

Box 181, Center Lovell, Maine 04016

Amos Mountain



The GLLT is excited to announce the purchase of 198 acres, including the summit of Amos Mountain, abutting the Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve, from Erdna Rogers. The Rogers family has been a long time supporter of the Greater Lovell Land Trust, and Erdna Rogers and Howard Corwin had discussed permanent protection of Amos Mountain for many years.

"I certainly preach the work [the GLLT has] done, particularly what Howard Corwin did. The Land Trust since the start has done such a wonderful thing for Lovell," expressed Mrs. Rogers in a recent interview. When asked why she wants the GLLT to own Amos Mountain, she spoke of the "importance of thinking about conservation these days" and "protecting it from exploitation and development." She also wants to make the mountain part of the existing Reserve "for the beauty of it,



of course!" The GLLT would like to thank the family for their support, especially Erdna Rogers's granddaughter Phoebe Monteith, for working so hard to make this project possible. Ms. Monteith has worked tirelessly for three years to bring this agreement to fruition, making her grandparent's dream a reality. Thank you all.

The Amos Mountain property abuts the 603 acre Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve, thus creating an 801 acre reserve that includes the summits of Whiting Hill (elev. 801 feet), Flat Hill (elev. 891 feet) and now Amos Mountain (elev. 955 feet). This large reserved area is host to moose, deer, bear, otters, mink and fisher, pine warblers, raptors and owls to name a few. Native dogwoods grow on the steep boulder strewn western slopes, while the occasional American Chestnut

tree, resistant to the blight that eradicated its ancestors, offers hope for its return to this forest. Fernleaf-false foxgloves, a state threatened species, bloom at the ledgy summit and interesting wildflowers grace its rocky outcrops and down slope forests.

Erdna and her late husband, Howard Rogers, took their first walk up Amos Mountain from Whiting Hill in the 1960's. Over the years, the Rogers family improved the road on the north side of the mountain and built a network of trails on the west side to connect Route 5 to the summit via favorite view sites.

"We were always mountain climbers and we love views, so we were lucky to have the views we did from Amos - all the family enjoyed it for so many years... sharing it with all the people who wanted to hike with us."

"There are some lovely places to stop and enjoy - nothing much particular from the top unless some trees are cut down, [but] there's a good view of the

south... above the big rock. From the South View you can see Chocorua, and you can see [Mount] Washington from El Pulpito (The Pulpit Rock - just west of the summit) because it's comparatively open. There are a lot of other places where there could be views but there are too many trees."

We are particularly pleased to be granted rights from the family to offer public access along the old road that leads to the summit. This road will serve as the first GLLT trail with handicapped access to a summit suitable for wheelchairs and scooters. The property hosts interesting and unusual stone walls at the summit that testify to an historic use for pasture. The property also supports a key component of the local snowmobile trail network that extends from the Heald and Bradley Pond Reserve onto this property and beyond. The GLLT is grateful to be the new stewards for this land, and to offer a quality experience for all to enjoy.

Hamilton Conservation Easement-Stoneham

We are also pleased to announce the receipt of a 35 acre conservation easement from Fran W. Hamilton for her property in Stoneham. When asked why she protected her property, she stated: "Eighty years ago, when I was a child there, Florida was rural and lovely with varied and ample wildlife. Development has taken that away. Having watched Florida, it's frightening to me to consider the same scenario taking place in Maine. Unless precautions are made now, to control development, Maine will lose out to developers because they are looking for more space and land. The Hamilton family decided to protect some of that land with a conservation



easement with Greater Lovell Land Trust."

The land is managed forest land hosting mixed species, including white pine, hemlock, red oak, maples and birches. A small ledge in the southwest corner shimmers from the reflection of dappled sunlight from the vernal pool at its base, while a small seasonal stream cascades the slope on the southern boundary. Wildlife signs are numerous as the surrounding lands also provide favorable habitat, including over 2,000 acre of abutting land owned by the State of Maine.

At one time in history the land was a homestead, as evidenced by barbed wire, beautiful

stone walls, foundations and a well. The Hamilton family has maintained these cultural artifacts to preserve the history of the property. Camp counselors from neighboring Camp Susan Curtis use the site to teach Maine youth about nature and cultural history. The property also hosts part of the local snowmobile trail.

The Hamilton easement allows for the practice of forestry and wildlife management, commercial agriculture, traditional recreation and educational uses, and the potential for a two acre residential homestead. Its connectivity to other protected lands builds upon the efforts of others as well as our goal of preserving permanently protected wildlife habitats where native populations thrive. We are grateful to Fran Hamilton and her family for their generosity and vision.

President's Message

William J. McCormick, Jr., President

In my first President's Message, it is my pleasure to bring you up to date on where we are, where we are going, and how we plan to get there. Before I begin, I would be remiss if I did not extol the many contributions to the GLLT by one of its Founders, Howard A. Corwin, M.D. Howard retired this summer after over 20 years as President. I hope you will take the time to read the special tribute to Howard included in this Newsletter.

We are currently engaged in several conservation projects that promise to significantly increase the number of acres under protection over the next several months. These privately owned lands include some of the highest priority properties in the Focus Areas identified in the Conservation Plan. Each is of high quality in regards to resource protection, connectivity to other protected lands and public benefit. We are hoping to end this year as one of the most successful ever, as we approach completion of 6 protection projects totaling 1,143 acres. Of that, 198 acres were obtained through the fee acquisition of Amos Mountain and contiguous lands. This has been a high priority for both the Rogers family and the GLLT for many years. We anticipate at least 219 new acres under conservation easement by year end and others in early 2009. In November, we accepted a 35 acre conservation easement from Fran Hamilton that permits forestry and agriculture on her property abutting land that is protected by the State of Maine surrounding Camp Susan Curtis in Stoneham.

An equally important component of our success is our Education Program. Under the capable direction of Kevin Harding, this effort has attained a level of accept-

ance, popularity, and professionalism that we could only have dreamt possible when we initiated the program. Attendance at both our Wednesday night lecture series and our walks increased dramatically this year. We also initiated "Senior Walks". Feedback tells us the program was successful in making a nature experience more accessible for this population. In August, we joined with the Lake Environmental Association and Loon Echo Land Trust to sponsor a major speaker, Susan Morse of Keeping Track. Kevin is proposing that we kick it up a notch for next year, and has handicapped access, labeled walks, and winter programming high on his priority list.

For the long term, our goals and energies will be guided by the findings of the Conservation Plan, covering 119,000 acres in the Upper Saco River Watershed, which includes the Cold River, the Kezar Lake and Kezar River watersheds. Funded through a Department of Agriculture grant, the Plan is considered the most professional and comprehensive ever to be prepared for our region. Developing the plan was a community-driven group consisting of five volunteers from Lovell, Stow and Stoneham along with five representatives from other organizations such as the Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Forest Service. For a more in-depth discussion, please read Tom Henderson's column elsewhere in this newsletter, and the Plan on our website.

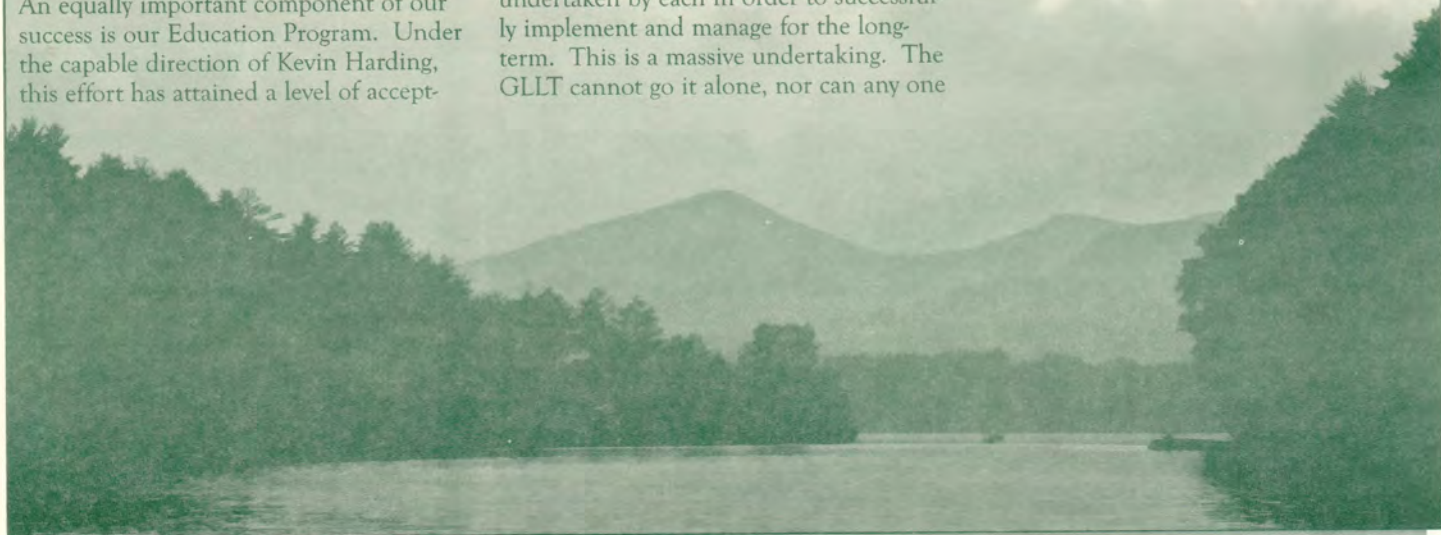
The Conservation Plan focuses on the stakeholders and the tasks that have to be undertaken by each in order to successfully implement and manage for the long-term. This is a massive undertaking. The GLLT cannot go it alone, nor can any one

else. The land and the water are basically inseparable. It is impossible to tend to one and abandon the other. Whether a year round resident or seasonal, voting or not, rich or poor--it makes no difference. We are all bound by the common thread of our love for this corner of Maine.

During the months ahead, we plan to communicate the Conservation Plan to local and state officials as well as groups like the Kezar Trailbreakers, the Lovell Volunteer Fire Department, and the Lovell Lions Club. We are all stakeholders, and if we permit one segment to fail, we will all ultimately fail in our long-term goal of keeping our portion of Maine as an enduring legacy for all who come after us.

To help us achieve these lofty goals, we need your financial contributions to both our current Operating Fund and our Endowment Fund. We mailed our Annual Appeal letter during October, and would like to remind those of you who have not already done so to send your contributions. In that letter, we announced that contributions to our Endowment Fund will be matched up to an aggregate of \$75,000 over the next three years to help guarantee our long term sustainability. We greatly appreciate anything you can do to further our joint mission.

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy holiday season.



Thank You, Howard

How do you say thank you to a leader who twenty-three years ago took our organization from little more than an idea to one of the most successful Land Trusts in Maine?

The beginnings of the Greater Lovell Land Trust were hesitant and uncertain. We had our legal not-for-profit status, but that was about the total sum of our accomplishments in the first year. There was a treasury that was more hope than reality and a vacancy in the presidency in our first year of operation. Acquiring easements or land was simply out of the question. Failure seemed as possible as success. We knew we had to learn the trust of the community if we ever hoped to raise money or hold easements on land, but earning trust without leadership is no easy task.

Howard stepped up to this challenge, and brought leadership, vision, excitement, confidence, and energy. Our board of directors expanded, the first easements were written, and we actually began to raise money. Howard Corwin, who had previously been the president of the Kezar Lake Association, seemed to be the magic bullet that gave us the jump start we so desperately needed. We still had a great deal of work to do, but we had a leader that many people knew could get the job done.

Sometimes strong opponents make you stronger. The concern that the failing Evergreen Valley development could endanger the north end of the lake was a valuable tool to build public awareness of the need to preserve key portions of land to ensure the health of the watershed. With Howard's help, supporters could see that it is much easier to stop poorly conceived development schemes before they get started than to deal with the aftermath.

When the James River Corporation was interested in divesting over 600 acres on the west side of Heald Pond, Howard saw an opportunity not to be missed. Raising money to buy such a large piece of property would have scared away many fledgling land trusts, but the challenge didn't

scare Howard. With the help of a great board of directors, the GLLT stepped up and negotiated this first large purchase and, in the process learned a great deal about grant writing, accessing public money, and old fashioned fund raising.

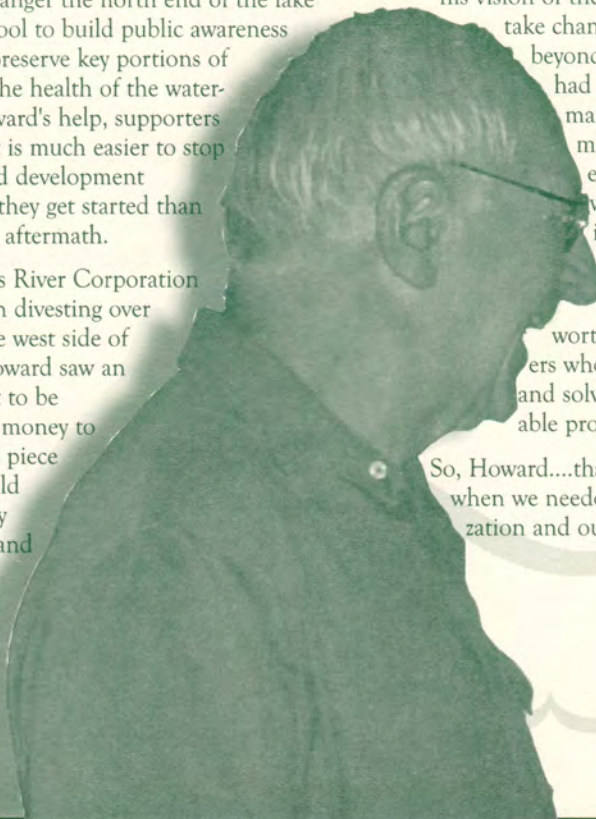
These were the years that also included a lot of hard, boring work. It is not easy creating a mailing list from nothing, putting out a newsletter, and doing the mailing. In those early days Howard did more than his share of the grunt work. Stuffing and licking hundreds of envelopes is not very exciting, but Howard understood the value of leading by example.

As one looks back on the history of the GLLT, there was always a big challenge out there that needed immediate attention. The danger of losing the Eastman Hill property despite the clear preservation wishes of the deceased owner, the need to stop second tier development and provide septic easements on Ladies Delight, or the dangers created by ambitious developers to expand Pleasant Point beyond reasonable limits are just a few examples. Time after time, Howard took the lead. There were some on the board who believed the GLLT was biting off more than it could chew, but Howard was able to build coalitions, raise money, and find solutions.

Howard had the vision to see that we could harness the energy of the community and get the hard work done. He often would end a meeting by discussing his vision of the future, and urged the GLLT to take chances, to make big deals, and to look beyond the immediate future. Howard had a talent to get the best from the many volunteers who have given so much to the GLLT. His style of leadership allowed each of us to use whatever talents we had, while keeping us all on the same track.

In this time of economic uncertainty and political division, it is worth remembering that there are leaders who can bring out the best in all of us and solve what appear to be insurmountable problems.

So, Howard....thank you Howard for being there when we needed you. Your impact on our organization and our environs will never be forgotten.



Thinking Out

Anne Pilsbury

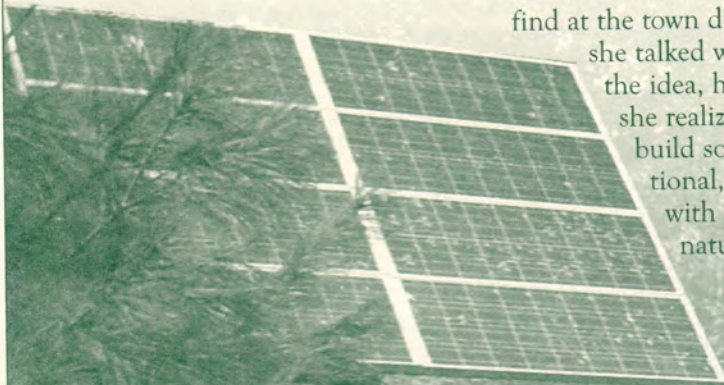


On Sunday, August 17, 2008, Anne Pilsbury offered members of the GLLT an Open House to showcase her new solar vacation home in Lovell. "I want people to see that they can live a normal life in a solar cottage," said Anne. Over ninety members and guests, as well as some of the local contractors and craftsmen who helped create the retreat, attended.

Anne's vision began as a fantasy to build a hut from timber she hoped to find at the town dump. The more she talked with others about the idea, however, the more she realized she needed to build something conventional, yet in keeping with her minimalist nature. With this in

mind, architect Craig Whitaker designed a non-intrusive house for her.

Three telephone poles would be necessary to carry electricity and phone service in from the road. The hefty price for these inspired Anne to seek an alternative energy source. She hired Paul Hausman to install a photovoltaic power kit purchased from New England Solar. Eight Mitsubishi solar panels attached to the top of a freestanding pole provide energy via an underground supply cable. Inside the timber-framed house built by Andy Buck, with interior construction by Dave Emery, a utility room houses a charge controller, inverter and wooden box, which stores twelve 24-volt batteries. This battery bank holds enough electricity for three days of no light. Many visitors were interested in learning precisely how the solar



Inside the Breaker Box's Solar Home

By Leigh Macmillen Hayes

worked. They were especially surprised to learn that solar panels don't need sun, just light. Some expressed disbelief that a solar house is possible this far north.

Electrician John Schuettinger made sure that the house was built to standard electrical code. Lights, water pump and the under-the-counter size fridge all work fine. Folks did wonder how Anne will survive with such a small refrigerator. Anne's response, "I need to pick carefully what I need to live. We all need to downsize and try to live more simply." She does recognize that the small fridge is not an option for big families.

The cottage has an on-demand propane hot water system installed by Ron McAllister and Paul McLaughlin. The system does pull some power from the solar panels. After it was

installed, Anne learned she needed a modified sinusoidal (sine) wave inverter to transmit energy to the boiler. A woodstove is the main source of heat, though on-demand radiant heat is available. Large Pella windows offer lots of natural light, allowing the cement floor to heat up during the day and emit heat at night.

The charm of this hut is not only in its "off the breaker box" greenness, but the attention to details, while reflecting the simplicity we all seek. Anne proudly calls it, "My organic hut."

Congratulations to Anne and her ensemble of capable, local contractors and craftsmen. And thanks to Margaret Nomentana, Membership Committee Chair, for a thoughtful and inspired member event.

FMI: Read "Making Progress: Anne Pilsbury's Solar Retreat" in *Lake Living* magazine, fall 2008, vol. 11, no. 3 available at the GLLT office and other fine establishments throughout the Lakes Region.



GREATER LOVELL LAND TRUST

Annual Meeting

& 19TH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Outgoing GLLT President Howard Corwin, M.D. welcomed over 100 people gathered at the Lovell VFW Hall on Saturday, August 9, 2008 for our Annual Meeting and 19th Educational Program, featuring Professor Evan Richert of the University of Southern Maine.



presented his professional and volunteer background, along with the GLLT's plans for the future.

Other invited speakers during the business portion of the meeting included Tom Henderson, who provided a summary explanation of the Conservation Plan, Jim Wilfong, GLLT Board member and Chairman of H2O for ME, who talked about pending ground water legislation, and Charlie Dattlebaum, President of KLWA, who brought the group up to date on KLWA activities.

The business portion of the meeting occurred first. Margaret Nomentana, chair of the Nominating Committee, reported on the outcome of the Officers and Board of Directors elections held earlier that morning. Bill McCormick, long-time board member and Treasurer replaced Dr. Corwin as President. Other officers elected included Sara Cope, Vice President and Treasurer, Bob Winship, Vice President and Secretary, Burgess Smith, Vice President, and Mike Friedman, Clerk and Counsel. Also elected as Directors for a three year term ending in 2011 were Mike Friedman, Tom Sheehan and Ralph Tedesco.

Dr. Corwin then addressed the audience regarding past accomplishments and future challenges for the Greater Lovell Land Trust. He talked about the GLLT's reputable history from its founding in 1985 through his twenty-three years tenure as President, reviewing the many land acquisitions and easements that have allowed the GLLT to preserve some of the most unique properties in the Lovell-Stoneham-Stow area of Maine. He reminded all of the GLLT's success in leading the statewide land trust community through vision, innovation. Future challenges include continuing to preserve the valuable sites identified in the new Conservation Plan and the potential erosion of the Saco Deep Sand Aquifer through water extraction. Dr. Corwin referenced his guiding principle over the years, "Save what can be saved; build what must be built."

After a sustained round of applause for all of his efforts over so many years, Dr. Corwin introduced Bill McCormick, who

After a short intermission, Dr. Corwin introduced Evan Richert, who teaches public policy at the University of Southern Maine, and who was formerly Director of the Maine State Planning Office. Mr. Richert spoke on "Acquisitions and Beyond: The Future of Land Trusts" in a very informative, provocative and educational presentation. His speech focused on the interplay between regulation and conservation, linking the concepts of preventing public harm while creating public benefit in a society strongly tied to the concept of individual property rights. He referenced Maine's Land Use Act, passed in 1988, the purposes of which were to encourage orderly growth and protect Maine's rural character. This act chartered the development of individual Town Comprehensive Plans at a time when Maine land trusts were forming and leading in the protection of special places. Mr. Richert believes the Act failed in encouraging collaborative efforts across municipal boundaries for effective regional planning and natural resource protection. He conceded, however, that local planning through the development of town Comprehensive Plans was the only means to begin such planning, given the Maine culture of home rule. He pointed out that valued natural resources, such as watersheds, are rarely fully contained within individual municipal boundaries and that independent versus regional approaches to land use planning produce mixed results, with most

falling short of the expectations and desires of Maine citizens for quality of life decision making.

Mr. Richert stated that because of this legislation, land trusts like the GLLT had a clear role to play in preserving Maine's lands. He challenged the GLLT to recognize that there is little political will to engage in regional planning and that only Maine's land trusts can build the coalitions needed to make regional planning a reality. He suggested we consider this as part of our core mission in the "future beyond acquisition" section of our Long-range Strategic Plan. He cited the recently completed Conservation Plan as the proper approach to resource protection and land use planning.

As part of his ongoing research, Mr. Richert has developed models which demonstrate the changing character of land usage in Maine since 1910 and projected through 2050. This model demonstrates the increasing spread of suburban land usage, which he defined as a consumptive use of land. In contrast, he defined rural land as land that is productive in meeting our needs for food, wood products, recreation and clean water. The market value of consumptive lands always trumps productive lands. This means that without intervention, the suburban model of land usage will spread dramatically to the greater Lovell area. He offered a provocative idea for a regional planning effort that would require new thinking and collaboration across multiple municipalities. His concept identified regional Service Centers, where consumptive lands support a density of development and serve as the source of jobs, goods and services for the surrounding rural regions. His proposal would respect the private property rights of rural landowners, since full economic compensation for the preservation of these lands as productive private lands would be made. He stated that land trusts are uniquely positioned to advance this concept. Such a role critically answers the question of how to prevent development from swamping rural regions by negotiating, brokering and preserving property usage and rights.

This complex idea provides much food for thought as the Greater Lovell Land Trust moves forward with implementing its Conservation Plan. Mr. Richert's remarks outline the challenges that face the incoming officers and directors as they work to continue the legacy of conservation formulated by the GLLT's founders.



Notes from the Desk

Tom Henderson, Executive Director

I write this note to you a day after harvesting the last garden salad of the season, complete with fall lettuce, cucumbers, broccoli and even cherry tomatoes after Columbus Day. It has been a highly productive year, with large yields from beans to pumpkins and shitake mushrooms. I amazingly harvested two cantaloupes, each weighing over 4 pounds, before the marauding black bear got them. I'm lucky to grow on top of a well drained gravel substrate for a good growth, even in wet summers. Sadly, a hard frost will arrive tonight and I will be cleaning up the "veggie" garden for its winter rest. I am already turning my thoughts to cold season joys such as getting all those leaves into the compost bin, cutting next year's firewood and finishing the new pasture and chicken house. I am awed at this spectacular time of year with golden slopes and snow capped hilltops—like frosted Halloween cupcakes. Fall is so grand, yet bittersweet. I think Mother Nature gave us this magnificent painted seasonal landscape to ease our transition from the warm and long days of summer to the cold and long nights of winter.

I experienced similar feelings earlier this summer when Howard Corwin retired as President of the GLLT. He focused on the need, nurtured the growth of the GLLT and of the conservation ethic in us all, resulting in productive yields of high quality land protection. Prior to accepting the position of Executive Director, I worked as a volunteer for 18 years with Howard in nearly every aspect of the land trust's functions. We shared a vision, and worked together through the years on many wonderful projects. I especially recall when the GLLT first became a landowner, with its 603 acre acquisition at Heald and Bradley Ponds.

This was a big change for us and we went straight to work developing new policies for fee land stewardship and recruiting volun-

teers to the Properties Commission that has served us so well. Now, after 21 years of tending GLLT affairs together, it is time for a transition; time to tend the legacy Howard left us. This includes 33 permanently protected properties accounting for 2,768 acres of the highest quality, an education program that is fun and effective in serving our communities, and a robust organization prepared to face the challenges ahead. Most importantly, it includes a deeply instilled ethic of preserving that which defines us and enriches our lives. I can think of no better way to repay Howard than to continue our work through highly effective land conservation. Each completed project will surely be a tribute to my friend and long time colleague, Howard Corwin.

Completion of the Conservation Plan has been a high priority, and we now have a strong document to build community action towards conservation of valued resources. The Plan is complete and available at the website: www.gllt.org. The Plan clearly articulates what community members found to be the most valued ecological and cultural resources that, if lost, could not be replaced. Please read Appendix V, Strategies for Protection. This appendix lists all the recommended actions, and is grouped by Key Players who can take the lead or partner with others to implement actions. I also direct you to Map10, which identifies land protection Focus Areas. These will be top priority for our future land protection efforts.

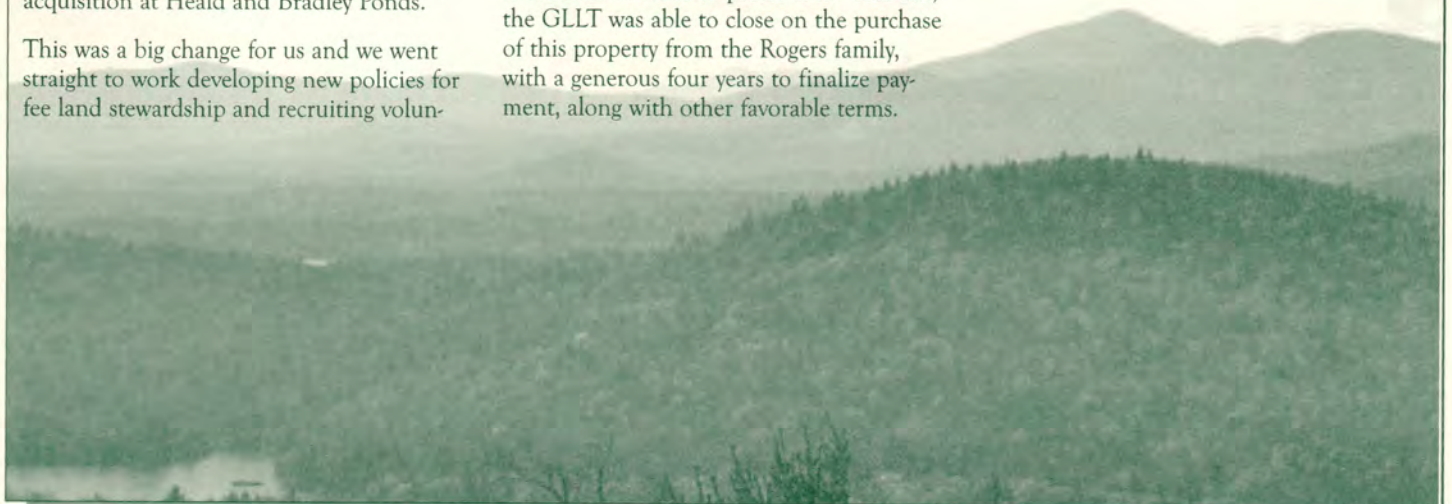
Our front page announces the preservation of one of the highest priority properties within those Focus Areas, Amos Mountain. Howard and Erdna Rogers purchased Amos Mountain in order to preserve it. This fall, the GLLT was able to close on the purchase of this property from the Rogers family, with a generous four years to finalize payment, along with other favorable terms.

This protection is truly a tribute to our first generation of GLLT conservationists, Howard and Erdna Rogers and Howard Corwin, and a joy for the next generation, including Rogers's granddaughter Phoebe Monteith, who stewarded the project to completion.

In addition, the 35 acre Hamilton easement in Stoneham is one of several expected to be completed in the coming months, representing some of the region's most valued forest, wetlands, and wildlife habitats. --

Our path going forward is clear. Our three primary resource and land protection goals for the next five years are: 1) Take lead on the strategies recommended for Conservation Organizations in the Conservation Plan and actively partner with other Key Players, 2) Seek conservation of lands and resources within the Focus Areas identified in the Conservation Plan, and 3) Build eastern and western permanently protected wildlife corridors that begin at the White Mountain National Forest and join at their southern apex at the Saco River.

Many of our 33 protected properties lie within these existing wildlife corridors—lest they become isolated islands. The habitat and corridor still exists because of generations of stewardship decisions by neighboring landowners. Together, both provide us with an important opportunity in time. I can see no higher tribute to those land owners who have performed high quality stewardship, those who have generously protected their lands through easement, and the previous generation of conservationists than to complete this wildlife corridor protection project.



GLLT Sponsors Informational Meeting on Water Issues

On July 15, 2008, approximately thirty representatives from a diverse group of organizations, including the Greater Lovell Land Trust, the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and the Kezar Lake Watershed Association gathered at the Eastman Hill Stock Farm in Lovell to learn about and discuss the potential ecological impact and broader issues involved with large scale water extraction.. Howard Corwin, M.D., Past President of the GLLT, welcomed everyone to the session, outlining the need for those involved in protecting both land and water to understand the current situation in the Saco Deep Sand Aquifer and the implications for conservation issues throughout the State of Maine. He observed that each Trust represented needed to determine the role they wished to play in the ongoing issue of who should own the groundwater in Maine. This meeting was to provide a forum to address issues, provide information, and educate participants. The results included consensus on actions that land trusts and watershed associations should embrace and implement.

He emphasized such a change is necessary to protect Maine waters in light of the current worldwide trend, to classify water as a tradable good or commodity, rather than as a basic human need. He commented that water was included as part of trade negotiations under NAFTA, and stated that water extraction is really all about the money. As an example, he quoted the current cost of one acre foot of water, equivalent to 326,000 gallons of water, at \$1,630. The bottling cost per 24 oz. bottle is \$.10, and if the selling price per bottle is \$.75, this yields an operating profit of approximately \$1.2 Million.

Jim then turned the program over to several other speakers, including Alan Perry, an agricultural economist who spoke on "The Economics of Natural Resources", Emily Fletcher of Western Maine Residents for Rural Living, who provided a specific update on water extraction issues in Fryeburg, and Howard Dearborn, Michael Dana and Roger Wheeler, who spoke on the need for real, accurate baseline studies of aquifers before approving bulk extraction.

In the afternoon, Bridie McGreavy of the Lakes Environmental Association gave a visual demonstration of how Aquifers work. She presented a model of deep sand aquifers, such as the local Saco Aquifer, and used colored dyes to show the movement of groundwater under low, medium and high rates of extraction and how this affects surface water levels. Clearly, medium to high levels of extraction affected surface water volumes, showing dramatic changes in groundwater flows. The model was limited because it did not address the potential ecological effects such extraction can have on the lakes, ponds, wetlands regarding chemistry, plant life, fish and invertebrates. The lack of sound science regarding the potential impacts of

excessive ground water extraction was woefully obvious, compelling the participants to call for the development of sound scientific modeling to guide decision making.

Dick Dyer then presented the Public Relations issues associated with the protection of Maine's ground water, especially the need to provide education on the issue for the citizens of the state in light of the increasing pressure on Maine's fresh water resources.

Burgess Smith moderated a group discussion designed to develop action plans for those organizations attending the session. The group agreed that it was important for Maine to legally protect ground water in the same way it legally protects surface water. Further, there needed to be better benchmark studies of the impact of wholesale extractions on ground water before large-scale extraction should occur. Participants believed that organizations such as the Congress of Lakes Association, and its member organizations like KLWA, should take a lead in promoting such protections and studies within the state. Land trusts could be available to provide additional support. At its August meeting, the Board of Directors of the GLLT endorsed a plan to advocate for legal protections and seek statewide land trust support for the prompt establishment of sound, comprehensive and independent scientific studies.

Everyone left the meeting much better informed on the complex issues surrounding the bulk extraction of water from Maine's aquifers. For our readers who are interested in learning more about the issues surrounding this topic, the GLLT suggests two books, "Thirst" by Alan Snitow, Deborah Kaufman and Michael Fox, and "Bottlemania", by Elizabeth Royte. More information about specific water issues in Maine is available on the H2O for ME website, www.h2oforme.com.



Jim Wilfong, Founder of H2O for ME and member of the GLLT Board, spoke first, asking the critical question, "Who owns Maine's waters?" He stated that the extraction controversy in Fryeburg is an issue with implications for the entire state. He then gave a brief history of the evolution of Maine laws covering both surface and ground water, and highlighted how Maine's current laws differ from those of neighboring New Hampshire. Maine distinguishes between the two, protecting only surface waters, whereas New Hampshire considers both a part of the Public Trust. Jim emphasized that Maine's laws needed to be updated to include ground water protection. His organization intends to lobby for the passage of a bill in the Maine State legislature which would do so. Should this not pass, Jim hopes to see a ballot referendum address the question.



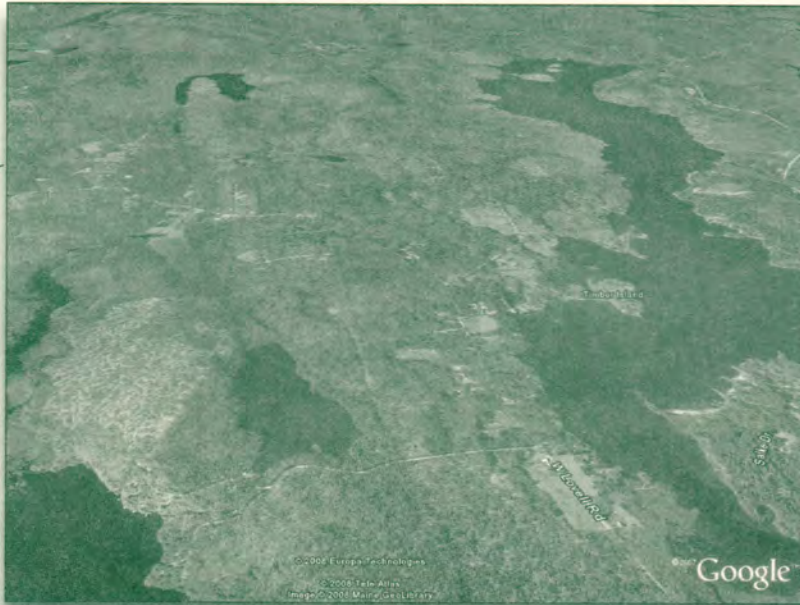
The Sucker Brook Story

It's All About Connectivity

By Bob Winship

The story begins on the slopes of Joe McKeen Hill, Harndon Hill and Lord Hill. Small seeps gather into larger flows and eventually reach the pleasant stream of Sucker Brook, which finds its origin as the outlet of Horseshoe Pond. The stream runs through tranquil woods, with the occasional bright red Cardinal Flower on display, until it reaches the wetlands above Moose Pond. South of the Pond, Sucker Brook is a narrow meandering stream flowing through dense wetland shrubs. It emerges from this area to become a rocky stream flowing through the forest. Along the way, the brook picks up the drainage from Peaked Hill and Noah Eastman Pond. The stream soon reaches the broad wetlands at the foot of Sucker Brook Hill, where a major tributary, Bradley Brook, enters. Sucker Brook now becomes much broader as it winds through the wetland before entering Northwest Cove in Lower Bay.

The upper reaches of Sucker Brook were recognized for their special value years ago by friends in Lovell. In 1974, The Nature Conservancy received almost twenty-one acres along the Brook, including the land surrounding Moose Pond, from the family of Wilson Wing. In 1977, a twelve acre parcel extending from above Moose Pond to the outlet of Horseshoe Pond was acquired by TNC through the efforts of a local volunteer group known as The Sucker Brook Committee. This Committee, with Bishop George Cadigan among its members, was Lovell's first formal conservation organization. The Sucker Brook Committee established the goal of protecting the entire length of Sucker Brook, all the way to the Northwest Cove. That effort continues to this day with the most recent protection consisting of 203 acres of land with over 4000 feet of frontage on Sucker Brook, to the west of Farrington Pond purchased by the GLLT in 2007. With this purchase, a total of 883 acres with over 7000 feet of brook frontage is under protection in this north-south land and water corridor.



Sucker Brook is a key water source for Lake Kezar's Lower Bay. Protecting it to maintain quality and flow is one of the objectives of the Conservation Plan recently published by the GLLT. Notably, the Conservation Plan also addresses protection of the Cold River and Kezar River water sheds which, combined with Lake Kezar, constitute the eastern headwaters of the Saco River. The entire Conservation Plan is available on the GLLT web site* and two of the Plan's maps, "Watersheds" and "Focus Areas", demonstrate why Sucker Brook is of special interest. Two of the Focus Areas in the Plan, the Horseshoe Pond Highlands and the Sucker Brook Headwaters, are highlighted because of their importance in preserving a clean water source for the Lower Bay. These two Focus Areas are also important as habitat for most of the species which call western Maine "home".

A look at the maps shows that there is a continuous, unbroken tract of undeveloped land consisting of streams, ponds, wetlands, swamps and upland forest reaching from the tip of Northwest Cove to Horseshoe Pond and on to the mountains to the North. Much of the land is now protected from development so that this continuous tract will support, for years to come, the numerous species of plants and animals which inhabit it now.

The significance of this extensive corridor of protected land is that it provides the many local species of mammals, birds and amphibians the range and type of habitat

they need to thrive. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers the habitat in the corridor to be of "particularly high value" for the protection of many priority species of concern because they are rare, declining, threatened or endangered. When this protected corridor is linked with the contiguous extensive National Forest lands to the north and west, it allows even the largest and widest roaming of our indigenous mammals to find year-round homes. Consider that the male black bear requires

up to sixty square miles of quality territory to thrive. Consider that a healthy moose, whose name derives from the Algonquin for "eater of twigs", eats forty to sixty pounds of browse a day and roams over five to fifty square miles, depending on the season. Consider that deer range over fifty miles in response, it is thought, to the need to avoid inbreeding, and that they can move as much as ten miles from their summer range to the yarding place known as the Deer Wintering Area. Consider that the fisher ranges over forty-three square miles and the coyote over seven. "Give me land, lots of land" is the refrain we hear from these critters.

The Sucker Brook corridor, a large connected and varied territory of land and water, with low and high ground, furnishes the quantity, diversity and quality of habitat for the creatures and plants which we expect to find in the Lovell area. It provides the concealing cover, the geographic variety from lowland swamp to mountain highlands, the food, the water and the breeding ground for sustainable populations. By maintaining wildlife corridors such as the one from Sucker Brook's outlet to the heights of Adams and Speckled Mountains, this diversity of life will survive for generations to come.

*See "Conservation Plan" at gllt.org

The Joy of Walking

By Joyce White

Why would 10 people

tramp through woods in raingear to explore old cellar holes and stone walls? That's hard to explain to anyone who hasn't experienced the magic of the smell and feel of fall woods and the imagining of what life for those long ago farmers and builders of stone walls might have been like. GLLT docent Frank Robey led this three-hour ramble through the Great Brook area of White Mountain National Forest October 2, just as leaves were beginning to take on their fall splendor.

Fifty-eight years ago my best friend ridiculed me when I listed walking as a hobby on my college application. "You can't call walking a hobby," she scoffed. "Everyone walks." I left it on the application but even then "hobby" didn't quite describe the importance of walking in my life.

In my youth, when I walked across the pasture and through the woods with a pan for picking strawberries, it was not simply a utilitarian walk. It was also to smell the freshness of air and new grass and to greet the cows. To note the killdeer trying to lure me away from her nest with her "injured wing" ploy. To hear the red-winged blackbird's "kong-ka-ree" by the brook.

It was to allow June breezes to blow away family turmoil, to feel the sun on newly-bare skin. To catch sight of the stag's white flag as he bounded away through the cedars. To experience the contrasting coolness of the woods, redolent with the scent of balsam and pine needles released by the heat of the day.

And then, the carpet of ripe wild strawberries spread over the abandoned field beyond the woods, just there, a gift of Nature, free for the picking. Later, the simple pleasure of lying flat on the grass with berry-stained fingers and a pan full of berries at my side, watching cumulus clouds mutate from horse to dragon.

Then the walk back home, bearing my precious gift for the family, happier than when I started. No matter what was hap-



pening at home, the act of walk gave me a sense of being part of something larger than myself or my family, something dependable and protective at the same time, mysterious and full of possibility.

That was one of my favorite walks in every season but all the others had their own adventures and satisfactions. Surprising a bittern on her nest one summer in the field near the swamp. Another walk on a country road at dusk watching an owl swoop silently down to the road just ahead of me to pick up a squirrel, then fly to a utility line where he perched to savor his meal. His eyes stared unblinkingly at me during the time it took for the squirrel to disappear into the owl, tail last.

All the other walks through the years, the ordinary ones that didn't leave a specific memory, have been just as important. Then, as now, while my feet were covering ground, my mind could roam and my spirit soar.

The habit developed in youth has accompanied me into old age. Now, walking is widely recognized as the best all around way to stay healthy and energetic, to combat stress and anxiety. It improves muscle tone and cardiovascular function. A vigorous walk can help dispel the blues, improve digestion and relieve insomnia. Recent research suggests that walking can stimulate mental function, improving memory and sharpening judgment in older people.

But these aren't the reasons I walk. They are just the incidental benefits. I walk to maintain connection with the natural world, to establish an intimate relationship with place and season and the sacred. Walking brings me pleasure, a sense of well-being, a sense of belonging on this earth. I feel healthier and happier, just as I did in youth, when I return from a walk.

Much more than a hobby, walking is a vital part of my life, as necessary as food and sleep. Walking at the mall or on indoor exercise

equipment may strengthen the same muscles and stimulate some of the same physiological processes but it wouldn't nourish my soul in the same way an outdoor walk does.

And there is such variety in outdoor walks! Evening walks to revel in the sounds of spring peepers and wood thrushes, the small of damp earth and lilacs. Purposeful walks to pick fiddleheads and blueberries. Guided nature walks with a trained naturalist pointing out details I hadn't noticed or identifying plants and animal signs.

Group hikes in fall to view migrating hawks and the panoramic palette of foliage from mountain tops. Brisk walks along snowmobile trails in winter. Walks by the light of full or waxing moon in all seasons. Explorations of animal tracks from snowshoes.

So, of course "walking" belonged on my college application. It was an important part of who I was then just as it is now. I admit I rather enjoy knowing that millions now join me in my "hobby". It's a kind of belated validation for what I knew at 17.

Walking on Land Trust Properties

The Greater Lovell Land Trust has several properties where you can go for a walk in the woods. These include:

Heald and Bradley Pond Reserve

Perky's Path, a loop trail from the Flat Hill parking lot

A walk to Otter Rocks by taking the green spur trail off of the red trail

Otter Rocks from the Westways Parking Lot on Route 5, turning right where the trail intersects the red trail and left at the kiosk

The red trail to the snowmobile bridge, returning by the same trail

Kezar River Reserve

The trail, avoiding the ravine section on the south portion of the trail

Chip Stockford Reserve

Western side of the blue trail and the red trail spur to the view site, returning the same way, or completing the loop by descending from the east side.

Wilson Wing Moose Pond Bog Preserve

Follow the marked interpretive trail

These locations will soon be joined by a marked, loop trail at the Sucker Brook Outlet Reserve, with a spur trail to Sucker Brook, which will be ideal for bird watching and wildlife viewing. Please call the office or see our website if directions are required.

KLWA News You Can Use

The KLWA has been restructuring itself so as to be more effective in monitoring Kezar Lake and the other ponds in the watershed. We have engaged the services of FB Environmental, a small consulting firm in Portland specializing in directing environmental planning, assessment, monitoring, mapping, and restoration projects. FB Environmental is testing our waters for clarity, total phosphorous, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll-a, color, and temperature. This year we added testing on both major brooks feeding Kezar Lake (Great Brook and Boulder Brook). Testing will be done in early-, mid- and late season. We are also conducting studies on zooplankton and crayfish, in an effort to understand the native fishery.

The Trustees hosted a 'Thank You!' BBQ at Hewn Oaks on August 17, which was great fun! Upwards of 100 people attended. Good food, good company, good weather and good games for children made it a memorable day for everyone. We hope to do it again next summer and invite new members.

Mark your calendars now for the Annual KLWA Meeting, which will be held on July 11 at the VFW Hall. Forrest Bell, of FB Environmental, will be our speaker. All are invited.

Give Your Children a GLLT Membership for Christmas

Yes, I/we would like to be a member of the Greater Lovell Land Trust.

- Youth/Visitor \$15 Individual \$50 Family \$85 (Number of children under age 18 ___)
- Premier \$125 (includes a premium gift from the GLLT)

In additional to my membership, I/we would like to make a contribution to the GLLT at this time in the amount of \$_____.

Make checks payable to the Greater Lovell Land Trust (GLLT). The GLLT is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Name _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

www.gllt.org

We all want to pass our heritage on to our adult children and grandchildren. May we suggest a gift membership in the GLLT this Christmas. This will help keep them abreast of the conservation efforts that you are providing for them. They, too, can join in and be a part of our heritage. This is a great way to pass on your love of our environs. To send a gift membership, please complete the form below and mail it with your check to:

The Greater Lovell Land Trust
PO Box 181
Center Lovell, ME 04016

If received by December 15, 2007, we will acknowledge this thoughtful gift to the recipient(s) before Christmas.

Christmas Shopping on the Internet?

Goodsearch Shopping Benefits GLLT

Take a Moment—
Its Simple, Easy and Free!!

What if the GLLT earned a percentage of your purchase every time you shopped on-line? Well, now we can! The GLLT is registered with Good Search as a recipient of sales and advertising revenues generated from the daily internet searches of people like you. For every purchase you make through goodsearch.com, sponsoring merchants will contribute to the GLLT.

GoodSearch.com is a service powered by Yahoo. Thank you for making us the charity of your choice and using GoodShop for all your Christmas shopping.

Here's how:

1. Go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> and add GoodSearch as one of your computer search options, or better yet make GoodSearch your homepage. Both options are easily accessed with one click at the bottom of the GoodSearch homepage.
2. At the same time enter the "Greater Lovell Land Trust" in the box entitled "I'm Supporting", thus directing contributions to the GLLT.
3. Ask your family and friends to do the same.
4. Click on the Goodshop icon to access participating merchants such as eBay, Amazon.com, Best Buy, and Kohl's.

2008-2009 Annual Appeal Announces Additional Matching Grant

Requests Donations to the Operating and Endowment Funds

The Greater Lovell Land Trust kicked off its 2008 - 2009 Annual Appeal with a letter mailed to members and other contributors in mid-October. The Annual Appeal is the primary means by which the GLLT raises the money necessary to fund our operations each year. Our donors have always come through in the past, and we need everyone's generous contributions to continue our mission.

Sara Cope, who succeeded John Duffy as Chair of the Development Committee commented, "In sending this letter, I am pleased to announce that we've received an additional \$75,000 matching grant, spread over the next three years, toward our Endowment Fund. Our donor was pleased with last year's results, and hopes that this extension will put this fund on a firm footing to provide much needed operating money in the future. As the GLLT works toward taking advantage of this generous offer, I'd like to ask all of our contributors to give a bit more, designated for the Endowment Fund, this year. I recognize the financial hurdles facing all of us right now; however this is a once in a lifetime opportunity."

The matching grant is an instance when every dollar goes twice as far toward helping to ensure our financial future. The purpose of the GLLT Endowment Fund is to provide in perpetuity a predictable level of funding that guarantees the future sustainability of the GLLT's mission. It also allows us to execute long-range plans, confident that the funds will be there. The generous financial support of our contributors allowed us to achieve permanent and lasting protection of some of our finest forests and wetlands. We added significantly to our holdings in 2008 with easements such as Highfields, coupled with the opportunity to acquire Amos Mountain. These special places preserve water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities for all. Our donors' vision and generosity ensure that we continue to make these lasting gifts for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren. We sincerely appreciate your continued support. We encourage everyone reading this newsletter to help further our mission by being as generous as possible.

The Greater Lovell Land Trust is a Maine not-for-profit corporation and is exempt from taxes under section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions made to the GLLT are tax deductible in accordance with the rules of such Code. As a result, there are a number of ways to make tax advantaged contributions to the GLLT. The specifics are spelled out in more detail in the brochure mailed with our Annual Appeal, entitled, "Tax Advantaged Giving". If you are interested in learning more about any of the contribution vehicles included in the brochure, please do not hesitate to contact the Development Committee by calling the office at (207) 925-1056.

The GLLT strongly advises that before you take action on any of the current planned giving opportunities mentioned in the brochure, you discuss your plans with your personal tax advisor or professional financial planner to fully understand how each of these options work in your specific financial situation.

Have you considered naming the GLLT in your estate plans?

Many of our members have spent a lifetime around our waters, our forests, our villages and our communities. These are places of warm and lasting memories. The GLLT is committed to preserving our lands for future generations in perpetuity, and for this we must build our endowment. It is our hope that those who have appreci-

ated the unique qualities of this place might consider leaving a legacy in their wills to the Greater Lovell Land Trust. For more information on planned giving, contact Paula Hughes of the GLLT Development Committee at 207-925-1056.



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