Nature News

A publication of the Kittery Land Trust *Year in Review 2025*

A Legacy of Love for the Maine Coast

It is with deepest gratitude and a heavy heart that KLT shares the news about the transformative legacy left behind by Edward Crocker Green before his recent passing this fall. For more than a century, the Crocker-Green family's seaside home on Gerrish Island—known as Bayberry Rocks—has been a beloved part of Kittery's coastal landscape. In late September, Edward "Ted" Green ensured that legacy will live on forever.

In honor of his family's deep connection to Kittery Point and the Maine coast, Ted sold the property to the Kittery Land Trust (KLT) this June in a deeply discounted sale, allowing KLT to protect 17 of its 22 acres through a permanent conservation easement. While there is no public access, the easement safeguards the property's woodlands, wetlands, and shoreline from development while keeping its natural beauty intact for generations to come.

With the easement in place, KLT sold the property in September on the open market as part of a "buy-protect-sell" transaction. Proceeds from the subsequent sale were used to create The Edward Crocker Green Endowment, a fund that will provide lasting financial stability for KLT's conservation work.

"This remarkably generous gift is nothing short of transformational for KLT," said Executive Director Lisa Linehan. "Ted's vision and commitment to conservation will sustain our efforts to protect the land, water, and community character that make Kittery so special."

Although his distinguished career as a medical anthropologist took him around the world, Ted always returned to Kittery Point, where his love of the Maine coast began as a child. At the time of the closing, Ted reflected, "My family wanted this land preserved in its natural form. I know they would be thrilled to see it permanently conserved by KLT."

Ted leaves behind his wife Suzie, son Tim, and a community that will be profoundly enhanced by his generosity and commitment to protecting the Maine coast.

FOREVER GREEN: 17 acres protected on Gerrish Island

KITTERY LAND TRUST

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KLT is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Tax ID: 22-2858759

KLT Honored as Kittery's Business of the Year

KLT kicked off 2025 with quite the honor! This spring, Kittery Land Trust was proud to be named Kittery's Business of the Year by the York Region Chamber of Commerce. This recognition celebrates not only our ongoing work to protect and care for local lands, but also the positive impact we're making in the community through Nooney Farm and our education programs.

The award highlighted Nooney Farm's incredible contribution of more than 7,000 pounds of fresh produce annually to local food pantries, helping to combat food insecurity in our region. It also recognized KLT's commitment to the next generation through our free, nature-based education programs, which reach every Kittery student from pre-K through 8th grade.

We were equally thrilled to celebrate our dedicated volunteer Jacquelyn Nooney, who was named Kittery's Volunteer of the Year for her tireless efforts and leadership at the farm.

We are incredibly proud of this recognition—and incredibly grateful. None of this would be possible without the generous support of our volunteers, members, Board, and staff. Together, we are truly "Saving Land and Building Community."

A Year of Growth and Gratitude

From the desk of Lisa Linehan, Executive Director

How do you sum up a year like 2025? It's been busy, unpredictable at times, and full of hard work — but around here, we always look for the silver linings. And this year, those silver linings turned into a shining light that's guiding KLT into an exciting new chapter.

There were days when our fields overflowed with fresh vegetables headed to local food pantries, when kids' laughter filled the woods during nature programs, and when volunteers and neighbors came together to make something magical happen. We reached some big milestones too — from creating an endowment that will help sustain KLT for years to come, to securing a permanent home for the Land Trust.

It's been a wonderful, whirlwind kind of year, and I'm so grateful to be part of it. What makes KLT special isn't just the land we protect — it's the people who make it all possible including our amazing staff, hardworking board, devoted volunteers, generous partners, and every single one of you who supports this mission.

Here's to keeping the momentum (and the joy!) going in 2026.

With appreciation,

A quiet afterwork walk through the Remick Preserve, my go-to trail to clear my head and reflect on the day.

Support What You Love—All Year Long

Did you know that one of the most powerful ways you can support Kittery Land Trust is by becoming a monthly donor?

Monthly giving is an easy and impactful way to help protect the places you love, support community programs, and keep the farm growing—all year long. By spreading your gift out over the year, you provide steady, reliable support that helps us plan ahead, respond to needs quickly, and focus more of our time on what matters: saving land and building community.

Whether it's $10, $20, or $50 a month, your consistent support adds up to big impact—funding trail care, education programs, food donations from Nooney Farm, and so much more.

Plus, monthly giving is:

Easy – Set it up once and you're done!

Flexible – You can change or cancel at any time.

Sustainable – It helps us save resources and reduce fundraising costs.

We hope you'll consider joining our growing group of monthly donors. It's a simple way to make a lasting difference.

Thank you for being part of the KLT community—every day of the year.

To give monthly, please visit www.kitterylandtrust.org or scan here

The Welcome Wagon

The Kittery Land Trust was thrilled to add two new, incredible Board Members this year. Please join us in welcoming Barbara Young and Laura Brown!

Barbara Young

With roots on a Southern New Hampshire dairy farm and a lifelong love for outdoor adventure, Barbara brings both personal passion and professional expertise to her role as Treasurer of the Kittery Land Trust. Her career spans over 30 years in real estate, accounting, and asset management, including 20+ years managing investments for private equity firms and a decade as a Controller for a fast-growing tech company. She holds a master's degree in real estate and construction management from the University of Denver and a B.S. in Accounting.

A long-time advocate for responsible development and farmland preservation, Barbara first connected with KLT through the Acquisitions Committee, where she continues to lend her financial and negotiation skills. Her approach blends practicality with heart, informed by a lifetime of hands-on volunteering including one of her most memorable moments, jumping out of a plane to help fundraise for two grassroot non-profits, Danny's Team and Up.

Whether she's hiking local trails, entertaining friends with home-cooked meals, or walking her dog at Brave Boat Headwaters, Barbara embodies the values of stewardship, balance, and community.

Barbara welcoming guests at our Under the Oak music series

Laura Brown

With a background as colorful as the flower fields at Nooney Farm, Laura Brown brings creativity, business savvy, and a deep sense of community to her role on the Kittery Land Trust Board. A seasoned marketing professional, Laura holds a B.S. in Communication from Vanderbilt University and both an M.B.A. and M.A. from the University of Texas at Austin. Her career has spanned Internet startups, small business ownership, and extensive volunteer work with organizations including the New Hampshire Women's Foundation, NHWomenVote100, and Friends of Ruth Blay, Inc.

Laura and a dahlia harvest from the flower field at Nooney Farm

Laura began volunteering with KLT in 2024, working alongside Jacquelyn Nooney during the growing season. She quickly found inspiration in the rhythms of the farm and the camaraderie of the team. Outside of her work and volunteering, Laura enjoys home renovation projects, hiking, travel, and a good laugh—drawing on her brief, if not lucrative, stint in stand-up comedy. Nooney Farm remains her favorite KLT property for its beauty, energy, and community spirit.

Nurturing Curiosity: KLT's Education Programs Grow Young Stewards

If you've ever visited Nooney Farm on a weekday morning, there's a good chance you've heard laughter echoing from the fields or seen a group of children exploring the woods with magnifying glasses in hand. That's likely the work of Kittery Land Trust's Education Coordinator, Alice Carey—who we like to call "Mother Nature."

Under Alice's guidance, KLT's education programs continue to blossom, connecting hundreds of local children to the land through hands-on, outdoor learning. During the 2024–25 school year, KLT worked with 730 students in the Kittery School District. She met kids in grade pre-K through 8, leading 84 sessions and nearly 100 hours of nature-based learning. Highlights included the six-week 6th Grade Farm to School Program, where students rolled up their sleeves to plant, harvest, and cook with fresh produce grown right at Nooney Farm.

The learning didn't stop when school let out. Summer 2025 brought two lively weeks of Farm Camp, where kids dug in the dirt, met pollinators, and learned where their food comes from. KLT also partnered with the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to host a special field trip series for Shipyard families—giving 40 children the chance to explore the farm and forest, get their hands dirty, and experience the joy of discovery outdoors.

Even our youngest community members got in on the fun! The Muddy Boots Club, which started in summer 2024, has quickly become a favorite among local families. With 35 sessions so far, this joyful program invites toddlers and preschoolers (and their grown-ups) to explore, play, and learn in nature together.

From curious preschoolers to middle school gardeners, KLT's programs are planting seeds—of wonder, stewardship, and connection to the land—that will grow for years to come.

As Alice puts it, "When kids get outside and really see how everything connects—the soil, the plants, the food on their table—that's where the magic happens."

The joys of harvesting carrots at farm camp!

KLT Education By the Numbers

2024-25 School Year

730 Pre-K-8 enrollment
84 sessions grades Pre-K-8
6-week 6th grade Farm to School Program
97 total contact hours

Summer Programs

Farm Camp!
2 weeklong Farm Camps
55 hours
21 total enrollment

Field trip series with PNSY
40 students ages 5-12
1 On site visit for 2 hours
1 field trip to Nooney Farm 4.5 hours

Community Programming

Muddy Boots Club
To date (starting summer '24):
35 sessions, total 39.5 hours
Average enrollment of 17 families/
22 children ages 0-5

Events
Backyard Bird Count - February

Stewards of the Land

With more than 1,000 acres to monitor, the work of KLT's Stewardship Committee is never done! Under the leadership of Board Member Steve Ostrow, our all-volunteer crew works tirelessly to care for the trails, forests, and shorelines that make Kittery so special.

2025 Stewardship Highlights:

- 14 workdays were held across preserves throughout the year
- Battled invasive species — pulling what seemed like miles of bittersweet vines and cutting thousands of buckthorn stems
- Built a new entrance sign at Nooney Farm
- Hosted a crew from Liberty Mutual for their annual Serve With Liberty volunteer day
- Replaced a 24-foot walkway across a stream in the Remick Preserve
- Partnered with the American Chestnut Foundation to plant three new chestnut trees at the Andrews Preserve (alongside two thriving trees planted last year!)
- Hosted Sustainability Fellow Bailey Gosse from the University of New England, who created a management plan and gathered important baseline data for the Andrews Preserve
- Graded and filled potholes in the Brave Boat Harbor Preserve parking lot, thanks to a generous in-kind donation from Josh Stauble of Sea Change Land Services
- Seapoint Beach Cleanup: In collaboration with the Surfrider Foundation, dozens of volunteers came together to remove 370 pounds of trash from Kittery's beloved shoreline — including ropes, lobster trap pieces, and plastic debris.

From repairing boardwalks to planting for the future, every hour of work helps ensure these lands remain healthy, accessible, and beautiful for generations to come. We are deeply grateful to our stewardship volunteers for their time, strength, and dedication — you are the heart of KLT's promise to care for the land, forever.

Want to get involved? We'd love to welcome you to the team! Email us at info@kitterylandtrust.org or call the office at 207-439-8989.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT ! Top - Members of the Stewardship Committee help at the Seapoint Beach workday. Middle - Sustainability Fellow, Bailey Gosse, and Lea Sewell from the American Chestnut Foundation plant seedlings in the Andrews Preserve. Bottom - Volunteers team up to build a new bridge in the Remick Preserve. Thanks to all our volunteers for a great year!

Fields of Food, Flowers, and Friendship

If you visited Nooney Farm this past summer, you probably saw volunteers gathered in the fields—hands in the dirt, laughter in the air, totes overflowing with fresh produce, and buckets bursting with flowers. It was the heart of Kittery Land Trust's work in action: growing healthy food, building community, and caring for the land.

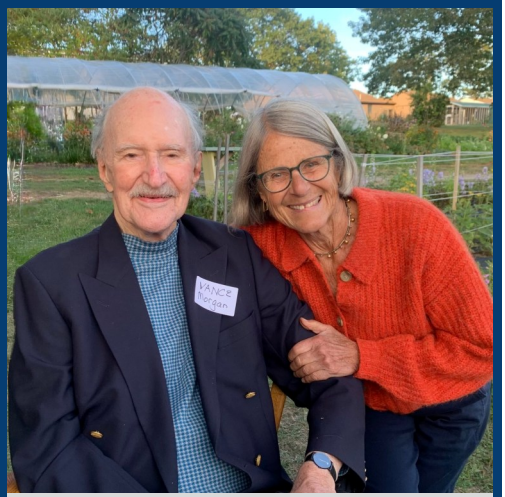
Under the direction of Farm Manager Alex Keenan, the season's harvest was one to celebrate. Nooney Farm produced 7,025 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, all grown with care and shared with neighbors across the Seacoast. The bounty was donated to a network of local organizations working to fight food insecurity, including Footprint Food Pantry, Gather NH, End 68 Hours of Hunger, Table of Plenty, South Berwick Community Food Pantry, Seacoast Fridge, Reds Good Vibes, Seacoast Community Lunch, Common Table, and the Kittery School Nutrition Program.

The farm's flower field, under the creative leadership of Jacquelyn Nooney, also bloomed beautifully throughout the summer. Jackie and her team filled the fields with color and joy, hosting five community flower arranging workshops and welcoming visitors for Pick-Your-Own flowers every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The PYO days brought hundreds of people to the farm—neighbors, families, and friends—each leaving with arms full of flowers and smiles just as bright.

Behind every thriving row—whether vegetables or blooms—was a team of dedicated volunteers who made it all possible. Community members gave their time to tend plants, weed, water, harvest, and deliver food and flowers—logging over 2,000 volunteer hours. Their hard work and good humor kept Nooney Farm flourishing all season long.

Nooney Farm is more than a farm; it's a living example of what can happen when a community comes together—hands in the soil, hearts connected, and a shared belief in doing good. As the fields rest for the winter, we're already dreaming of spring—new seedlings, new faces, and another season of growing together.

Goodness Grows: KLT Expands Nooney Farm and Finds a Home at The Morgan House



Vance Morgan & Jacquelyn Nooney

At this year's Harvest Dinner, guests gathered under the lights at Nooney Farm for a magical evening—and were surprised with joyful news: Kittery Land Trust has purchased its first permanent home, right next door to the farm.

Thanks to the generosity of Jacquelyn Nooney and Vance Morgan, KLT acquired the ranch house and land at 18 Stevenson Road, fulfilling Jackie's vision of uniting the full Nooney Farm property under the Land Trust's care. The new headquarters, named The Morgan House in honor of Vance's remarkable $300,000 gift, will provide space for staff, meetings, programs, and community gatherings.

"It's been deeply gratifying to watch this property become such a hub for KLT and the community," said Jacquelyn Nooney. "I'm pleased to turn over the remaining land and ranch house to KLT with full confidence that the entire farm will be a vibrant, nourishing place for the community far into the future."

Vance Morgan, a long-time community champion and former KLT Board Member added, "I've watched the organization grow and carry out its mission so effectively to conserve, steward, and enjoy the natural areas that enhance Kittery's quality of life. That mission is more important than ever, and I'm honored to contribute to its vitality."

From the Giving Garden and Muddy Boots preschool to concerts, PYO flowers, workshops, and trails, Nooney Farm has blossomed into a true community hub—and with the addition of The Morgan House, KLT's work and community roots will continue to grow.

We look forward to welcoming you to The Morgan House!

KITTERY LAND TRUST
PO Box 467
Kittery, ME 03904

Saving Land, Building Community since 1987

2026 Preview—Mark Your Calendar!

February 1st - Full "Snow Moon" Guided Forest Bathing by Lantern Light at Seapoint Beach

March 21st – Seacoast Environmental Film Festival at Kittery Community Center

May 17th – Plant Sale at Nooney Farm

July – September

Pick Your Own Flowers at Nooney Farm

Wednesday, Thursday, & Fridays

4 – 6 pm

July – August

Under the Oak Music Series at Nooney Farm

Dates and artists TBA

Summer 2026 – Farm Camp

Stay tuned for dates and registration!

September 19th – Harvest Dinner

November – Annual Meeting & Online Auction

New events are added regularly! Learn more at www.kitterylandtrust.org