

■ Box 181, Center Lovell, Maine 04016

Summer Internship Program

If you hiked the trails this summer, attended an evening talk or guided walk, or stopped by the office, you likely noticed assistance from some new faces. Our two paid summer interns were Kendra Fox of North Fryeburg and Steven Caracciollo of Lovell. Kendra and Steven were enthusiastic workers and learners.

Their experiences were many and involved all aspects of the GLLT's work. When asked at the end of the season what they will remember the most, both said, "The people." They agreed that "everyone was so pleasant, engaged and enthusiastic because they wanted to be there." "That is not common in other work places," noted Kendra.

The feedback from the public, docents and volunteers was also overwhelmingly positive. One docent commented: "Kendra and Stephen are gems. They have everything right there, ready to go. They're quiet, yet chat freely with all ages. They smile a lot and look like they are enjoying themselves. They're dependable and friendly. They interact well with children. They talk with pride about the work they are doing and speak highly of GLLT. It's just a pleasure to have them around!"

From the beginning, the GLLT impressed upon Kendra and Steven the importance of being good ambassadors for the land

trust's mission and also for the value of the internship program so others may have the same opportunity in the future. They became great ambassadors for the GLLT in their personal interactions with the public, volunteers and professional contractors.

For the first two weeks, Kendra and Steven worked directly with the AMC Professional Trail Crew constructing the "Homestead Trail," a fully-accessible trail for persons aided by adaptive equipment such as wheelchairs. This work was physically demanding, made more difficult by frequent downpours and daily rain. "This was an amazing experience working with a professional trail crew," states Steven.

Kendra offers the following, "The summer started off with a very ambitious project and perhaps the most intense trail work I'd ever encountered. When we started creating the accessibility trail I learned just how much work it was actually going to take. Steven and I were amazed at the final product because, even though it is well defined, the trail looks as if you are just taking another walk through the woods. It's thrilling to look at the trail and be able to say that I helped create it." The GLLT internship program strives to



President's Message

by Bob Winship

As fall closes in on New England, we can once again reflect on the pleasures of summer in Lovell. Your land trust continued to bring a varied and interesting program of Wednesday evening presentations on the natural world, weekly walks on our properties and other educational opportunities to a wide audience. This summer we initiated an intern program thanks to the support of a small group of donors who recognize the value of bringing young people from the area into our conservation and land protection work. Two local residents, currently college students who are studying in the field of ecology and the environment, spent their summer learning about land trusts, conservation, trail work and our education program. The support of our donors has been especially generous and will enable two interns to join us once again next summer.

Bridie McGreavy is initiating a new series of late-season walks this year in cooperation with the Lovell Recreation Department. Three walks are scheduled beginning in late September and we hope that we will be able to attract families and folks of all ages to explore what happens in the forest in the fall.

Our trail network is always undergoing construction and maintenance and this summer several significant projects were undertaken with the help of crews from the Appalachian Mountain Club, assisted by our interns. The AMC crews did maintenance work at both the John A. Segur Wildlife Sanctuary near Sucker Brook and on trails at the Five Kezars. In addition, the AMC crew constructed the Homestead Trail, a new trail accessible for wheelchair use. The trailhead for the accessible trail is located off Route 5, just south of Palmer Lane at the large GLLT parking area.

The GLLT is supporting a new venture initiated by the Kezar Lake Watershed Association known as the Climate Change Observatory. The KLWA is now in the planning stage for this new effort to establish a long-term database aimed at recording the effects of climate change and integrating new information into a collection of historical data from the Lovell area. The work will be done in close collaboration with the Climate Change Institute, which is affiliated with the University of Maine in Orono.

Finally, the planning for the forest management project to be carried out by the U.S. Forest Service in the Great Brook watershed to the north of Lake Kezar,

known as the Albany South Project, is proceeding. The Scoping Report describing the extent of the planned work has been published. The GLLT and the KLWA have written a joint letter to the Forest Service identifying certain areas of mutual concern. A more detailed description of the planned work will be published in the spring, providing further opportunity to comment on the proposed work, which is aimed at managing timber age and species diversity, as well as wildlife habitat enhancement.

As you can appreciate, it's been a busy summer for the land trust, its staff and volunteers. Please remember that our ability to continue our conservation, land protection and education work depends on your support, both moral and financial. We are working to bring an appreciation of the natural world to our community and to preserve in perpetuity the lands and waters that we all value today. It is not for us alone, but also for future generations that, with your support, we carry out our work at the Greater Lovell Land Trust.



Notes from the Desk

by Tom Henderson,
Executive Director

When I witness something in nature, I do not always know what I am seeing, especially in regards to birds or wildflowers. But I usually know when I see something I have not seen before. This happened to me a few years ago while in the woods with Rick Johnson and the late Ron Gestwicki and the late Ron Schutt. The GLLT was under purchase and sale agreement to buy some land at the headwaters of the Kezar River. The four of us were looking over the land closely to make plans for its long term care. We had just ascended a short, dry slope dominated by beech trees and emerged upon a small "plateau" at the base. I noticed a cluster of lavender-pink flowers arising from the forest litter. Upon closer examination, I was convinced they were a forest orchid and told my colleagues, "I do not know what I am seeing, but know I have never seen it before." The flowers turned out to be Nodding Pogonia, also known as Three-bird orchid (*Triphora trianthophora*), a species listed as "threatened"

in Maine. We found hundreds that day growing in the hillside depressions where mats of hardwood leaves had collected.

Recently, I saw a bird(s) I had never seen before. I was with Linda and Heinrich Wurm, two very knowledgeable land trust volunteers. We were in Fryeburg Harbor, having returned from a visit to the Kezar Outlet Fen and some cranberry harvesting. I was exchanging my wet socks and boots for drier footwear when Heinrich announced, "That is the crane!" I heard the "cluck" sound but did not register it for what it was, the social call of a Sandhill Crane. Soon, five large birds emerged from the cornfield and rose above the silver maples that line the Old Saco River. They circled upward in formation like geese on the wing, often changing leaders as they soared. Settled on a thermal updraft for several minutes, they provided us with excellent binocular viewing and lots of vocalizations.

Sandhill Cranes are larger than our more common Great Blue Herons and easily distinguished from them with more of a rust-colored plumage. Their necks remain extended in flight and their six-foot broad wings are well suited for soaring. While once common in Maine, Sandhill Crane populations declined during the last century. Since 2000, Sandhill Crane sightings have been on the increase in Maine, but any sighting is still considered noteworthy. I hope this group found the fen a pleasant place to visit and that we will see more of them next year.

Along the same line of thought, there is something new for you to see at the Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve. It is something

you have not seen on GLLT land before, but I'm sure you will immediately recognize the international icon as the symbol for accessibility. The new trail provides access for entire families, including those persons aided by wheelchairs or other adaptive personal equipment. The Homestead Trail offers visitors a rich experience in the natural world as it winds through a tranquil and diverse northern forest of pine, hemlock and northern hardwoods. Cultural features along the way give rise to its name, the Homestead Trail. The land was cleared in the 1800s for pasture and limited agriculture, before being abandoned and reverting back to forestland. Trail users will enjoy visiting the two stone foundations with excellent viewing of the structures. The trail also follows stonewalls for a portion of its length. A handicapped-accessible picnic table awaits the family picnic in a forested glade at the base of Amos Mountain, a pleasant 0.7 miles from the trail head.

The Homestead Trail was designed and constructed to meet the US Forest Standards for Accessibility in the Outdoors. The intent was to provide independent access to the outdoors with minimal alteration of terrain and vegetation. The GLLT would like user feedback, especially from persons using adaptive equipment, as to what works and what could be improved. Based on this feedback, we'll add upgrades with the hope of receiving US Forest Service Certification in the coming years.

Whether you have the opportunity to witness something you have never witnessed before or to rediscover something familiar, enjoy all your moments in nature.

Thank You to All the Contributors for
Their Time and Expertise
that Made the Homestead
Trail Possible.

Consultants

Staff of the Maine Recreational Trails Program

Andrew Norkin, Trail Program Manager, AMC

Peter Jensen, Professional Trail Designer and Builder

David Lee of Northeast Passage, UNH Durham

Janet Zeller, National Accessibility Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service

Contractors

The AMC Professional Trail Crew

Barker Excavation

Drew Excavation

Gemini Signs

Bob Bell, Carpenter

Summer Interns

Kendra Fox and Steven Caracciolo

Key Volunteers

Parker Veitch, Phil Mead, Robert Winship, James Miller and Kevin Harding

GLLT Staff

Tom Henderson, Executive Director

The Greater Lovell Land Trust is grateful for the funding support of the Homestead Trail provided by the following:

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instill pride and ownership in future local leaders, which clearly was achieved through the many trail projects Steven and Kendra completed.

From its inception, the intent of the summer internship program is to provide a learning experience and less so to complete a backlog of GLLT projects. The inclusion of attendance at guided walks, docent trainings and the evening talks is intended to teach the interns about the natural world, how to guide and educate others and build confidence and leadership skills. Their direct participation in the Environmental Education Program was clearly a rich and rewarding experience for them both. Steven states, "The guided walks were an extremely good experience and I was able to learn so much. After helping with many of these walks, Kendra and I were able to lead our own guided walk. A fundamental way to really learn something is to first experience it and then teach it to someone else. This experience really completed the whole summer. It allowed me to talk about everything I learned and it showed me how far my knowledge of conservation and the environment had come."

Kendra shares a similar appreciation: "By attending the guided hikes, Steven and I were able to learn about so many different topics taught to us by all the docents, including plants, mushrooms, wildlife and the history of land. Bridie McGreavy directed us on ways to keep the attention of all ages while being informative on hikes. Eventually, we were able to lead our own guided walk through the woods and educate people on the things that interested us the most. I have learned a great deal about nature,



trail work, and leadership and I am so grateful I got the opportunity to have this position so close to my home."

From the GLLT's perspective, the first installation of a summer internship program was a huge success by every measure. The Board of Directors embarked on this summer internship program with the primary goal of developing future, conservation-minded, local leaders. The internship program offers young people the opportunity to develop a connection to the GLLT and its mission and the many public benefits resulting from the work we do. The vision is that these future leaders will be better equipped to promote and support regional environmental stewardship and build community appreciation for the GLLT's core mission. In short, the internship program is an investment today for a better private/public partnership tomorrow.

The GLLT would like to thank the three anonymous donors who provided full funding of the program for its first two years. In addition, we extend thanks to the many volunteers and docents for sharing their time and talents that made for such a positive experience for Kendra and Steven. And lastly, the GLLT would like to thank Kendra and Steven for their hard work and ambassadorship.

Kendra is beginning her freshmen year at the University of Maine with an interest in majoring in environmental engineering. Steven is a sophomore at Montana State University with an interest in environmental restoration.

Winter Walks

Guided snowshoe hikes are a fun way to learn more about the wildlife, ecology and features of Lovell's winter landscape. This winter we hope you will join us for some great exercise, fresh air and FUN! Dress in layers; bring hats, gloves, water and a light snack. Don't forget a headlamp or flashlight for our night hikes.

Saturday, January 11th
10am-noon
Chip Stockford Reserve,
Ladies Delight Road

Winter Scavenger Hunt-
Winter is a great time to get outside and see some of the art and beauty of nature. Join us for a winter scavenger hunt to help you sharpen your observation skills. We'll hunt for tracks, feathers, animal homes, lichen, tree buds and more. We may even find a treat along the way.

Saturday, January 18th
6:45pm
Meet at the GLLT office

The Comet is Coming! The Comet is Coming--Dazzling the night sky (and perhaps day sky as well), Comet ISON will possibly outshine the moon if predictions hold true. Scientists believe that the Great Comet of 2013 will rival the Great Comet of 1680. New to our solar system, it is unpredictable at present. Due to arrive in November, it should be highly visible in January. Join us to see this Great Comet and gaze at the stars.

Saturday, February 8th
10am-noon
Gallie Trail, Route 5

Animal Tracks and Sign-
Together we'll discover what critters made those mysterious tracks. And what exactly are all those tiny black insects flipping around on the snow? Join us to become nature detectives, searching for animal tracks, scat and other signs of wildlife. Along the way, we'll share interesting winter ecology facts you can use to impress your family and friends.

Friday, February 28th
6:45-8:15pm
Meet at the GLLT office

An Evening with Owls-
Under the stars, we will call out to owls and attempt to receive a vocal response and attract them closer for us all to see. Be prepared to spend 30-45 minutes in the woods and dress appropriately. Head lamps or flashlights are important for the short hike and snowshoes may be useful if deep snow is present. Families may wish to read the children's book, Owl Moon by Jane Yolen prior to this adventure.

Saturday, March 15th
10am-noon
Perky's Path and Flat Hill,
Heald Pond Road

Winter Weeds, Tree Bark, Twigs and Buds-Wildflower and tree identification are often thought to be activities limited to the summer months. As flowers fade and leaves fall, the task of identifying a wildflower or deciduous tree with any certainty may seem dismal. Features including seed pods, stems, buds, bark, growth form, and leaf scars can all help in the identification of wildflowers and deciduous trees during the dormant season. Let us help you discover the individual characteristics so you can begin identifying these species on your own.

GLLT Education Program

by Bridie McGreavy



One of the running themes throughout our natural history presentation series this summer was metamorphosis and migration. In our first talk for the summer, Moira Yip described the wonder of watching monarch butterflies transform from caterpillars to chrysalis to butterflies before her eyes. Then, entomologist Don Bennett took this story further and talked about the complex life cycle, migration patterns and devastating decline of monarch populations globally. Focusing not on butterflies but on frogs and salamanders, vernal pool ecologist Aram Calhoun compared their migration to that of wildebeests in the Serengeti. In all of our programs, the need for sustained conservation efforts, like those of the GLLT, was made abundantly clear through the stories of animals transforming and moving in complex cycles.

The theme of metamorphosis and migration also fits as a description of some of the other changes the education program witnessed this year. Working with the docents, we made several changes intended to help us reach out to new people. The most noteworthy of these changes included our increased effort to provide family programs throughout the year and our new collaboration with the Lovell Recreation Program. As one example, this summer we offered a star gazing party to celebrate the Perseid Meteor Shower in mid-August. This weeklong celebration began with Stars and Smores at the Lovell Recreation fields, an event which drew more than sixty participants. We followed this celebration with a fascinating lecture by amateur astronomer Bob Kroin, whose presentation was equal parts science and sublime as he described the astounding facts of the universe.



Not only did we add several new programs, but our participation in these programs grew as well, with an increase in the total and average number of participants. In the fifteen walks we led this summer, we had an average of thirteen participants per walk. Our evening natural history series saw record attendance, with approximately forty participants per program. Our highest attendance was for Mary Holland's presentation based on her book *Naturally Curious*, which in our opinion, is one of the best natural history books ever written. With the added walks and special family programs, our total program attendance topped out at nearly 800 participants, up by about 300 from last year.

Though the numbers are an important indicator of our reach into the community, our encounters with nature are even more telling of how our programs matter. In our first walk of the summer, we were reminded of the intense energy of summer storms and in response, we quickly sought shelter from the thunder and lightning. In the walk focused on vernal pools, we found a tiny frog skeleton and several larval salamanders with feathery gills. Careful not to break the delicate bones and gills, the fragility of the world we inhabit was a counterweight to its ferocity. In just these two very different encounters, we learned that the world is not just ferocious or delicate, but it is both of these and more. It is vibrant and dynamic, a metamorphic place, of which we are a vital part. Our education programs help us understand that so we might collectively move in new directions.

In the Words of the Barred Owl: *Who Cooks for You???*

by Bonny Boatman

Did you know that there are twelve species of owls found in the Maine woods? Most of these owls have fierce yellow eyes. The only one with brown eyes is the Barred Owl, which is commonly found in the woodlands surrounding Lovell.

Ancient legends and mythology often describe the owl as a harbinger of death or bad luck. The Barred Owl brings bad luck only to its prey, which are mostly small woodland mammals and invertebrates. It is not on record for having hurt human beings. The same cannot be said for the Great Horned Owl.

Despite its unique eye color, it turns out that the Barred Owl's eyesight is not as sharp as we might expect. Owls don't even see as well as humans do during the day. At night, however, they can see only two to three times better than we can.

Instead, the Barred Owl's prodigious hunting ability derives from keen auditory capabilities. It can actually hear a beetle's footfall from one hundred yards away. The Barred Owl depends on a method of hearing called "triangulation." The ears are set asymmetrically on either side of its head. This physical attribute allows the owl to capture sound waves from prey movement that reach each ear at a slightly different time. The owl can discern the difference of this timing by less than a fraction of a second. From this information the owl is able to pinpoint the exact location of the prey without seeing it at all. This hunting advantage allows the Barred Owl to hunt in the winter when most small prey reside under the snow and underground.



Hearing is important, but in addition, the Barred Owl has other aids that give rise to its nocturnal hunting capability.

This owl can fly almost silently. The tips of the flight feathers, unlike in songbird wings, are fringed instead of sharp. The fringe allows air to pass through with barely a sound. Additionally, the Barred Owl has an average wingspan of forty-two inches and weighs only one to two and one half pounds. The large wings and low weight combination means that the owl needs only slow methodical wing beats in order to glide silently through the forest.

One other important feature that is helpful to the Barred Owl's hunting success is its talons and foot structure. The grip of the feet and talons are very strong when holding prey. In Minnesota, a Barred Owl was photographed carrying off a full-grown domestic cat. Normally, two toes point forward and two toes point backward. One of the backward toes, however, can be brought completely forward if necessary. This ability is helpful when perching.

The Barred Owl has many adaptations that enhance its hunting ability. Yet, even in ideal circumstances, successful strike rates average about fifty percent. Clearly, hunting takes much time and energy to feed a Barred Owl and its family. We are lucky that our area has abundant prey that allows the Barred Owl to be part of our woodland environment. What would an evening be without the raucous call of this amazing creature?

PHOTO CREDIT: ALLABOUTBIRDS.COM

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED NAMING THE GLLT IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS?

Everyone has the capacity to leave a legacy to the organizations they care most about. There are a number of simple ways you can make a lasting gift for local land conservation. The GLLT has established a Pooled Income Fund with the

Maine Community Foundation, which can be named as a beneficiary in your will, IRA or charitable trust. Please contact us for more information on this and other options available to provide a legacy for future generations.

ANNOUNCING THE 2013 MARION RODGERSON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

In honor of one of our earliest easement donors, the GLLT offers a \$500 scholarship each year to a graduating senior at Fryeburg Academy. We are pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the Marion Rodger-son Scholarship, as selected by a team of Fryeburg Academy Teachers and staff, is Megan Vitters of Madison, New Hampshire.

Megan states: "I have always loved animals and the environment since I was little. When I finished my junior year at Fryeburg Academy I was nominated to go to the Washington Youth Summit on the Environ-ment that takes place every year in Washington, DC. It was such an eye-opening experience to find so many people that cared about the environment, and all the wonderful job opportunities that were in the field of environmental sciences. The Summit helped to define what it was that I wanted to do with my life. I had always known that I wanted to do something in the sciences, but when I started searching for majors and colleges, I came across Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, PA, where they offer a conservation and wildlife management major. I was instantly intrigued by the major and decided that I wanted to attend the college. I applied and was accepted, being able to continue with my dream of helping the environment and helping animals."

Marion Rodger-son owned an old farmstead off West Lovell Road. She deeded the GLLT a conservation easement on the property prior to her death. The easement limits future uses of the property that would have detrimental impacts to the water quality of the lake and the scenic enjoyment along West Lovell Road. The property includes 1600 feet of Kezar Lake shore frontage, two fields, the old farm house and over thirty acres of forestland. The easement limits development while permitting traditional agricultural uses and forest management. Marion Rodger-son embraced the GLLT mission and protected her land soon after we incorporated, in hopes that it would encourage many others to do the same. We established the scholarship in her memory to honor her convictions by supporting the next generation of citizens that appreciate our natural world and our role in caring for it.

The GLLT wishes Megan Vitters all the best in her educational and professional pursuits.

MEGAN VITERS



Kezar Lake Watershed Association

BY RAY SENECA-PRESIDENT

In the GLLT spring newsletter, we spoke about increasing weather events and the need to analyze trends and look to the future. A month later, in June, a 70-mph storm toppled trees and caused power outages in the watershed. In early September, rainstorms dumped more than three inches in Great Brook and caused flooding at near-record levels. So it was indeed welcome that KLWA was awarded a grant from the Sally Mead Hands Foundation to establish a "Climate Observatory" and begin studying and monitoring climate change in the watershed. We will collaborate with GLLT, the US Forest Service, and UMaine's Climate Change Institute, to name a few, and we expect this will be the beginning of a long-term commitment to address climate change impacts in our watershed.

Since springtime, we were active with our water programs and confirmed that water quality throughout the lakes, ponds and streams remains healthy and stable. KLWA/GLLT volunteers joined the US Forest Ser-

vice to survey vernal pools and monitor streams, and we plan continued collaboration with the Forest Service in the Great Brook watershed.

We had a successful boat patrol program on Kezar Lake with patrol officer Jerry Littlefield active May to October monitoring waters and town beaches, and working closely with the Kezar Lake Marina, as well as the rescue and fire departments. We held two Saturday boat-safety and fishing clinic/BBQ days this season and dads/moms and children joined us. We thank the Town of Lovell for supporting this effort.

Joint KLWA/GLLT education programs in many wildlife and environ-mental areas were presented and well attended this summer. Our two education committees have started planning exciting 2014 programs, and we welcome your support. I want to thank all the people in GLLT and KLWA that create the variety of interesting summer venues and those who attended, to provide ideas and stimulate our future work.

MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE GLLT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KATHERINE REILLY: Kathy answered the GLLT call for a suc-cessor to the Treasurer's position and comes to us from Sweden, Maine. She is a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) with an MBA from Temple University and a Masters of Education degree from Eastern Washington State College. She graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with a BA in English and Education and received a Nonprofit Management Certificate from the Nonprofit Center at LaSalle University's School of Business. Currently, she is a part-time faculty member at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Kathy has a wealth of experience in nonprofit management serving the Religious Society of Friends and the Lutheran Social Mission Society. She brings multiple skills to the GLLT in teaching, financial management and nonprofit organization and activities.

ANNA RÖMER: Anna is well known for her service to many com-munity programs. She currently serves as the director of the Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library, on the advisory board of the Hewn Oaks Artist Colony and as a member of the Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention

Committee. She previously served on the school board of MSAD72 and as founder and director of the Lovell Enrichment Afterschool Program. Anna's formal education includes a Kandidaats Cultural Anthropology from the University of Amsterdam. She has served as coordinator and co-curate of international photo exhibits and workshops for the World Press Photo Foundation and as photo editor for Aurora Photos of Portland, Maine. Anna enjoys hiking, kayaking, community art and community theatre.

MARGARET NOMENTANA: Margaret is returning as a GLLT Director-at-Large, after having acted most recently as Director Emeritus. She serves on the Governance and Nominating Committees. She received her MFA in Interdisciplinary Art from Goddard College, and holds an MA in Sociology from The New School for Social Research in New York. As an interior designer, she is a member of ASID; she holds a Professional Certificate in Interior Design from UCLA. Margaret is a painter and arts educator, and her work can be viewed at mnomentana.com.

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GLLT *Mission Statement*



“The mission of the Greater Lovell Land Trust is 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.”

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