Partnerships & Community Events**

ACT is grateful for the financial support of local business sponsors, in addition to family and individual donors across our three towns for their generosity that make ACT events possible. ACT volunteers, who donate their time, enthusiasm and talent are the engine that makes it possible for ACT to achieve so much.

ACT collaborates with organizations to create fun events that engage and serve our community. ACT volunteers partnered with the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust and Kennebunk Land Trust to celebrate Earth Day by sponsoring and coordinating a community roadside trash clean-up effort. ACT partnered with Community Outreach Support (COS) to host a Food Drive, supporting those in our community who are food insecure. ACT's first ever Trail Fest, a collaboration with KCT's longtime event featured a 5k, 10k and Half-Marathon run/walk courses through the ACT Limerick Road Trail and Eastern Trail system. This community event was great fun and a wonderful success, with over 100 race entrants participating. Additionally, 12 intrepid young cyclists participated in the Kid's Flow Trail Bike Race. ACT appreciated the support and partnership with Kennebunkport Conservation Trust, in coordinating their Trail Fest race to create a two weekend trail race series. We were thankful for great race day weather and grateful to all who participated and volunteered in this community event! As ACT looks forward, We are excited to announce a new partnership with White Pine Programs (WPP), a nonprofit educational organization headquartered in York Maine. Nature

learning opportunities for families and all community members are at the center of White Pines Programs, which will be an exciting expansion to ACT's growing nature learning opportunities.

## 2022 and beyond

The Arundel Conservation Trust was launched with a vision, to conserve Arundel's unique natural resource for all to enjoy and to create a stronger and more vibrant community. We are inspired by our volunteers, our community and the tremendous potential to build upon our vision. In mid-2022, ACT finalized our first Strategic Plan which will guide the next three years and we couldn't be more excited about our potential to make a positive impact in our community. We are thankful to ACT's original founders for starting us down this path and truly appreciative to the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust for their guidance and continuing support. ACT is deeply grateful for KCT Executive Director Tom Bradbury, for his faith, mentorship and enduring support from our early days to the present.

If you are interested in volunteering, donating or learning more about the Arundel Conservation Trust, please visit our website, [www.arundeltrust.org](http://www.arundeltrust.org) or contact us at [info@arundeltrust.org](mailto:info@arundeltrust.org). We'd love to hear from you!



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# An update from your hometown climate change organization:



**The Climate Initiative**

*Meagan Cooper, TCI Director of Communications*

Reflection is an important thing. The last time we were featured in the Trust in our Town publication, our name was the Kennebunkport Climate Initiative (KCI), our staff was a five-person team and we didn't quite yet have our own 501(c)(3) non-profit status. Fast forward two years at lightning speed (the speed you MUST go if you're going to make a difference for climate change) and here we are, ready to re-introduce ourselves.

Our organization's name is now **The Climate Initiative (TCI)**, a subtle name change which matches our now national scale of programming, locations of staff (now 21!) and mission focus; empowering youth across the country for climate action.

Our core programming, climate change educational modules for high schoolers called "Learning Lab" **has now been adopted by teachers in ALL 50 states, reaching an estimated 35,000 students a year.** Created by TCI Director of Programs & Outreach Leia Lowery and Kennebunk High School science teacher (and York County Teacher of the Year!) Melissa Luetje, Learning Lab was born out of the award-winning Gulf of Maine Field Studies class, a partnership of KCT, UNE, RSU 21, Gulf of Maine Institute and now TCI.



The class is still taught at Kennebunk High School and UNE and a highlight this year was when the KHS students hosted a public "Community Conversation" regarding the impacts of climate change on the Langsford Rd. Marsh.

**Did you know:** TCI's Learning Lab modules span topics of Sea Level Rise, Renewable Energy, Agriculture, Climate Justice & Equity, Invasive Species and more!



# 2022 TCI Highlights:



The Climate Initiative



This year we have a four person delegation going to Egypt in November for the COY 17 | COP 26 United Nations International Climate Change Conference and we couldn't be more proud to have TCI boots on the ground.

TCI's policy team held our first ever non-partisan Collegiate Climate Policy Institute, and our second CCPI will bring college-aged youth together in person in spring 2023 in D.C. to learn how to activate their voices and elected officials towards positive climate action.



Our programs team hosted THREE climate educator's retreats in 2022 (in Maine, Florida and Louisiana), with our 2nd Annual Climate Educator's Retreat (hosted at The Ecology School) quadrupling in size with teachers from across the country.

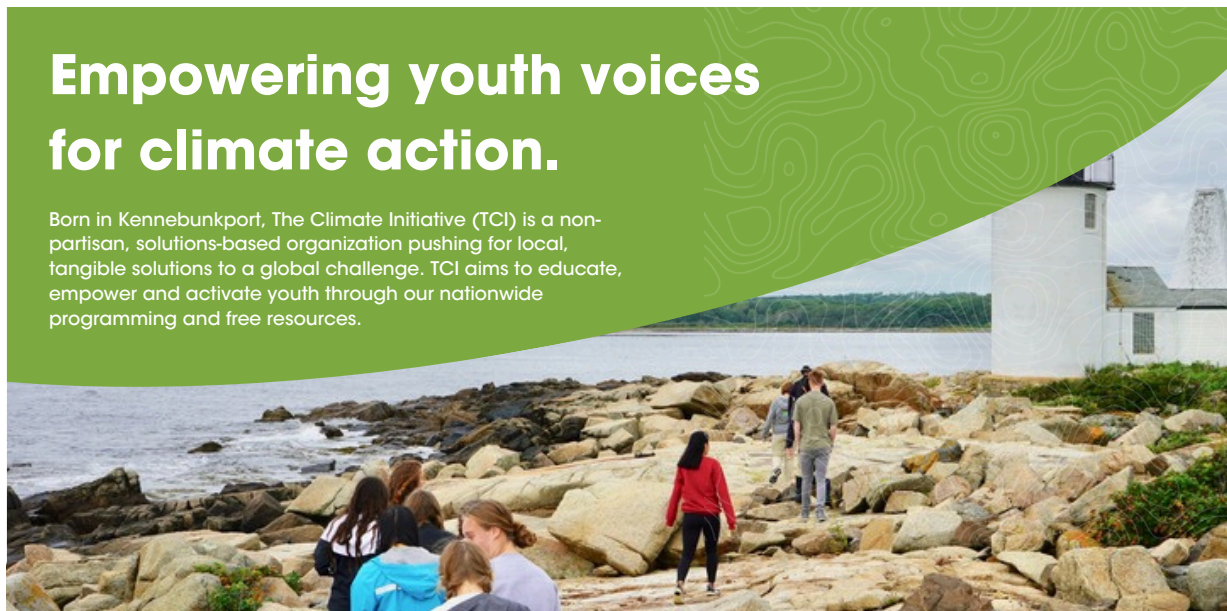


TCI's development team was also proud to receive a \$100,000 donation from Tom's of Maine in support of our world-class climate change programming efforts.

These are just a few highlights of our work over the past year, but you can learn more, or join our growing community of ambassadors (youth/adult allies/educators!), by visiting [www.theclimateinitiative.org](http://www.theclimateinitiative.org) or by reaching out to our Executive Director Jono Anzalone at [jono@theclimateinitiative.org](mailto:jono@theclimateinitiative.org). In the words of our founding funder - "the clock is ticking" - and no matter where you sit on climate change related impacts and issues, we can all agree that empowering our youth to become more activated environmental stewards is something to rally behind.

## Empowering youth voices for climate action.

Born in Kennebunkport, The Climate Initiative (TCI) is a non-partisan, solutions-based organization pushing for local, tangible solutions to a global challenge. TCI aims to educate, empower and activate youth through our nationwide programming and free resources.



### Connect with us

@the\_climateinitiative



**The Climate Initiative**

### Support our mission

[info@theclimateinitiative.org](mailto:info@theclimateinitiative.org)

[theclimateinitiative.org/donate](http://theclimateinitiative.org/donate)



*Congratulations to Melissa Luetje,  
York County Teacher of the Year!*

As a beloved science teacher and mentor at Kennebunk High School and partner to the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust and The Climate Initiative, we celebrate your dedication to the students in our communities, and preserving our special places! Congrats Melissa!

# KCT's 50th Anniversary Challenge

## 50+ Activities to do on KCT's properties

Over the last fifty years the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust has preserved over 2,300 acres of land to secure wildlife habitat and to provide community members with the opportunity to connect with nature. With 27 miles of trails, a dozen islands, beachfront lots, a light house, a historic boathouse and headquarters, we challenge you, your families and friends to engage in as many of these activities as you can during the year of KCT's Anniversary. We invite you to take a break from your everyday routine and connect with nature's beauty right here in our town.

Between January 2023 and August 2023, take the challenge! See how many of these activities you can complete. Just check them off as you do them. Then join us for a celebratory gathering and ice cream social at Emmons Preserve. (Date and time to be announced)

This isn't a competition, it is a challenge. So, get out there, have fun and enjoy some activities on Kennebunkport Conservation Trust property!

### Activities at the Emmons Preserve

- Seek out and count all of the gardens around KCT headquarters
- Walk to Teal Hole Falls on Jeremy's Trail
- Explore the Learning Trail and use the QR codes
- Stroll through the Storybook Trail and build a fairy house
- Walk the Labyrinth, just off of the Roller Trail
- Stretch and walk on the Exercise Trail
- Bring a friend and play a game on the lawn
- Walk, ski, or snowshoe through the fields
- Trek the Batson River trails and enjoy the river views and forest
- Hike all of the trails at Emmons Preserve in one day
- Stop and reflect at the gravesites of Natalie and Steve Emmons

### Activities at the Smith Preserve

- Walk, ski or snowshoe along the many trails
- Mountainbike the Beacon Trail and Bobcat Ridge
- Find the bobcat burrow on Bobcat Ridge
- Pick blueberries in the summertime along the trails
- Ride the Seashore Trolley to the KCT Trolley Trail

### Activities at Meadow Woods

- Bring a picnic and enjoy the preserve
- Enjoy a hike in the forest
- Observe a turtle in the pond
- Look for native plants and trees

### Activities at the Village Green

- Enjoy the beauty of Ganny's Garden
- Find the bronze cast shoes and hat of Barbara Bush
- Go to an event, or just relax on the lawn

### Activities at Goose Rocks Beach

- Picnic, and watch the sunrise or the sunset
- Watch the moon rise over Timber Island
- Make a sandcastle or sculpture on the beach
- Take a dip in the icy Atlantic Ocean
- Swim in the rivers at both ends of GRB on the same day
- Walk out to Timber Island and back during low tide
- Observe the piping plovers and other sea birds
- See the seals sunbathing on the rocks and playing in the waves

### Activities at Tyler Brook

- Walk the Tyler Brook Trail and look for wildflowers
- Watch for birds and wildlife along the trail and in the marsh
- Stop and take a break at the falls

### Activities on the Islands of Cape Porpoise

- Explore Vaughn's island at low tide
- Kayak, paddle board, row, or sail to Stage Island
- Get a permit and camp on Trott or Cape Island
- Visit Goat Island Lighthouse
- Go island hopping and enjoy the beauty of the harbor

### Activities on KCT Properties Around Town

- Enjoy a picnic breakfast, lunch or dinner on any KCT property
- Hike a KCT trail with friends and family, or by yourself
- Observe birds and wildlife at the Lake of the Woods
- Tour the Clem Clark Boathouse
- Walk the James Trail, go over the arched bridge
- Launch a kayak at the site of the old Grist Mill
- Show off your favorite property to someone new to KCT
- Hike from KCT Headquarters to Cape Porpoise Village
- Watch for the “Chicken Crossing” sign on your hike to Cape Porpoise
- Search for 2 old cemeteries between Cape Porpoise and Emmons Preserve
- Explore the many trails of the Cape Porpoise Greenbelt

- Find the beaver dam near the Rotary Trail
- In winter, make a snowman on a trail and look for animal tracks
- In spring and summer, search for wildflowers along the trails
- Bird and critter watch during all four seasons on any KCT property
- Attend a KCT event
- Volunteer for a KCT event

### Challenge Activities

- Find and climb to the highest point in Kennebunkport
- Find the only stone bridge on KCT property
- Find Elephant Rock
- Find Flower Pots Rock
- Find the “long and winding” boardwalk
- Find all 5 graveyards on KCT property
- Find the longest KCT wooden walkway and count the deck boards
- Find the fire break of the Fire of 47 on the James

Plan to attend our 50th Anniversary Birthday Celebration Party at Emmons Preserve, the date is to be announced.

Visit the KCT website, [kporttrust.org](http://kporttrust.org) for more information, and pick up trail maps at headquarters on Gravelly Brook Road. Go island hopping and enjoy the beauty of the harbor.

# Come Run With Us!



Come run with us in October! Participants will be able to run or walk KCT's 5k or 10k... something for everyone! Our course winds through our beautiful trail system and ends at our headquarters. All proceeds from the trail races benefit our educational programs. A win for everyone!

# Trust in Education Takes on Hybrid Learning

*Isaac Schuchat*

We got creative and brought the outdoors inside this past fall as Covid restrictions prevented in-person teaching and field trips. During late afternoons and evenings, Isaac, the Assistant Director of Programs and Outreach donned his waders and probed the coastline to film and photograph interesting wildlife. The wildlife he encountered soon became virtual classroom pets for the students at Kennebunkport Consolidated School, where they learned about

marine flora and fauna via remote lessons. The classes let out oohs and aahs as they watched a juvenile winter flounder change colors like a chameleon and bury itself into the sand. A bright third grader commented that the shimmering reflective flanks of atlantic silversides probably confuses predators trying to eat them. As temperatures became more brisk and the coast less hospitable to both Isaac and the wildlife he followed, attention was



turned to the land. Slightly foliage and signs of seasonal change became the focus of the Trust in Education program. Students looked up and observed the “V” formation of Canadian geese migrating southward. Then they folded paper airplanes that would glide through the air just like the geese. “Biomimicry”, they learned, is how humans observe and mimic nature to solve our own problems. Over the video call, Isaac showed them pictures of wind turbine blades modeled off humpback whale fins and the ventilation design of a shopping mall that mimics the naturally cooling airflow of a termite mound. Remote learning made the execution of a “normal”

curriculum challenging, but one unwavering routine became clear to Isaac:

“Instead of trying to predict and adapt to teaching in a Covid world, I came to a realization that I needed to metaphorically and quite literally look outside. The circadian and seasonal rhythms of nature will always prevail and provide stability, despite our own extenuating circumstances.” Shifting to a schedule that followed this predictability not only helped solve

Covid frustrations, but also reinforced the mission statement of our Trust in Education program.

When the program was founded in 2008, a key tenet was to foster a custodial love for nature and reconnect students with their local surroundings.

Through our place-based education, students can learn about the historic battles that happened in their backyards, visit the ship-building sites that put the Kennebunks on the map,

or take a walk along a KCT trail and identify invasive species that threaten our ecology and grow an understanding for why we need to protect our land and water. Since we couldn’t take the students on trail walks, or to old battle sites, Isaac sought to find other ways for students to experience their local surroundings, even in the cold weather. Adjusting the lessons to follow seasonal changes and cycles was the natural solution to continuing placed-based learning. When sunlight waned, students learned about seasonal change and sun position in the sky. When it rained, students explored weather patterns and played a game matching climates to different



regions in the country. They were delighted to learn that we can ski, snowboard, and sled thanks to jet stream air currents that pick up moisture from the Great Lakes and dump snow in New England.

Late spring brought welcome news. In person programming and field trips could resume at RSU 21! For the remaining few weeks of school, Isaac and the elementary school teachers were able to pack in a handful of trips, much to the students' delight. Second graders enjoyed the Kennebunk

River trip, following the river from its source at Kennebunk Pond to the sea at Colony Beach. Along the way, history and ecology lessons were taught as stops were made at Durell's Bridge, Picnic Rock, and the Grist Mill and Boathouse. Fifth graders explored the Cape Porpoise Harbor Islands, learning about geology, archeology, ecology, and history along the way. The students loved combing the shore for invasive green crabs and interesting rocks. One student even found a lead musket ball that dated back to battles between the colonists and Wabanaki!

The new school year will bring a welcomed return to Trust in Education programming normalcy. We are excited to gear up for our full schedule of field trips and reconnect face-to-face with students and teachers. Volunteers have been the backbone of helping us set-up and run field trip learning stations in the past. If you would like to volunteer to help out during field trips, please do not hesitate to contact Isaac at [ischuchat@kporttrust.org](mailto:ischuchat@kporttrust.org). We truly appreciate your help!

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# KCT Partners with Kennebunkport Parks and Recreation Camp

*Isaac Schuchat*

Instead of hosting day camp at KCT, we took the opportunity to partner with the Kennebunkport Parks and Recreation camp to facilitate joint programming. Since many local students from RSU 21 attend the camp, it was a great way to complement our school year field trips and add continuity to KCT's Trust in Education program. The campers visited local landmarks, and learnt loads of local history and ecology all while having plenty of fun! Highlights included a paddle up the Kennebunk River, a day on Goat Island, beach seining and tidepooling at Turbat's Creek, community service at the Grist Mill, and a camping trip on Trott's Island.

Scott from Coastal Maine Kayak and Bike generously donated a dozen kayaks that we could use for the day to paddle up the Kennebunk River.

After navigating the bustling section of river downtown, the campers settled into their kayaks and we made the peaceful trip to Picnic Rock. While some campers had already visited Picnic Rock, it was nearly everyone's first time making the trip the traditional way. The campers got a kick out of hearing that some of their grandparents would dress up in fancy clothes to paddle up the river. Instead of tophats and dresses, we wore bathing suits and crocs, and enjoyed the rope swing and swimming. On the way back down the river, we played capture the flag and ended with a paddle race. Tourists on

Lanigan Bridge enjoyed the spectacle of our kayak race.

The following week, we met at the Cape Porpoise Pier where Island Steward Jon Dykstra and Lighthouse Keeper Apprentice Nick Lewia shuttled the campers out to Goat Island. Lighthouse Keeper

Scott Dombrowski briefed us on history and shared some stories about what life is like living on Goat Island. The campers took interest in the sparkly 1950's era kitchen appliances and all climbed to the top of the lighthouse to soak in the panoramic views. For the rest of the afternoon, campers enjoyed some iconic lawn games like cornhole and wiffle ball, which are staples of leisure time on Goat Island.

Our third outing, we shifted gears to learn about coastline ecology at Turbat's Creek. Campers



took turns using the seining net to drag along the beach and catch critters like shrimp and crabs. As the tide receded, we explored the tide pools and observed how invasive green crabs are causing erosion by burrowing in the sod banks.

After paddling the river and swimming in local water, the community service day spent planting trees to restore shoreline habitat at the Grist Mill was a fitting way for the campers to give back. Island Steward and volunteer Carol Morris generously donated her time, expertise, and two linden trees that were planted at the site of the Grist Mill. "These

trees”, she explained, “not only will provide shade for us, and habitat and food for animals, but will also prevent shoreline erosion as the roots hold the soil down, and filter out pollutants before they run off into the river..”

Campers enthusiastically got to work, digging into the hard, rocky soil under the blazing summer sun. After placing the linden trees into their new holes, the campers lugged jugs of water from the boathouse sink to irrigate the thirsty soil and give the trees a comfortable start. To cool off themselves, they all went for a dip in the Kennebunk River, satisfied that they had just done their part in protecting the water they love.

The finale of camp season culminated in an overnight camping trip on Trott’s Island. Although many campers have enjoyed the view of Trott’s from shore, none have had the opportunity to experience an overnight adventure on the island. Again, Island Steward Carol Morris helped ferry all of the campers and staff out to the island. All the quintessential camping activities were entertained, including fire building, roasting hot dogs, and, of course, swimming!

This fall, we partnered with Kennebunkport Parks and Recreation on two community events. Chalk the Port, hosted at the Parks and Recreation building, featured chalk art from youth and professional artists alike! On October 22, we brought back the Halloween Zombie Dash that debuted in 2019. It was held at KCT



headquarters on Emmons Preserve, located at 57 Gravelly Brook Road. Both events were resounding successes! We appreciate the relationship we have built with Stephanie, Breece, and Hope from Kennebunkport Parks and Recreation, and are looking forward to partnering on more fun events in the future.



# Ed Sharood and Jacqui Holmes talk about the KCT/KHS Alternative Education Partnership

*Shelley Wigglesworth*

Edward Sharood has been the Alternative Education Teacher at Kennebunk High School for the last 17 years. Fellow teacher Jacqui Holmes joined him in 2016. The students in the KHS Alternative Education program tend to work best in a non-traditional learning environment with various approaches to learning, often through real world experiences.

A decade ago, the students in the KHS Alternative Education class began working with the Trust and in the subsequent years, a mutually beneficial, win-win partnership has evolved, and continues to grow and thrive.

It all began with the construction of The Learning Trail, a joint project between the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust's "Trust in Our Children" program and the Kennebunk High School Alternative Education program.

Funding was generously provided by the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation.

The Learning Trail was blazed, researched, and constructed by students of the Alternative Education program for environmental enlightenment and enjoyment for all. It took two years to complete and features 14 educational and thought-provoking topics

to learn about, explore and experience along the way- including wetlands, tree identification, bird identification, forest wildlife, beaver activity, vernal pools, bees and pollinators, animal tracks, wetlands, evergreens and more. Located at the Trust headquarters, 57 Gravelly Brook Road, the Learning

Trail is accessible from the Emmons Preserve network of trails. Sharood said by partnering with the Trust on the Learning Trail, "the students were able to incorporate all four standard educational requirements as well as art, health, and physical education throughout the project."

In addition to working with the KCT for the Learning Trail, the KHS Alternative Education students also provide ongoing work with younger students in the school district for "Trust in our Children" educational field trips, events, and projects. Holmes commented "To watch our students become



the teachers at these events and build connections with the younger students in the district is so special. You can see the pride in their faces as they answer questions, read stories, and help the students with activities such as building birdhouses."

Over the years, the high schoolers have also built

needed items for the Trust, such as stilts, and corn hole boards for use at events, and they constructed the Storybook Trail which is a smaller trail system at the Trust headquarters featuring covered storyboards where copies of a story can be placed. The Storybook Trail concept was designed to get children outside exploring the woods while incorporating reading, and the fitness aspect of the trail.

When asked about memorable moments of the work done and accomplishments of the students, Sharood said “Some of the most memorable moments were not always the best days. We had days where no one wanted to get off the bus to tackle the to -do list because it involved running wheelbarrow loads of gravel ½ a mile out into the woods, or it was raining outside. My fondest moments have been all the times like that when students were pushed outside their comfort zone or beyond the ability of what they thought was possible. It is in those moments where some of the best learning has occurred.” He added “The partnership with KCT has been a valuable environment outside of the traditional classroom that has fostered learning, maturation, sense of belonging, understanding of the community and its rich history, a way to give back to the community and provide long term connections to nature and their environment that they can access at any point in their lives beyond their high school years.”

The next project for the KHS students is tackling the Emmons House and Barn at the Trust Headquarters. Holmes explained “Through the project, our students will learn the process of renovating a house- from getting a permit and hiring a contractor to installing a new HVAC system and decorating the interior. The hope is that the project introduces the students to a variety of career paths and gives them the opportunity to make connections with trades people in our community. In addition to a learning opportunity for our students, the renovation will get the Emmons House back into shape for guests, visitors, and other students to use in the future.” She added “Community partnerships such as these are central to the work, we do in the Alternative Education Program. We have found that our students are most engaged in learning when they see the direct connection to their lives outside of the school building. Teaching them how to be active, engaged citizens in their community and the importance of



service is a large part of our mission. It's our favorite part. Students come alive during these large-scale projects. They learn how to overcome challenges, how to work together, how to communicate with adults and community members, and feel tremendous pride in the final products. Watching them grow and discover their interests and passions through this work is energizing and so powerful.”

Sharood and Holmes credit KCT Executive Director Tom Bradbury and Leia Lowery, KCT Trust in Education, Director of Programs and Outreach at The Climate Initiative as the visionaries who made the partnership the success it is today. “They have built an immense educational foundation in all three of our communities,” Sharood said.

This year the teaching duo plan to add another connection to the partnership by introducing Alternative Education Alumni who are now professionals in their trades into the mix. “We now have former students who are running their own construction companies, or are masters in their trades, and licensed to do this sort of work. This will provide another layer- to give back to the program that was one part of their success while also connecting us current students to the trades and community members who were in the very seats that they now sit in. It has been powerful to be able to see this start to come to fruition.”

# Leia Lowery

Having been the Director of Education for the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust for the past 12 years, many people know me as “the field trips lady,” which can either be exciting if you are a student or terrifying if you are a volunteer! Many of you know Trust in our Children through our updates, but you may not see the difference it has made in the lives it has touched. Having been asked to be a keynote speaker for a land trust event in Yarmouth, I was able to tell this amazing story. It is the story of our land and our community and how KCT has made a difference. I am starting with my history, but as it tends to do, our collective history is a woven fabric of all the people that came before us and will walk this land after us- all to say- this background will make sense!

My mother is from Bath, Maine. While her mother was an immigrant, the rest of her family had been in the Bath and Waterville area for generations- where she grew up her whole life, surrounded by family - good, bad, and indifferent. My father is from what I like to call the foothills of the Appalachians. Not in the mountains, but where they settled in Horsepasture, VA, once they came down from them. His family quite literally was there for hundreds of years. Same town- lots of family.

I grew up sitting on the porch with my family, listening to the music and stories of our collective history. My story was literally passed down to me on that carport, even the bad stuff. My family doesn't hide the bad, odd, or a little unsteady- we put a tiara on it, name it Aunt Ginny, and go to the town parade. After all, all of it is a part of our family, our story - Us.

I believe this front porch experience influenced everything in my life, from my career choices and forged paths to my six different majors in college

before being forced to narrow it down, and even in the town, we have settled to raise our kids.

I have one constant- I crave community. I seek it wherever I land - and if it isn't there? I try to build it. My mother used to say I grew roots

where ever I sat still for a minute (which, if you know me, you can imagine I never sat still long, so growing roots was a pretty impressive feat.)

When I started working for the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust in 2010- I took the job (one of 4 I was working at the time) simply because of something the executive director Tom said in the interview- "We have always known what we were saving our land from, but now we don't know who we are saving it for."

On the heels of "Last Child in the Woods," a book that raised concerns about kids spending more time indoors and in front of screens instead of in nature, Tom reasoned that if kids weren't out on the land learning all the amazing things it had to offer- who would carry on the legacy of the Trust? Who would fulfill our promise as a land trust to conserve land in perpetuity?

I still believe he hired me because, in my interview, I referred to myself as growing up a feral woodland child exploring my forest. It was just weird enough for him to give me a shot, if nothing else, to see who in the world would consider that to be an essential description of themselves for a job! He took a chance on me, and we are both glad he did.

KCT started with elementary programming in just one of our elementary schools. The goal was to get students out onto our properties, have community members be our leaders to create intergenerational connections, and teach them about the town's history and the ecology of the

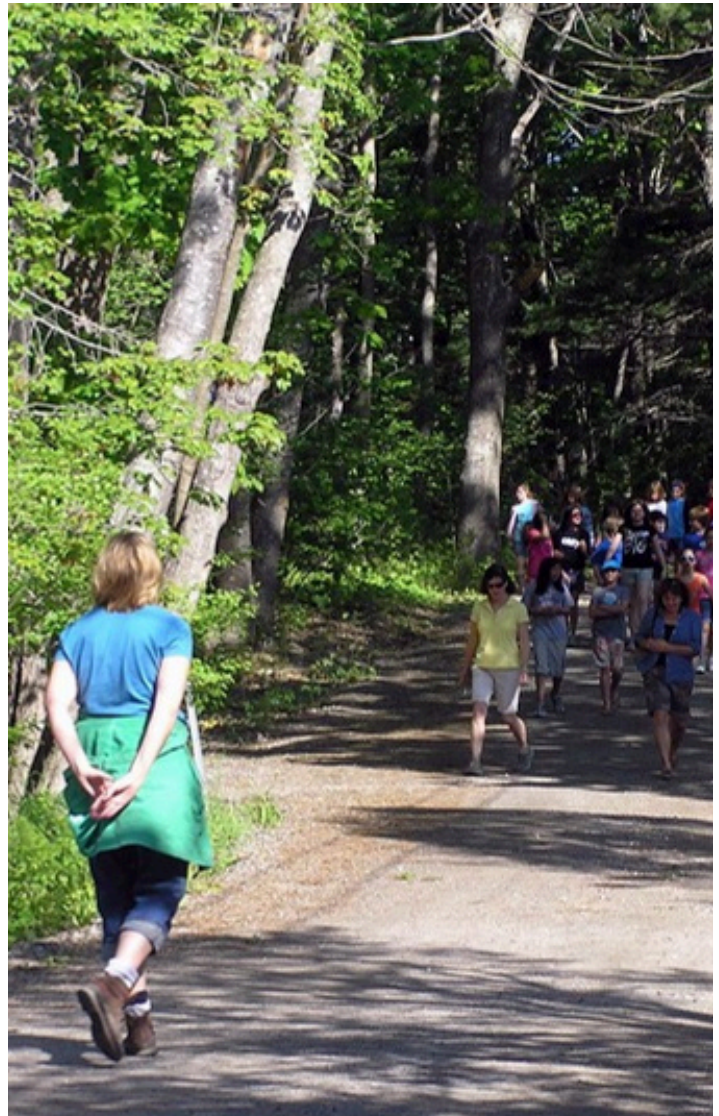


local landscape. In a few short years, we had expanded these programs to all 4 of our elementary schools- each filling the needs of teachers and students.

We never told them what we would teach- we asked them what they needed. Our goal was always to fill a need- fill the gap like glue, sometimes like the super glue that sticks to your fingers for 12 years, no matter how often you wash them.

So I will ask you, how much do you remember before 5th grade? Yep, me either- After asking Tom that very question, I got the go-ahead to expand into the high school, and we changed the name of our program from Trust in our Children to Trust in Education, TiED. It better described our mission-we wanted the youth in our towns to be TiED to the land, TiED to their history, and TiED to the community. We were starting to build our porch. Again, we went to the school principal and asked what they needed.

It turned out they were working on building an Alternative Education Program for HS students that weren't thriving in the traditional classroom. So naturally- I thought- sure! We can totally manage this! With a little bit of trepidation and a whole lot of hope, I went to the board with the idea of building a "Learning Trail."



Building this trail would fill all the needs of the students for school. They would get math and physics skills by designing and building bridges, history, science, and english through researching and writing the sign information, art through creating the signs, and for sure, all the hauling of lumber around a 1-mile trail would give them a PE credit!

While the story sounds like it, it was not all sunshine and rainbows- There were some rough times- when they first came to the Trust, they wanted nothing to do with me. Headphones in, hoodies up, they sulked and smoked and dragged their feet.

But then the most amazing

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Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,  
Sermons in stones, and good in everything."*

William Shakespeare, As You Like It

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thing happened. These students- that hated going to school- were coming every day. They started to become those young kids again, discovering all the wonders of the land. One of my favorite stories is two boys who had found rocks throughout the woods and hauled them over to make a stone walkway about halfway through the trail were so excited about what they had built on the trail. They came in wanting to show me. I had broken my leg three days before, and I didn't think I could get out there, but that was not going to do. The two of them picked me up under my arms and carried me out into the woods to show me- now, THAT was their full PE credit right there!

And you know what? They still come- 9 years later- to walk their dogs or say Hi; one wanted to get married here. Alternative Education students started holding their graduation at the Trust, coming to decorate the Trust for holidays- In a town where they felt they had no place, in a school where they felt invisible- We filled the gap. We were able to give them the community they craved.

As these students returned to the school and talked, and our teachers told the stories of the learning trail- our properties became the subject of curiosity. Environmental Studies students needed a place to do water testing for class- we were that place; the freshman class needed a place to go for the day when other students were testing- the teachers created lessons, and our landscape was the place. The track coach needed trails for students to run on - Our trails became their course. Our front porch grew.

Then came the Gulf of Maine Field Studies class. While working with High School students, we noticed something- they were changing. These happy kindergartners were re-appearing in high school changed, and it was more than just hormones. They were anxious; they were frustrated; they were depressed. They talked negatively about Environmental Science classes and didn't want to take them because they were too depressing. They were disconnecting. For all our hard work to connect them- they were throwing their hands up in despair.

**Two studies involving thousands of children and college students show that anxiety has increased so substantially since the 1950s that typical schoolchildren during the 1980s reported more anxiety than child psychiatric patients did during the 1950s. That was 40 years ago, and those anxieties have only gotten worse. The findings appear in the December American Psychological Association's (APA) Journal of Personality and Social Psychology issue.** Studies show that our children are increasingly anxious and that we are in the midst of a mental health crisis- A new threat was coming into focus, and our young people were stressed.

In a time when the world is facing its biggest threat in climate change, many adults- including well-meaning land trusts- are placing the mantle at our students' feet. Saying, "These bright kids will save the world someday." They feel all that pressure- with NO AGENCY TO CHANGE



ANYTHING- As they learn about what is happening globally and feel the pressure of it falling to them to solve- they feel hopeless and helpless- "we can't do anything about it- why bother...."

We created the Gulf of Maine Field Studies through the Gulf of Maine Institute's NOAA grant, a collaboration between KHS, UNE, and KCT. Our goal was to give students agency by taking a global issue and bringing it to their local landscape, showing them how to do real science, and empowering their voices in their community. Through data collection and community-based projects, we tackled the complex problems that climate change presents to our three towns. As they led information campaigns, held community interviews, and embarked on real projects, we saw that these amazing young people were creating real change and coming alive again.

Their influence on the community came in many forms. A KCT board member insisted we finally take the leap and go net-zero as an organization to show the students we were with them. The town manager supported a six-town

consortium of coastal communities developing resiliency plans. The fire chief in Kennebunk went back to the select board after the previous approval of an SUV and asked for an electric vehicle. Kennebunk is the first town nationwide to have an electric command vehicle, and Chief Rowe openly stated it was because of the students. Most notably, the students have recently supported Community Conversations and community field trips to a town marsh they have been studying. They hope to create a living shoreline as an example to educate community members on natural solutions that protect our marshes, understanding their importance in climate change mitigation.

Their empowered voice started honest conversations to lead to real solutions within our community. They began to understand that they are a PART of the environment- not separate from it- and that their projects serve the community's and environment's needs. The town listened. Students were able to address complicated issues with adults through community conversations.

Gaining the attention of funders, this led to The



Climate Initiative-a national non-profit born out of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust that seeks to empower youth voices for climate action- This has been a bold move for a land trust to take on in such a divided time. But through our community conversations and work throughout the years, we have learned- At the end of the day, we all have the same basic needs and desires. We want food on our table, shelter over our heads, and a livelihood to provide those. We want safety for our families and connection, a community, and a sense of belonging. We argue out of fear of losing or not being able to attain one of these things.

I told you I would get back to my parents. Remember how long they lived in their respective hometowns? In the past, we used to inherit community- as a birthright. We were born into a place where everyone knew each other- often, there was a support system. We knew our neighbors, and they knew us- it wasn't perfect, but it offered a support system. Now we are more nomadic- we don't live in the same places as our grandparents and their parents. That connection is not there. So while we crave connection, security, and community, we sometimes have to create that for ourselves; it is no longer handed to us through a long thread of ancestry.



Recently my son Henry lost a mentor in his life. This man was a volunteer at our land trust and was Henry's bus driver- and music mentor. Henry struggled a bit in school- with changing schools, he had difficulty feeling that he fit in. Mark took him under his wing, and the seat behind the driver became his safe space; eventually, Mark became his music mentor, sharing songs and becoming one of Henry's biggest fans.

At the memorial, I was sitting with our executive director and other Trust people, and as Henry performed, the lighthouse keeper leaned over to me and said you have raised such a great kid- I said- No, we all did.

Because we did- From a young age, the Trust took Henry in when others did not. Karl, one of our board members, took him up in a plane. Bud, a board member and trail steward, took him out on the John Deere, which to a 5-year-old, was about as cool as it could get! Craig, one of my volunteers, took Henry to see Flying Santa on the island when I couldn't go. Russ, our Board President, would let Henry drive the gator to help clean up after trail races. Tom, our executive director, always let Henry play music at events and shared his music with him. The Trust was an integral part of Henry's feeling accepted and part of a community, and I am not sure they even knew the influence that they all had.

Every land trust should have a Henry- Every land trust should have multiple Henrys- we should be striving to be that common thread that weaves us all together- We tell the story of our land, its history, and its importance. But that story is incomplete without the people who lived, struggled, loved, and stewarded the land we wish to preserve.

We are a small land trust- during this time, we had only 3 employees- and only one doing education and outreach. 12 years ago, we had a vision, and a willingness to fill the needs of our community, and the tenacity to believe we could do it- to build a front porch big enough and strong enough to support all those who come to it. All those who come to learn about the land they live on, whether they have lived there for hundreds of years or just a few. Everyone has a seat.

We are now a part of many front porch stories-

weddings, funerals, birthday parties, proposals, memorials, treks on trails- as a land trust, we have a unique opportunity to unite our community and connect through things we all value- the land we share and love. To reconnect people to each other in the community that we build together.

As our members, you have tasked us with preserving our land in perpetuity. How do we do that? How do we engage everyone in the importance of this task? How do we bring everyone to the table, so they understand this is their story? This is their chapter, and they are a part of this environment. And as Margaret Meade said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."



# A Final Word...

*Tom Bradbury*

As difficult as it is to briefly describe all that is going on at the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust at any given time, it's even more challenging to convey the emotions that we bear witness to as a result of our work. It's not that we're often told these things, for we're not. It's just that we are able to catch glimpses of the bonds that tie people to nature and their community, that sense of place that grows within them. John Muir once said, "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul." Those are the places we try to protect.

We most often see it in children as they make new discoveries in the landscape. We see their excitement as they explore a tide pool, their joy as they step onto the beach or their sense of adventure as they walk along a wooded path, waiting to see what lies beyond the next bend. We see families camping or picnicking on the islands, creating memories that will last a lifetime. We see people next to a small fire on Goose Rocks Beach. It's a cool summer's night. A soft breeze is blowing off the ocean and the full moon is rising over Timber Point. The effect is magical. During the worst days of COVID we saw our parking lots fill as people took to the woods to find comfort, peace and a sense of safety in nature. We see the looks on the faces of those who visit Goat Island Lighthouse and the pure delight of being able to spend time in a working history environment, at a true symbol of the Maine coast. We see the photos taken of sunrises or sunsets over unspoiled harbor vistas or scenic marsh lands and know the emotions that were felt while witnessing such mesmerizing displays. We hear the laughter from a crowded beach or from the boats moored in Stage Harbor. We see people walk their dogs every day along a familiar route, grateful that it's there for their use. We see the ongoing life and love of this small Maine town and the bonds that keep people here for generations, or keep them coming back year after year. And when we see these things we know we're on the right path and gain the inspiration and enthusiasm to carry on. Won't you join us on that journey by becoming a KCT member? These places were saved for you. We hope you enjoy them.



# Become a Member

Any amount helps us achieve our goals

By donating to the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust you become part of our membership. Members of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust drive our organization. They support us financially, steward our lands, share their talents, volunteer their time, and love the places in town that the Trust is dedicated to caring for. Our members come in all shapes and sizes, from the one who sends us a nickel taped to an envelope each year, to the one who built the foundation of our endowment. We appreciate each and everyone of you! Join us as a member this year and be part of the KCT family. Any size contribution makes you a member, please give what your budget allows. More importantly, live it and love it, these are your lands! Thanks to all of our members!

You can become a member by visiting our website: [www.kporttrust.org/donate-1](http://www.kporttrust.org/donate-1), fill out the form below, or put the requested information in a note, and mail it to Kennebunkport Conservation Trust, PO Box 7004, Cape Porpoise, ME 04014.

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