



Join Us!

Please help KELT conserve land, preserve culture, and ensure wildlife habitat in the Kennebec Estuary. Membership support is extremely important. Become a member today!

Consider a gift membership for someone who appreciates special places.

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Contributor | <input type="checkbox"/> Email event invitations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Steward | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Supporter | <input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Conservator | |

Mail to KELT, PO Box 1128 Bath, ME 04530

Gift from: (include address)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

email: _____

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.

GPS Latitude/Longitude:
N43° 46.585 W069° 45.927

Weber Kelly Preserve
Bay Point Road
Georgetown, Maine



Dedicated to conservation of the natural, historic, scenic, cultural and agricultural resources of the Kennebec Estuary

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

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Welcome

The Preserve is open free of charge to the public from dawn to dusk. Help us protect what you have come to enjoy. Natural areas are delicate; foot traffic only; stay on trails and off abutting private property; no camping, fires or motorized vehicles. Dogs must be on leash, and please clean up after your pet. Enjoy your visit!

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, protected by the wetlands of the Preserve. Ducks and migrating birds feed along the shores. 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.

AVAILABLE SERVICES AND
RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



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 400-360 million years ago. The bedrock is thinly bedded metamorphic rock, including amphibolite, granofels, and schist, of Ordovician age (~500-450 million yr). 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 exceptionally 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 used as an abrasive and in the manufacture of porcelain. One such quarry occurs on the preserve and can be seen from the southernmost path a short walk from Bay Point Road.

History

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.

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

soon expanded up the river. By 1650, the Parker family had settled on Georgetown Island. The small island in the marsh on the Preserve may be the site of an early Parker homestead.

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

The upland and marsh were undeveloped until ~ 1790 when the property was bought by Samuel Manson who established Manson Hill Farm. The farm supported livestock and salt hay. Remains of a stock pond and stone walls are seen along the Stone Wall trail. The hilltop, cleared for pasture, commanded a view of the mouth of the Kennebec River, and a watch for British war ships was posted there during the war of 1812.

Manson Hill Farm remained active until 1943, passing from the Mansons to the Olivers in 1867. It was home to a river pilot who brought sailing ships up and down the Kennebec River, to a mariner who commanded Bath sailing ships around the world, and to a Pond Island light keeper. In 1831, then-owner Robert Parker Manson provided land adjacent to the Preserve to build the Old Stone Schoolhouse, now a historic site on the Bay Point Road.

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

In the 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 part of the trail system.

In 1979, Ann Weber purchased the land and opened an art gallery and studio on the site of the old farm house. She deeded 105 acres to the Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust in 1999, a donation made possible by proceeds from the sale of a painting by the artist Ellsworth Kelly.

The Weber Kelly Preserve officially opened in ceremonies on June 7, 2008.