

## Vernal Pools

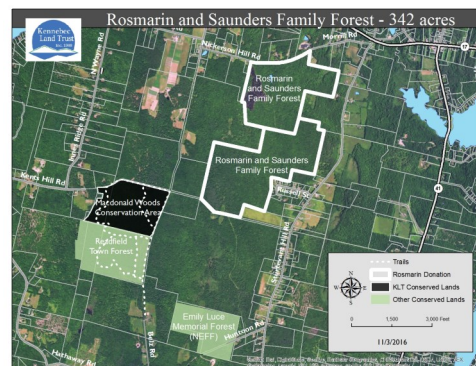
Vernal pools are naturally occurring, temporary to semi-permanent pools that form in shallow depressions in forested landscapes. They provide the primary breeding habitat for wood frogs, blue-spotted and spotted salamanders, and fairy shrimp, as well as habitat for other wildlife, including several endangered and threatened species. These wetlands range in size from a puddle to a shallow lake. The vernal pools in the Forest and the surrounding wetlands and uplands are breeding and year round habitat for yellow-spotted salamanders and wood frogs.



**BIRDS:** This permanently protected land provides nesting and foraging habitat for many year round and seasonal birds including: American Goldfinch, American Redstart, Bald Eagle, Baltimore Oriole, Barn Swallow, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-billed Cuckoo, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, Broad-winged Hawk, Brown Creeper, Canada Goose, Canada Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Chimney Swift, Common Loon, Common Nighthawk, Common Raven, Common Yellowthroat, Cooper's Hawk, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Great Blue Heron, Great Crested Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush, Hooded Merganser, House Wren, Lincoln's Sparrow, Magnolia Warbler, Mallard, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Osprey, Palm Warbler, Pine Siskin, Pine Warbler, Purple Finch, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-eyed Vireo, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-winged Blackbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Ruffed Grouse, Sandhill Crane, Scarlet Tanager, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Solitary Sandpiper, Song Sparrow, Spotted Sandpiper, Tree Swallow, Veery, White-throated Sparrow, Winter Wren, Wood Duck, Wood Thrush, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, & Yellow Warbler

## Forest Management ~ Wildlife Habitat

This KLT property will be a demonstration site for sustainable forestry and will be managed to enhance wildlife habitat and for outdoor recreation. The Forest is part of a much larger undeveloped landscape which is critical to the area's wildlife, forest products businesses, and recreational opportunities.



In 2016 loggers harvested about two thirds of the Rosmarin's property in order to generate income for the family and help facilitate their generous gift to KLT.\* The woodlot now supports a modest volume of 12" to 14" diameter white pine and hemlock sawtimber, along with more plentiful six to eight inch diameter red maple, yellow birch, beech and sugar maple poletimber, with some larger pine and sugar maple scattered throughout. With such a high quality species mix, the Family Forest will continue to be actively managed as a diverse, habitat-rich, and valuable woodlot, where hikers and skiers will also enjoy the expanding network of trails.

But it is the connectivity that really highlights the value of the Rosmarin's gift as a short distance to the south are KLT's 100-acre Macdonald Woods and the 110-acre Readfield Town Forest.

\* In recently harvested forestland, gaps in the canopy create habitat for invasive plant species. Controlling invasives on this property will be a high priority for KLT.

## About Kennebec Land Trust

Founded in 1988, The **Kennebec Land Trust** (KLT) works cooperatively with landowners and communities to conserve the forests, lakes, streams, wetlands, fields, and wildlife that help define central Maine. KLT protects and stewards land permanently, offers access to conserved properties, provides opportunities for people to learn about and enjoy the natural world, and works with partners to support sustainable forestry and farming.

With the support of over 1000 member households, KLT has conserved over 7,500 acres. Our properties feature more than 55 miles of trails for everyone.

**Your donations to KLT support land conservation, trail development, and nature and conservation education and sustainability programs.**

**Thank you for your support!**



*We are proud to continue Joe Saunders's rich tradition of giving back to the community. We know that KLT will do a fantastic job of protecting the land for future generations.*

*Lisa and John Rosmarin November, 2016*

*Thanks to those who contributed expertise and time towards this brochure: Owen Buck, Harold Burnett, Tom Danielson, Dale Potter-Clark, Howard Lake, Norm Rodrigue  
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## ROSMARIN AND SAUNDERS FAMILY FOREST

342 acres ~ Readfield, Maine



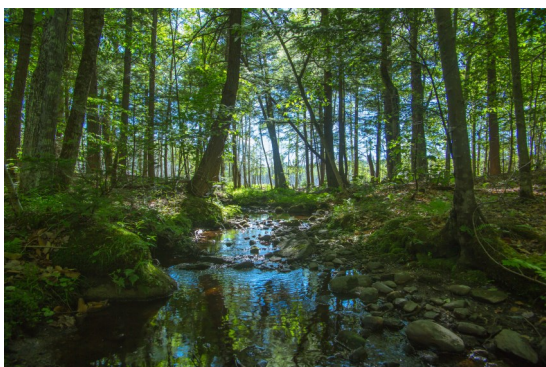
## KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

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## WELCOME TO KENNEBEC LAND TRUST'S ROSMARIN AND SAUNDERS FAMILY FOREST

We hope you enjoy your visit!

The 342-acre KLT Rosmarin and Saunders Family Forest is an extensive conservation area with mixed woodlands, two perennial streams, and wetlands with four vernal pools. Northern areas include a large open wetland that drains east into Maranacook Lake, while Gardner Brook drains the southern half, towards Berry Pond. Historically the property was farmed and pastured, though more recently it has been managed as a woodlot.



The property, spanning the eastern flank of Nickerson Hill, was formerly owned by Saunders Manufacturing Company, Inc. which was founded in 1947 by A.H. Saunders and his son Joseph A. Saunders and was a large manufacturer of aluminum clipboards. John Rosmarin joined the company in 1982.

Over the years, the company accumulated various contiguous tracts of undeveloped land on either side of Nickerson Hill Rd for use by the family, employees, friends, and residents of the area for hunting, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, and hiking.

The company was sold in 2016 and 342 acres were kept by the Rosmarin family. John, his wife Lisa, and daughters Kelly and Karrie believe that Joe Saunders, who passed away in 2014, would have been honored to know that the land was donated to the KLT.

## Readfield Settlement History

In the 18th and early 19th centuries, New England farmers used oxen to haul stones and clear forests. Today, stones in foundations and walls are reminders of a time when orchards, pastures, and fields would have dominated this landscape.

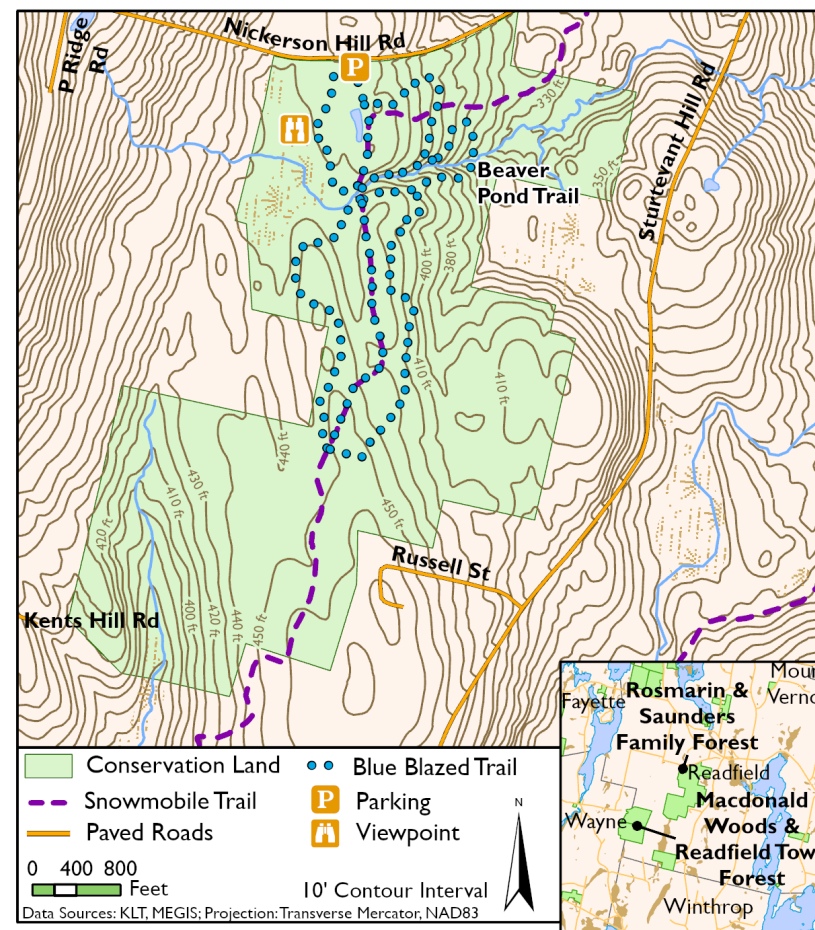


Two of the earliest settlers to own land on Nickerson Hill Rd (NHR) were Dudley Hains and Samuel Whitney, a Revolutionary War veteran. Benjamin Davis, whose farmhouse was on Sturtevant Hill Rd., also owned land on NHR and the now discontinued Southeast Road. Hains's son John carried on the homestead and sold 95 acres of it to his brother Dudley II in 1837. Dudley II bought another 145 acres including the 100-acre Samuel Whitney farm in 1818, the site of today's Saunders Manufacturing. Some of the land that was owned by Dudley Hains I and II is part of KLT's new property.

In 1863 Hezekiah O. Nickerson bought the Hains homestead; it remained in his family until 1943. His brother, Hiram R., bought the Dudley Hains II property in 1904, from Dudley III, as a retirement property. Unlike his brother, who remained in Readfield and was a farmer, Hiram ventured into the railroad business out west. His son eventually sold the house and 181 acres to Albert H. and Edith Saunders in 1945.

The large and successful Davis farm and apple orchard on Sturtevant Hill Rd was first established in 1805. The farm remained in the family for four generations. Two-hundred acres of the former Davis farm are part of the Forest.

## Rosmarin & Saunders Family Forest, Readfield



**Trails:** The 1.3-mile Beaver Pond Loop trail begins at the parking area on the Nickerson Hill Road, follows the eastern side of the Beaver Pond and stream, and circles back to the parking area. To the south, a second 1.3 mile loop transitions between a pine-hemlock forest and hardwood forests. A snowmobile trail bisects both of these loops and may be wet and difficult to pass on the spring and late fall.

**Public uses:** The Rosmarin and Saunders Family Forest is open to the public for nature observation, hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing, hunting, as well as snowmobiling on designated trails.

No unauthorized motorized vehicles are allowed.

**Dogs:** For the protection of wildlife habitat and hikers, dogs should be under voice command or on a leash. Please pick up after your pets.

**Directions:** From Route 41/17 in Readfield, turn onto Nickerson Hill Road. Travel for about 0.6 miles, then turn left (south) into a small parking area.