



Spring/Summer 2015 Newsletter

Whitney Pond—Stoneham, Maine

By Tom Henderson

For many of us, time spent in the forest or on the water is a quest for solace in a peaceful, quiet place. Here we can be alone with our own inner thoughts or share slow, quiet conversation with friends and family, listening as close to their limited words as we do in absorbing the sights, sounds and smells of the natural world we are immersed in. There is no lack of such places in our region if you seek them out and enjoy some luck on any given day. This is not true in many parts of the country and the opportunity to experience solace in nature is in globally diminishing supply.

I am sure every reader has such a place that is dear to them. Whether a place you return to often or a place from your childhood, the places we find solace are essential to our personal development and well-being.

The Greater Lovell Land Trust (GLLT) knows from user feedback that one of the most cherished benefits that our lands offer is the opportunity to find solace. When I first visited Whitney Pond in Stoneham, I knew we had discovered just such a place. This was not a chance discovery but a guided discovery, a chance offered by three sisters who were owners of the 64 acres that completely surround the shallow nine-acre pond. The property had been a family retreat for generations.

Mary Jones, Margaret Pinkham and Martha Holden had grown up spending summers there, enjoying the quaint family cabin and paddling and swimming in the pond. They raised their own children there doing the same. When it became apparent that this long tradition was going to be lost, they approached the GLLT and offered the property to the land trust, in the hopes that it could remain the wonderful place it is.

The Whitney Pond parcel is located within a remote and diverse region of Stoneham, rich in varied habitat types including valuable wetlands, clear and cool running streams, steep hills and rocky outcrops, and forests of pines, hemlocks, spruces and northern hard-

woods. It is a sparsely developed area with large blocks of intact forests only fragmented by the snowmobile and ATV club trail systems and old logging roads that are periodically

“More recently, land trusts, especially in the Northeast, are being asked to focus on building networks of connectivity between preserved habitats by scientists concerned about the impacts from climate change on living things.”

reopened for temporary use. Species that are deep forest dwellers and ones which prefer limited human interaction can and do thrive at Whitney Pond and the surrounding area.

After a couple hours of boundary work last fall, GLLT secretary and avid birder, Heinrich Wurm, and I enjoyed a break on the north end of the pond as we admired the scenery and the peacefulness of the place. We were rewarded with the arrival of one of the adult golden eagles, which are extremely rare in Maine but have been breeding nearby for a few years. This magnificent bird, with its seven-foot wing span graced the entire western shore, along the base of the steep cliff that is a prominent feature at the pond, steadily flapping its wings to stay aloft. It circled the wetlands to the south and rose up to seek its meal at a more abundant location. The golden eagles clearly visit frequently as they do other prime hunting grounds in their local range.

Whitney Pond is not just a special place, but the property is a valued addition to the GLLT's Wildlife Habitat and Corridor Project through the Kezar River and Kezar Highlands region we serve. The vision is to preserve

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wildlife habitats in a connected manner, which not only extends north and south but from lowland to higher elevation. The goal is to preserve viable, native wildlife populations through the preservation of the habitats upon which they depend and to permit movement of individuals between populations to ensure genetic diversity.

Interestingly, when the GLLT adopted this habitat preservation vision over ten years ago, it was not the norm. At that time, many local land trusts were either opportunistic with interested landowners or they focused on the high visibility properties, the so called "local gems" for which they could receive broad community support and funding. More recently, land trusts, especially in the Northeast, are being asked to focus on building networks of connectivity between preserved habitats by scientists concerned about the impacts from climate change on living things.

For example, using science developed by the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative and The Nature Conservancy's Eastern Science Division, the Open Space Institute is helping land trusts to identify areas that will continue to support biodiversity and to discuss the critical role land protection plays in aiding wildlife adaptation to rapid changes in climate. This science has identified and ranked habitats throughout the eastern U.S. from high to low in their ability to aid wildlife in being resilient to the impacts from a rapidly changing climate. Our region, and specifically the GLLT's identified Focus Areas for Further Land Protection, has some of the highest ranked priority habitats in the Northeast, thereby further supporting our vision.

The Whitney Pond property furthers our connectivity efforts. It abuts a 108-acre property under conservation easement with the GLLT surrounding Weymouth Pond. It abuts over 2,000 acres of State Of Maine Forever Wild lands at Trout Pond and is just north of the GLLT's 259-acre Back Pond Reserve.

The GLLT is still evaluating the public uses that the property can best support. This property has some unique challenges due to remoteness and land features, such as wetlands that make a trail network very limited to viewing points versus loop trails. The family cabin is a new challenge for us for its best use and we have a team researching and proposing some options. Stay tuned and in the meantime, if you would like to visit the property, contact me, Tom Henderson, executive director, at 207-925-1056 or tom@gllt.org.

See the **Notes From the Desk** article on page 3 for more information about this property and the funding for this project. ↑



I am happy to report to you all that the education program, under the inspired direction and leadership of Education Director Leigh Macmillen Hayes and her dedicated and knowledgeable group of volunteer docents, is alive and definitely kicking. From the recently completed owl prowl featuring the hooting talents of Executive Director Tom Henderson, and the popular winter guided explorations, to the upcoming programs that will observe and study the fungi of western Maine, the minerals and gems of Deer Hill and Lord Hill and crows and corvids, Leigh has put together an amazing calendar of informative and most importantly, FUN, events that inform and educate our families about the natural world around us and the



President's Message by Rob Upton

steps we can all take to conserve it. I encourage you to check out the remarkable program offerings in this newsletter and visit our Web site, www.gllt.org, for updates throughout the year. All of the events are appropriate for children and there is no better way for them to learn about and experience the beauty of nature than through these guided discoveries.

While on the topic of children and nature, I am particularly excited that Leigh and the docents are creating a summer children's program with Meg Dwyer, the director of Lovell Recreation. The kids will have several field trips to GLLT properties to build bird houses, keep journals and go on walks to observe and study, among many other topics, animal signs, wildflowers, trees, geology, insects, vernal pools and amphibians. What a great opportunity for the young people in the Lovell Recreation Program. I hope this will dovetail well with our Annual Meeting and Family Fun Day, which are scheduled for July 31 and August 1. It would be so much fun for the Lovell Rec kids to lead their parents on one of the nature walks that will occur.

2015 is definitely shaping up to be a wonderful and informative year for the GLLT. I hope you will be able to participate in some (or many) of these great events, and in doing so, you will understand why I am so excited and enthusiastic about our education program. And remember that all of this is made possible through the generous support of our members, the leadership of our executive director and dozens of dedicated volunteers. It is a remarkable organization.

Notes from the Desk by Tom Henderson, Executive Director

Relationships. Wow! I have had so many reasons recently to focus on relationships. First, as a parent of a young man, I was recently reminded of my own first crush. I had a crush on the older sister of my good friend, who would occasionally watch over me when my mom needed some "me time" or distraction from raising seven kids or was called to an important matter at the church she so adored.

As I have been pondering how to guide my son through this right of passage, this common thread of growing up, I realized that she was not my first crush. My first crush was on nature. It had begun long before the crushing years of preteen and had been with me throughout my childhood. Nature has always been kind to me and beautiful in my eyes, two primary components that encourage any crush.

So this evolution in parenting provided me with a teaching moment for us to reflect upon relationships. I found myself explaining that relationships are probably the most complicated and the most rewarding endeavors we ever navigate. I reminded him how Josie, his cat who loves to cuddle under his chin, will also occasionally claw him, or how his dog, Cheyenne, who would follow him into the fires of hell, does not always come when she is called. I pointed out that not only did he have this "girl and boy best-friends" relationship, but he had others with his peers, teammates, coaches, teachers, parents and many more. The last lesson for the moment was that relationships vary but all require special skills that develop over a lifetime of learning.

Likewise, the work of the GLLT has benefited from some valued relationships with volunteers, landowners, members, donors, state and federal agencies and generous family trusts and foundations. The GLLT led a regional effort in 2006 to form the Upland Headwaters Alliance (UHA), a collaborative effort of four local land trusts to achieve regional land conservation, which is best achieved through joint action.

One of our goals was to attract new partners for local land conservation. Our first focus was on the Crooked River Watershed that is located in three of our service areas, including Stoneham. The Crooked River provides 40% of the fresh water to Sebago Lake, which is the drinking water supply for over 200,000 people living and working in 11 towns in the Greater Portland area.



In 1993, the Portland Water District (PWD) was granted a waiver to the filtration requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act due to the purity of the water. The UHA developed a relationship with the PWD by building a case for drinking water protection through land preservation. Since 2010, the PWD has partnered in several projects by providing technical assistance and funding for stewardship contributions and conservation purchases. Recently, the GLLT was awarded \$37,000 from the PWD to support the Whitney Pond acquisition.

Similarly, the Whitney Pond project could not have been completed without the relationship the GLLT has with the heirs of John A. Segur who serve as trustees of the John A. Segur Trust. In 2008, the GLLT became the primary beneficiary of a bequest to a charitable trust established by the late John A. Segur to advance the preservation of native wildlife populations through the protection of the habitats upon which they depend. The support of the trustees and the bequest make it possible for the GLLT to enter into real estate transactions with confidence, such as Whitney Pond, while we apply for grants and other sources of funding. His generosity and vision leads me to believe that, like me, John A. Segur enjoyed a lifelong crush on nature.

In recent years, the GLLT has benefitted from a valued relationship with an anonymous

foundation that has supported projects at Sucker Brook, Back Pond and Amos Mountain, and provided operational funding to support various GLLT programs and activities. It is likely we will reach out to the foundation for some support of the Whitney Pond parcel in the event a grant is not awarded.

Recently, the GLLT was invited to apply to a charitable foundation for both operational support and to support the Whitney Pond parcel. A \$40,000 request is pending and we are hopeful this will lead to another valued relationship that will endure into the future.

I am not sure it could be possible to have real and meaningful land conservation if there were not thousands and thousands of people across the nation who held their own crush on nature. Nor would it be possible without strong and lasting relationships between like-minded people. If you have not yet developed your own special crush on nature, consider lighting one by taking a guided walk with our enthusiastic and talented docents. Encourage your children and grandchildren to discover the kindness and beauty in nature, perhaps by attending our docent-led nature camp to be held this July in conjunction with the Lovell Recreation Program. If, like me, you have been crushing on nature for a while, may you keep on crushing. The GLLT will do all it can to ensure that those who follow can do the same.

Celebration of Place, People & Nature

Save the Dates!

**GLLT's Annual Education Meeting
The Brick Church, Christian Hill Road
Friday, July 31st, 7:00 pm
Guest speaker Geri Vistein, Conservation Biologist**

Why do We Need Carnivores Anyway? Despite the fact that scientists have learned so much more about carnivores and their immense value in the workings of our planet, human attitudes, behavior and laws in our society toward carnivores have not changed very much in the past 500 years. This presentation endeavors to express Nature's Design in the powerful relationship between predator and prey . . . and to answer the question of why this relationship is vital to the health and biodiversity of our Maine landscapes, and our planet as a whole. You will discover connections that will leave you in awe, and realize that you yourself are part of the whole.

Light fare and beverages will be served at Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library during a social hour following the presentation.

**Saturday, August 1st, Family Fun Day—
Celebration of Place, People & Nature**

Everyone is invited to come together for a fun-filled day of events and activities at the Heald & Bradley Ponds Reserve to celebrate the wonders of nature and our role in caring for it. All ages welcomed—bring the kids!

Beginning at 11:00am—Luncheon
Activities from noon-2pm



by Leigh Macmillen Hayes

Winter Education Update

The cold and snow didn't keep people from participating in outdoor activities this past winter. Under the guidance of our volunteer docents, Joan Lundin, Janet Mahannah and Dave Sears, hikes focused on winter trees and insects, animal tracks and adaptations, and winter fungi, were well attended. In addition, we held an indoor program at the Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library where docent Bonny Boatman gave us a factual and witty look at owls. We also offered two evening outdoor programs: star gazing on a windy and cold night (we called that one short because the wind was overwhelming) and an owl prowling with Tom Henderson.

The docents and others frequently snowshowed on the GLLT trails looking for animal tracks. Every other week throughout the winter, Joan Lundin organized the Tuesday Trackers and chose a meeting place and time. Those who were new to tracking were shown how to measure foot prints and look at track patterns and habitat to determine identification. From little brown things to mink, fisher, otter, porcupine, deer and moose, our eyes were always searching for signs of these animals with whom we share this space. We also took in the beauty of the lichen, mosses, winter weeds and tree buds. We were sad to see winter draw to a close, but excited for the discoveries to be made in a new season.

If you'd like to join us for next winter's tracking adventures, please contact Joan Lundin at glundin@roadrunner.com or me at lmachayes@gmail.com.



Join and Become a Member of the Greater Lovell Land Trust!

by Lawrence Goff, Membership Chairman

For over a quarter of a century, the GLLT, with membership support, has conserved 4,944 acres of some of the region's finest forest, farms and wetlands and preserved critical habitats for several rare, threatened or endangered species. We make available to the public nearly 2,400 acres for traditional uses such as nature observation, fishing and hunting, while maintaining twelve reserves with over 26 miles of hiking trails for all to enjoy. In addition, we offer thirty environmental education programs that are free and open to all ages year-round.

When you join the GLLT, you share the vision of like-minded citizens who want to protect the ecosystems of Kezar Lake and adjacent watersheds by promoting an appreciation of natural resources and responsible preservation, conservation, stewardship and the development of public policy. Your continued support assists us in continuing to do real and meaningful land conservation and to deliver high-quality educational programs. Please take a moment to fill out our membership envelope, and send it back to us with a check enclosed. By joining now you demonstrate a shared vision for land preservation and stewardship projects in the watersheds of Lovell, Stoneham, Stow and Sweden. Your support is invaluable—Thank you!

Be Prepared

Directions to the GLLT properties are listed on our Web site at www.gllt.org. You'll also find brochures for the properties posted outside the office at 208 Main Street, Lovell.

Whether you are joining one of our guided walks or venturing off on your own, please wear appropriate clothing and good walking shoes. Be sure to bring water and bug repellent. Due to the increased incidents of Lyme Disease in our area, we strongly encourage you to wear long pants.

Cancellation Policy: Please call 207.925.1056 if you have a question about cancellation of a walk due to weather. You may also contact us via e-mail at info@gllt.org.

Guidelines for Walks

- An active walk is on developed and rough trails up and down hills
- A casual walk is on developed trails 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
- Please note that pets are not invited on guided walks



Guided Outdoor Programs

Saturday, May 23, 8-10am
Perky's Path by Flat Hill, Heald Pond Road, Lovell
Warbler Walk

As the trees begin to leaf out, the warblers and other migrating birds return. Bring your binoculars for this early morning bird walk. We'll stop, look and listen frequently. Birders of all ages and abilities are encouraged to join us on this short trek in search of avian life. **Degree of Difficulty:** Easy

Thursday, July 9, 9-11:30am
John A. Segur Wildlife Refuge, New Road, Lovell
What's the Buzz?

No other animal group has such bizarre shapes, colors and unusual life cycles as insects. We'll search for these incredible six-legged critters and their homes. We'll also look at some carnivorous plants. Be sure to wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts for this exploration. **Degree of Difficulty:** Easy



Thursday, July 16, 9-11:30am
Ron's Loop, Back Pond Reserve, Stoneham This and That

Join us for a walk along the scenic Ron's Loop at Back Pond Preserve. With no particular theme in mind, we'll head out and see what nature has on display. Along the way, we'll watch for signs of wildlife activity and identify some flora species. **Degree of Difficulty:** Easy

Tuesday, July 21, 9:30am-noon
Flat Hill, Heald Pond Road, Lovell
Fungi of Lovell

Summer is a great time to get introduced to the most common families of fungi in our area and find out more about their natural history and many ecological functions. Note: The focus of this walk is fungi's important and under-appreciated role in forest ecology, not

the edibility of particular species of mushrooms. We will collect a few species to bring to the Fascinating Fungi I Have Known program to be presented this evening. **Degree of Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate

Thursday, July 30, 10am-noon
Heald/Bradley Preserve, Fairburn Parking Lot, Slab City Road, Lovell
Old Mills PLUS Ferns and Other Spore-Bearing Plants

Mills and hydro power played an important part in the history of Lovell. On this walk, docents will lead you to the dam site by Slab City Road, where a saw mill was once located. Several other mills were established further down stream on this brook. The walk will continue on the red trail to Otter Point where you can look back at the house John Fox owned. Along the way, we'll focus on ferns and other spore bearing plants. **Degree of Difficulty:** Easy

Tuesday, August 4, 10am-12:30pm
Private Property, Meet at Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library to carpool From Sabattus Road to Slab City

Did you know you can walk from Sabattus Road to Heald Pond without seeing a road or a house or any sign of human beings? This docent-led walk, across private lands not normally open to the public, is a special opportunity made possible by the generosity of the landowners. We'll leave a couple of vehicles parked at the Fairburn parking lot so we won't need to walk back. Plenty of water and a snack are highly recommended. **Degree of Difficulty:** Easy

Thursday, August 6, 9am-noon
Flat Hill, Heald Pond Road, Lovell
Our Amazing Mammals

Each mammal has its own unique behavior. Did you know that gray foxes can climb trees to catch a squirrel for a meal? Or that red squirrels have a sweet tooth? They bite sugar maples in the spring, allowing the sap to run and returning later to lick the treat. Come learn about the mammals of Maine. We'll look for bear claw marks, moose scrapes and porcupine work, plus other animal signs. Plenty of water and a snack are highly recommended. **Degree of Difficulty:** Moderate

Wednesday, August 12, 9:30am-1:30pm
Lord Hill, Fox Crossing Road, Lovell
Minerals and Gems of Lord Hill Feldspar Quarry

Following his Tuesday evening talk, Carl Francis, curator of the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum, and our docents will lead a hike to Lord Hill in Stoneham, where we'll spend time examining the pegmatite and searching for minerals. We'll be sure to walk over to the spectacular overlook of Horse-shoe Pond. Please bring a lunch, plenty of water, digging tools and a pack to carry away your discoveries. **Degree of Difficulty:** Moderate



Thursday, August 20, 9:30am-1pm
Gallie Trail, Route 5, Lovell
Life on Amos Mountain

Visualize what it was like to live in this area before all our modern conveniences. We'll explore the remains of houses, barns and fields on the slopes of Amos Mountain and interpret how people survived in this challenging environment. We'll finish by enjoying the view at the top of the mountain. We recommend that you wear hiking boots and bring lunch and plenty of water. **Degree of Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous

Wednesday, August 26, 9am-1pm
Shell Pond, Shell Pond Road, Stoneham
The Natural Communities of Shell Pond

We will explore an older forest, a beautiful hemlock grove, and the shore of Shell Pond, looking for animal sign while we discuss the trees in the area and see how the dominant tree species affect the understory. We will follow a trail and do some bushwhacking, so be prepared. The walk is approximately three miles long. Dress appropriately and bring lunch and plenty of water. **Degree of Difficulty:** Moderate

Natural History Evening Programs

at Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library

Please note that while all of our evening programs begin at 7:30pm, some occur on Tuesdays and others on Wednesdays.

Wednesday, July 8
Mind Control in the Living Dead of the Insect World with Don Bennett

Insects have mastered chemical food preservatives more advanced than the refrigerator, but what they eat might be more than just a meal. Insects and their parasites have discovered ways of controlling their hosts that defy the imagination. If you are not squeamish, join Don Bennett in a presentation on insect ecology, highlighted with photographs from Moira Yip.



Tuesday, July 14
Maine Lake Science Center with Dr. Bridie McGreavy (KLWA co-sponsor)

The Maine Lake Science Center is opening its doors in Bridgton this summer. With this opening, a new wave of interdisciplinary, sustainability-focused lake research will find a home in the region. As incoming director of the center, Dr. Bridie McGreavy will share the vision and mission, introduce the sustainability science approach that the center uses, and describe several current projects that the center is already undertaking. These projects include setting up remote lake monitoring buoys, working with universities and colleges in Maine to conduct algae and sediment studies, and initiating a large-scale citizen science program to monitor and respond to extreme weather events due to climate change. This presentation will also include time for discussing possible collaborations in the region and state.



Tuesday, July 21
Fantastic Fungi I Have Loved and Known with Dr. Rick Van de Poll

Join experienced mycologist Dr. Rick Van de Poll for a colorful, photographic tour of the fantastic (and infamous) fungi of western Maine. Dive into the microscopic world of fungal growth and development, meet up with mycelium and mycorrhiza, and learn how to separate the edible from the poisonous, the common from the rare, as well as how to prepare mushrooms for winter consumption long after they have retreated underground. This slideshow presentation will infect the beginner and the practiced amateur with fun-filled facts about our most mysterious kingdom of organisms on the planet.

Wednesday, July 29
The Legendary John Fox hosted by Brian Fox and Heidi Dikeman

On walks at the Heald & Bradley Pond Reserve, the name John Fox often surfaces. A long-time resident of Slab City Road, John was a man of many talents. It seems everyone has a story to tell about him. His grandchildren, Brian Fox and Heidi Dikeman, invite you to join them and share your stories of this local personality who epitomized Yankee ingenuity.

Wednesday, August 5
Crows and Corvids with Bonny Boatman

Were you aware that crows can do the following: Remember individual human faces? Plan for the future and communicate complexities to each other? And make and share tools with one another? These are just a few exam-

ples of their extraordinary abilities. Join Bonny Boatman for an amazing trip through the world of the crow. Learn about this marvelous creature that literally lives among us. Through photographs, film, sounds and humor, you will begin to see the crow in a very different light.

Tuesday, August 11
Minerals of Lovell-Stoneham-Stow Pegmatites with Dr. Carl Francis

Granitic pegmatites in the towns of Lovell, Stoneham and Stow have yielded minerals of aesthetic, scientific and commercial interest since the late nineteenth century. In contrast to the pegmatites of Auburn, Newry and Paris, the gems varieties, aquamarine and amethyst, are prominent among the dozens of minerals found here. Dr. Carl Francis, curator of the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum under development in Bethel, will highlight the history and finds of the pegmatites in our neck of the woods.



PHOTO: GALIA BERRY

 Like the Greater Lovell Land Trust on Facebook

And if you enjoy wondering about nature, check out this blog:
<https://wondermyway.wordpress.com>

Family Programs

**Friday, July 10, 1 pm
at Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library
The Bald Eagle: Our Come-Back Bird,
Bonny Boatman**

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 and we often see them here in Lovell. How big are Bald Eagles? How long do they live? Where do they live? Bonny Boatman will present a lively learning experience that will include both pictures and film of this amazing bird to answer these questions and others during this family program.



**Friday, July 31, 1pm
at Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library
The Uncommon Common Loon, Bonny Boatman**

The call of the Common Loon, *Gavia immer*, is the sound of the Maine woods, as anyone who has ever spent time listening to their hauntingly beautiful calls can attest. While loons are graceful and adept in water, they are mostly incapable of walking on land, earning them their common name derived from the word "lummox." Bonny Boatman, whose presentations always combine a mix of science and creativity, will explain the life history of this iconic bird in a family program.

**Special Workshop
Wednesday, July 22, 10am-noon (GLLT/
CHML co-sponsors)
at Hewnoaks Artist Colony
Exploring Our Natural World Through
Poetry with Judy Steinbergh**

Join us to explore how the elements, seasons, wildlife and weather reflect our inner lives and relationships? With time to discuss poetry examples, observe and reflect, we will



draft poems and share with others. Participation in this program is limited, so please register by e-mailing Leigh Macmillen Hayes at lmachayes@gmail.com or call the GLLT office at 207.925.1056.

Self-Guided Nature Trail

The GLLT offers two Self-Guided Nature Walks with signs describing features along the trail. One is permanently located at the Wilson Wing Moose Pond Bog on Horseshoe Pond Road, where signs identify interesting things to observe as you walk along. The second nature walk is located at a different GLLT property each year.

In 2015, shrub and tree signs will be placed at the Fairburn parking lot on Slab City Road from July 1st through Labor Day for the self-guided tour. Directions to the parking lot can be found at www.gllt.org.

Walk around the parameter of the parking lot to read about the various species. Each

plant label shows a picture of the shrub or tree, plus the key identifying characteristics you will observe. Many of these shrubs and trees may be found on other GLLT properties as well. Also, on the kiosk in the parking lot, will be information regarding additional flowering plants that will be identified as they come into bloom during the summer.



Profile in Volunteering

Volunteering is a great way to support the GLLT's mission, spend time outdoors and meet new friends. We are grateful to all who give their time to make our land trust an effective community organization.

Such is the case with Jane and Curtis Lansing. Individually and together, they've contributed innumerable hours to the land trust because they are passionate about preserving the beauty that surrounds them.

As long-time members of the Properties Commission, the Lansings have worked tirelessly to steward the trails at the Heald/Bradley Ponds Reserve. They also frequently perform minor trail maintenance at the Stone House Farm in Stow, a privately-owned property that is under conservation easement with the GLLT. In addition, Jane has served on the Board of Directors and Curtis has participated in the animal tracking program, helping to collect data about mammal uses of the habitat.

Jane recalls that she was first invited to a committee meeting by Diane Billotta, a long-time GLLT member who has since moved. "She knew I liked to hike," says Jane, smiling as she adds, "When I asked her what members of the Properties Commission did, she said, 'Just go to some meetings.'"

Diane made it sound simple, but there's much more to it than that. As members of the Commission, the Lansings walk the properties they steward, maintain the trail system, monitor the impact of usage and pay attention to concerns of abutters as well as users of the trails.

Jane says, "Lots of people come to visit and consider it wilderness when they are in the woods and don't see any houses. They are truly afraid. We want them to feel good and comfortable. And to not get lost."

They look out the windows of their home and find their inspiration—views of the Heald/Bradley Ponds Reserve and mountains beyond beckon them and remind them that it's important to take care of the land.

"We want to see it [the GLLT] succeed and thrive," says Curtis. "We're doing this to preserve the natural land in its original state. That's important and it's our way of giving back."

They appreciate that the town of Lovell has a long history of looking after the land and that the GLLT has a long-term goal of creating wildlife corridors by connecting conserved properties.



"We're almost there," says Curtis, talking about the corridors, "but someone needs to take care of them."

Jane adds, "This wonderful area is left open. It's important to keep the land open and let people enjoy it. Some trails at Amos Mountain are steep and tough, perfect for families with young children, while others are gentle like the handicap-accessible trail. There's something for everyone."

As it turns out, through their work with the Properties Commission, they've made many friends who share the same interests. "You get to know people you wouldn't have met otherwise," says Curtis.

For both of them, this is a heartfelt, fun and social endeavor. "That's why we volunteer. We want to protect it in perpetuity," they say almost simultaneously.

In any season, you're likely to meet Jane and/or Curtis on a trail. Be sure to stop and chat because they know these lands intimately and would be happy to share their knowledge with you. You'll walk away richer for the experience.

Join us. We need your help.

Volunteers, like the Lansings, are integral to the success of the Greater Lovell Land Trust. If

you are a current volunteer, we hope you will continue to be involved. If you would like to become a volunteer, please consider joining us.

With conservation easements on more than 25 properties, we need to verify that the terms of the easements are being upheld. The success of our land protection program has created a need for new volunteers and an opportunity for the right persons to engage in meaningful conservation work. We need people to adopt and monitor each of our conservation easements, which range in size from 1 to 251 acres and are located in Lovell, Stoneham and Stow. To do this, you must complete a three-hour training program and can expect to spend a minimum of four hours/year/easement in the field.

Our education program also welcomes more volunteer docents. If you enjoy engaging the public in a natural setting, then we'd love to hear from you. Throughout the year, the docents plan for and co-lead walks and talks about the natural and cultural history of the area. We'll train you and encourage you to join our docent hikes, where we learn together.

FMI: easement volunteer: contact Tom Henderson, tom@gllt.org; education volunteer: contact Leigh Macmillen Hayes, lmachayes@gmail.com



Will Future Generations Have Availability to Healthy Landscapes?

By Tom Henderson

In a recent radio interview, I was asked "Can you describe what it is that the land trust does?" I responded that our primary role is to work with landowners who voluntarily want to ensure that their land is healthy and available to future generations to grow our food, produce the forest products we need, filter our drinking water and, in some cases, to support public access for recreational pursuits. These lands also support habitat for native species and some may support populations of rare, threatened or endangered species. So, ultimately, as I explained, the land trust serves as a facilitator for private landowners' decisions to ensure the well-being and availability of their land for future generations.

It is important to note that the GLLT is not the only option these landowners have to carry out their wishes. There are regional, statewide and national organizations that offer similar partnerships. Often, the broader the area served, the more narrow the focus,

whereby certain worthy properties are not accepted by an organization, leaving landowners disappointed. Some organizations may focus only on habitats that support rare species, while others only on forestland or only on farmland. The advantage of a local land trust is that it can be flexible in the type of land uses it is willing to partner on and it can accommodate the wishes of a high percentage of landowners.

The GLLT accepts conservation easements on a diverse array of lands ranging from forever wild lands to working farms. To date, the land trust has partnered with 32 individuals and families ensuring 2,446 acres remain capable of providing the same public benefits to those that come after as they do for us today.

In its simplest terms, a conservation easement is a voluntary agreement between a landowner(s) and the land trust that defines uses that may occur on the land in the future and those that are restricted or prohibited. On the radio, I explained that landowners

have many property rights akin to holding a handful of straws. They have the right to sell, pass the land to their children, subdivide or practice forestry or agriculture, to name a few. An easement is when they pass some of those straws to the land trust, which then holds those rights. The current and future land owner no longer can exercise those rights as they have been removed and are held by the land trust. Generally, the easements restrict or limit development and subdivision, as well as land alteration for uses other than agriculture.

If you and your family have an interest in exploring a conservation easement for your special place, please contact me at 925-1056, tom@gllt.org or stop by the office. The initial conversation usually takes an hour and can occur at the office, on your land or at any convenient location. All conversations are private and held in the strictest of confidence as a personal family matter. On behalf of future generations, I thank you for your consideration.

News From the Kezar Lake Watershed Association

by Ray Senecal, President

Since September 2014, it's been a very busy time for KLWA projects. For our trustees, members and community accomplishing KLWA's work, it clearly represents today's "norm"; a merge in work-life habits thanks to the Internet and great communication tools available to us. We no longer compartmentalize work and play. The 8am-5pm/5-day week is a thing of the past ... for better or worse.

For our board, fall to winter, we now are much more efficient with officers and trustees from Lovell to Florida actively working and meeting together. In addition, we are able to expand our partnership with the GLLT on many programs year round.

From November to February, we planned

2015 KLWA priorities—programs to expand safeguarding water quality, boating safety, focusing on impacts of climate changes, and educating the community on important issues such as loon health, protecting our fisheries and dealing with environmental challenges.

To address another priority, climate change, we met with representatives from Plymouth State University in early 2015, and in March initiated exciting new work in core sediment sampling. This will allow us to define >200 years of history on Kezar Lake. In the KLWA newsletter, you'll see the details of our dedicated team's success. Led by committee chair Don Griggs, who traveled from Maryland, more than thirty people including five PSU students gathered on a sunny, productive

day, and drilled nearly two feet of ice, retrieving core-sediment samples from 155 feet. Hot soups, hearty lunch, windbreaks, and snow machines capped a great day!

We are firmly committed to protecting our waters. The GLLT's excellent work to protect the corridors along Sucker Brook, Great Brook and other tributaries, all major water sources for Kezar Lake and our watershed, provides a synergy and opportunity to strengthen KLWA's partnership. We certainly look forward to jointly working together in 2015 and the future.

We hope you will help with our programs and volunteer for our activities. Please join us at the KLWA annual meeting on Saturday, July 11, 2015.



Homestead Trail

The Homestead Trail is a 0.7 mile trail that was constructed for ease of use by persons aided by adaptive equipment and for entire families to enjoy in a pleasant natural setting. It winds through a diverse forest terminating at a picnic table in a forested glade at the base of Amos Mountain. The name, "Homestead Trail," was chosen to define the cultural features that can be viewed along the way, notably two stone foundations and a handsome stone wall that once defined pastures. The trail begins at the Gallie Trailhead off Route 5 at the Heald & Bradley Pond Reserve.

Estate Planning

Have you considered naming the GLLT in your estate plans? Everyone has the capacity to leave a legacy to the organizations they care about most. 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.

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The Mission of the Greater Lovell Land Trust is "To protect the ecosystems of the Kezar Lake, Kezar River and Cold River watersheds in perpetuity for the benefit of this region's natural and human communities."