



Nature News

A publication of the Kittery Land Trust

Summer 2021

From the desk of Lisa Linehan, Executive Director

July marks two years since I took over the reins as Executive Director of the Kittery Land Trust. It's hard to believe that more than half of my time with KLT has been during a pandemic.

This time last year, we were canceling every event on our calendar. We were wondering if we should postpone our activities in the fall. We were becoming experts on Zoom, home with remote learners, and learning to remember our mask on each trip to the grocery store. It was a new reality, one that continues to evolve.

In both my home life and work life, I've tried to look for silver linings to make the pandemic less daunting. At home, my gardens are bigger and flourishing, I painted my bathroom, we knocked a garage project off the list, my dogs got more walks, our kids excelled in a very different kind of school year, and I hardly put any miles on my car. A year I had imagined? Absolutely not. But focusing on the good helped balance home life.

At work, there were many challenges as well, but again the silver linings brightened the reality we were in. As a land trust, we've always recognized the importance of open space and preserved land. In our pandemic world, so many others have joined us in knowing the natural world is invaluable to us as a society. The Kittery Land Trust's trails and preserves have been a magnet for people looking to escape the confinement of their homes. A place to disconnect from screens and connect with something more meaningful. KLT is proud and grateful that we have been able to provide such a resource to our community.

With that, came another silver lining in the form of new mem-

bers! Our Kittery Land Trust family expanded as people put more value on the preserved lands in our town. We are grateful for all our members – those who have given annually since the beginning and those who have just discovered us. Thank you all for being part of KLT and making our work possible!

Cancelling all of our events last year was a huge disappointment. The Kittery Land Trust prides itself on building community and we felt completely detached during the peak of COVID. We pivoted and created something entirely different: a giving garden. The idea was born to create a garden and grow food for those in need. Over the course of last summer and fall, KLT harvested and donated almost 2,000 pounds of fresh produce. The work in the garden was done with the help of 48 volunteers who tended the garden with care and helped us get back to "building community". The garden was certainly a silver lining that all of our KLT members should be proud of!

While there is light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, there are some things I hope remain unchanged. I hope people continue to seek solace and joy by connecting with nature. I hope families take time to bond on our trails. I hope our membership continues to grow so we can advance our work in Kittery. I hope our giving garden produces even more food this season than it did last year. I hope KLT serves as an important resource for our community in the years ahead. Finally, I hope that all of you find joy in the simple things: hugs from a loved one, meals and laughs with a friend, the song of birds in your backyard, and the beauty in nature that can be found throughout Kittery.

Wishing you a happy and healthy summer!

Warmly, *Lisa*



KITTERY LAND TRUST

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*Thank you to our contributing writer,
Vickie Ostrow.*

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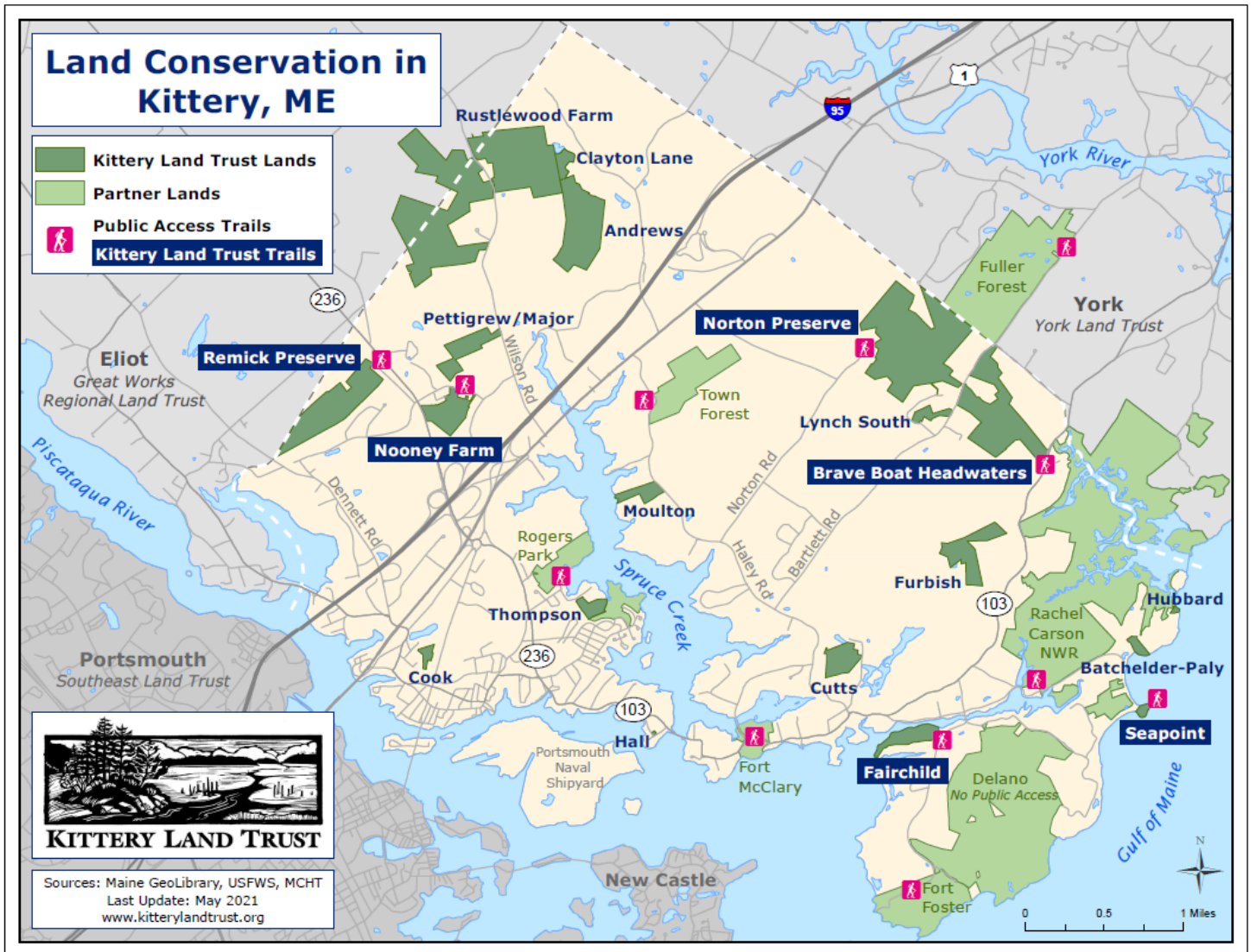
KLT Board Member, Jeff Clifford

THE WELCOME WAGON

Jeff Clifford, our newest member of the Board, lives with his wife Dianne in Kittery. Jeff was raised in Yarmouth and graduated from U Maine ('81). After college he moved to the Seacoast region and later discovered that his Kittery roots go back many generations.

Jeff enjoys hiking, skiing and water related activities with his family and friends. He and his wife also appreciate the wildlife that frequently visit their home off Miller Road.

Jeff recently retired from Altus Engineering, a firm based in Portsmouth, NH, after a long career in civil engineering. He looks forward to using his technical skills and personal interests in his new role as chair of the KLT Acquisitions Committee. Welcome, Jeff!



Celebrating Conserved Land in Kittery

In this time when the real estate market is booming, new housing developments are popping up all over the state, and more people are discovering the benefits of connecting with nature, preserving special places has never been more important.

Since it was founded in 1987, the Kittery Land Trust has permanently protected almost 1,000 acres. Add that to the town's open spaces and other preserved lands through our conservation partners, and it is clear we all have something to celebrate in Kittery!

From our salty shore, through the wooded forests, and to the rolling fields, our entire community benefits from these efforts. Ecologically, we are helping to create a healthier environment with clean water, fertile lands, and an abundant habitat for wildlife. Beyond that, the beauty

of what we see here today will be here for all to enjoy in the generations that follow us.

We certainly cannot do this work alone and our work is clearly not done. Thank you to everyone who has supported the Kittery Land Trust over the years. Whether you have contributed as a member, donated land, volunteered to help, or named us in your estate plans...you have made a difference! We are grateful for every single effort that helps us fulfill our mission of *Saving Land* and *Building Community*. Please join us as a member this year so we can accomplish more great things!

Special thanks to KLT Board Member, Ben Sweeney, for creating this map of conserved lands! You can download the map on our website www.kitterylandtrust.org



NOONEY FARM
KITTERY LAND TRUST

Life on the Farm

In December of 2020, the Kittery Land Trust closed out a challenging year by permanently protecting a 30-acre property tucked away in the center of the community, just steps from the town's middle school on Stevenson Road. Instead of a 7-home subdivision, the fertile fields and woodlands of a former dairy farm have become a hub for local agriculture, nature-based education, and outdoor recreation. Named for former owner Jacquelyn Nooney who ran a horticulture and landscape design business on the property for many years, Nooney Farm is a bold expression of Kittery Land Trust's long-held mission to "Save Land and Build Community".

So much has blossomed since KLT became owner of the farm. Farmers, volunteers, local students, and teachers have come together to better our community. Enjoy the related stories of our work and vision at Nooney Farm!

A Field Full of Students



This spring, the Kittery School Department decided to bring students back to the classroom five days a week. However, due to issues with properly spacing pupils under current COVID guidelines, there was not room at Shapleigh School for seventh and eighth grade students to return fulltime. Knowing that these adolescents needed less time on their screens and more time with their peers, Shapleigh School teacher Blayne Matty sprang into action.

Matty approached the Kittery Land Trust with an idea to bring the seventh and eighth graders to Nooney Farm on their remote learning days. Blayne's vision created an opportunity for kids to get off their computers and to have a hands-on learning experience with their classmates.

Both the Kittery School District and the Kittery Land Trust were thrilled with the idea – it met the needs of our local students and the goals of this property. In late April, the first school bus arrived at Nooney Farm and the program sprung to life! Seventy-five students are enrolled in the program. They are divided into four groups, each coming to the farm one morning a week bringing helping hands, smiles, and laughter...all while gaining a new perspective on farming, community, and locally grown foods.

Despite many days of spring rain and wind, no weather could dampen the kids' enthusiasm for learning, and there was no shortage of that. In addition to getting their bearings on the farm, students are learning about plant parts in order to do species identification, they completed observational drawings, rec-

orded plant data, built garden beds, seeded trays in the greenhouse, helped dismantle old irrigation systems, painted benches (built and donated by Shapleigh school parents - Brett and Amy Fullerton!), and planted the first vegetables for this season's Giving Garden. Despite the hard work, there were many smiles and lots of positive reviews.

"We are hopeful that in the course of this program, students will gain a better understanding of local food systems and how food grows. They will get a glimpse into the work and life stories of the farmers who are a part of Nooney Farm," said Blayne Matty. "We want them to enjoy time spent off of screens, doing service for our community, together with their peers."

While the program may have been born of necessity, we anticipate the value of these experiences will prove their worth, and that we can find ways to continue this kind of learning for Kittery students. Truly, the greatest gifts of a community are its children and its land, and when they can benefit each other, we are all the richer for it.

Meet Beth in the Giving Garden!

Elizabeth Moreau, who lives in Berwick with her husband and 2-year-old daughter, has joined the Kittery Land Trust as our new Giving Garden Coordinator at Nooney Farm.

As coordinator, Beth is responsible for nearly all aspects of set-up and management of KLT's Giving Garden, a produce garden intended to reduce food insecurity, increase awareness of the intersection between health and the environment, and engage the surrounding KLT community. She is designing, planting and maintaining the garden with the help of KLT volunteers. She is also working with community partners to obtain seeds and seedlings to establish the gardens as well as the materials and tools that will be used by the volunteers to keep the plants healthy and flourishing.

During the summer of 2020, the Giving Garden produced nearly 2,000 pounds of produce, all of which was donated to local food pantries and school lunch programs. KLT hopes to expand on last year's success and provide even more fresh food to support those in our community. Therefore, a large part of Beth's job involves working with community volunteers and local organizations to create a harvest and delivery system that ensures each organization is receiving appropriate types and quantities of produce on a consistent schedule.

Beth definitely has the background and experience we were looking for in the Giving Garden Coordinator. She worked for several years growing organic produce at Brandmoore Farm in Rollinsford, NH. Her duties there included management, scheduling, and harvesting responsibilities as well as supervising staff and volunteers – and all of that in addition to growing delicious food! Beth is also just months away from earning a B.B.A. degree in Agribusiness Management from Pennsylvania State's World Campus program.



Beth teaching Shapleigh students how to seed lettuce.

Beth says, "I am really looking forward to this job with the Giving Garden at Nooney Farm because I am able to combine my experience growing organic vegetables with my desire to continue supporting and feeding the local community. I am also really excited to get to work with students from the Shapleigh School this spring at the farm, and I can't think of a better way to get kids to spend more time outside, especially after such an interesting and 'remote' year."

But as we all know, these plans for Nooney Farm and the Giving Garden can only come to fruition if we are willing to lend a hand. Please consider giving a couple of hours a week during the spring and summer months to make this project for KLT a continued success.

Beth hopes many of you will stop by soon to meet her and see all that is going on at Nooney Farm on Stevenson Road near Shapleigh Middle School. If you're lucky, you may even get to meet her daughter, Kaida, who will be there sometimes helping her mom. You can reach Beth by emailing garden@kitterylandtrust.org.

Help Care for the Farm Forever

A \$1.1 million capital campaign is underway to cover the cost of acquiring the land and to establish a stewardship fund for long-term maintenance and infrastructure improvements. Kittery Land Trust is thrilled to receive a leadership gift from Jonathan King and Jim Stott, founders of Stonewall Kitchen, who began their successful business by making preserves from their small garden and selling at local farmers' markets. As their business grew, they relied on local growers for fresh produce. "If it was not for those small growers and the local farmers' markets, Stonewall Kitchen would not have existed", says co-founder Jonathan King. "We hope our story and the educational experiences that will unfold at Nooney Farm will

inspire young people for many generations."

Additional generous support has been provided thus far by the Maine Community Foundation, Faith Harrington & Peter Lamb: Ralph E. Ogden Foundation, Rosamond Thaxter Foundation, Mary Ann and Tim Driscoll, MJ Blanchette and Brian Cox, Hilary Clark, Jerry and Connie Held, Chris and Karen Erikson, Ken and Kristin Fellows, and others. Anyone interested in helping KLT reach its fundraising goal for Nooney Farm can donate online at the [KLT website](#), through a gift of stock, or by check to PO Box 467, Kittery ME 03904. Please contact Lisa Linehan at lisa@kitterylandtrust.org to learn more about how you can become involved in this transformative community conservation effort.

Meet the Farmers!

The acquisition of Nooney Farm, with its combination of woods, wetlands, greenhouses and fields, represents a broadening of the types of property the Land Trust stewards. With the support of KLT, the greenhouses and lower fields at Nooney are now coming back to agricultural life.

This year we have leased some of our land to three small farm teams. The farmers have started their season in the greenhouse and are now busy planting in the fields. Their addition to the farm supports the local food system, nourishes the soils with earth-friendly farming practices, educates visitors, and creates jobs in the community. The farm teams are distributing their products offsite to local restaurants, markets, stores and more.

SHELLY AND MIKE'S GARDEN

Shelly Boucher and Mike Long are growing flowers for cutting, their favorite vegetables, nursery plants and medicinal herbs on less than an acre of lovingly tended ground at Nooney Farm. They farm biodynamically, which entails treating a garden or farm as a living organism, employing natural, regenerative techniques for optimum nutrition, flavor, and soil health.

According to Mike and Shelly, biodynamic farming is one of the oldest ecological farming methods. It relies on planting with planetary and lunar rhythms, a reliance on compost, biodiversity and homeopathy. This method's loving intention is what makes most sense to the couple.

Shelly comes from Boulder, Colorado, where she ran a permaculture landscaping company and herb farm called Sun Cat Gardening. Shelly met Mike in Colorado at a biodynamic farm he tended in the high mountains. After a four-year tenure as a CSA farmer, Mike followed Shelly back to her childhood home of New England, where she had returned to be closer to family and further from Western droughts.

Shelly's nine-year-old nephew, Ben, named their enterprise *Shelly and Mike's Farm*. They liked how it sounded, so the name stuck! They will be selling their products at the Kittery Farmers Market and to local restaurants, as well as through a cut-flower CSA with home delivery.

FOUR PATCH FARM

Annie Teegarden runs Four Patch Farm, a small, intensive project joining Nooney Farm for their first season. FPF was started by Annie, who is originally from Michigan. She studied Sustainable Food Systems at the University of Montana and Prescott College in Arizona. Previously, she has enjoyed



working on several farms in the area, and she keeps a large garden at her home in Kittery.

Annie is joined at FPF by Bridget Gould, the mother of three grown boys, who brings 14 years of experience working on Seacoast farms. Four Patch Farm is growing and selling mixed vegetables, micro greens and cut flowers.

For more info: <https://fourpatchfarm.com/>

T.H.E. FARM (To Heal Earth Farm)

Abraham Kann and Katie Ograbisz of T.H.E. FARM are new farmers with a clear purpose. "Our vision is to heal the earth...one bite at a time! We are strong believers that eating less from a box and more from the earth is the most powerful medicine." They want to share their abundance and educate the community through the food they grow for us to eat.

Abraham and Katy are focusing on soil health and ecological repair. They are utilizing organic and no-till practices along with other regenerative agricultural methods. Their goal is to build rich, fertile soil that is resilient and will support healthy plants and nutrient-dense food. They are growing lettuce heads, salad mixes, baby/mature greens, micro-greens, radishes, turnips, beets, carrots, turmeric, ginger, onions, tomatoes, peppers, culinary herbs and bouquet market flowers.

Katie and Abraham will be at the Kittery Food Truck Pod. They hope to not only supply people in our community with food to eat but also to show them how to take these ingredients and create simple and delicious whole plant-based meals. They are excited to be a part of the Land Trust's plans for Nooney Farm. They hope Nooney will be a "place that brings people together and closer to their food, that fuels and heals the soul."

For more info:

<https://www.instagram.com/t.h.e.farm/?hl=en>

<https://www.tohealearth.com/>



By Steve Ostrow
Stewardship Committee Chair

The Stewardship Committee of Kitterly Land Trust is responsible for looking after the approximately 1,000 acres we've preserved in Kitterly. We build bridges, walkways and kiosks; clear trails after storms; and try to keep up with removing the invasives from the woods and fields. We are also responsible for generating management plans for our properties and monitoring them annually. This last year has been difficult for all of us as we have had increased usage of our trails, but we have been hesitant to have large work parties. However, a lot of progress has been made.

At our flagship property, **Brave Boat Headwaters Preserve**, the trail system looks a lot different this year. Due to increased usage last spring, we had a lot of muddy portions on the trails. We relocated a large section of the red trail to high-



Exploring on Earth Day

What better way to celebrate Earth Day than by exploring nature in your own community! The Kitterly Land Trust was happy to offer five Earth Day hikes this spring at our local preserves. The events were free and open to all, giving folks a chance to check out the trails with a KLT guide and learn more about the work we do in town. Thanks to all who joined us and braved that day's wild weather...which included rain, hail, snow and wind! You can receive notices about upcoming hikes and events by joining our email list. Please email info@kitterlylandtrust.org to be added and be sure to check us out on Facebook too! See you on the trails!

From the Trails

er ground and added five wooden walkways. We have also finished a beautiful trail through the **Sawyer Farm Preserve** that connects the BBH trail system to Bartlett Road. Four Leopold benches have been spaced along the trails for visitors to enjoy. Planned for this year are a small relocation of the main trail to avoid a muddy spot and building of a stone/wooden bridge to ease crossing of the small stream on Sawyer.

When driving to Eliot on Wilson Road, some of you may have noticed numerous white cones off to the south at our **Rustlewood Preserve** along the beginnings of Spruce Creek. These protect 600 small trees and shrubs that we coordinated with the Town of Kitterly to plant there to help filter runoff.

Much work has also been done at our **Remick Preserve** where numerous wooden walkways have been constructed over wet areas. This year, we are planning work to remove some invasive Purple Loosestrife and Phragmites growing in the wetlands there.

At our **Norton Preserve**, we are working with York Land Trust to connect our trail system to York's new Fuller Forest Preserve.

Additionally, for one of our newest properties, the **Andrews Preserve**, we are busy writing a management plan, and developing a project to work with Kitterly schools. The project will entail identification and mapping of the trees and shrubs growing at this location.

All in all, we are making progress towards our goals of saving land and building community. Please contact KLT if you would like to be part of our group by emailing steward-

Many Hands, Light Work

With nearly 1,000 acres to care for, our “honey-do” list at KLT is long, to say the least! No matter the chore, our volunteers get the job done. Throughout the pandemic, our crews cleaned beaches, improved trails, removed invasive species, tended the garden, installed benches, covered greenhouses, cleaned the barn, helped in the office and so much more! We are incredibly grateful for each and every volunteer - thank you all!



Thank You to ALL of Our Members!

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us to do great
things...*

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ARE YOU A MEMBER?

Did you know...

- The Kittery Land Trust is funded primarily through membership donations
- Since 1987, KLT has preserved almost 1000 acres
- We have an all-volunteer Stewardship Committee to care for our land and trails
- In 2020, our Giving Garden produced close to 2000 pounds of produce that was donated to those in need
- KLT teamed up with Shapleigh School to provide students with an in-person learning experience at Nooney Farm this spring
- Kittery Land Trust is working to preserve more open space in our town
- We host a wide variety of guided walks, programs and events for the community



Become a member today!

Make your secure donation online at www.kitterylandtrust.org

Mail your donation to Kittery Land Trust, PO Box 467, Kittery, ME 03904



Taking ROOT at the Farm!

The Kittery Land Trust is excited to introduce our new program, “Roots”. Roots is designed to give Seacoast children under the age of 5 and their caregiver(s) an opportunity to explore their curiosities about the natural world.

In May, we hosted our first Roots class with 12 kiddos and their adults. The program, led by Claire Handy, introduced preschoolers to pollinators. Come join us at Nooney Farm this summer for engaging science-based stories, activities, and learning opportunities geared towards better understanding how the food we grow and eat relies on maintaining a balance with nature.

What: “Roots” - for preschoolers (five and under)

Session 1: Wednesdays, July 7- August 4, 10:30 - 11:15 am

Explorations: Nooney Farm, the Sun, Water, Soil, and Weeds.

Session 2: Thursdays , August 26 - September 23, 10:30-11:15 am

Explorations: Nooney Farm, Flowers, Vegetables, Seeds, the Woods

Where: KLT’s Nooney Farm, 22 Stevenson Road, Kittery

Time: 10:30 – 11:15 am

Max: 12 families (child & caregiver)

Cost: Free

We ask that a caregiver is present for each family that registers. Reserve your space by emailing info@kitterylandtrust.org



This summer, We are partnering with White Pine Programs for Woods, Water & Farm: A Middle School Adventure. The day camp is a wandering adventure to the natural landscapes in and around our community, led by experienced White Pine Naturalists and Mentors. Campers will explore various land trusts and farms throughout the seacoast region. For more info, visit www.whitepineprograms.org

Grateful for Forever: Bob and his Dog



Over the last 15 months, many of us have taken to the great outdoors for a break from the social isolation. There is no better escape from constant Zoom calls, hours in front of a computer screen and limits on the ability to spend time with

friends, family and business colleagues. Enjoying those quiet trails with our dog we are reminded that without the generosity and foresight of those who came before, the opportunity to visit those precious places might not be possible. The Kittery Land Trust has developed a package of material for people who wish to consider including our land conservation effort in their will, trust, or financial plan. Several folks have already done so, and we are involved in ongoing conversations with others who wish to leave a significant gift to save land and build community as part of their legacy to Kittery. If you would like to learn more, or begin a conversation please contact me directly through our office by emailing info@kitterylandtrust.org or calling 207.439.8989.

- Bob Sheppard Chair KLT Fundraising Committee.



KITTERY LAND TRUST

PO Box 467

Kittery, ME 03904

Saving Land, Building Community since 1987



And the winner is...

Each year at its annual membership meeting, the Kittery Land Trust recognizes and honors an individual who has made a significant contribution to the conservation of natural areas that improve the quality of life in the community. This year, the Friend of Kittery Conservation Award was given to Peter Lamb.

Peter has long been a champion of the Piscataqua Maritime Region. Seven tidal rivers, Great Bay and some 52 communities in Maine and New Hampshire comprise this beautiful and unique 1,000 square-mile watershed. For nearly fifty years, since coming to the UNH School of Forestry, Peter has worked to inspire people to care for and steward this historically and ecologically rich region. He is a strong believer that getting people out into nature will deepen their sense of place and heighten their interest in caring for the environment. Thanks for all you do, Peter!

A new award named in honor of a longtime volunteer for KLT, the first Cindy Kuliga Volunteer Service Award was presented to Gary Mitchell. For more than a decade, Gary has devoted countless hours to working on KLT lands and beyond to control the spread of invasive species. He eagerly shares his knowledge with the community about the threats invasive species pose to wildlife and native plants.

Pictured top: KLT President, Kalle Matso (left) presents Peter Lamb the Friend of Kittery Conservation Award.

Pictured bottom: Peter Lamb presents Gary Mitchell with a Leopold Bench honoring his volunteerism.