



Trail mileage reflects one-way hike

The Kennebec Estuary Land Trust's mission is to conserve, restore and instill appreciation of the land and water resources of the Kennebec Estuary to benefit today's communities and future generations.

Volunteer

KELT offers many volunteer opportunities to support a wide range of activities and interests including:

- + trail work
- + public preserve stewardship
- + events
- + water quality testing
- + phytoplankton sampling
- + alewife counting
- + bird monitoring
- + fundraising
- + office help

Contact info@kennebecestuary.org to find out how you can help!

Join us!

Support from our members means KELT can maintain trails and public preserves across our conserved properties. It enables KELT to collaborate with a variety of partners to protect farmlands, enhance water quality, provide educational programs, and serve as a resource for our local towns.

Become a member today.
Visit www.kennebecestuary.org to join!

Directions

Take Rt. 127 south from Rt. 1, go 8.5 miles, turn right on Bay Point Road. Preserve is 2 miles south on the left.

Weber Kelly Preserve

This 105-acre nature preserve is located on Bay Point Road in Georgetown, Maine



Available to the public free of charge
 Open daily from dawn until dusk

92 Front Street, Bath, Maine 04530
 P.O. Box 1128
 (207) 442-8400
www.kennebecestuary.org
info@kennebecestuary.org

Available Opportunities:



Please refrain from:



Don't Miss...

- + Open woodlands are great for birding
- + Find the commemorative plaque
- + Discover the feldspar quarry
- + Vernal pools alongside trails
- + Stone outcrops dotting the landscape

History

Before 1600s: For many centuries, Abenaki tribes made seasonal camps in the rich fishing and clamming grounds of the Kennebec Estuary, land and waterways affected by ocean tides. Native shell heaps are found near the preserve.

1620s: European fisheries operated at the river's mouth. Settlements, established for fishing, lumber and fur trade soon expanded up the river.

1650: The Parker family settled on Georgetown Island. The small island in the marsh on the preserve, sometimes known as John Ed's Island, may be the site of an early Parker homestead.

1675-1676: Parker homes on Georgetown Island were burned during the hostilities of King Philip's War. Settlers fled and Georgetown was abandoned during the years that followed.

1790: Previously undeveloped upland and marsh was bought by Samuel Manson who established Manson Hill Farm. The farm supported livestock and produced salt hay.

1812: The hilltop, cleared for pasture, commanded a view of the mouth of the Kennebec River, and was used to watch for British ships during the War of 1812.

1821: Robert Parker Manson provided land adjacent to the preserve to build the Old Stone Schoolhouse, now a historic site on the Bay Point Road.

1867: The farm is passed from the Mansons to the Olivers.

1880s: A feldspar quarry was opened near the south boundary of the preserve. For almost 30 years, high quality rock was carted west to Todd Bay and lightered to ships anchored in the Kennebec River. The Old Cart Road is a remnant of this mining activity.

1882: Owners of the farm successfully petitioned the State of Maine to "improve" the Sagadahoc Marsh with a dam, ditches, dikes and draining, to the detriment of the fish nursery.

1979: Ann Weber purchased the land.

1999: Ann Weber deeded 105 acres to the Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust (now KELT), a donation made possible by proceeds from the sale of a painting by the artist Ellsworth Kelly.

June 7, 2008: The Weber Kelly Preserve officially opened. A plaque was placed at the east end of the preserve's trails commemorating the donation.

Geology

The preserve is located in the geologic domain known as the Avalon Terrane, a piece of Europe that was accreted to North America about 400-350 million years ago. The bedrock is thinly bedded metamorphic rock, including amphibolite, granofels and schist of Ordovician age (approximately 450-500 million years old).

The structural grain, oriented north-northeast and steeply inclined, forms ridges and cliffs in some parts of the preserve. The dark gray and rusty colored rocks are intruded by light-colored pegmatites that have large crystals and may contain gemstones such as aquamarine, beryl and tourmaline. In the late 1800s, pegmatites in the Midcoast region were quarried for feldspar that was used as an abrasive and in the manufacture of porcelain. The quarry on the preserve can be seen from the southernmost path a short walk from Bay Point Road.

Ecology

Mixed Woods: Red oak, hemlock and pine dominate the woods, a habitat favored by warblers, woodpeckers and owls. Red tailed hawks cruise the margins for unwary mice. Deer and raccoon forage the land.

Salt Marsh: Endangered short-nosed sturgeon, striped bass and many seagoing fish visit Sagadahoc Bay to the south. Ducks and migrating birds feed in the wetlands of the preserve. Great blue heron and snowy egret wade the tidal banks of the creek in this nationally-significant wildlife habitat. Salt marshes are nurseries for many fish species.



Red Tailed Hawk
(*Buteo jamaicensis*)



White pine
(*Pinus strobus*)