

PERKINS WOODS

LAND DONORS: JOHN AND PAT PERKINS
OWNED BY: KLT, WAYNE



Perkins Woods shoreline
(Jane Davis)

John and Pat Perkins have spent almost 30 summers in a small green cabin nestled among tall pines and hemlocks. Sitting on their screened porch, the view is 180 degrees of quiet Androscoggin lakeshore. "It has everything we could ever want," explains Pat. "We just love it up here. We've only missed one year, and that was for the birth of our grandson."

John and Pat, now both retired, spend the majority of their time in Maine enjoying the outdoors and introducing their grandchildren to Maine's wildlife. Avid birders, they take great joy in the diversity of birdlife along their shoreline property and, like many local residents, are enthusiastic collectors of loon paraphernalia. They keep diligent watch over the neighborhood loon family. Pat created a homemade loon raft of cedar and styrofoam which the loons return to every year. "They seem to like it," says John.

The Perkins' camp is part of a larger shoreline development that was started by John's father, Jack, in the 1930's. John's Aunt Margaret purchased the property for her two nephews and their families after the rest of the cabins had been sold.

In 1980, John inherited the last remaining parcel of his father's development project, a 14-acre, old-growth forested peninsula abutting Camp Androscoggin, a summer camp

for boys. Although it has no road access, the land does have 2,700 feet of wooded, rocky shoreline. Initially John and Pat were unsure what to make of the landlocked parcel.

Over the years, many shoreline developments on the lake have altered wildlife habitat. Nevertheless, John and Pat weighed development proposals and an offer from Camp Androscoggin Boys Camp. After much thought, John and Pat decided that these options did not make sense for them, their family, or their passions. Remembering how "nice it is to see undeveloped land adjacent to their developed neighborhood," they donated the 14-acre forested parcel to the Kennebec Land Trust in 2001 to ensure that it would remain a wooded preserve.

Paddling in by canoe or skiing across frozen Androscoggin Lake is the only way to access the short loop trail that circumnavigates the Perkins Woods. The property has fewer visitors than most KLT properties, but John and Pat

are happy knowing the land will stay undeveloped, especially since the discovery of nesting ospreys. Visitors who make the journey across the lake to Perkins Woods are greeted by an impressive cathedral of 150-year-old white pines, eastern hemlocks, and red oaks.



Osprey (Elsa Martz)

The old growth offers a glimpse of what the Androscoggin shoreline must have looked like before summer camps and housing developments. John hopes the property will be enjoyed by their grandchildren and fellow residents. He and Pat know they made the right decision. John adds, with a wink in his eye, "It doesn't reduce my taxes that much, but all in all it was a worthwhile thing to do."

The combination of mature trees on undeveloped shorelands always benefits fish-eating birds: especially ospreys, bald eagles, and great blue herons. All three species have nested locally on Androscoggin Lake.

— Charlie Todd,
Wildlife Biologist, Maine
Department of Inland
Fisheries and Wildlife



Pat and John Perkins
(Daniel Perkins)



Red maple leaves
(Jane Davis)