

Box 181, Center Lovell, Maine 04016

## Prescott Conservation Easement

The GLLT is very pleased to announce the receipt of a 116 acre conservation easement on the property of Robin Prescott on Hatch Hill in Lovell, Maine. The easement includes forest land and fields on both sides of Hatch Hill, a popular destination for the lovely view vista of Lower Bay, Ladies Delight Hill, Robbins Ridge and the summits of the Green Hills and beyond. Hatch Hill is a prominent feature on the landscape as viewed from the Lower and Middle Bays of Kezar Lake and is one of many forested hilltops that help to define the Kezar Lake experience. When asked why she protected the property with a conservation easement, Robin stated: "Protection of the ecosystem was my reason for making the contract. Knowing that the woods protect lake quality was important. My hope is that the preserva-



tion of Hatch Hill woods and fields will (someday, if not now) come to be seen as a benefit by all who live in Lovell."

The preservation of working farms, working forest lands and productive soils that can support future agricultural production is a shared goal of the GLLT and Robin Prescott

which has been advanced by this conservation easement. The Prescott easement permits agricultural endeavors including crop production and animal husbandry and the continued management of the forest for wood products, wildlife habitat and water quality preservation. In addition, Robin is an advocate for power generation by means of wind and especially

as a municipally owned facility to benefit local citizens through rate reductions. The conservation easement accommodates municipally owned and operated wind power generation facilities in the event a future project is desirable and undertaken.

These forest and fields provide quality habitat for a diversity of native wildlife. Black bear and moose frequent the property, as do coyote and deer as they roam between abutting forestlands and nearby preserved lands. Residents include red fox, fisher, snowshoe hare, turkeys, woodpeckers and songbirds just to name a few. The preservation of this property is an important addition to our western wildlife corridor project that seeks to preserve contiguous blocks of wildlife habitat from the White Mountain National Forest to the Saco River through the Sucker Brook and Lower Bay ecological systems.

We are grateful to Robin for her generosity and vision, in preserving her property and for her voluntary contribution to the wildlife corridor project.

## Taylor Conservation Easement AT HORSESHOE POND

We are pleased to announce the receipt of a 16 acre conservation easement from the Taylor family at Horseshoe Pond. The property abuts the 45 acre Skinner conservation easement, increasing the contiguous, preserved shoreline in this southern cove of Horseshoe Pond to over 3,058 feet.

Margaret Taylor, long time owner of the property, had a strong desire to preserve it, a sentiment shared by the current owners, her three children: Susan Daggett, Willard M. Daggett, III and Mary Brown. When asked why she and the children wanted to protect the property she stated: "Horseshoe Pond is a place of renewal for all of us, but the motivating force for the easement was and is a wish to add to the places where the earth can breathe."

The land is a managed forest hosting hemlocks, white pines, red oak, beech, red maple and birches. A small vernal pool on site promises that tree frogs and peepers will serenade the neighbors on warm spring evenings. From the water, the shoreline is unspoiled, as the family camp is back from the water and hidden from view by the hemlocks, pines and forest vegetation. Preserving this shoreline parcel at Horseshoe Pond will further efforts to preserve the water quality of the pond and that of Sucker Brook and the Lower Bay of Kezar Lake.



The property is an important addition to our land protection program as it is contiguous to conserved land and is located at the north end of one of our two wildlife corridor focus areas. Its preservation as undeveloped forestland furthers our goal of preserving viable, native wildlife populations through a network of connected, preserved habitats from the White Mountain National Forest to the Saco river through the Sucker Brook,

Lower Bay and Kezar Outlet system. We are grateful to Margaret Taylor and her children for their generosity, vision and contribution to this effort.

# President's Message

William J. McCormick, Jr., President

**I am pleased to report** that since my last message, several truly exciting opportunities have developed for the Greater Lovell Land Trust.

Many of you are already familiar with our community-generated Conservation Plan, published in August, 2008. If you're interested in reviewing it, or learning more about it, please visit our website, [www.gllt.org](http://www.gllt.org), and click on the link to the plan. One of the primary conservation targets the Plan identified is the need to maintain large, unfragmented forest blocks that establish linked corridors through which wildlife can pass unimpeded from the White Mountain National Forest, south to the many lakes, ponds and favorable habitats in our area.

Since the plan's inception, the GLLT has been struggling with the extent to which, our organization would be able to effectively and efficiently take on the project of establishing these corridors. We knew this would involve the help of other land trusts in the area and the support of a wide range of stakeholders. I am absolutely delighted to announce that the GLLT has been designated as the sole beneficiary of a bequest that was designed many years ago to provide financial support for precisely such a project! With this sort of funding available, the GLLT has established a small committee of its Directors and other interested parties to identify the priority lands needed to create these corridors, and to develop a detailed plan that will assist in the preservation of native wildlife populations through the permanent protection of entire ecological systems and corridors facilitating movement among these habitats.

The challenges and the rewards associated with this project are enormous. We are ecstatic to have the phenomenal opportunity that this project provides and are deeply appreciative of the vision and generosity of our benefactor. There is no doubt that you will be hearing more on this subject in the future.

By the time that you read this newsletter, we will have had consultants validate our ideas on how best to develop Amos Mountain as a summit destination for the physically challenged, especially those using powered wheelchairs and other adaptive equipment. We believe this can be accomplished at a reasonable cost, primarily funded by grants from both the Federal and State Government, plus other non-profit organizations whose primary mission is to ensure that the physically challenged are provided with the same recreational experiences and opportunities as the mainstream public.

In addition to such wonderful news, I would be remiss if I did not mention two specific areas where we need your help.

**Fundraising** - During these tough economic times, the GLLT has consistently spent more than it has received in donations. Although the amounts have been mitigated by cost-cutting and, more recently, market gains, we still need memberships and other unrestricted contributions to be significantly higher than they are currently. One possibility is to ask each of you to dig a little deeper, and increase your contribution to the GLLT. In addition, and to help us prepare for the future, I'd like to ask each of you to set a goal to recruit one new member for the GLLT this year. The new Chair of our Membership Committee, Paula Hughes, stands ready to help you accomplish this. Also, Paula would be delighted to hear any suggestions that you might have for other ways to increase our membership base.

**Volunteers** - Volunteers are the lifeblood of any organization such as ours, and we invite more of you to step in and take an active role in our successes. There is not a single operating Committee of the GLLT that could not use additional help. There are precious few skill sets that couldn't be put to good use by one of our standing Committees, or in an administrative function. If you have spare time and/or the desire to get further involved, I encourage you to contact Tom Henderson or Paula Hughes for more information on the GLLT's Committee structure, functions and needs.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank you, our members, contributors and supporters, for all that you do for the GLLT. Your efforts and support are greatly appreciated. I hope I have the pleasure of meeting you at one of our functions this summer.



# Notes from the Desk Tom Henderson, Executive Director

By now, many of you have observed an unusually early spring, marked by record early ice-outs on our lakes and ponds, and many signs of spring arriving as much as four weeks early. May flowers bloomed the first week of April. Crocuses, which typically bloom after Easter, blossomed days before. Remember, Easter was early this year. Maple syrup producers saw huge reductions in days of sap run, me included, due to a short season of cold nights. I planted my peas April 5, which is two days earlier than ever, and a full 3 weeks earlier than average. I mowed my lawn in April for the first time ever, and will need to mow it twice again before May. I harvested over 5 pounds of shitake mushrooms the second week of April, a full month ahead of norm.

This fills me with a sense of wonderment as to what it all means to the web of life: flora and fauna that are interdependent, connected and in sync for their well being. For example, do bumblebees benefit from early blooms of mayflowers, or will the mayflowers suffer because of less pollination? I do know that white tail deer populations are likely to benefit. Two harsh winters reduced populations regionally. The nutritional needs of pregnant does increase dramatically beginning in April. The early growth of nutritious grasses and twigs promises to meet their needs, most likely resulting in good birth rates.

These observations got me to pondering about human responses. Clearly, many of us got an early start on gardening and fishing, but what about human institutions, public policies or processes. What might be observed this early spring? Recognizing the extremely short ice fishing season, Maine's Governor Baldacci signed an executive order starting the open water fishing season a week early. Recreational boating season arrived early, well in advance of local boat inspection programs which did not have the time to adjust. Baseball practice started 2 weeks early as the fields and kids were ready, and we coaches had to scramble in response. The Lovell Farmers' Market is scheduled to begin two weeks early on May 5, and if my own mushrooms and lettuce are any indication, there should be some fine early offerings. (Thanks to Bryan and Meryl Molloy for hosting the market again this year.)

As my ponderings circled back closer to the GLLT, I got to wondering what "early" might mean for the GLLT. Normally, we see increased use of our trails in late May and in preparation, I print stores of trail brochures in mid May. This year printing had to start 4-6 weeks "early", as trails were snow free, bug free and visited often. During her tenure as Membership Chair, Margaret Nomentana expressed a goal of increasing membership by 100% within 5 years. This being year four of that goal, and having already made great gains, it

would be wonderful to reach that goal "early". Our Capital Campaign to fund the purchase of the 198 acre Amos Mountain property is scheduled to go through December 2011, when the final payment is due. Completing this fundraising "early" would be highly beneficial. The construction of an accessibility trail to the summit of Amos Mountain is scheduled for two phases: Phase One for completion by August 2010 and Phase Two by August 2011. It would be fantastic to complete this trail "early", as we know there are families anxiously awaiting this resource. Our Wildlife Corridor Project, as first envisioned by Bishop Cadigan over 30 years ago is a 5 year focused land protection effort that was born in the fall of 2008 in direct response to "Strategies for Implementation" found in the Conservation Plan. These corridors have been advanced steadily since 2008. If our native wildlife populations could vote, they would vote for an "early" completion of this project.

As an Eagle Scout I learned to "Be Prepared" and will use this training to anticipate and adjust if "early" becomes the new norm. As a keen observer of the natural world, I will record changes and seek understanding of potential ecological impacts. As your Executive Director, I will strive for the early completion of our project and organizational goals and delight in the wonderful surprises that "early" can bring to conservation efforts.



# Please Renew Your Membership or Join The GLLT Today

Spring has arrived and so has our annual membership drive. Letters have gone out to all members and non-members in April. Remember, it's your dues that help make it possible for us to deliver our high quality educational programming, and support the important work we do.

This year, premier members joining or renewing at \$125 or more will receive an insulated lunch bag with a stainless steel water bottle. Both have the GLLT logo. They are perfect for taking along on one of our walks or hikes, or out in your boat on the Lake.

We have made great progress in our mission "to protect the ecosystems of the Kezar Lake and adjacent watersheds by promoting an appreciation of natural resources and responsible preservation, conservation, stewardship, development and public policy."

Please help us by spreading the word. The best way to increase membership is by referral from a friend. With your help, the GLLT will continue to be the vital, vibrant organization we are today.

If you have any questions, please call Tom Henderson at (207) 925-1056 or e-mail him at [tomgllt@earthlink.net](mailto:tomgllt@earthlink.net). You may also contact Paula Hughes, Membership Chair, by leaving a message at the office.



## KEZAR LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWS

This spring, the KLWA, under the supervision of FB Environmental Associates and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), will kick off a watershed survey project in Lovell as part of a long-term effort to keep Kezar Lake clean for future generations to enjoy.

Lakes are polluted, in great part, by non point source pollution (NPS) through soil run-off and the harmful nutrients it often carries. Our watershed survey is designed to locate sources of soil erosion and polluted run-off that have the potential to damage lake water quality. It represents the first and important step in updating a previous survey completed ten years ago.

On Saturday, June 5, 2010, we will hold a "volunteer training workshop" in Lovell

to provide 25-30 participants with sufficient background information needed to identify and record problem sites. Trained teams of supervised volunteers will walk along shoreline areas and developed property within the Kezar Lake watershed. Because much of the survey will take place on private roads and property, our purpose is not to publish results for enforcement purposes, but to inform, educate and work cooperatively with landowners in preserving the health of our water bodies. Individual property owners can "opt-out" if so desired, as participation is purely voluntary.

In 2000, the previous survey identified 196 sites with soil erosion and polluted run-off. Naturally, many changes have taken place since the original survey was

conducted. Identifying and pinpointing problems in our watershed once again will help the KLWA and community leaders to guide future lake protection efforts.

As stewards of Kezar Lake and its surrounding ponds, we all share this common goal. Please mark the date of June 5th and consider participating in this day-long, educational training program.

### Contact:

Ray Senecal: 603-431-0404

or

Tom Hughes: 207-925-6846

THE GREATER LOVELL LAND TRUST PRESENTS

*Natural History*

at the Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library

Wednesday Evenings in July & August at 7:30PM

**July 14: Vernal Pools** Bridie McGreavy, Conservation and Education Director for LEA

The sound of spring in Maine is the sound of frogs chorusing on the edge of a wetland on a warm April night. Vernal pools, small wetland where frogs and salamanders breed, are often the site of these nightly spring serenades. In this program, Bridie will introduce participants to vernal pools and the life therein through a slide presentation and live specimens. Because vernal pools provide important breeding habitat for several animals, the state enacted legislation to protect Significant Vernal Pools—those pools that meet certain biological criteria. Vernal pools usually dry up at some point during the year, are widely distributed in forests and fields, and their exact locations are largely unmapped. Bridie will also discuss vernal pool conservation challenges and practices to best protect these vital habitats.

**July 21: A Tale of Two Foxes** David Brown, Professional Naturalist and Tracker

Although outwardly similar in size and shape, our two native foxes are quite different in many other respects. These differences are apparent in the tracks, trails and other sign these two fascinating predators leave behind. Through photographs of this sign and other evidence as well as their natural history, David will reveal their secret lives, largely hidden from us in foliage and the night.

**July 28: Why Biting Insects Suck** Donald Bennett, Entomologist and Naturalist.

Have you ever wondered why humans are plagued with biting insects like mosquitoes, black flies, deer flies, horse flies, and no-see-ums? What do they do with your blood? Why do we itch after they bite? Which biting insects are the most dangerous to humans? Is it possible that humans need biting insects? Come and discover if there is any purpose to all the misery from biting insects.

**August 4: Invasive Plants** Jackie Cressy, Educator and Conservationist

Jackie will help us determine exactly what an invasive, exotic plant is, and investigate why we should care about this issue.

In addition, she will identify the major “bad guys” in our area, and teach us how to recognize them. Finally, she will address how we can attack this problem through eradication and the use of native substitutes.

**August 11: The Bald Eagle: Our Come-Back Bird!** Bonny Boatman. GLLT Docent

Our national bird is one of nature’s most fascinating creatures as well as our country’s beloved emblem. Though they were close to extinction, bald eagles currently reside in almost every state. Come to a lively learning experience which will include both pictures and film of the Bald Eagle. How big are bald eagles? How long do they live? Where do they live? How do they live? Bonny will answer all these questions and many more.



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# 2010 Summer Walks & Fall Hikes

**July 1: 9 to 12. Active.**

**Heald and Bradley Reserve.** We will look for signs of man's disturbance of the land, and use Tom Wessel's ideas to try and reconstruct what has occurred. Of course we'll also keep an eye out for animal activity.

**July 8: 9 to 12. Family Walk.**

**Back Pond Reserve.** A walk designed for families with children over the age of 8 to explore the area.

**July 15: 7 to 9. Senior/Gentle.**

**Heald and Bradley Reserve.** For those of you who are up early and want a quiet walk in the woods to listen for birds and look for animal sign, this may be the walk for you. We will go a short distance on level ground.

**July 15: 9:30 to 11. Non-walk.**

**Heald and Bradley Reserve.** This adventure is a "non-walk" designed for those who have some trouble getting around. We will only go a very short distance on smooth gravel and pavement. There are many things to see near the cars and this relaxed activity will give us a chance to thoroughly explore.

**July 22: 9 to 1. A Bushwhack!**

**Private Land.** Please meet at the library parking area. We will explore private lands that offer some unique opportunities to view a managed wood lot and riparian and wetland areas. Be prepared for some rough going, not on trails up and down slopes, crossing rocky brooks.

**July 29: 9 to 12. Active.**

**Amos Mt.** Please park at our new Gallie Trail parking area. This walk will explore this new GLLT holding that offers a climb to a hill top through an interesting forest crisscrossed by unique stone walls.

**July 29: 9-12 Gentle.**

**Heald and Bradley Pond.** This walk will focus on medicinal and edible plants. This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with the plants we so often take for granted.

**August 5: 10-12. Active.**

**Kezar River Reserve.** This unique piece of property with its special geography offers a look at a forest that has been managed for some time and abuts the Kezar River. We will examine the plant and animal life that abounds.

**August 12: 9-12. Active.**

**Sucker Brook Outlet Reserve.** Meet at the new parking area for this new preserve (see directions above) that abuts Sucker Brook as it enters Kezar Lake. We will walk a newly developed trail system, and discuss forest succession after a harvest.

**August 12: 9-1 Family.**

**Lords Hill.** Meet at the Horseshoe Pond Parking lot. Bring the family and a snack, and enjoy a walk to Lord's Hill to look at the view and the mine. On the way, we will look for bear sign and talk about their habits. This walk is designed for children ages 8 and above. Families can adjust the length and turn around at any time.

**August 19: 10-12. Active.**

**Heald and Bradley Pond.** We will walk to the top of Whiting Hill and investigate the many different types of seeds produced as summer fades.

**August 26: 9-12. Casual.**

**Wilson Wing Moose Pond.** This is a mushroom walk. At this time of year, we expect to find all kinds of mushrooms sprouting in these woods.

# Walks and Hikes: 2010

Once again the GLLT is pleased to provide a variety of outdoor experiences designed to serve adults, families, and everyone who wishes to get out in the woods. We have some new offerings this year, as well as traditional events to choose from. Our walks are free and led by trained docents. No prior sign up is necessary. Docents will guide visitors on trails, and point out important natural features, identify plants, identify animal sign, and help participants learn to read the forested landscape.

Please bring appropriate clothing, water, bug repellent, and good walking shoes. Pets are not invited. Car pooling is encouraged. Families are always welcome, however there are also special programs specifically geared for younger children over age 5. Please note: due to the increased incidents of Lyme disease in our area, we strongly recommend that participants wear long pants on all walks and use insect repellent.

## New Places, New People and New Names!

We have added new locations this year to entice you out on the trails. We will be conducting walks on the newly acquired Amos Mountain, Back Pond Reserve at the Five Kezars, and a walk on private land. If you have been out with us before and you are looking for something new, please check these out. In addition, we have two new docents joining us on the trails this year: Joan Lundin and Leigh Macmillen Hayes. Please note when you are choosing your walks that the Sucker Brook Preserve is now called the Wilson Wing Moose Pond Bog Preserve.

## Cancellation Policy

In the past, we have run all of our programs with a "rain or shine" policy, however our experience in recent years warrants a change. It seems a mistake to have people drive to a trailhead only to agree that the weather is so uncomfortable that the walk is canceled. Please call 207-925-1205 if you have a question about cancellation due to weather.

## Guidelines for Walks

- An active walk is on developed and rough trails up and down hill.
- A casual walk is on developed trail on mostly level terrain.
- A senior walk is designed for those who prefer a relaxed experience on easy terrain.
- A family walk is designed especially for families with school age children.

## Directions

**The Heald Bradley Ponds Reserve.** From Lovell drive north on Route 5 and turn right on Slab City Road and proceed a short distance over a bridge to a small parking area on your left past the public boat launching area.

**The Wilson Wing Moose Pond Bog Preserve (formerly called The Sucker Brook Preserve)** walks will use the parking off Horseshoe Pond Road. From Lovell drive north on Route 5 to the West Lovell Road, on your left. Proceed over the bridge to Foxboro road (a left at the next fork). Drive about 1.5 miles to the intersection of Foxboro Road and New Road (stay straight on Foxboro Road) Go 0.5 miles and turn right at Horseshoe Pond Road. Proceed down this dirt road a short distance to the Horseshoe Pond parking area.

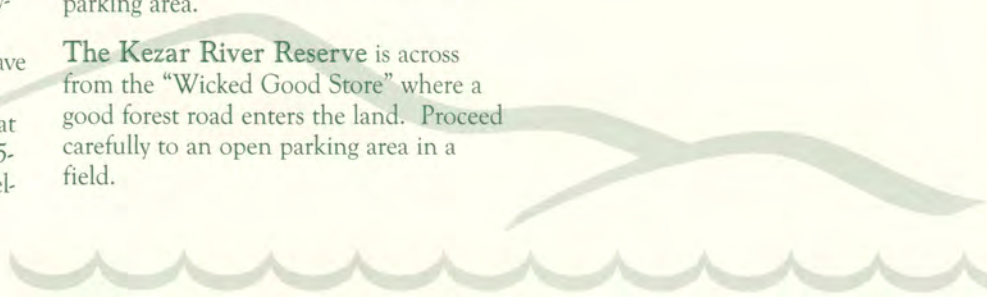
**The Kezar River Reserve** is across from the "Wicked Good Store" where a good forest road enters the land. Proceed carefully to an open parking area in a field.

**The Chip Stockford Reserve.** From Route 5 take the West Lovell Road over the bridge and then the first dirt road on your left (Ladies Delight Road). The reserve parking lot is on your left and right a short distance down the road.

**Sucker Brook Outlet Reserve** Turn left from Route 5 onto West Lovell Road. Go approximately 2 miles and turn left at Timber Bay Shores Road. Go approximately 1 mile and turn right (after pond) onto Farrington Pond Road, cross the stream and stay right on Farrington Pond Road Extension. (at the intersection with Northwest Cove Road). Go approximately 1/2 mile and turn left to the parking lot at the GLLT trail sign.

**Back Pond Reserve** The Preserve is located off the 5 Kezars Ponds Road. From Melby's Market in North Waterford, take the road directly across from Melby's and go approximately 2 miles until you turn right onto 5 Kezars Pond Road, a dirt road, at a tree marked with many camp signs. (Don't be misled by a tree at 1 mile with a few camp signs). Go approximately 1 mile on the 5 Kezars Pond Road, and you will see a GLLT trail sign on the right. Turn in there to a parking area for the Preserve.

**Amos Mountain** is a new addition to the Heald and Bradley Reserve. The walks will leave from the new parking area at the head of the Gallie Trail. To get to this parking area from Lovell drive north on Route 5 past Slab City Road over a hill. The parking area is on the right over the hill shortly before Palmer Lane (on your left). There is a sign indicating GLLT trails.



## *A Special Opportunity Sponsored by the GLLT*

### Drawing in Western Maine – July 7th and 8th

Maine has been an inspiration to many, and if you've ever found yourself thinking thoughts along the lines of "I wish I were an artist, so that I could paint or draw this beautiful vista", this workshop, led by Margaret Nomentana, might be just the ticket. The workshop is open to any who would like to try their hand at drawing some of Maine's beauty, whether it's the person who says "I can't draw at all", to the person who has experience, but might enjoy connecting with others in an artistic adventure. The group will meet Wednesday evening at the GLLT office on July 7th at 7:30 PM, to make some art and prepare for our art walk Thursday morning, July 8th at 9 AM. This will be a leisurely walk, and we will sketch and draw and capture some of the beauty of our area. Art supplies will be provided, but people are also welcome to bring their own, if there are particular mediums that they would enjoy working in.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS EXPERIENCE IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST TEN PEOPLE WHO SIGN UP BEFORE JULY 2ND. THERE IS ALSO A FEE OF \$10 TO HELP COVER THE COSTS OF MATERIALS. TO SIGN UP CALL THE GLLT OFFICE: 207-925-1056

Margaret Nomentana is a painter and art instructor, living in Stoneham Maine. If you have questions about this workshop, you may reach her by calling 925-6575, or e-mailing her at "outerspace@earthlink.net."

## *Natural History Mini-Course* August 9 and 10, 2010

The GLLT is offering a free natural history mini course this summer, designed for anyone over the age of 18. Many who have participated in our walks may enjoy a more intensive experience, or perhaps you just want to find more ways to enjoy your forest walks. In such a short experience, we can only scratch the surface; however we can certainly have fun in the process.

This is not intended as an athletic experience, and it is hoped that many participants will share their knowledge in the process. Most of our work will be a field experience, complimented by suggested readings. The curriculum will include the following: map, compass, and GPS; safety in the woods; animal tracking; birding; woodland creatures; reading historic features; and basic botany.

The goal of the course is quite simple: to safely enjoy the forest by getting to know it better. Although you will be able to identify most of the common trees, plants, and wildlife after the experience, the real focus is to understand how the forest works as a whole. The course will last for two days, August 9 and 10, and is currently scheduled to begin at 9:00 am each day. Up to 8 individuals can be accommodated. Please call or email the office for a "reservation" (207-925-1056), [tomgllt@earthlink.net](mailto:tomgllt@earthlink.net), or [kharding55@gmail.com](mailto:kharding55@gmail.com).



# Bridie McGreavy Joins the GLLT as Education Director

What are the personal characteristics that make up the desired qualifications for an education director? How about someone who loves the smell of red fox urine, sun-ripened blackberries and Sasquatch lore, but really dislikes news broadcasters who use the term "Mother Nature" and ticks. Perhaps these are not the first characteristics that come to mind, but they describe the little known likes and dislikes of our new education director Bridie McGreavy.



and her Master's in Environmental Studies and Conservation Biology at Antioch University. Bridie's graduate research focused on the human dimension of conservation, as she studied local decision makers' attitudes towards vernal pool conservation in Maine. In 2006, Bridie received the Switzer Environmental leadership Fellowship for her role at Lake

training our winter animal trackers, and preparing a presentation on vernal pools for our Wednesday evening programs.

Most importantly, all who have had the pleasure of working with Bridie know of her commitment to conservation, her professional attitude, and her creative energy. As a local resident of Stow, where she enjoys skiing, biking, and hiking with her husband Brian, she is known to many as a valuable member of the community. We are very fortunate to have the services of such a well qualified educator, and we look forward to incorporating her new ideas and expertise in our educational programming.

Bridie will take the post of Education Director to fill the vacancy created by retiring Kevin Harding. As many of our readers know, Bridie has been Conservation and Education Director of the Lakes Environmental Association, and this new responsibility will utilize her experience and skills, making the transition seamless.

Bridie grew up in Brownfield and attended Fryeburg Academy. She received her B.A. in Political Science at Bates College

Environmental leadership Fellowship for her role at Lake Environmental Association, her work on vernal pools, as well as her participation in a statewide groundwater protection initiative.

Bridie has actually been working with the GLLT since last fall as she has spent time touring our holdings, learning our trail systems,



## Self-Guided Nature Trail

This year, a Self-Guided Nature Trail will be placed on the red-blue loop trail at the Heald-Bradley Reserve during July and August. This nature trail begins just beyond the kiosk, located a short distance in from Slab City Road beside Heald Pond, and runs about 1/3 mile on flat terrain with easy walking. The start and finish are clearly marked.

On the trail we have identified some common flowering plants along with some ferns, trees and club mosses. Many of the plants may be found on other GLLT preserves as well. Additional flowering plants will be identified on the kiosk as they come into bloom during the summer, so check the kiosk before you start.

**GLLT Self-guided plant identification trail**  
Heald Pond  
2010 version

**HEAL-ALL**  
*Prunella vulgaris*  
MINT FAMILY

- Violet flowers in a spike or head. 1 ft. high.
- Flowers (early summer) generally with 2 upper lips.
- Leaves toothed or lobed opposite along stems.

**COW-WHEAT**  
*Melampyrum lineare*  
Snapdragon Family

- In summer, small, paired whitish flowers with yellow tips.
- Small, branching plant with linear paired leaves. 4-12 in. high.
- Upper leaves often with 1 or 2 pointed teeth near base.

**HOG PEANUT**  
*Amphicarpaea bracteata*  
Pea Family

- Delicate twining vine with pointed, light-green, 3-part leaflets.
- Short, drooping clusters of lilac flowers along the axis and hard-to-base of Summer.

**WILD SARSAPARILLA**  
*Aralia nudicaulis*  
Ginseng Family

- Whorl of three 5-leaved stalks, shading balls of greenish white flowers on a separate stalk 8-15 in. high.
- Blooms late spring/early summer. Leaves turning by late summer.
- Ginseng family have small 5-petaled flowers in close-set clusters with compound leaves.

**STEEPLEBUS**  
*Rosa tomentosa*  
Rose Family

- Also called Hardsack; flowers in 5-petaled, rose-pink cluster that blooms from the top down in summer.
- Woody stems 1-4ft high.
- Leaves egg-shaped with nut-colored underside.

Rose family flowers have 5 rounded petals, 5 sepals, and numerous stamens.

# The Call of the Wild Strawberry

By Joyce White



For as long as I can remember, I've had a thing about wild strawberries. Lately, though, this "thing" has taken on an unusual intensity, not quite an obsession, but still a bit out-of-the-ordinary. Images of fields of ripe wild strawberries arise unbidden on late-winter dog walks. They intrude while I'm reading or writing about something entirely unrelated. They come, uninvited and in full color, while I'm falling asleep or washing dishes.

Feelings of freedom and abundance from my Maine childhood summers are closely associated in my memory with wild strawberries. On the first day of summer vacation, I would set out, full of expectation, carrying an empty enameled pan. With a dog for companion, I would walk across pasture and through woods to an abandoned field where the first strawberries ripened. If it was hot and sunny, sometimes I could smell ripe berries even before I reached the field.

# The Call of the Wild Strawberry Continued

I remember reading somewhere that the wild strawberry, *Fragaria virginiana*, had a special place in the mythology of several Native American tribes. Since Nancy Lecompte of Lewiston, Maine does educational programs about Abenaki Indian traditions, I asked if she has any information about such a tradition honoring the wild strawberry. She shared the following legend:

*Long before white settlers came to the area, a young Abenaki couple had a lovers' quarrel. The young woman ran across fields and into the forest, her tears falling as she ran. After a time, when she hadn't returned, the young man became concerned. It was a brief spat, after all, between two people who loved each other.*

*While searching the ground for her footprints so he could follow them to find his love, he discovered small, red, fragrant, heart-shaped berries. He was sure they hadn't been there before; in fact, he'd never seen or tasted this kind of berry before and he was well-acquainted with all living, growing things in his world.*

*He had no way of knowing, of course, that wherever his lover's tears had fallen, a strawberry plant with ripe berries had sprung up. Mystified, the young Abenaki followed the trail of heart-shaped berries right to his lover. She stopped crying and they were happily reunited.*

Nancy didn't say this, but I believe they sat right down in the strawberry patch and ate till their lips and fingers were stained with the fragrant juice. She believes this is a somewhat romanticized version of a Cherokee myth.

Perhaps my life-long love affair with wild strawberries finds its origins in the smidgen of Abenaki genes in my heritage. I realize, though, that the unusually persistent images of wild strawberries began about the time I learned that the untended old farm which harbors the best berry patch I've found in this area is being carved up for house lots by new owners.

Nothing is more delicious, to my mind and palate, than wild strawberries with cream and a little maple syrup. It's not only the taste of the berries that has such a hold on my psyche. It's finding this exquisite gift of Nature right there, free for the taking, of picking them in a quiet, fragrant field with only the sounds of Nature, an oasis of peace in an unpeaceful world.



It takes a lot longer to pick and hull a bowl of wild strawberries than it does to eat them, but I consider it time well spent. Besides, I didn't have to buy the plants, till the soil, weed or water them as I do my cultivated patch.

"My" strawberry field is no longer secluded. There are a few hardwood trees left but every conifer on the 140



acre farm was cut and sold. Few wild animals could find food or protection here now—no more deer, moose, bear, fox or grouse. The view of distant mountains is unparalleled, though.

Each time another farm is converted into lots for expensive second homes, I feel a deep sense of loss, not just for myself but for all people. I now believe this inexorable destruction of farm and forest to create luxury homes is the root cause of my persistent images of wild strawberry fields. And not only because these fields are becoming harder and harder to find but because of the underlying values of the culture we live in that allows this to happen and calls it progress. Fields of wild strawberries, I suppose, symbolize cultural values I prefer.

# Remembering Ron Gestwicki

Ron Gestwicki passed away on Tuesday, May 18th, shortly after returning to his beloved ponds at the Five Kezars. Born January 19, 1939 in Dunkirk, New York, he earned a BA in chemistry from the University of Buffalo (1960), a M.A. in divinity from General Theological Seminary (1964), a Ph.D. in Humanities from Syracuse University (1971), and a Master in Environmental Studies from Antioch of New England. (2003). Most of his professional life was spent as a professor of Religious Studies, at Hobart and William Smith (1970-1972) and at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (1972-2001). After his retirement and

additional graduate studies, he was employed part time by the Sanibel - Captiva Conservation Foundation as a field biologist. He married his wife Carol in 1964, and had two sons, Tim and Jay, both of Charlotte NC.

Ron served as a Director of the GLLT for many years, where he applied his passion for nature to the development of a regional Conservation Plan, and the GLLT's land protection and education programs. For many years, he also served as President of the Five Kezar Ponds Watershed Association, where he established a partnership with the Lakes

Environmental Association to incorporate water quality preservation efforts for the Five Kezar Ponds Watershed. He built several such collaborative partnerships locally, whose effectiveness will continue. He was strong, honest and direct, a no-nonsense, get it done man, whose vibrant sense of humor graced annual meetings and events. For each organization with which he was affiliated, he provided a vision of what must be done to preserve the natural world, especially the wildlife he loved. He will be missed.

## 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.

## 2010 Lovell Farmers Market Opened for Season in May

Fresh grown local produce and local farm products, like eggs, herbs, flower bouquets, woolens, cheeses, jams, jellies, sauces and meat are available in Lovell this season through the weekly Farmers Market.

The Lovell Farmer's Market is running weekly from May through the end of September each Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. It will be in the same location as last year, next to the Wicked Good Store, and across from the GLLT's Kezar River tract.

Make your plans now to visit with local growers and producers, and select from the many offerings of high quality and nutritious locally grown foods. Invite your friends and neighbors, as farmer's markets are inherently social. Be sure to obtain information from your favorite vendors on how to purchase directly on non-market days. Some sell at local stores, other markets or from the farm, so you can still obtain great food for those last-minute dinner guests.

The Lovell Farmer's Market grew out of local interest. We are pleased to have helped it become established. Once again, we'd also like to thank Bryan and Meryl Molloy for contributing the use of their property to the success of this effort.

Join with us in preserving our productive lands and rural landscape. Please contribute to the local economy by supporting our local farmers.



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