

TRUST IN OUR TOWN

A PUBLICATION BY THE KENNEBUNKPORT CONSERVATION TRUST

**CHANGING OF THE GUARD
ON GOAT ISLAND**

**GOOSE ROCKS BEACH
DUNES RESTORED**

**KCT LOOKS TO
THE FUTURE**

**A BOLD VISION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL AND
CLIMATE EDUCATION**

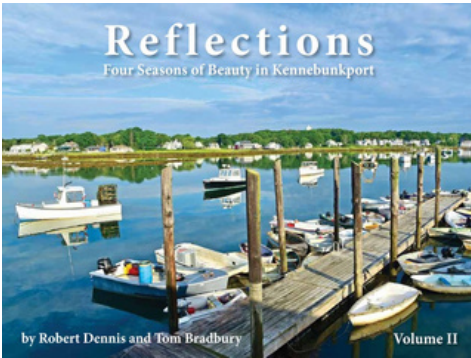
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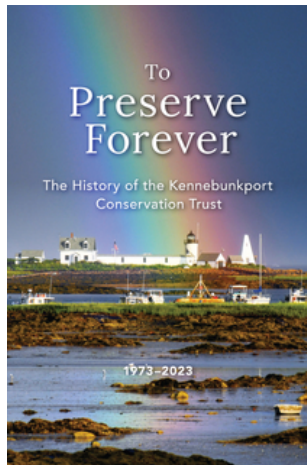
Volume II of "Reflections: Four Seasons of Beauty in Kennebunkport" Photos by Bob Dennis, with quotes chosen by Tom Bradbury. The images include sections on two of Kennebunkport's most cherished events, the Memorial Day Parade and Christmas Prelude. A perfect gift for anyone who loves Kennebunkport!

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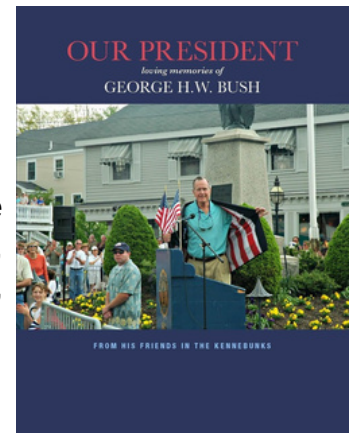
To Preserve Forever is a 213-page hardcover book, chronicling the 50-year history of the Trust through words and images.



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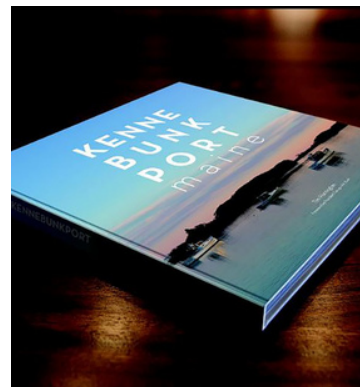
A memorial book, filled with short anecdotes that capture President Bush's wit, humor, and love of the Kennebunks, written by the many people he touched in our community.



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people, landscape, artistry and culture. President George H.W. Bush contributed a heartfelt and expressive foreword in the book to introduce the visual journey that follows.

Table of Contents

A Word From Our Director	2	The Arundel Conservation Trust Celebrates Growth and Progress	21
Let the Light Shine!	4	Our Land is Your Land	23
Print Sale Benefits Goat Island Light	5	New Faces at the Trust	26
Bottoms Up! A New Lighthouse Brew!	6	KCT Looks to the Future	28
Changing of the “Keepers” at Goat Island Light Station	7	Kennebunkport Conservation Trust Brochure	29
Dunes Restored at Goose Rocks Beach	10	Folksinger David Mallett Offers 50th Anniversary Benefit Concert	33
<i>Namesake</i>	13	Magical Moments	34
Education Programs Flourish	15	Not a Solitary Phenomenon	36
Archeological Work Continues	16	A Final Word	38
Invasive Species Work Done at Meadow Woods Preserve	17		
The Climate Initiative: From Local Roots to Global Impact	19		



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A Word From Our Director

Tom Bradbury

2023 was a year of reflection for those of us who are involved with the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust as we looked back upon fifty years of trying to turn dreams into reality. Dreams were essentially all we had when we first started. Back then, we had generally taken for granted those places that made our community special, assuming that things would never change. The islands that surrounded our working harbor, our beaches, scenic vistas, downtown open spaces and undisturbed forests where wildlife found refuge had remained much the same from one generation to the next. In our naiveté we thought that would always be the case, but that wasn't meant to be. Areas of importance were soon being threatened, or lost, to increasing development. If we were sincere about wanting to forever preserve the essential beauty and character of this place we loved, then we would have to become pro-active. We would have to convince all of our citizens, native, newcomer or visitor, to join us in trying to set aside those properties that we all valued, to be enjoyed by all, for all time. It was out of these thoughts that the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust was born. The intent of the organization wasn't to prevent development, for all towns need to have growth and changes in order to thrive. Rather, KCT was founded to guard those traditional features that had been passed on to us so that others would be able to enjoy them as we now do, our gift to the future.

Thinking this and accomplishing it were two different things. To be successful we would need certain environmental, legal, mapping and communications skills. We would need any number of volunteers, and we would need money. Unfortunately, at that time we had none of these. What we did have was the energy of youth, the

willingness to work, the desire to learn and a refusal to fail. As it turned out, that was all we needed. Though we were lacking in much of the basic knowledge thought desirable, there were those around us who were more than willing to share their particular expertise with us. There were those who loved the land they owned and wanted nothing more than to see that property protected for all time. There were those that gave generously of their time and others of their resources, and the Trust grew. Dedication and passion turned out to be a strong enough foundation on which to build.

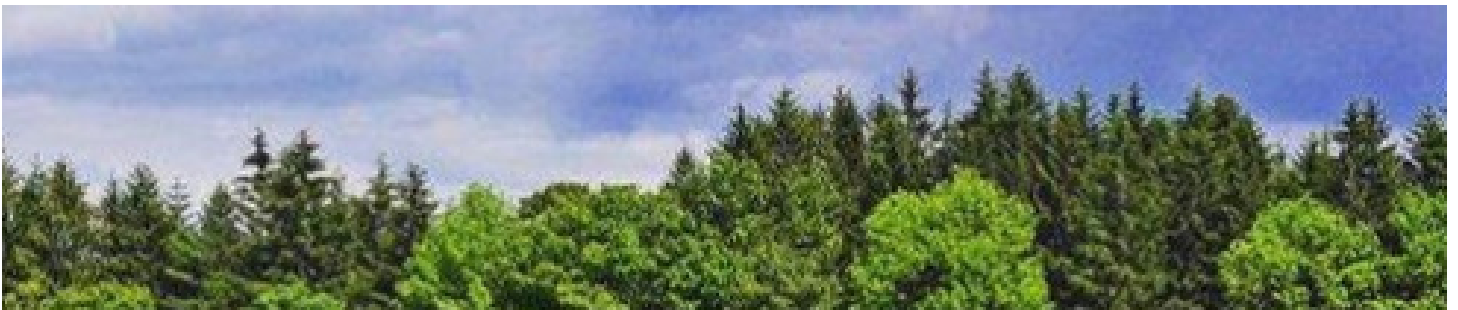


As the years passed, each new challenge was faced in its turn. When the Trust's number of properties and associated responsibilities began to exceed the sole stewardship of volunteers a headquarters was built, and an initial staff hired. Changes in the ways our children viewed and used the landscape around them led to the "Trust in Our Children" educational programs, through which students gained not only a sense of the environment, but also a sense of place. The program grew and expanded. Alternative Education students from Kennebunk High School were using the Emmons Preserve as their educational home. Artifacts found on the islands led to a full archaeological program, along with a participation in "First Light", a learning journey with the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet and Micmac communities. In order to broaden our biodiversity impact, we helped to create the Arundel Conservation Trust. Our Gulf of Maine class between Kennebunk High School and the University of New England was taken to scale as our response in dealing with the results of a changing climate and how that would affect KCT holdings and our community. "The Climate

Initiative” became its own non-profit with a talented staff, and an amazing board of directors and trustees. The climate related learning modules created by TCI are now being used by educators in all 50 states and in 32 countries. In addition, some outstanding partnerships have been formed with such organizations as FEMA, the American Red Cross and International Rotary.

As the KCT Executive Director, I am often asked how my work is going. Oddly, even after the passing of so much time I don't really regard my position as a job or work. I view it as an opportunity to accomplish goals set long ago. Without question some days offer more challenges than others. At those times I have the comfort of

leaning on the wisdom and abilities of those who share the Trust's visions and objectives. On the pages that follow you will be introduced to some of those people. You will also get to see how we have faced challenges, met responsibilities and planned for the future. Collectively, we all are working to make our community, and your life as a part of it, better. We hope you will enjoy learning more about the Trust. We also hope that you will join us in our efforts, for we rely on volunteers and our activities are almost entirely funded through individual support. We believe now as we did when we began, that together we can make a difference. Together we can do great things.



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Let the Light Shine!

Power Has Been Restored to Goat Island Lighthouse!

After a two-year hiatus, when the submarine cable providing electricity to the Island failed, KCT is proud to announce a significant and successful investment in solar panels and batteries which allowed the lighthouse keepers house to be fully functional this summer.

Goat Island Lighthouse was established in 1833 for navigational safety with the lighthouse beacon being originally lit by burning whale oil. It has been operational for the past 191 years. While the lighthouse light is managed by the U.S. Coast guard, the island, lighthouse and the lighthouse keepers' home are now owned and maintained by the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust., and since 1993, Scott and Karen Dombrowski have served as KCT's lighthouse keepers. The lighthouse is still in use as an essential navigational aid and has also been open to the public for visits during the summer months.

Modern power was first brought to Goat Island in the early 1950's via a submarine cable. The original cable was replaced in the 1980's and given a projected 30-year lifespan. It was operational until 2022, when it failed for good. The light in the lighthouse and the foghorn remained functional thanks to a solar array and battery bank which was installed by the U. S. Coast Guard in 2008, however the island keepers' home was left without power for the first time in nearly 70 years.

In February of 2024, after careful consideration, much research, and many lengthy discussions, the KCT Board of Directors voted to proceed with a proposal to install solar panels to re-power the lighthouse keepers' home. Solar was selected after taking into consideration the environmental benefits involved, the permit time and expense of going with another cable replacement, the fact that wind power was not dependable, and tidal power for that small scale was not available. The solar option provides a more economical power source which will be backed up by battery.

The Maine-based company Assured Solar was secured to do the work, which was done in time for the fourth of July tradition of illuminating the home and lighthouse for Independence Day. The Trust extends its most sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who donated to the cause or helped to bring Goat Island back to life and light. We are grateful. Let the light shine on!



Print Sale Benefits Goat Island Light

Kennebunkport artist Mariah Lang grew up immersed in nature and exploring the outdoor spaces of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust properties.

You can often find her drawing, practicing photography, and creating art inspired by the great outdoors she has always loved. Lang serves as a Goat Island Apprentice, which involves volunteering on the island, helping with upkeep, welcoming visitors, and educating them about the lighthouse and its history. "Being an Apprentice is incredibly special to me. It means protecting a piece of history, and teaching others why preservation is so important," she said.

When Goat Island lost power in 2022 due to an underwater power cable failure, the volunteer work Lang loves so much was put on hold, until the power could be restored. To help fund the effort to re-power Goat Island, Lang sold prints of an image she

took of the Light House and donated 100% of the proceeds to the re-powering fund. "The inspiration for this double exposure photograph comes from my love of



Goat Island and the light on the island itself. I used a 35mm film camera to capture colors in a certain way. I wanted to convey the warmth of the sky and emphasize the contrast of colors out there. Double exposures are common due to the multiple exposure setting on the camera, but you never know what you're going to get. I was pleased when I got this image," she said.

Lang said selling her prints to raise money for the Island was just another way for her to give back to something that means so much to her.

"Anyone who truly loves something knows giving what you can is important. I knew that every bit of help or donation was appreciated as we worked through solving the power problems on the island together as a community."

Lang's 8x12 (matted to fit in a 12x16 frame) fine art print on Hahnemühle metallic photo rag paper is available for \$120 with 100% of the proceeds to benefit Goat Island.

To purchase:
Visit the KCT webpage
<https://www.kporttrust.org/> or
purchase direct from Lang's
website at:
www.mariahlang.com



Bottom's Up: A New Lighthouse Brew!

by Kevin Broydrick



lager), called Shadow Lantern, featured a beautiful Bob Dennis photo of the Lighthouse on the label. We focused distribution on the greater Kennebunkport area, and the beer was a hit at places like Bradbury Brothers, H.B. Provisions, and Coveside Market.

During our stay this summer, Clodagh, my older daughter, and I developed a ritual of walking down to the dock at twilight to breathe in the evening air. On one such walk, as we watched the last amber glow fade from the horizon over Cape Porpoise, she quietly said "we are so lucky". That sense of gratitude and wonder is something I hope to keep alive in my girls, and it's that spirit that motivates all of us to preserve and protect the future of Goat Island for generations to come.

I awoke early on our second morning on Goat Island to get a head start on mowing the lawn. As the girls dozed upstairs, I stepped out onto the back deck of the keepers' quarters and observed thousands of migratory swallows swirl and dive above the undergrowth, blotting out sections of the horizon. I shook my head in wonder at another of the small spectacles I was witnessing during my time on the island. My wife Bridget and I, and our two daughters Clodagh and Sinead, are part of the team of apprentice keepers-in-training working closely with lighthouse keepers Scott and Karen Dombrowski. It was our second year manning the island, and we're feeling more comfortable than ever, but no less grateful for the opportunity.

When the power cable failed in 2022, we were all left scrambling and brainstorming for a solution. Whatever course was taken, fundraising would play a key part. I decided to brew a beer at Bissell Brothers, where I've worked for the last 8 years, as a benefit for the effort. The resulting Dunkel (a German-style dark



Changing of the “Keepers” at Goat Island Light Station

After 31 years of dedicated service to our community, Scott and Karen Dombrowski will be stepping down as the official Goat Island Lighthouse keepers at the end of this year.

Scott and Karen have been living on Goat Island as caretakers of the lighthouse and property from May through December since 1993. They raised

their two sons Greg and Eric, who were five and seven years old at the time, on the island. They now welcome their grandchildren to their special place for visits.

Goat Island Lighthouse was acquired by the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust in 1993, and not only serves an important and essential navigational role, but also as a central part of the Trust itself, available for island exploration year-round and open to the public seasonally with light tower access.

“A lot of things are in the lighthouse that aren’t in regular houses,” explained Scott. “We need to know how to care for pumps, filters, and many other things to keep it all in working order. There are two 1000-gallon cisterns in the basement which are used to catch rainwater, the only source of water on the island. We maintain the lawns, the buildings and all the equipment. The Coast Guard maintains the light and the fog signal which are now solarized.”

“Our situation with the lighthouse is unique,” said Tom Bradbury, Executive Director of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust. “Few groups do what we do regarding maintaining the lighthouse

property, keeping the island manned and having it open to the public. I don’t think most people realize that aspect of the island, and all the work that is involved. When they visit, people get a better sense of what goes on. Scott and Karen have helped make all that happen for the past three decades.”

Lighthouse keepers also serve as a liaison

between the public and first responders during emergencies at sea. Goat Island Light is situated in the middle of some very tricky areas heading into Cape Porpoise harbor. There are dangerous inlets and entrances, hazardous ledges, and jagged rocks in numerous locations. The Dombrowski’s are familiar with the areas and pay close attention when a distress call is made.

“This harbor has a 400-year history of European fishing, and 7000 years of Native American fishing before that,” Tom Bradbury

explains. “There has always been, and always will be a potential for danger at any time when you deal with the sea. Many see the peaceful and picturesque harbor, and don’t know that on the ocean conditions can change quickly. Sometimes situations become dangerous. The Old Prince Ledge area is unforgiving, which is one of the reasons why the lighthouse was originally built in 1833.”

Over the years, the Dombrowski’s have participated in 29 rescues at sea, with everything from a plane crash, boats on the rocks, boats on fire, and having to pilot lost mariners in the fog to



a safe harbor mooring, to people kayaking who have capsized or lost a companion in the surf. There have been many lives saved because of Dombrowski's presence and assistance on the island. There have also been several painful losses that have taken place in the vicinity, where they helped with the search and recovery efforts.

The hard work and rescue missions certainly stand out to the Dombrowski's, yet their collective experience on the island has been nothing short of a spiritual journey. "Goat Island from day one had an incredibly special karma and feel to it," said Scott. "Every time we left the mainland, it felt as though we were leaving the weight and problems with life ashore. It is amazing really, a special blend in time where the creation of the unique lifestyle of yester-year is combined with modern nuances,"

"Sharing this island over the years, offering opportunities and experiences for people of all ages to learn and enjoy, has been very rewarding for us," said Karen. "We've hosted Discovery Days for children and adults, field trips designed for students, scouts and countless other groups. Flying Santa visits to Goat Island were memories that I will never forget." "Illuminating the lighthouse for the Fourth of July and at Christmastime, were always special occasions." Scott added. "Living here has taught us how to work hard, share this precious resource with as many as we could and to be very respectful of Mother Nature, having observed her fury many times over. It taught us how to communicate with the community and the press, give our children a strong work ethic and a respect for conservation of land and sea. We grew to have an acute appreciation for how dynamic the island environments are and how Mother Nature takes care of and repairs her land and seascapes."

Knowing they couldn't be lighthouse keepers forever, three years ago the Dombrowski's spearheaded an apprentice lighthouse keeper program, teaching nine local families how to care for the property. "Whether it will be one head keeper's family or shared responsibility is all being actively discussed," Scott said.

"We want stake holders to be local people who have a great pride in their town and our rich maritime heritage to carry the torch. Most of these families have been coming to Goat Island for most of



their lives and understand what we have tried to create and maintain,” Karen added “We plan to support the new keepers by sharing our many experiences and by being available for them to consult with us. We will also be available to be relief keepers if someone needs to be away from their duties unexpectedly or there is uncovered island time for any reason.”

Ashley Baker-Koch, her husband Adam Lewand-Koch, and their two children, 9-year-old Haven and 7-year-old Flora, are one of the apprentice families. “This year was our third summer as apprentices for Goat Island Light Station,” Ashley commented. “Goat Island is a very special place. It was the last light in Maine to be automated in 1990 and one of the last to be decommissioned by the Coast Guard. When the Trust took over the property, Karen and Scott became stewards. Keeping it as a lighthouse manned by a family was really important to them. As they approached retirement, they wanted to train local families who already loved and spent a lot of time on the property to be able to do more of the care, and we seized the opportunity.”

She explained what the apprenticeship has been for her family. “We stay at the island for a week or so at a time, doing projects and upkeep. It can be so beautiful and peaceful to live there but it also requires a lot of physical and mental fortitude. There are so many things to constantly be monitoring: the tides, the weather and all of the systems and machines that

keep the island running (well, rain collection, water filtration, electrical and solar, lawn mower and boat engines.) We spend a lot of time teaching visitors who arrive by boat and kayak about the light house.” She continued, “Our kids love to help with painting and landscaping projects, but their favorite jobs are starting the foghorn, greeting visitors, and giving tours. They especially love to catch and release baby lobsters to teach visitors about ocean creatures.” Koch said the position is a great fit for her family as she is a teacher with summer flexibility, and her husband runs his family’s nearby farm in Kennebunkport. Though she feels that all the apprentice families have different strengths, skills and offerings, she believes that by working together they will be able to carry on the Dombrowski’s legacy with the same dedication and passion Scott, Karen and their family have shown.

The Dombrowski’s said they are proud of what they have accomplished and what they have been a part of preserving for future residents of our community and visitors to enjoy. Passing on what they have learned to another generation is also a rewarding experience. Karen concluded “The most important part of our job is to share the rich history with anyone who wants to learn about it and experience it. This place belongs to all of us, and that is why we are here. There has to be someone on the island to keep it safe and cared for, and to share it with anyone who comes out. This island has been our life, our love, our passion, and our mission to share, and we hope it stays open and welcoming for all to experience it forever.”



Dunes Restored at Goose Rocks Beach

The back-to-back storms in the winter of 2024 did significant damage to the beloved dunes on Goose Rocks Beach. In response, KCT worked with the town and organized a community effort with the goal of reducing future sand dune erosion. Former KCT board member and current Selectman Jon Dykstra said approximately 50 percent of the dune volume was lost because of the winter storms.

“The Kennebunkport Conservation Trust replenished sand on the eight Trust lots lining the east arc of Goose Rocks Beach, in the area extending just west of the Edgewood beach access point and eastward to the Broadway access point. Included in this stretch is one private lot, one Town-owned lot, and three Town-owned Right of Ways which are beach access points –one each at Edgewood, Proctor, and Broadway Avenues. The beach access points at both Proctor and Broadway were changed from what was previously a cut through the dunes, to a mat draped over the restored dune surface. This will improve the protective aspect of the dune and prevent rapid dune erosion that naturally occurs where dunes are cut through by pathways. The ADA-compliant entrance at Edgewood remains at-grade. However, the path will

be placed at an angle to the in-coming sea in the hopes of increasing its resistance to erosion.” KCT also oversaw an effort to plant 11,000 dune grass seedlings in late April to further protect the sand dunes.

Dykstra said “Over the past several millenniums, the dunes along Goose Rocks Beach have been severely eroded by large storms occurring every 50 to 100 years. The natural process of re-vegetation and the capture of wind-blown sand by the emerging vegetation has historically worked to reestablish the dunes in front of a slowly rising sea level. The events of the past 5 or so years, along with a plethora of international climate science research, have pointed to the probability that these severe storms will become significantly more frequent and powerful. Most probably, there will not be sufficient time for the natural dune rebuilding process to sufficiently restore the dunes before the next major storm.” Tom Bradbury, executive director of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust noted the work is an experiment to aid in dune protection and reduce further damage. “It may well be washed away by the next major storm. It equally may provide sufficient protection to jump start the dune



process and allow a barrier dune to exist for many years to come. Only time will tell.”

The project and work were designed, permitted, and paid for by Kennebunkport Conservation Trust at no expense to taxpayers and the sand used to restore the dune was all from the Trust’s Goose Rocks Beach lots. The work was done following the recommendations of the Maine Geological Survey.

Bradbury concluded “Goose Rocks Beach is a

rare treasure along the southern coast of Maine. Its geologically unique sand and beautiful granite barrier islands create one of Kennebunkport’s most valuable assets. What our changing climate holds for how future generations will experience the beach is uncertain. However, the Trust is committed to be a part of the planning and efforts required to preserve the beach, and all it means to Kennebunkport, for as long as possible.”





this image of Goose Rocks Beach with and overlay showing proposed changes to public entrances to the beach was part of the planning process; these changes were implemented as part of the restoration.

NAMESAKE

by Margaret A. Haberman
by Margaret A. Haberman

When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

—Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

To love a place, beyond the surveyed
borders. Property line mid stream
of the Batson River, draining
watershed for the northern end
of Kennebunkport,
from a trickle to raging torrent.

To love, not just the buildings—farmhouse
and barn—and the old cemetery across
the river, neighbor to eastern white pines—
but beyond the boundary of what was made
by human hands, ravaged by fire, turned
under by plow. To see one's place not just
side by side but woven together.

Woven together with a porcupine
named Lucy—one harsh winter fed
Fig Newtons in the kitchen. Suet
for the red tailed hawk. A barn
with a wooden boat—
the Natalie June—
a place shared with squirrels
and birds, mice and chipmunks.
They have as much a right to be here
as we do. Weather beaten, rustic—
full of books for every curiosity:

Weeds in Winter.

Small Wonder. Seed to Seed.

The Book Of Water.

Roots in the Rock. Maine.

Roots of the land trailing beneath
the floorboards of the farmhouse
to an ancient fire pit, pieces of pottery,
two Irish farthings. Everything belongs.
Speaking to the children, gathered
close to hear a voice lowered by time
sharing not just what was, but every
genus and species of what is.
The lay of the land. Not just a stroll
in the woods, but a mission.

-Margaret A. Haberman

Note: This poem was written in honor of Steve Emmons, namesake of the Emmons Preserve, and could not have been written without the generous assistance of Tom Bradbury and Leia Lowery and with the help of written materials provided to me by the Trust. The poem reflects pieces of conversations and snippets from documents. I did not have the good fortune of knowing Steve. I hope this poem captures some of his spirit, and the essence and magic of the place.



Education Programs Flourish

Nothing is more inspiring than to witness local students, of all ages, participating in KCT's vast array of educational programming. In fact, compared with other land trusts our size, few have a full-time education coordinator and have devoted as many resources to engaging with children than KCT. This is truly something our entire community can be proud of.

The core mission of the Trust in Education program is to connect all generations with nature through education and experience. Our properties are rich in human and natural history, cultivation and preservation efforts, ecological diversity, and natural relationships. Community members and local students gain an appreciation of our local landscapes through place-based education, history lessons, and hands-on science experiences.

During the 2024 school year, from winter to spring, students from the RSU 21 school district ventured to the Emmons Preserve, Goose Rocks Beach, Meadow Woods Preserve, Vaughn's Island, and Stage Island. These experiential field trips help students learn about the environment in our community. They practice science standards while connecting to the unique and natural features of Southern Maine. Second graders from Kennebunkport, Kennebunk, and Arundel traveled the path of the Kennebunk River on their KCT field trips. The river has valuable ecological and historical significance for all three towns. It provides an excellent opportunity for students to step back in time and learn about historical Wabanaki and Abenaki methods of travel and fishing, traditional canoe parades, economics of the shipbuilding

industry and today's tourism. Second graders stopped at the Grist Mill site in Kennebunkport to discover the importance of technology as they attempted to grind corn by hand and discussed how the river's power encouraged early settlement. In the Clem Clark Boat House students examined a dug-out canoe and viewed artifacts from fishing and lobster boat building.

From Kennebunk Pond to Colony Beach, students observe the trickle of the river change into rapids and eventually empty into the Atlantic Ocean. They discussed the tides, water quality, and the wildlife habitats along the way. At Colony Beach, students witnessed the impact of winter storms and discussed the ecological, historical, and economic significance of these impacts. After a day



filled with learning experiences, the second graders and their teachers are in awe of how much the Kennebunk River contributes to our local environment and economy.

The Kennebunk River provides an excellent opportunity to discover the important past, present, and future of our community's unique and natural resources. All KCT properties have been preserved for their ecological and historical significance. The Trust in Education program is committed to cultivating relationships with local school districts and creating programs that foster joy and magical moments when on the land for children and adults. Through experiential learning and deep-rooted connections to our land and coast, all generations can gain a shared responsibility for protecting these natural places.

Archeological Work Continues

Another distinguishing feature of KCT is that we are one of the few conservation trusts that manages a professional archeological program on its properties known as the Cape Porpoise Archaeological Alliance (CPAA).

The 2024 field season began with continued excavation on Redin Island. In May, CPAA hosted the University of New Brunswick/University of New England Coastal Field School at the Redin Island site. Students from the Field School dug test pits along an established grid line in an attempt to locate the boundaries of a Prehistoric site identified in 2019. In addition to UNB/UNE students, CPAA also hosted an intern from Columbia University. Gabriella Calabia worked with CPAA for six weeks compiling data of Precontact use of ocean resources for a 2025 exhibit at the Brick Store Museum.

Tim Spahr presented CPAA's work at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology in New Orleans this past spring and is presenting at the Vermont Archaeological society this fall. CPAA members also provided training and educational presentations for several school groups as well as coordinating a winter series of speakers at the Museum. Presenters included Dr. Gemma Hudgell,

Dr. Bonnie Newsome, Elizabeth Kelley and Dawna Lamson.

In an unexpected turn of events, and somewhat out of the purview of archaeology, CPAA members located a dead Minke whale on Cape Island. After speaking with Brick Store Museum staff regarding the 2025 exhibit, CPAA members received permission from the National Marine Fisheries Service for the museum to possess and exhibit the whale remains. After watching the whale de-flesh for several months, the bones were recovered and are now in treatment to be reassembled for the exhibit.

CPAA will continue archaeological research on Redin Island this year and most likely for several years to come. Later this fall, CPAA will also be documenting a possible early Historic or Precontract rock feature of Cape Island through aerial drone photography. The uniquely preserved islands of Cape Porpoise have provided important information to the archaeological record. Our community greatly benefits from this work which is essential to undertake now before global warming potentially washes away artifacts that are currently buried on the harbor islands.



Invasive Species Work at Meadow Woods Preserve



Environmental Studies Senior Capstone students from Dr. Pam Morgan's class at UNE have been working with Ward Feurt, KCT Meadow Woods Preserve Executive Committee member, to eradicate invasive Mugwort plants at Meadow Woods Preserve. The invasive plant was first identified in the Patsy Bray Mahoney Pollinator Meadow portion of Meadow Woods Preserve last year, and a plan to remove and prevent future spread was immediately initiated by the Trust with Feurt, Morgan and the Capstone class taking on the task.

"The study group was assigned to the Patsy Bray Mahoney Pollinator Meadow to develop an invasive plant plan, make a story map focusing on the pollinator fields, and hold field periods," Feurt said. The UNE students, along with volunteers from the community were at the preserve at various times throughout April working together removing the invasive vegetation. Mugwort is a perennial plant native to Europe and parts of Asia and Africa. It is a shallow rooted plant with tall, brush foliage. If left alone, the invasive species quickly chokes out native species.



Back row: Stella, Ally, Judy, K, Barbara Front row: Juliann, Kate, Dani, Bella

“Mugwort spreads primarily through rhizomes, which are underground root trailing systems. The presence of the tiniest rhizome can quickly lead to a takeover, suffocating surrounding plants,” UNE student Kate Ganley explained. UNE student Juliann Lapierre added “Mugwort plants do produce seeds, but propagation by seed in this region is not likely to occur.”

“We believe Mugwort may have unknowingly been introduced to the meadow by contaminated topsoil. By addressing this now, we are nipping the problem in the bud so to speak,” UNE student Bella St. George said. Removal consists of gently pulling the plant by the stalk, shaking excess soil from the roots, and removing any surrounding root trails and shoots before taking the plants from the property to destroy. “Our goal is to monitor the field and control the spread to the point where it is manageable,” Lapierre said.

Re-planting of native species where the Mugwort was removed will take place in the coming months and years, as the Trust works to make the Patsy Bray Mahoney pollinator meadow, and the Meadow Woods Preserve in general, a place of great beauty.

For more information about Meadow Woods Preserve please go to our website at:

<https://www.kporttrust.org/meadow-woods>



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The Climate Initiative: From Local Roots to Global Impact

In the face of escalating climate challenges, a remarkable story of growth and impact has unfolded over the past few years. The Climate Initiative (TCI), a grassroots organization grown out of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust education programs, has blossomed into a powerful force for environmental education and youth empowerment, now boasting a presence in all 50 states and 32 countries worldwide.

Exponential Growth

What began as a small, community-focused effort in 2018 has exploded into a network of over 2,500 educators, reaching more than 300,000 youth. This exponential growth is a testament to the urgent need for climate education and the effectiveness of The Climate Initiative's approach. Growing knowledge that education is a powerful way to take climate action makes TCI's approach even more timely. The potential impact of their growth is staggering. A 2020 study published in PLOS ONE revealed that if just 16% of secondary school students in middle and high-income countries studied climate change, it could result in cutting almost 19 gigatons of CO₂ by 2050 – equivalent to the annual emissions of over 4 billion passenger cars.

New Leadership, New Vision

Previously the Director of Education for The Kennebunkport Conservation Trust, Leia Lowery brought her wealth of experience in building educational programming and co-created TCI. For the past three years, as the Director of Programs and Deputy Director, Leia and the TCI team grew those programs into top-tier educational materials that put tools in the hands of educators and young people to combat climate anxiety, build vibrant communities, and shape a sustainable future for our planet.

In 2024, The Climate Initiative welcomed Lowery as the new Executive Director. Under her leadership, the organization has set its sights on a crucial new goal: measuring and sharing the real-world impact of its extensive network. "We've seen incredible growth in numbers," Lowery states, "but what truly matters are the stories behind those numbers. We're focusing on collecting impact stories from educators across the country to understand how our work is changing communities."



From Local Action to National Solutions

The Climate Initiative's journey began in our small town and remains active here. This year, TCI held youth-led community conversations addressing local flooding issues caused by extreme weather events. These discussions not only raised awareness but also fostered solution-oriented thinking among residents. Now, this model of youth-driven, community-based action is being replicated across the nation. From coastal cities grappling with rising sea levels to inland communities facing unprecedented heat waves, The Climate Initiative's educators are facilitating crucial conversations and inspiring local action.



Climate Action Impact Stories: The Heart of the Mission

As The Climate Initiative collects impact stories from its vast network, a picture of nationwide change is emerging. In Seattle, students have initiated schoolyard greening projects, including gardens that raise food for the food insecure in their community. In Kentucky, a youth-led project got school board-approved solar panels for their computer charging stations. Students created an education program for younger students in their school and a community-wide clothing swap to teach the community about fast fashion and its impacts. In Minnesota, students led an information campaign about regenerative agriculture, and middle school students started composting programs in their cafeterias, working with the facilities staff and school board. In Alabama, high schoolers studied land erosion along the Gulf of Louisiana, working with a state legislator, they wrote a bill protecting coastline from invasives that exacerbate erosion. Locally, students are still looking at how to protect our marshes from invasive species and sea level rise and are hoping to follow the UNE Gulf of Maine Field Studies class in being able to construct a living shoreline.

These stories, while diverse in their specifics, share a common thread: young people taking charge of their environmental future and bringing their communities along with them. This impact is not just about the environmental impact- it is also about mental health. A study published in The Lancet Planetary Health found that 60% of youth between the ages of 16 and 25 described themselves as very worried about the climate, with nearly half saying this anxiety affects their daily functioning.

By empowering young people to take action in their local communities, The Climate Initiative offers a powerful antidote to climate anxiety. Through hands-on projects and community engagement, youth build a sense of agency and hope, transforming fear into positive action.

Looking Ahead: Meeting a Growing Demand

While climate change can be a divisive topic in some circles, the reality of environmental shifts is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore. From shorter winters in Maine to more extreme storms across the country and unprecedented global heat waves, the effects of climate change are evident to many.

The Climate Initiative is meeting a growing demand for climate education. According to a recent report, more than 86% of educators and 84% of parents support climate education in schools. However, 75% of educators have not received any professional training or education on the topic. The Climate Initiative is bridging this gap, providing educators with the resources and support they need to teach about climate change effectively.

As The Climate Initiative continues to grow, its focus remains firmly on empowering youth to be at the



forefront of climate solutions. By providing educators with resources, training, and a supportive network, the organization is nurturing the next generation of environmental leaders. "What started in our small town is creating solution-finding and community-building across the nation," Lowery reflects. "It's a powerful reminder that local action can indeed lead to global impact."

The story of The Climate Initiative is far from over. As climate challenges continue to evolve, so too will the strategies and solutions developed by the thousands of educators and youth in the TCI network. One thing is certain: the seeds planted in a small coastal town have grown into a movement with the potential to reshape our approach to climate change, one community at a time.

If interested in supporting the work of TCI, please contact Leia at leia@theclimateinitiative.org

The Arundel Conservation Trust Celebrates Growth & Progress



The Arundel Conservation Trust (ACT) is an all-volunteer, independent, 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.

ACT achieved a significant milestone at the end of 2023 by paying off the last installment on the loan from the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust for the 37-acre land parcel that is now the ACT Community Trails on Limerick Road in Arundel. On May 31, 2024, ACT celebrated this milestone at a community event held at the trailhead of the Community Trails. Mother nature cooperated, providing beautiful warm, sunny weather for the celebration. The gathering included State Senator Henry Ingwersen, Arundel town officials, Kennebunkport and Arundel Conservation Trust Board members, friends and community members. During the ceremony,

Joan Hull, one of the six ACT founding members, shared the history of how the Arundel Conservation Trust began and the purchase of the Limerick Road property.

The founding group of what would become ACT began meeting in 2016. The members included Joan and Sam Hull, Dot Gregoire, Leia Lowery, Jack Reetz and Linda Zuke. The impetus for the creation of ACT was the plan to build a new Municipal Building for the Town of Arundel. The group saw the opportunity to not only build a town office but create a community space to include trails that could connect to the Eastern Trail; a place where community members could come together to meet and have fun with each other. We offered to buy the land together with the Town in a cooperative agreement. They agreed if we could find the funding for our portion of the land. We met with Tom Bradbury, the Executive Director of KCT to find out how we might go about moving forward. He suggested we form a Conservation Trust and have faith that we could raise the money. "In February 2017, we officially asked the KCT board of Directors if they would consider having ACT as a Chapter of KCT, and mentor us on how to build a conservation land trust. The board agreed to help us, not only accepting ACT as a chapter but also loaning us the \$175,000 to buy our first piece of land on Limerick Road," Hull said. Since then, ACT has built trails at the Welch Woods property on River Road and has acquired 40 acres of property on the Sinnott Road gifted by the late Wilbur Cluff now being prepared for public use.

"Tom Bradbury facilitated a significant anonymous gift from a former Arundel resident and we received a generous grant of \$25,000 from Kennebunk Savings Bank. The rest has come from our fundraisers, appeals and grants. Which means it has come from our sponsors and you," Hull noted during the ceremony.

Tom Bradbury added to the occasion by giving the Arundel Conservation Trust the deeds to both the Cluff and Welch Woods properties in Arundel, which ACT had been responsible to steward since 2017. The ceremony concluded by symbolically “burning the Limerick Road property mortgage” to the cheers of the audience. Now incorporated as a federally recognized nonprofit, the ACT continues as a volunteer only organization and proud chapter of KCT.

ACT now stewards five pieces of land in Arundel, along with a growing membership base, sponsors, and an incredible team of volunteers, who work to support ACT events, community outreach and education. Together, the ACT board and trail blazer volunteers have built a wonderful trail system, bike pump track and have created a place of beauty and community here on Limerick Road.

The Arundel Conservation Trust wants to thank all the volunteers, community members, town officials, partners, and sponsors for making The Arundel Conservation Trust a reality. **For more information, please visit www.arundeltrust.org or email info@arundeltrust.org**



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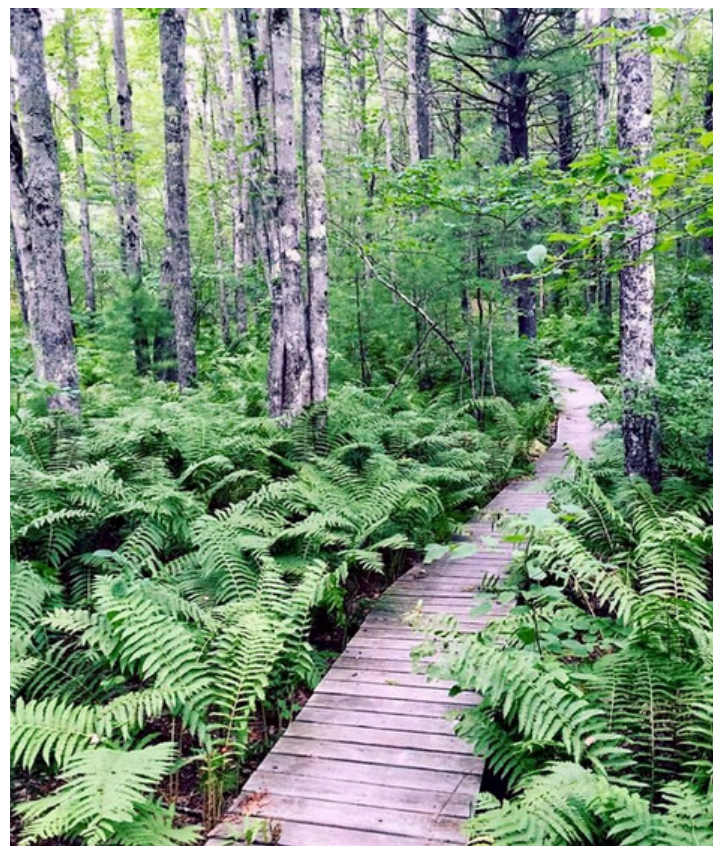
Our Land is Your Land

Explore the variety of experiences our Trust properties have to offer

Kennebunkport Conservation Trust has conserved over 3,000 acres of land from development. Much of our land is preserved in its natural state, protecting valuable ecosystems and wildlife habitat. We also have numerous properties that are available for exploration and recreation. These properties are open to the public free of charge at all times during all seasons. Whether you want a quiet hike through the woods, an exhilarating off road bike run, or a joyful romp with your dogs, these properties have something to offer you! Here is a listing of which properties offer what sorts of experiences:

Emmons Preserve Located just 3.7 miles from Dock Square at 57 Gravelly Brook Road, the Emmons preserve serves as the headquarters and hub of KCT's operations and activities. Emmons Preserve boasts an extensive trail system that stretches all the way to Cape Porpoise, passing through cool, quiet forest and meandering alongside the Batson River. The KCT Labyrinth and Fitness Trail are located on

the Emmons Preserve. The KCT headquarters building houses our offices and public gathering spaces. There are picnic tables, Adirondack chairs, and a fire pit to enjoy, and the building is available to rent for events. Scan the QR code on the right for a map of the Emmons Preserve trails.



Smith Preserve The Smith Preserve is KCT's largest preserve. The trailhead and parking lot are located on Guinea Road, close to its intersection with Goose Rocks Road. The trails here are suited to bikers and

those looking for a longer hike; the Bobcat Ridge Extension has some exciting terrain, but otherwise the trails are fairly gentle. Scan this QR code for more information about Smith Preserve, including a map of the trails and their lengths.



Tyler Brook Nestled half way between Cape Porpoise Village and Goose Rocks, the Tyler Brook Preserve offers a nice loop to end a hike along the Batson River Trail from Emmons Preserve, or a quiet, short hike all on its own. The Tyler Brook overlook is a great place for picnics, too! There is parking at the end of Tyler Brook Road. Scan the QR code at right for more information about Tyler Brook Preserve.



Meadow Woods Preserve

Featuring the Patsy Bray Mahoney Pollinator Meadow

Located at 406 Mills Road, our newest preserve features a dog park and a lovely pond surrounded by native plants, with a two mile trail currently under construction.



Meadow Woods Preserve is a great place for a picnic, an afternoon of quiet reading, or a romp with your furry friends! Scan the QR code for more information.



Clement Clark Boathouse / Old Grist Mill

Just a short walk from Dock Square at 8 Mill Lane, this property provides access to the Kennebunk River. It is a great place for launching kayaks when the tide is high; the covered porch and picnic tables make it a great picnic spot at any time.



Ganny's Garden/River Green on Ocean Avenue right around the corner from Dock Square, just below the Captain Lord Mansion. Ganny's Garden was created as a community tribute to Barbara Bush. The River Green is another quiet oasis in downtown Kennebunkport, perfect for picnicking or an afternoon escape.



James Wood at 52 North Street, just across from the municipal parking lot. James Wood is a mile long trail that meanders through the woods just outside of town. Scan the QR code for a trail map.



Cape Porpoise Islands

KCT has preserved Vaughn, Redin, Stage, Fort, Cape, Trott, Pinkham, Bass and Green Island, as well as Goat Island and Goat Island Light. The Islands are open to the public and there are eight free campsites located on Vaughn, Cape, and Trott, island. Scan the QR code for more information about KCT island camping.

The islands are accessible via small watercraft, while Vaughn's can be reached on foot at low tide. There is a wealth of bird life on the islands, with everything from Sandpipers to Bald Eagles.



There is also a thriving archaeology project centered on the islands; Tim Spahr and his team are currently excavating on Stage island, where they have found artifacts dating from the early 20th century back to pre-Columbian times.

Of course Goat Island Light is the Shining Star of Kennebunkport. Newly outfitted with solar power, the light will continue to warn ships in bad weather. Like all the other islands, Goat Island is open to the public.



New Faces at the Trust

We are pleased to introduce two new staff members and four new board members.

Jenna Van Haren has been hired as our new Education Program Coordinator. A native of Wisconsin, Van Haren (who has a master's in environmental education from NYU) has spent the last 8 years working on the East Coast, teaching environmental education programs in school districts, and working firsthand with teachers and students, both in the classroom and out in nature. When it comes to specialty niches, Van Haren said her love of "insects, bugs, and creepy crawly things such as toads, frogs, salamanders and snakes," is a hit with young learners, and is a great way to get them interested in nature no matter where they are.

"I'm excited to bring my knowledge from working in the environment all over to the students in this community," said Van Haren. "And I look forward to teaching and learning alongside them."



Nikki Schlie has been named KCT's Assistant Director of Finance and Outreach. While not exactly new to the Trust (Nikki was hired as a bookkeeper in 2021) she has recently been elevated to a full-time position working closely with Executive Director Tom Bradbury. Nikki has a business administration degree, with additional courses on nonprofit financial management. Her position at the Trust involves financial management and assisting with volunteer engagement activities to ensure the organization's financial health and enhance its community presence.

She is currently implementing a donor and volunteer management software program, Little Green Light, to enhance outreach and collaboration between the KCT team, community members, donors, volunteers, and other Trust organizations.

Nikki describes herself as "detail oriented, outgoing, and passionate about her position." In addition to working for the KCT, Nikki serves on the Arundel Conservation Trust Board of Directors as their Treasurer.

Since the last publication of this magazine KCT has elected four new board members listed here alphabetically:



Tim Fraser has long-time family ties to the area and has been fortunate to have been a homeowner in Cape Porpoise for more than 25 years, and here full time for the last few years. His love of the outdoors has him either biking, hiking or kayaking, much of that time spent on KCT property and trails. Professionally, Tim co-founded and managed a successful business-based staffing group in Boston for over 25 years.

Ajeet Grover was born in Boston to a military family and has lived from coast to coast and in Germany. She is a graduate of UMASS Amherst with a degree in International Relations. She is a mother of three, a yoga instructor, and an IT Manager for an international company. Ajeet and her children have spent much time at the Trust properties over the years where all four find inspiration, and where cherished memories continue to be made.



Jacqueline Holmes is a 2013 graduate of Bates College and is currently working at Kennebunk High School as an Alternative Education teacher. In fact, Jacqui and her colleague, Ed Sharood, were recently named “Maine High School Alternative Educators of the Year” for their work in that capacity. Over the past eight years Jacqui has partnered with KCT through her role as a teacher in the Alt. Ed. program. “Watching the students find a sense of belonging through their work at the Trust has brought me immense joy and a sense of pride. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with an organization that preserves land and places to be accessible for everyone, forever. To me, the Trust exemplifies the Maine motto: ‘The Way Life Should Be.’” In addition to teaching, Jacqui coaches the tennis and cross-country teams at KHS. She loves birds, puzzles, the morning, and being outside.

Tom Putnam grew up in Kennebunk and graduated from Kennebunk High School. After a career as an educator and director of two history museums (the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and the Concord Museum) he retired in 2022 and moved back home. He can often be seen walking on Goose Rocks Beach, at Timber Point or kayaking around KCT’s harbor islands.



KCT Looks to the Future

For well over a year, the board and friends of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust worked on its latest strategic plan. The goal was to reflect upon where we've been, assess the status of where we are and then set in place a series of goals and objectives to get us to where we want to be in the future. Led by consultant Elizabeth Smith, the board and its various committees solicited the insights and feelings from a wide range of community members.

"KCT has a 50-year record of success thanks to the organization's visionary leadership and an incredible community of people who are willing to work hard and devote themselves to protecting lands and resources that make Kennebunkport what it is," said Hall. "This process enabled us to document the goals KCT's leadership seeks to achieve over the coming years, and to record KCT's core values and vision in an effort to preserve its community-centered culture for generations to come."

In May of 2024, the plans were approved, adopted, and finalized. A vision for the future was thus established, with a mission of serving, preserving and being stewards of the land; to learn from its rich ecology and history, to protect and restore its diverse habitats, to be inspired by its natural beauty, and to connect people with nature through education and experience.

The 10-page plan embraces the idea of working in the present, while honoring and learning from the past. It seeks to build a better future for the generations of people, plants, and wildlife that are to come in a healthy and sustainable way, one that ensures that each member of the community is able to experience the comfort, joy, and magical moments that manifest when on the land and out in nature.

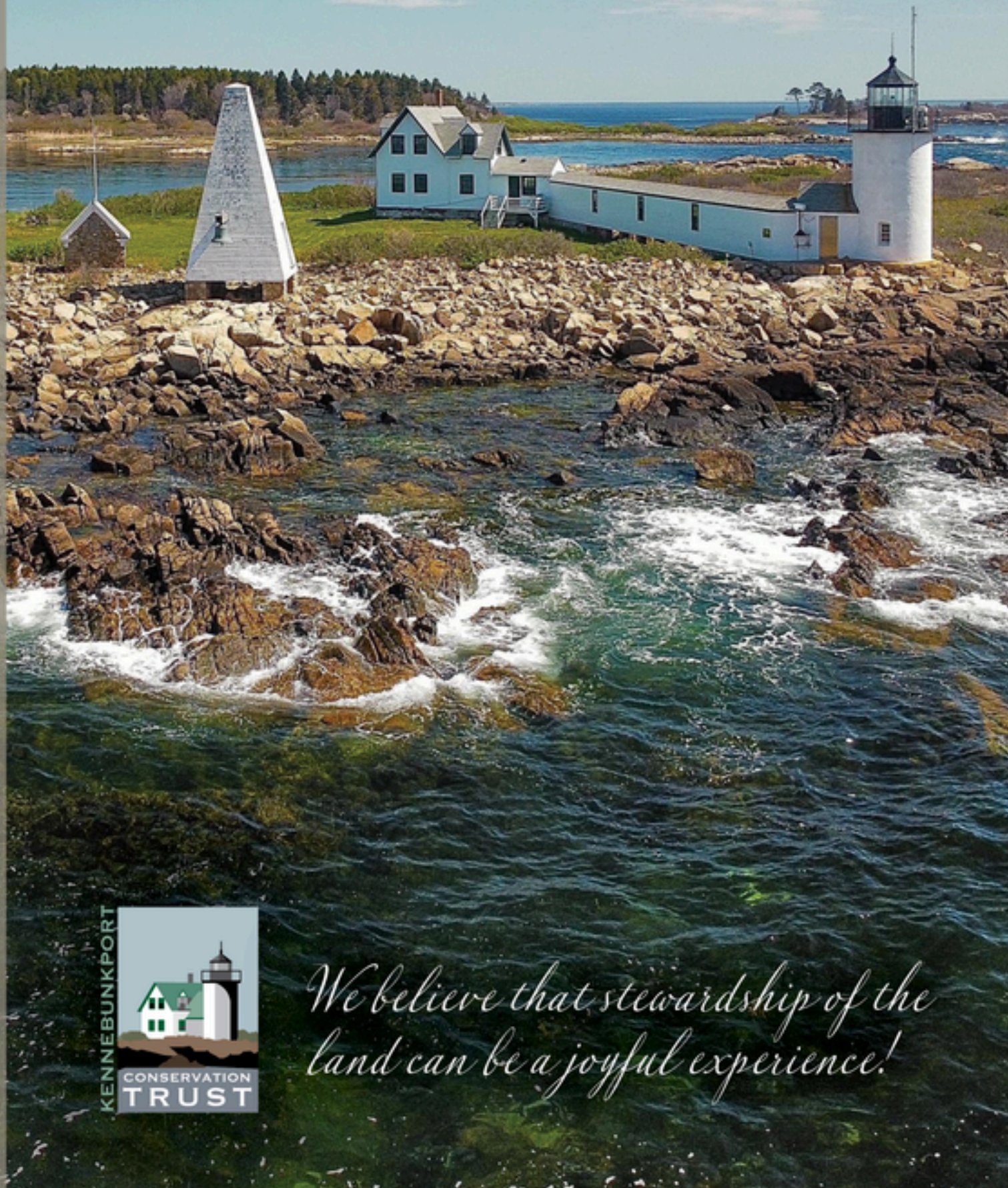
Values in the plan are centered around love and respect for the land, waters, and the animal and plant life that surround us, with the belief that access to a healthy environment is vital for human health and wellbeing, and that shared access should nurture connection, inclusivity, and community.

The Trust's goals will remain much as they have been; to protect and conserve land and habitat for the benefit of the greater community, to steward lands and properties with respect for the past and sustainability for the future, and to engage all generations in educational programming that connects people to nature and our landscape.

"Our new strategic plan is much like a vow," said Tom Bradbury, "representing who we wish to be, while acknowledging the effort it will take to get there. But as I always remind people, 'together we can do great things!'"



KENNEBUNKPORT CONSERVATION TRUST



*We believe that stewardship of the
land can be a joyful experience!*

Our Mission

The Kennebunkport Conservation Trust preserves and stewards land to learn from its rich ecology and history, to protect and restore its diverse habitats, and to be inspired by its natural beauty. We connect people with nature through education and experience.

Our Vision

Kennebunkport Conservation Trust envisions a future where:

- Every member of our community is able to experience comfort, joy, and magical moments that manifest when on the land and out in nature.
- Our entire community has a deep-rooted connection to our lands and coast, and a great pride in the shared responsibility of protecting these precious natural resources.
- The towns of Kennebunkport, Kennebunk, and Arundel work closely together to preserve the region's wildlife areas, habitats, and special spaces.
- KCT has the resources, skills, and human power to optimize the stewardship of our lands, utilizing traditional and best conservation practices.
- Our regional landscape and seascape serve as leading incubators for climate resiliency solutions, and communities across the globe benefit from technologies and practices developed here.
- State, regional, and federal policies enable and promote the use of cutting edge practices to combat the effects of climate change on our natural and built environments.
- Archeological efforts result in a broader understanding of the region's history and the traditions and lives of the peoples who inhabited this place for many thousands of years.
- Kennebunkport, Kennebunk, and Arundel collaborate to enrich the lives of students and learners of all ages by sharing knowledge of the history, geology, and ecology of the region.

Our Values

- We are motivated by love and respect for the beautiful land, waters, and the animal and plant life that surround us.
- We believe access to a healthy environment is vital for human health and wellbeing. Shared access should nurture connection, inclusivity, and community.
- KCT welcomes everyone to contribute to our shared goals which, we believe, can be a joyful experience!
- We work in the present, honoring and learning from the past to build a better future for generations of people, plants, and wildlife to come. We endeavor to work in a healthy and sustainable way.
- We have everlasting gratitude for our community members whose donations of land or resources have enabled the Trust's success. Their generosity will not be forgotten.
- We have the courage to face reality and to be creative and bold in transforming challenges to opportunities. We are always learning.
- We are one community player amongst others and we collaborate for maximum impact and far-reaching benefits. Together we can do great things!

Our Goals

- Protect and conserve land and habitat for the benefit of the greater community.
- Steward lands and properties with respect for the past and sustainability for the future.
- Engage all generations in educational programming that connects people to nature and our landscape.
- Collaborate with partners to adapt the Kennebunkport landscape and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Build community and engage local citizens as active participants in KCT's mission and work.
- Increase multi-faceted fundraising and strategic investments to support ongoing operations and future opportunities.
- Build organizational capacity for expanded impact and success.



Our Properties

Emmons Preserve, Smith Preserve, Tyler Brook Preserve, Meadow Woods Preserve, Grist Mill & Clem Clark Boathouse, James Wood, Ganny's Garden & Kennebunkport Village Green, Goat Island Lighthouse, Stage Island, Fort Island (aka Little Stage), Trott's Island, Vaughn's Island, Redin's Island, Cape Island and much more!





Our Land is Your Land

We encourage you to explore with us! With over 3,000 acres of land, 30 miles of trails, a dozen islands, 7 beachfront lots, a lighthouse, a historic boathouse, and a headquarters full of activity, there's something for everyone!

Take a hike, go for a paddle, camp, picnic, swim, or relax on the beach. Our properties are open to the public, free of charge.

Join Us!

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 KCT 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 every one of you! Join us as a member this year and be part of the KCT family.

The Kennebunkport Conservation Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible.



Legacy Giving

We invite you to become a forever member of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust by joining our Legacy Society. A legacy gift in the name of conservation will ensure that your estate is everlasting. A legacy gift from your estate can be designated to whatever you are most passionate about, whether it be land acquisition, education, Goat Island Lighthouse, or the overall health of the organization. Your future gift will always be needed, most welcome and greatly appreciated!

Legacy gifts have helped to make Trust dreams come true by helping us:

- Build the KCT's headquarters on Gravelly Brook Road.
- Establish the Trust In Our Children's education program which offers curriculum & field trips for every grade at Consolidated Elementary School and other classes throughout the district.
- Fund free nature-based education programs for our members.
- Provide wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, public access to our shoreline and the opportunities for countless families to make memories that will last a lifetime.
- Preserve access to the Kennebunk River watershed at the Grist Mill property and provide a dock to launch canoes and kayaks.
- Restore, power, and maintain Goat Island Lighthouse
- Maintain a staff who lead our programs and support the overall health of the organization

Please contact Tom for more information at 207.967.3465 or email info@kporttrust.org



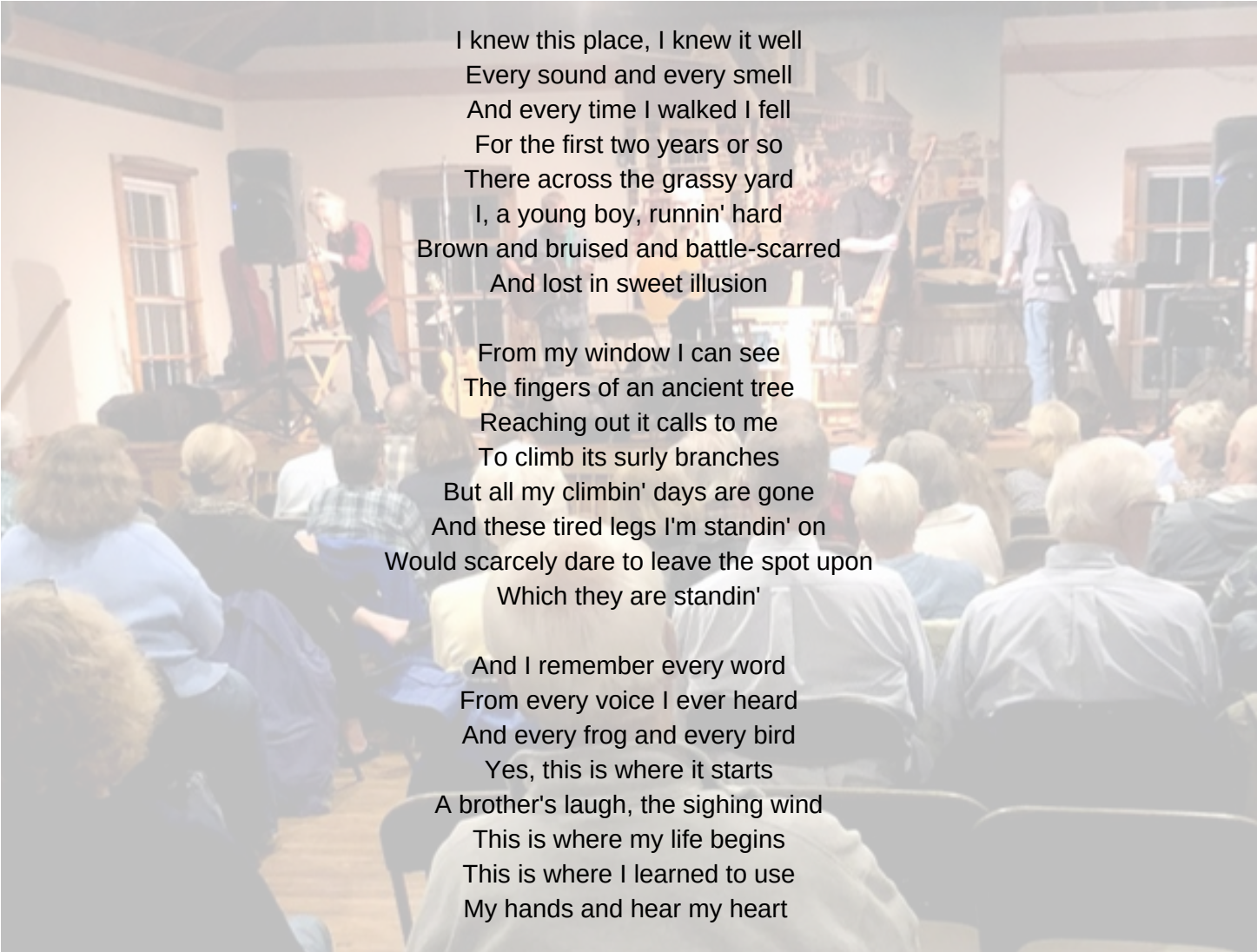
Folksinger David Mallett Offers 50th Anniversary Benefit Concert

David Mallett describes himself as “a sixth generation Mainer, singer, and songwriter in that order.” Known for his compelling lyrics and perfectly crafted melodies, the 73-year-old grew up in Sebec, Maine, a small town in Piscataquis County. It was there that he began his musical career, as an 11-year-old boy singing folk and pop songs with his older brother Neil. Mallett said it wasn't until he was in college at the University of Maine, Orono, that he became inspired by singer-songwriters such as Gordon Lightfoot and Bob Dylan, which led him to writing his own songs. And write he did. “By the time I was 26, I was writing and singing all of my own material, and steadily performing.”

We were honored last fall to have David perform to a capacity crowd at Atlantic Hall as part of our 50th anniversary celebration. Tom Bradbury, Executive Director of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust said “David has been performing for the Trust for years. His lyrics are brilliant and his voice that of Maine. I look forward to seeing him each and every time.”

During the concert, Mallett reminisced about summers playing at the Arundel Wharf before he went national. And many in the audience fondly recalled other concerts he has given to support KCT and the work that we do.

With his permission, we would like to share the lyrics to his song, I Knew This Place, which, for those of us who grew up in town, helps express the connection to these lands and what they had to teach us.



I knew this place, I knew it well
Every sound and every smell
And every time I walked I fell
For the first two years or so
There across the grassy yard
I, a young boy, runnin' hard
Brown and bruised and battle-scarred
And lost in sweet illusion

From my window I can see
The fingers of an ancient tree
Reaching out it calls to me
To climb its surly branches
But all my climbin' days are gone
And these tired legs I'm standin' on
Would scarcely dare to leave the spot upon
Which they are standin'

And I remember every word
From every voice I ever heard
And every frog and every bird
Yes, this is where it starts
A brother's laugh, the sighing wind
This is where my life begins
This is where I learned to use
My hands and hear my heart

Magical Moments

by Tom Bradbury

By August of 1997, the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust had much to be grateful for. Our dream of having Goat Island Light under our stewardship had finally come true. What was to become the Emmons Preserve was in the process of being created and, despite the challenges we knew would be involved, we had completed a bargain sale purchase of Trott's Island. These things and more had us in the mood for celebration by the time our annual Phillip H. Matthews Memorial Lobsterbake rolled around.

By then, the event was rapidly becoming the highlight of our summer. Friends, family and some who would, by the end of the day, become friends and a part of the Trust family, would gather at the end of Langsford Road in Cape

Porpoise. Boat rides were offered to those who wanted to visit Goat Island lighthouse, and live background music played all afternoon as people established their spot, either at a table under a spacious tent or on a blanket on the lawn. "Straight Lace," a local party band enjoyed by all, got people in the mood for fun before a full lobster dinner was served. Once everyone had finished eating, raffle prizes were drawn, and remarks and thank-yous were expressed. Then came the featured band of the day. Over the years we had enjoyed the music of James Montgomery and had brought bands in from Nashville, Austin, Texas, Los Angeles and more. As day gave way to night, people danced, laughed and sang until suddenly, in the midst of the enjoyment, a burst of brilliant color exploded overhead, dazzling the sky. All would rush to the shoreline, even as the music played on, to watch a fabulous fireworks display. When the grand finale finally brought an end to the show, heads shook in

amazement and voices cried out in thanks and delight. We then started to make our way home, sad to see the day end, and wishing we could hold onto this feeling forever.

I generally offered my remarks during that period following dinner, and this year I was anxious to talk about the many Trust projects that were underway. With the harbor as my backdrop, I stated gratefully, "It's been an amazing year; and I just want to thank you. Because of your support, we have been able to add two priceless new properties to our harbor holdings. We now own Trott's Island and have taken over the management of Goat Island Light." In what was for me an unusual display of animation, as I spoke those words, I swept



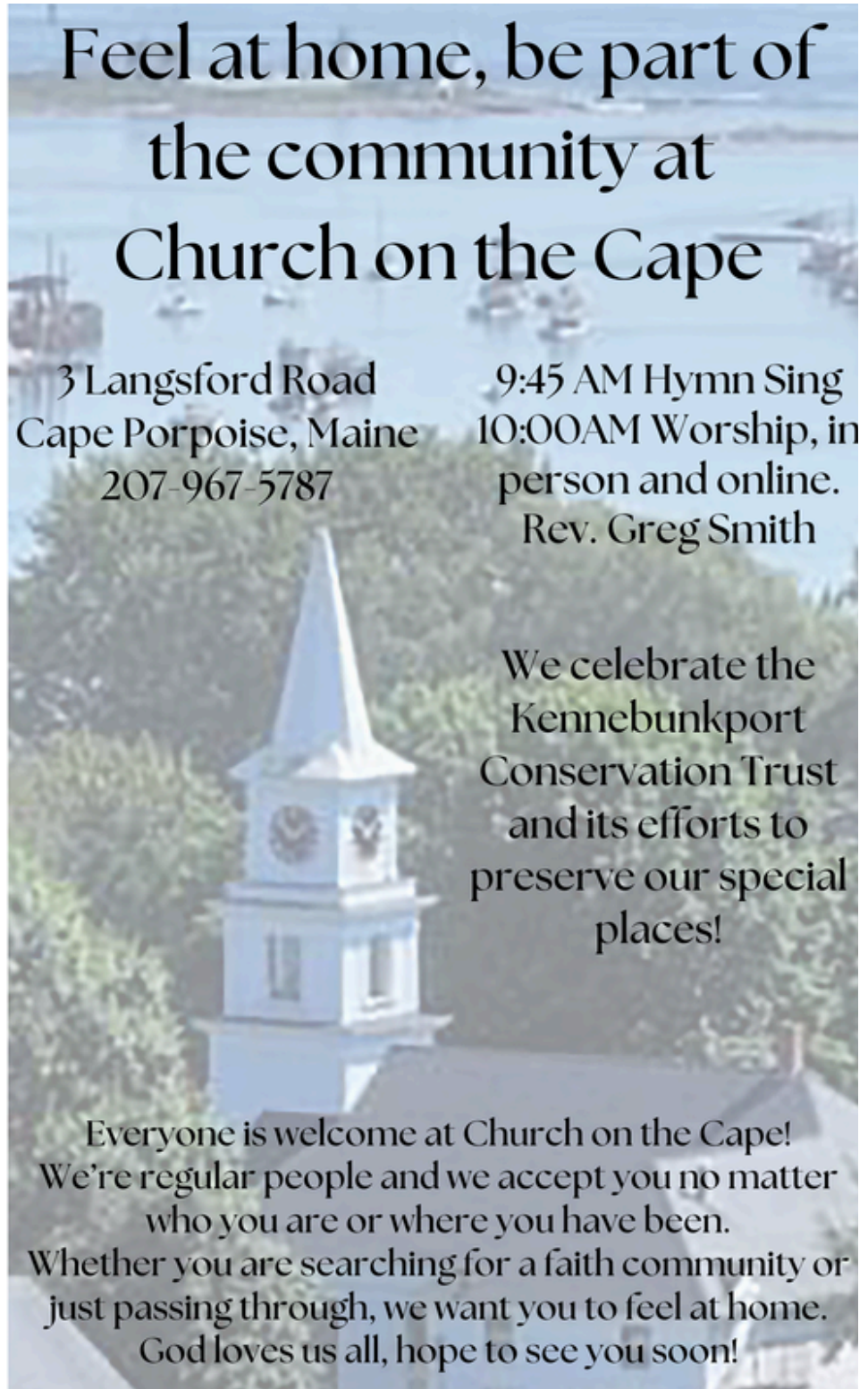
my arm from Trott's to Goat. At that very moment, and I am not making this up, a double rainbow lit the sky over the two islands. People gasped, and many grabbed their cameras and ran to get pictures. Others cried, believing that Phil had come to bless us that day. It was a magical moment; unplanned, unorchestrated, unexpected and unbelievable, but something that we would be unable or unwilling to ever forget.

Most magical moments are not as profound or as public as this one. They are generally quieter experiences of the heart. For many years Goat Island lighthouse keepers, Scott and Karen Dombrowski, had hosted a late afternoon work party on the island. Typically, this meant being picked up at the pier in mid to late afternoon, depending on the tide, and transported to the island where Scott would describe the chores he would like to see done. These generally included such things as mowing the lawn, painting, cleaning,

moving rocks, small repair work and the like. Most volunteers would bring something grillable, so when the tasks were completed, we would sip a glass of wine, eat, socialize and enjoy watching the day come to an end over the harbor. On this day, the sunset was exceptionally beautiful. Various shades of bright yellows and gold streaked across the sky, colored the clouds, and were reflected in the water below, bathing the whole bay in a radiant glow. We all lingered, not wanting to miss any of this divine show. When darkness finally descended, we made our way to the floats for our return to the pier. Stars now lit the evening sky. All was still, with only the creaking of the dock, the call of gulls and the lapping of waves as they gently broke upon the shoreline to break the silence. As we headed toward the channel, we noticed a luminescence in the water itself, the result of a certain algae we were told in an almost respectful whisper, no one wanting to betray the magic of the moment.

On another occasion, I was walking along the shoreline of a local island, when just above the waterline I spied the smallest tip of a reddish colored, pointed object sticking out of the flats. Hope and curiosity led me to scrape away the pebbles that surrounded it, before gently prying it free from the clay that embedded it. I gasped in excitement as it emerged, for the stone had clearly been worked by human hands. I held it tenderly, examining its every facet, fully aware that the last person who had held this artifact in their hand had considered this place their home just as I do now, only thousands of years before me. Why and how was I drawn to that particular spot, at the only time when the sun angle and tide were aligned in such a way as to make such a minute object visible? Why was I lucky enough to make this bond to the distant past? To me the moment was magical.

Everyone's special moments are their own, born out of their various interests, needs and passions. I don't know what your next magical moment will be, or when it will happen. I do know where it will likely be found. That will be on a Trust property. Don't go about looking for them. If you're in these special places enough, they will find you.



Feel at home, be part of the community at Church on the Cape

3 Langsford Road
Cape Porpoise, Maine
207-967-5787

9:45 AM Hymn Sing
10:00AM Worship, in
person and online.
Rev. Greg Smith

We celebrate the
Kennebunkport
Conservation Trust
and its efforts to
preserve our special
places!

Everyone is welcome at Church on the Cape!
We're regular people and we accept you no matter
who you are or where you have been.
Whether you are searching for a faith community or
just passing through, we want you to feel at home.
God loves us all, hope to see you soon!

Not a Solitary Phenomenon

by Tom Putnam

The recent 50th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Trust prompted me to revisit events that occurred in my life a half century ago. For it was in 1972 that my parents decided to move to Maine and chose Kennebunk as our new home.

And now, in retrospect, it occurs to me that the events of those first years in town planted seeds in this budding 10-year-old as I began contemplating my place in the world, my own mortality, and efforts by others to preserve land for future generations.

I recall during our first summer in Kennebunk that I was especially nervous to switch schools and was fortunate to have been assigned Mildred Waterhouse as my fifth-grade teacher at Park Street School.

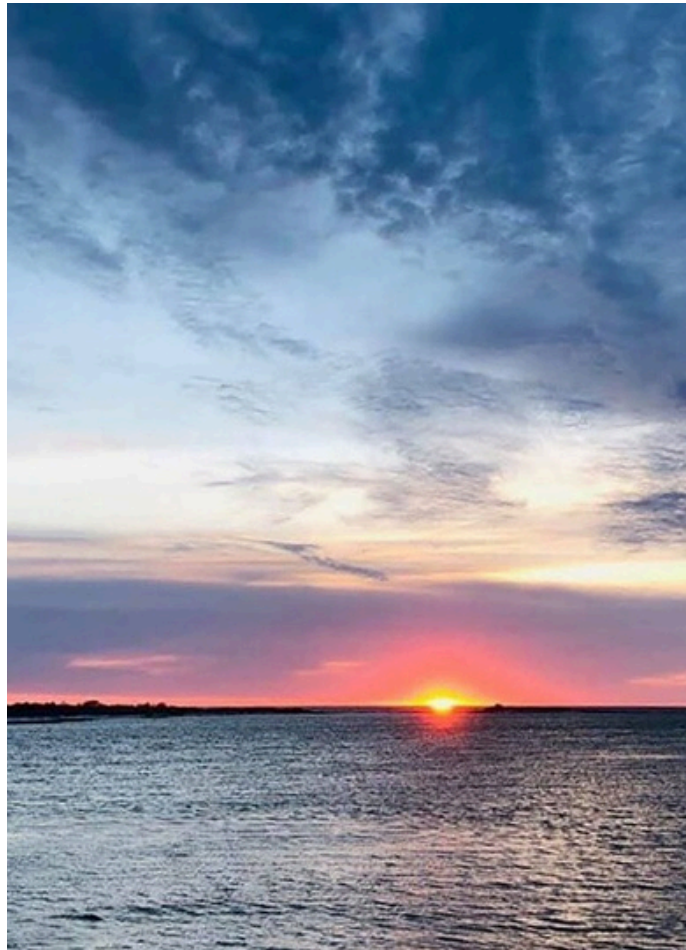
Mrs. Waterhouse was a gem of an educator who introduced her students to some of the ageless values I associate with Maine. I recall her classroom being a wonderful mixture of

traditional and innovative curriculum.

A key component of each school day, for example, was her reading children's classics aloud. I particularly recall her reading us her favorite novel, *Caddie Woodlawn*, a frontier story about a lively eleven-year-old tomboy and her family's journey from Boston to Wisconsin. My family's move from central Massachusetts to the Maine coast was not nearly as adventurous but there was something in the story about finding one's proper place in a new setting that resonated with me.

Another hallmark of Mrs. Waterhouse's classroom occurred on rainy days when outdoor recess was impossible. With great enthusiasm, she instructed her

charges to push our desks to the side and then, with music from the record player, she taught us how to dance jigs like the Virginia Reel. I was often paired with a fellow student named Patty Bragdon and I recall swinging, arm-in-arm, with her and other classmates from one end of the classroom to another.



On the innovative front, our science and social studies lessons were based on a new curriculum called *Man: A Course of Study*. Through beautifully crafted films, we studied the concept of "lifespans" from the spawning of Pacific Coast salmon to mother herring gulls feeding their chicks to Netsilik Inuit families living in extremely hostile and difficult conditions. While I didn't understand it at the time, this was my first introduction to ecological thinking and understanding humankind's place in the larger environment. A few months later, in the fall of 1974, the hardest "lifespan" lesson of all was brought

brought home starkly to me and my classmates when Patty Bragdon died in a tragic car accident in the center of town. She was just 11 years old. And I credit our teachers, principal, and community leaders who helped us to process such an unfathomable loss.

It was at this same time that I recall, in retrospect, first being introduced to the idea of land preservation.

Last November I attended a Kennebunk Rotary Club luncheon where photos were shared of the buildings on Main Street formerly located on the site of the current Rotary Park overlooking the Mousam River. It brought back memories, some half-century ago, of playing the trumpet at the original dedication of that land as part of one of the town's school bands. I was swept up in the

speeches of how this new park would be a center of community celebrations for decades to come and the importance of preserving such public spaces and scenic vistas.

It is likely my adult self that is projecting this image onto that canvas but two of my classmates had fathers who were ministers in town, Reverends Hague and Robinson, and I imagine one of them quoting these lines from Ecclesiastes at the park's dedication: *One generation passes away, and another generation comes; But the earth abides forever.*

My wife grew up in Kennebunkport and our schooling and careers led us away from this region as young adults. But during the pandemic, like many, we permanently relocated back to town.

Much, of course, has changed over these past five decades. Back then, I took for granted the access we had to local beaches or the opportunity to canoe out to the islands in Cape Porpoise Harbor. Now, I realize, had organizations like the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust not operated proactively, that access might have been lost forever. One of the properties that is now conserved, in partnership with the Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge, and that was unknown to us growing up, is Timber Point. It has become one of our favorite walks and in the summer, we occasionally pack a picnic dinner and enjoy it on a bench overlooking the Little River as the sun is setting over Goose Rocks Beach.

Immediately before I retired, I worked at a small history museum in Concord, Massachusetts which was known, among other things, for its collection of materials related to the life of Henry David Thoreau. The sheaves of his handwritten prose displayed in the museum's galleries included this quote:

"We had a remarkable sunset one day last November. . . It was such a light that we could not have imagined a moment before, and the air was also so warm and serene that nothing was wanting to make a paradise of that meadow. When we reflected that this was not a solitary phenomenon, never to happen again, but that it would happen forever and ever an infinite number of evenings, and cheer and reassure the latest child who walked there, it was more glorious still."

I'm sure I am not the only one who questions whether the generations who follow us will be able to experience such phenomena as we do now. The directions in which our climate is changing are not at all reassuring. But earlier this winter I attended a multi-generational conversation at the Trust headquarters organized by The Climate Initiative and featuring students from Kennebunk High School were reminiscent of my adolescent self some 45 years ago. The event reminded me that, as time and tides move on, and like the pioneers who founded the Trust a half century ago, we must act now to continue to protect and restore these precious lands and preserve them for future generations. Doing so may be the only way to ensure that the glorious interactions with nature that we experienced in our childhoods will continue to happen – forever and ever, an infinite number of days and evenings – to cheer and reassure the next generation of children who will walk in our footsteps.



The graphic is a green rectangular poster for "Wild Wonder Forest Bathing". At the top center, the text "Wild Wonder" is written in a large, white, cursive font, with "FOREST BATHING" in a smaller, bold, white, sans-serif font below it. Underneath, it says "With Jennifer Comeau, Certified Nature & Forest Therapy Guide". The main text reads "Experience the restorative & awe-inspiring power of a mindful walk in nature". At the bottom left, it says "For Schedule & Reservations, use QR Code or email: jenjencomeau@gmail.com". At the bottom center, there is a small photo of a person with arms outstretched in a forest, with the text "A natural antidote for these times" below it. At the bottom right, there is a QR code. Two circular inset photos are on the left and right sides: the left one shows a group of people walking on a path in a forest with autumn foliage, and the right one shows two people standing on a rocky shore looking out at the ocean.

A Final Word...

by Tom Bradbury

As I hope you can see from the previous pages, on any given day there's a lot going on at the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust. Some of the activity is behind the scenes, such as that of volunteers as they work to groom or extend woodland trails, manage island campsites or undertake one of the countless tasks needed in order to keep Goat Island Lighthouse in good repair. At the Trust headquarters staff works to plan the next educational field trip, manage rentals, keep the books, communicate with members and raise the funds necessary to keep the whole organization running and achieving its mission. It is not uncommon for students or contract workers to be completing specific tasks, whether it is creating a management plan, doing research on a particular property or trying to eradicate an invasive plant species from a certain location. The list on my desk of what needs to be accomplished never seems to end, for even as one item is crossed off, two more seem to magically appear.

What is more regularly seen, and too often taken for granted, is the pure pleasure people have while on Trust lands. It's the laughter of children as they play on the beautiful white sand of Goose Rocks Beach. It's the solace many find as they take a daily walk on their favorite path, or the exercise and fun some gain from mountain biking along a challenging part of our nearly thirty mile trail system. It's the gratitude of being able to wake up at an island campsite and look out upon the same remarkable view seen by the original settlers of the coast. It's the joy of witnessing the wide variety of wildlife in a protected marsh, the beauty of an unspoiled vista or the gentle sweep of Goat Island Light. It's being able to have access points for passive recreation on the Kennebunk River and places of peace and reflection in downtown parks. It's having educational programs for our children, which teach them not only the history and ecosystems of the lands around them, but also develops within them a sense of place and belonging. And it's knowing that all of this is available to them, and to you, and to those who will follow us, for free and forever. The KCT is working every day to protect those special places you love in Kennebunkport, be they things that have kept you here for generations or recently brought you here to enjoy. They are now set aside for one and all.

In order to accomplish all of this, we would be grateful for your membership support. The Trust is nearly entirely funded by those who share our desire of protecting the essential beauty and character of our community. They give at whatever level they can. By working together over the past fifty years, we have made a difference, and together we will continue to do great things for the land and people of this special town. We earnestly thank you for your support.



Come Run With Us!

Join KCT and ACT
for Trail Fest!

Join Arundel Conservation Trust in September for a 5k, 10k, and half-marathon on the Arundel Community Trails and the Eastern Trail, then join us in October to run or walk a 5k, or run a 10k on our beautiful trails at Emmons Preserve !

ACT Trail Fest KCT Trail Fest



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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, scanning the QR code below, filling out the form below, or putting the requested information in a note and in the mail it to Kennebunkport Conservation Trust, PO Box 7004, Cape Porpoise, ME 04014



I would like to become a member of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust!

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