



Winter Newsletter
December 2004

This has been another banner year for the Greater Lovell Land Trust. We have recognized the many challenges to the Kezar Lake watershed and have made significant progress in meeting them thanks to the help and support of our growing membership. We are pleased that we have been able to develop helpful partnerships, work constructively with the town of Lovell, and organize regional enterprises with other land trusts. I want to update you on our activities.

Evergreen Valley Marina: We continue to work with our conservation partner to institute the agreement that places protective easements on the 148 acres of the Evergreen Valley Marina. Both the grounds and this portion of Great Brook will be protected by the conditions of these easements.

Pleasant Point Litigation: There are two imminent proceedings requiring continuing legal representation: (1) The Lovell Board of Appeals denied the first application of Pleasant Point Realty Trust/Conway Lake Resorts, Inc. (PPRT/CLRI) on November 19th, 2003. This is being appealed by PPRT/CLRI in Maine Superior Court. We are awaiting oral arguments and final adjudication of this ruling. (2) In a second action, the Lovell Board of Appeals ruled 5-0 on November 3rd, 2004 against the second application of PPRT/CLRI, finding it would create a multifamily development which is not a permitted use in the shoreline district, that it would be an expansion of the existing non-conforming hotel use, and that it would violate the setback and buffer requirements for hotels and multi-family developments. While this may also be appealed we are hopeful that we are nearing the end of these cases and we are expecting a favorable outcome. We have partnered with the Kezar Lake Watershed Association, the Farrington Homeowner's Association, and Quisisana Corporation in opposing these applications. We believe permitting these applications would be injurious to the adjacent town beach and the entire Middle Bay of Kezar Lake because it far exceeds the density requirements for development in this area. While this has been expensive to litigate, we are glad that we have been able to provide helpful legal expertise to the town of Lovell and have worked to uphold the highest standards of waterfront usage.

\$150,000 Fund Raising Campaign: For the first time the GLLT and Kezar Lake Watershed Association are joining in a combined fund raising effort to meet common goals to benefit Kezar Lake, its watershed, and the southwestern Maine region. We intend to meet four needs: (1) to provide funds (\$20,000) for KLWA to purchase a new patrol boat to enable deputy warden Paul Sirois to continue to regulate and ensure safety on our waters; (2) to assure that development of the 350 acre Farrington's Pond which is under option at this time be done in a manner not injurious to the extremely sensitive pond, Sucker Brook, and the Lower Bay into which it drains. To this end, we have agreed to pay for the expert testimony of Scott Williams, the aquatic biologist who has monitored Kezar Lake and its adjacent ponds for many years; (3) to fund the legal efforts in regard to the Pleasant Point Litigation; and (4) to create a regional group of five land trusts including Loon Echo (Bridgton, etc.) Upper Saco Valley (Fryeburg, Denmark, Conway), Mahoosuc (Bethel), Western Foothills (Waterford), and the GLLT (Lovell, Stow and Stoneham). This group plans to undertake necessary conservation projects for the southwestern Maine lakes and mountain region which no one land trust could do alone.

It is our hope that this group will gain enough recognition statewide and nationally to attract funding from outside sources that will enable us to conserve the contiguous areas that are large enough for the preservation of our wildlife and rustic environment.

Executive Director: As of January 1st, 2004, the GLLT will employ a full time executive director. This fall, the Land Trust Alliance has revised its Standards and Practices which are the guidelines for our organization. In order to effectively meet those requirements as well as institute the long range plans and fulfill the mission of the GLLT, we had to find a highly qualified person to fill this position. We believe that we have found the right person for this job: Tom Henderson. He is a professional forester and was formerly Senior Forester for International Paper, Inc. He has been Vice-President of the GLLT, and President of the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust. He has been chairperson of the Land Monitoring and Stewardship Committee, and a member of the Properties Committee and Easement Committee. He knows our lands and has consulted in the management of our forests. We look forward to the professionalism that he will bring to our organization.

Proactive Measures: We encourage the use of non-commercializing easements as a way to prevent future excessive development that would be injurious to areas of the lake. We were pleased that the Meadow Easement on the Lower Bay this year pioneered this new form of easement on our lake, and we look for other property owners to follow this example. These easements do not diminish current property values nor do they limit future development rights which are within the existing municipal subdivision and shoreline zoning guidelines. But they prevent using shoreline properties for increased commercial enterprises or being used as rights of way for funnel development.

The GLLT and the Community: It is our belief that conservation is in the best interest of the towns of Lovell, Stoneham, and Stow. We seek to preserve the environment of this rustic area and the quality of the waters of Lake Kezar, its surrounding ponds and the entire watershed. As such, we are trying to work with our surrounding communities and other representatives of our region. We seek to preserve the rustic way of life that we treasure but is currently so threatened by development and sprawl. We identify and occasionally purchase strategic properties to preserve our water quality and our environs. We try to facilitate a balance of conservation with the inevitable development that is so apparent. We are mindful that as we preserve forests and farms, we are preserving jobs. As we preserve the quality of our waters and our sport fishing, we are maintaining tourism. We are making efforts to work with our towns and support public efforts to preserve that which we so highly value. We seek an expanded membership, and we have many openings for volunteers to help us with our mission. Please join us. Everyone is welcome.

Howard A. Corwin, M.D.
President

Editor's Note: As of Jan. 1, 2005 Tom Henderson joins GLLT as its full time Executive Director. (See page 2 opposite).

A Message From Our Newly Appointed GLLT Executive Director

This year we celebrate 20 years of service to the communities of Lovell, Stow and Stoneham! We have accomplished a legacy of natural resource protection through dedicated and talented volunteers. Through these 20 years we have faced many challenges that have guided us in maturing as an organization. Now, we are committing to provide the GLLT with its first Executive Director. I am enthused to serve in the capacity, and humbled by the support and confidence demonstrated by the members of the Trust.

Creation of this position is needed to provide sustained support to the volunteer base of the organization. It is not possible for one person to perform all the tasks of the GLLT in the rapidly changing world of conservation. Land protection is becoming increasingly more sophisticated.

Land trust standards and practices are increasing in detail and accountability. Threats to our natural resources are increasing in numbers and speed. The need for sound partnerships and community outreach has never been greater. With all this before us, it is clear that the need for volunteers will increase now and throughout the next decade. It is vitally important that the GLLT remain rooted in its strong tradition of volunteerism as we face future challenges.

In this newsletter, you will see requests from various committee chairs for assistance. Some requests will be for specific tasks and some will be for general assistance. I urge all members to consider what talents you can bring to the organization and what tasks would excite you. Visit the website and learn what exciting and valuable work is being done. Contact me or the committee chairs so we may coordinate your offer of assistance. The GLLT and the community will benefit greatly from your talent and enthusiasm. Thank you!

Tom Henderson
foreststew@earthlink.net

PROPERTIES COMMISSION REPORT:

How We Manage Our Properties in The Public Interest

The Commission currently maintains ten GLLT properties and monitors their use. Five of the properties are reserves and four are preserves. We are in the process of evaluating the Kezar Outlet Fen in order to determine its proper designation.

We often are asked how reserves and preserves differ, and we distinguish them as follows, based on established practice and on research of other conservation agencies nationwide:

We use the terms as guidelines for reconciling the dual purposes of public use and environmental protection. A RESERVE is a property whose natural environment is of special interest to the public, and therefore worthy of protection from development as a public trust. These commonly are working properties, in which timber harvesting and a range of public activities such as hunting may be permitted.

A PRESERVE has a similar but more restrictive purpose, for it contains flora or fauna, or particular ecological conditions that are so important and so fragile that they should remain perpetually undisturbed and unaltered by human intervention. Public access may be permitted, but only to the extent that the environment is not in any way compromised. Timber harvesting, for instance, normally would be an unacceptable human alteration of a preserve's ecosystem.

In some instances the status of a property is determined by the intentions of the donor. In the others, the Commission recommends the appropriate status to the GLLT, after completion of investigations that include scientific appraisal of the flora, fauna, and overall ecology. For every property we manage, however, our stewards are serious about promoting the public's appreciation for and enjoyment of its natural environment, while protecting this legacy for the generations to come.

You can help!

Volunteers are vital to our mission. Work with our property stewards on conservation teams that carry out our public trust. Your help matters even if you are only here seasonally. We need trail walkers who travel the properties, monitor their use, and recommend maintenance, preservation or educational projects. We need project associates for a wide variety of purposes. Many volunteers select properties or activities that interest them the most. They make a difference!

The Commission members, most of whom are property stewards, are Beverly Bassett, Robert Bell, Sally Davey, Kevin Harding, Tom Henderson, Curtis Lansing, Jane Lansing, Hugh Gallagher, William Sayles, George Scala, Tom Sheehan, Barbara Smith, Burgess Smith, and Robert Winship. **Volunteers can contact any of these persons, or for more information contact this writer, the current Commission chair, at 207-935-9177 or at stonect@direcway.com.**

– Burgess Smith

Greater Lovell Land Trust

OFFICERS:

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Kevin Harding	Vice-President, Education
William McCormick	Treasurer
Thomas Sheehan	Secretary
John Prescott	Assistant Secretary
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	Dennis Smith
	Charles Sullivan
	Hunt Stockwell



Getting the Job Done: GLLT Committees

As you have read in a previous edition of this newsletter, two years ago the *Strategic Planning Committee* of the GLLT developed a mission statement and long range plan to provide a pathway to the future of the land trust. You may review a copy of the strategic plan on the GLLT website (gllt.org) or obtain a copy from any board member.

The plan describes our mission and lays out objectives that we will strive to meet in the months and years ahead. This long range plan is dynamic and flexible allowing for additions or corrections each year by adoption of the full board.

Board Committees share responsibility for implementing the long range plan by drafting task lists which become the operating programs. The GLLT standing committees include:

Properties Commission – Responsible for the maintenance and protection of the GLLT-owned properties such as Heald Bradley, The Stockford Preserve, Sucker Brook/Cardinal Flower Preserves, the Kezar Outlet Fen, and the recently donated Kezar River property, etc.

Easement Committee – Responsible for providing public education on the benefits of conservation easements and assistance to property owners wishing to prepare easements on their property for donations to the land trust.

Land Use and Monitoring Committee – Monitors privately owned properties with GLLT - owned easements to assure compliance with easement terms and conditions.

Education Committee – Responsible for the development and implementation of the numerous GLLT walks and talks, the docent program, the annual educational meeting, and other activities to further public education on the benefits of maintaining open space and promoting responsible development.

Membership Committee – Responsible for outreach to the community to increase the membership base through mailings and special events.

Other important standing committees include the Financial, KLWA Liaison, & Public Relations Committees.

Each committee welcomes your skills and involvement! Send a note indicating your interest in one or more committee in the enclosed donation envelope or send an e-mail to HACGLLT@AOL.COM noting your interest in learning more about opportunities to contribute to GLLT committees.

– John F. Page

TREASURER'S REPORT

In our July newsletter, I reported that our auditors, Grondin & Chandel P.A. of Bridgton had recently commenced their audit of the GLLT financial statements at and from our fiscal year ended April 30, 2004. I am happy to report that that audit was successfully completed and that the auditor's report dated August 24, 2004, a full four months earlier than the previous year's audit, indicated that their audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in the United States and that the financial statements of the GLLT that they examined presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the GLLT, as of April 30, 2004 and the changes in its net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

The one question that seems to be universally asked of not-for-profit organizations concerns the percentage of aggregate contributions received that are used for programs and other mission-advancing expenses versus fundraising and administrative costs. For the GLLT, in the aggregate over the past two years, 3.94% of our total revenues were spent on general and administrative expenses (2.31%) and fund raising costs (1.63%). Over two-thirds of our general and administrative costs derive from professional fees for audit and tax services and corporate organizational legal expenses.

These expenditures provide our organization financial credibility in the not-for-profit world and help ensure that we have the systems and controls and the policies and procedures in place to enable us to be viewed as a bona fide potential participant in any conservation effort within our sphere of operations. The fund raising expenses are primarily a portion of our semiannual newsletters' production and postage costs. I believe that there are precious few not-for-profit organizations that can boast of these kinds of statistics.

Obviously, our low cost structure just doesn't happen; it results from what has been to date an all-volunteer organization that is both dedicated and diverse in terms of experience, professional skills and talents.

We appreciate your past financial support and the vote of confidence in the GLLT that your contributions represent. We need and look forward to your continued support.

– Bill McCormick
Treasurer, GLLT

Learn more about Who, What,
Where, When on our website:
www.gllt.org

Whose Water Is It – Anyway?

By Jim Wilfong

Many readers of this newsletter have heard me speak about H2O for ME's effort to ask the above question. Since I last spoke to The Greater Lovell Land Trust, some things have happened to highlight the fact that we have struck a raw nerve in the bottled water industry. Control is the operative term. In essence, it looks as though Nestlé and its Poland Spring brand may want to control Maine water and now they may want to control the debate about that very water. Let me explain.

Since 1908, when Maine people enacted the citizens' initiative process constitutionally, we have enjoyed a process that lets all of us bring forward issues that by popular vote other people agree should be brought to that same citizenry. The initiatives travel through the same pathways by gathering signatures that equal 10% of the last gubernatorial vote (50,519 signatures this year) for proposed Legislation that has passed muster through the Secretary of State's Office. Once the title and question and the Legislation have been written, the entire package is presented to the voter population in order to gather those required signatures. Typically, signature gathering has happened at the polls on Election Day to take advantage of the large number of voters who gather on that day. Our Constitution has allowed the signature gathering under strict rules (a small sign, the petition form and limited Q & A).

Nestlé first reared its legal head by challenging the Secretary of State's drafting of the question as "misleading" and asked that the judge not allow the petition process to go forward. They eventually withdrew the legal challenge "without prejudice" because a preliminary discussion suggested that it was difficult to prove the question misleading if nobody had ever seen the question. Nonetheless, by filing their retraction "without prejudice," they preserve the right to a legal challenge once H2O for ME gets the necessary signatures.

Meanwhile, Nestlé moved forward with another legal challenge. In a September 23 letter to the Secretary of State, they asserted their First Amendment rights and insisted on being allowed at the polls to challenge anyone who considered signing the petitions forwarded by H2O for ME. The Attorney's General's office did not issue a formal ruling, but suggested that a judge might interpret in Nestlé's favor. The Secretary of State therefore ruled to allow opponents of any petition to be in the same polling place (even suggesting that opponents could be right next to proponents, as was the case in many polling places) but away from the voting process by a minimum of 25 feet. The result meant that many polling places put petitioners outside in the elements on a cool and rainy November day.

The following excerpt from a letter written Representative Linda McKee to Governor Baldacci describes the atmosphere she experienced at the polls. Representative McKee volunteered to sit at the Gray polls and was one of the lucky volunteers who were allowed to stay inside.

"Dear Gov. Baldacci,

Tonight, on Maine Connection you spoke eloquently about the sanctity of the citizen-initiated referenda in the state of Maine. As Democrats, we have always supported and preserved the rights of citizens to petition our government and I hope that we always will. However, I want to share with you an assault on that right that occurred on Election Day.

I agreed to circulate a petition for "Water for Maine" and was sent to the Gray-polling site. Calling ahead, I was pleased I would be inside, as it was quite cold and rainy, and I am asthmatic. Upon arrival, I was impressed with the town's voting site, an old school gym that could

accommodate large numbers of voters as well as space for citizens to circulate petitions. Two other circulators were there -- one for the Chamber's petition for the Maine Tax Relief Act and another for a Maine Taxpayers Bill of Rights. Nothing was unusual, and the day began early.

I arrived at 7 a.m. and voters were already pouring in. Any who were interested in the petitions stopped on their way out, inquired, and signed. It was a familiar scene that I have been accustomed to for the past 32 years since we arrived in Maine.

Then things changed. Suddenly a representative from Nestlé Corp. (that owns Poland Springs Water) showed up and set up shop at the adjoining table. He stood up and held up a sign that said, "Be careful what you sign," and every time someone came up to ask about the petition, he would interrupt my explanation. The voters were shocked and confused and did not know what was happening. I politely asked the rep to refrain from speaking until I could tell the voter what the initiative was about. But the interference did not stop. The man kept up the intervention all day, reminding voters that he could be there legally. Some people were annoyed by the intervention, others just threw up their hands in confusion and walked away, some signed in support, others signed just to let the man know they did not appreciate this intervention. In short, it was a very, very uncomfortable day. The people across from me who were circulating the other petition could not believe what was happening. They tried to imagine how they would have been able to conduct their work if the "opposition" had been breathing down their necks." (end letter).

* * * * *

Representative McKee received a prompt response from the Governor that echoes a response I have received from the Secretary of State indicating that they both will seek Legislation to close this loophole in a process that clearly didn't intend for public debate to be happening in our near the voting place. We don't object to the debate -- as we have said, "We will debate anyone, anytime and any place, just not the polling place."

Obviously, through H2O for ME's efforts, we have troubled Nestlé Waters of North America. Our efforts have made them legally challenge the Secretary of State, challenge the staid citizens' initiative process and, by using the First Amendment to hide their efforts, to stop H2O for ME and the Citizens' Initiative Process in one fell swoop.

All this is about continuing to gain control of our water without citizen intervention. It is also clear by their actions that Nestlé will stifle any effort we bring remotely causing public debate on this issue. With pressure increasing exponentially on our water (we now estimate that more than one half a billion gallons of water are leaving our borders every year) and access to the largest and best aquifers being locked up almost daily, it is also clear that Maine people must stand up now on behalf of their/our water. We need to avoid the Ben Franklin quote: "When the well goes dry, we know the value of water."

**We need your help. To find out more, check out our website at:
www.h2oforme.com, drop us an e-mail at:
info@waterdividendtrust.com, or call me at (207) 697-2060.**

– Jim Wilfong

Jim lives in Stow. He is a former State Legislator and is now the Director of H2O for ME, a grassroots citizens' group, which wants sustainability standards for our aquifers and a water dividend trust to fund economic development efforts in Maine.



Invasives on the Land. . . A new study in the Lovell Area

The GLLT has received a \$5,000 grant from the Davis Foundation to conduct a study of terrestrial and wetland invasives.

We have begun our work and would like to share with you some of the preliminary results. . .

What is an invasive plant? It is a non-native species that is capable of moving aggressively into a habitat and monopolizing resources such as light, nutrients, water, and space to the detriment of other species. If these plants are “non-native” where do they come from? For the most part, they come from man spreading the plant either inadvertently (loosestrife was first brought to the U.S. in the hold of a ship via ballast water), or because we imported a particular plant to use in gardens or for erosion control, screening, wind-breaks, or other normal horticultural uses. These plants then “escaped” and spread.

Invasives can spread aggressively and replace native plant species and significantly alter habitat and cause the loss of biodiversity. The New England Wildflower Society notes that “invasive species have contributed to the decline of 42% of U.S. endangered and threatened species and for 18% of U.S. endangered or threatened species, invasives are the main cause of their decline.” In simple terms, animals are not interested in eating these strange plants and once the plants become established they are often very difficult to eradicate.

Anyone who has driven through southern New England states have seen the waves of purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) in wetlands or the feathery tops of common reed (*Phragmites australis*). My first reaction to these newcomers was probably the most common - I thought they were quite attractive and interesting plants. But they are now everywhere and the cattail swamps of my childhood are gone and the many species that depended on cattails for food and shelter are being challenged.

Despite the difficulty in stopping the spread of invasives in a global economy that makes the transfer of invasive species so easy, there are some key steps to be taken. The name of the game is creating public awareness, early detection, and quick action to control this threat.

It is also important to note this particular issue has united conservation groups with other powerful political lobbies. The National Rifle Association and Ducks Unlimited have joined the battle against invasives.

In the last two years the GLLT and KLWA and town of Lovell have worked hard to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasives like Eurasian Milfoil and Variable Milfoil. These and other invasive aquatic plants not only destroy habitat, but can make it virtually unusable for normal recreational activities. The work to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasives is critical and needs to continue.

The new efforts regarding terrestrial and wetland invasives expands our task in an effort to get ahead of the problem. Our first step has been to begin a survey of the problem beginning with GLLT properties and other sites that are likely candidates (roadsides, edges of parking lots, power line easements, logging operations, campgrounds). The preliminary news is good - we have encountered only a few problems. The most significant finding thus far has been the very obvious spread of Japanese Knotweed or Mexican Bamboo (*Fallopia japonica*).

We have also found large numbers of sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) in the Stockford Preserve, and a few other instances of other invasives along roadsides or camping areas. Our survey is not complete. We have spent many hours in the field and are encouraged by the limited problems noted thus far.

At this point, the Japanese Knotweed is by far the greatest problem. This is a herbaceous perennial growing in large mounded colonies four to nine feet in height. It is recognized by its large, alternate, untoothed, broadly egg-shaped leaves with pointed tips and squarish bases. It has hollow stems similar to bamboo and white clusters of flowers that appear in August. It is a generalist, likes the sun, and easily spreads by rhizome fragments along roadsides, disturbed areas, river and stream shores, and along powerline or railroad corridors. This is a robust plant that creates thickets that can be so dense that virtually no other plants can exist. Control is best achieved by preventing it from being established. We are too late for that. It is wide spread along Lovell roadsides and in a few open fields and yards. It can be eliminated by repeatedly cutting the stalks in one growing season and covering with black plastic or applying glyphosate to the remaining plant. We need to be on alert because this plant can move beyond roadsides to riparian zones and have a greater impact on wildlife.

In the next season you will be hearing more about our survey results, sources of information, what you can do to help, and how we can spread the word and not the plants!

– Kevin Harding

Dedication Ceremony Held at Stockford Preserve

On October 9th the GLLT dedicated a memorial bench to Chip Stockford near the end of a trail on a view site overlooking the Lower Bay of Kezar Lake. This 150 acre hilltop reserve is named in honor of Chip, a founder, officer and director of the GLLT from its inception in 1985 until his death in 2000. Many members of the Stockford family, the Ladies Delight Association, and the GLLT attended an informal ceremony and shared many fond remembrances of Chip – his accomplishments, his humor, and his wisdom. The inscription on the granite memorial bench reads:

In Memory Of
Chapman "Chip" Stockford
1931 - 2000

A Resident of Ladies Delight
A Founding Officer of the Greater Lovell Land Trust
A Native of Maine and a Friend to Many

The Stockford Preserve can be reached by taking West Lovell Road to Ladies Delight Road, which is the first dirt road on the left after crossing over the Narrows bridge and going past the Kezar Lake Marina. Near the top of the hill on Ladies Delight Road, a woods road on the right leads to a clearing, from which a blazed loop trail leads to the summit of Ladies Delight Hill and the memorial bench.

New Committee to Review Policies and Practices

The national Land Trust Alliance (LTA) recently adopted extensive revisions to its Land Trust Standards and Practices. The LTA's Standards and Practices are ethical and Technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust. In response to this, the GLLT's Board has appointed a Standards and Practices Committee. The Committee will be responsible for reviewing our policies and practices, and recommending any changes that may be appropriate to conform with L.T.A.

The members of the new GLLT Committee include counsel Dan Stockford, Treasurer Bill McCormick and Vice President John F. Page. The GLLT is dedicated to continuing its tradition of operating in the public interest and upholding the public trust, and the committee's work will help to ensure that tradition continues.

– Dan Stockford

welcome to: www.gllt.org

Our first summer with a website has passed and Lovell settles into winter. This is a good time to review your feeling about how the site performed and what its future needs might be. Currently our plans are to add the newsletter to the site in an easy to download document, which could be printed. Many web users have discovered PayPal, an easy to use service that allows secure financial transactions over the web. The GLLT plans to use this service from our site for donations. Take a look today. . . "www.gllt.org."

If you have any ideas
about how the site can grow
and help service
GLLT friends,

please send
your e-mail ideas to José
Azal via his own e-mail:
jazal@auroraphotos.com

- Educational Programs
- Lectures and Talks
- Guided Walks
- Trails and Preserves
- Volunteering to help
- Activities and programs
- Conservation, current projects
- Easements, benefits, "how to"
- Hikes, where to start
- Watershed needs, threats
- Officers, plans and goals

Land Trust Receives 99 Acre Parcel From The Nature Conservancy

The GLLT has acquired a 99 acre parcel of undeveloped land along the Kezar River, just north of Lovell Village. Known as the Kezar River Tract, the property is on both sides of the Kezar River beginning about 2000 feet north of the dam on Rt. 93, and running up to Alder Brook, with its northern end roughly opposite the Wicked Good Store. The land was purchased by the Bear Paw Timber Corporation in 1974 and deeded to The Nature Conservancy in 1999. TNC donated the property to the Land Trust which will now manage the land.

The 84 acre western section of the property runs from the river to Rt. 5 and is heavily wooded upland forest. It has a surprising number of moderately deep ravines, some of which contain perennial streams shaded by tall hemlocks. The origin of the ravines appears to be glacial and their presence is a surprise to the first-time visitor. The bank of the river is steep along nearly all of the parcel, rising about forty feet and making water access difficult except for one landing site.

The eastern 15 acre section of the property, located across the river from the larger part, is a long and narrow strip of land. It also has a steep river bank with one attractive access point from the river and contains older growth oak, maple, birch, spruce, hemlock and pine.

Following the guidelines of The Nature Conservancy, the GLLT intends to manage the tracts as working forest, actively demonstrating sustainable forestry practices. Management will strive to economically manage the timber resource, while protecting native biodiversity and wildlife habitat. There have been three thinning operations on the property since 1980 and the GLLT will be completing a fourth in late 2004.

The western section can be accessed by a path located opposite the Wicked Good Store and skid roads offer the opportunity to explore the land by foot. The Land Trust will be installing a parking area and trails over the next few years to allow easier access to explore the interesting ravines and forested land. A walk on the high bank along the river is to be especially enjoyed. The proximity of this land to the Library and New Suncook School will make it an attractive site for educational programs concentrating on wildlife study, biology, forest management practices and related subjects and these uses will be encouraged by the GLLT.

— Robert Winship



GLLT and Kezar Lake Watershed Association Join in a \$150,000 Fund Raising Campaign



For the first time the GLLT and Kezar Lake Watershed Association are joining in a combined fund raising effort to meet common goals to benefit Kezar Lake, its watershed, and the southwestern Maine region. We intend to meet four needs: (1) to provide funds (\$20,000) for KLWA to purchase a new patrol boat to enable deputy warden Paul Sirois to continue to regulate and ensure safety on our waters; (2) to assure that development of the 350 acre Farrington's Pond which is under option at this time be done in a manner not injurious to the extremely sensitive pond, Sucker Brook, and the Lower Bay into which it drains. To this end, we have agreed to pay for the expert testimony of Scott Williams, the aquatic biologist who has monitored Kezar Lake and its adjacent ponds for many years; (3) to fund the legal efforts in regard to the Pleasant Point Litigation; and (4) to create a regional group of five land trusts including Loon Echo (Bridgton, etc.) Upper Saco Valley (Fryeburg, Denmark, Conway), Mahoosuc (Bethel), Western Foothills (Waterford), and the GLLT (Lovell, Stow and Stoneham). This group plans to undertake necessary conservation projects for the southwestern Maine lakes and mountain region which no one land trust could do alone.

It is for these four challenges that we ask you to support this combined GLLT-KLWA fund raising campaign. Please make checks payable to the Greater Lovell Land Trust and send it to the Greater Lovell Land Trust, P.O. Box 181, Center Lovell, ME 04016. If you wish to donate securities or make a pledge, please contact William McCormick, Treasurer, GLLT at 207-925-1263 or via e-mail at wjmccormick@aol.com. Both the Greater Lovell Land Trust and Kezar Lake Watershed Association are 501 (c) 3 charitable organizations. All contributions are tax deductible in accordance with the rules of the Internal Revenue Code.

Editor's Note. . .Holiday Greetings

Our next
newsletter is
scheduled for late
spring or
early summer.

We welcome your comments,
questions, criticisms...
especially your
ideas of how the GLLT
can serve better.

Write to: GLLT, Box 181
Center Lovell, Maine 04016
(or phone newsletter editor:
John Prescott 212-799-4725
...e-mail: prescottny@aol.com)