

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, no camping, fires, trail bikes or motorized vehicles. Please respect boundary signs and enjoy your visit.

Ecology of the Preserve

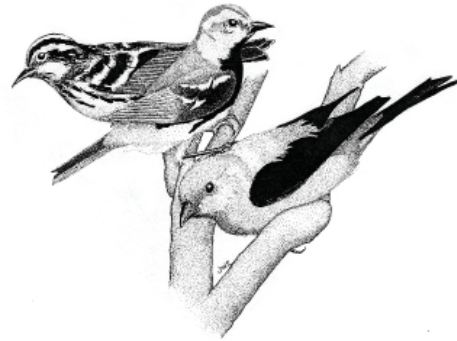
Mixed Woods. Red oak, hemlock and pine dominate the woods, a habitat favored by warblers, woodpeckers, and owls. Red tailed hawks cruise the margins for unwary mice. Deer and raccoon forage the land.

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 commercial fish species.

Geology of the Preserve

The Preserve is located in the geologic domain known as the Avalon Terrane, a piece of Europe that was accreted to North America during the Acadian mountain-building event 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.



Land Use History

6000 years ago to 1700. Abenaki tribes made seasonal camps in the rich fishing and clamming grounds of the Kennebec estuary, land and waterways affected by ocean tides.

1607-1676 European settlements, established for fishing, lumber and fur trade, expand up river. The island in mid marsh may have been the site of the



John Parker family, the first European owners of Georgetown Island.

1662-1723 Indian Wars. The Parker homestead is burned during 1676 King Philip's War; Georgetown Island is abandoned.

1718 Resettlement. John Parker's daughter and grandson are allocated the land where the Preserve is located.

1732-1867 Manson Hill Farm remains in the Manson family for four generations, supporting livestock and salt hay production. A stock pond may be seen along the trail.

1831 Capt Robert Parker Manson sells land to build the old stone schoolhouse, a historic site on Bay Point Rd, adjacent to the Preserve.

1867 The farm passes to Oliver family.

1872-1877 Washington Oliver is light keeper on Pond Island at the mouth of the Kennebec River.

1870-1911 Small Point feldspar quarry is operated on the South boundary of the Preserve. High quality rock is carted to Todd Bay and lightered to ships anchored in the Kennebec River. The cart road is part of the trail system on the Preserve.

1878 Orville Oliver takes a steamboat on the first regularly-scheduled run from Bath to Popham.

1882 Washington Oliver petitions the State of Maine to "improve" Sagadahoc Marsh with ditches, dikes, draining and a dam to the detriment of the fish nursery.

1979 Ann Weber purchases the land, opens an art studio and gallery on the site of the old farmhouse.

1999 Ann Weber deeds 105 acres to the Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust, a donation made possible by the proceeds from the sale of a painting by Ellsworth Kelly.

June 7, 2008 Official opening celebration of the Weber Kelly Preserve.

Weber Kelly Preserve Trail Map

Bay Point Road
Georgetown, Maine



Lower Kennebec
REGIONAL LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 1128
Bath, Maine 04530
(207) 442-8400

www.lkrlt.org
info@lkrlt.org

*Dedicated to conservation of the
natural, historic, scenic and
recreational resources of the
Kennebec Estuary*

