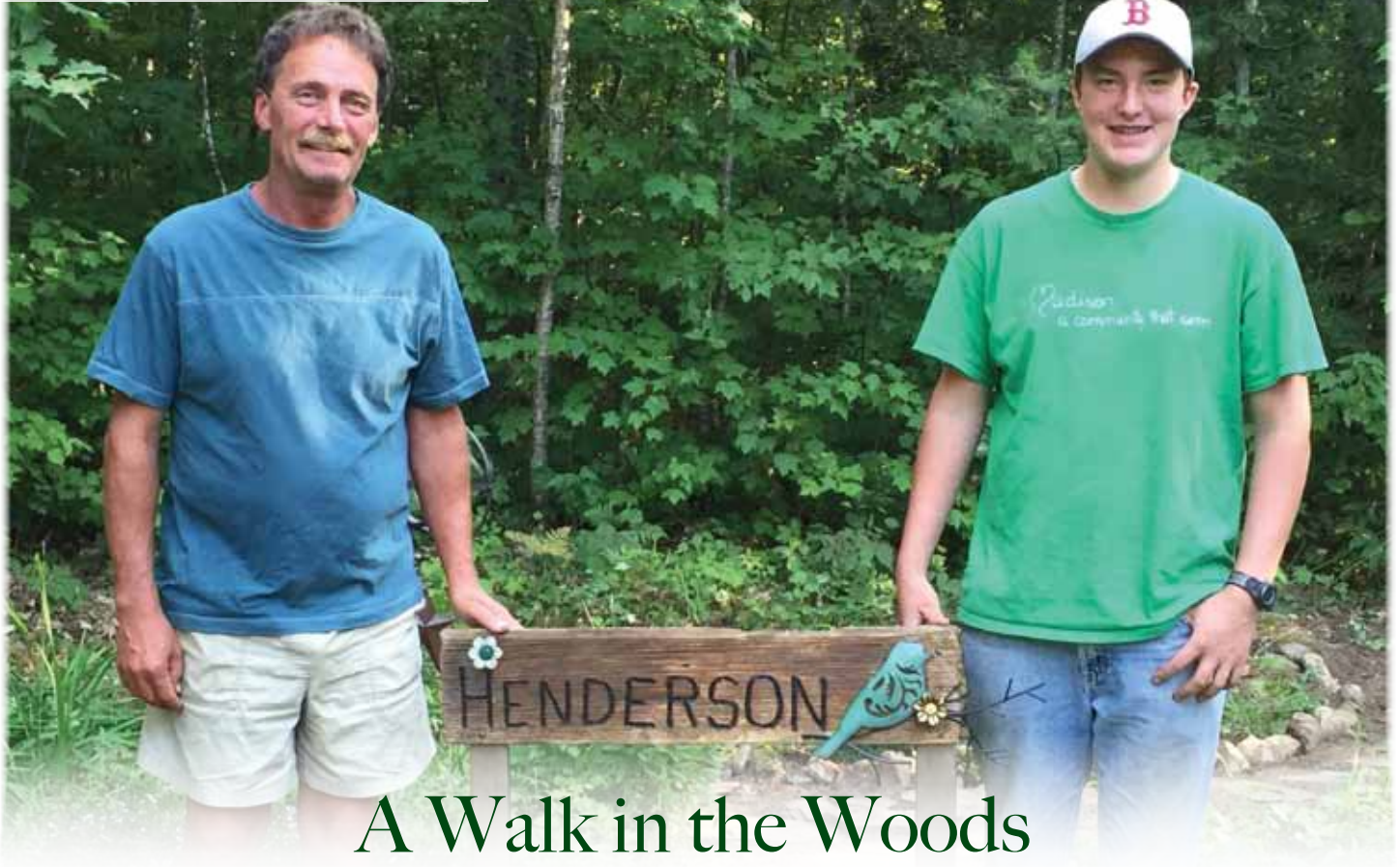




Spring/Summer 2018 Newsletter



A Walk in the Woods

Thomas Henderson, September 6, 1962 - April 16, 2018

The first walk that I took with the GLLT education program was also the first time that I met Tom Henderson. He didn't always have time to join the education program tramps, but when he did he would make the outings special.

We walked that day along the Kezar River, noting the tracks, dens, water, and the woods. We heard from Tom about forestry and management plans and the particular value that the property had both for use and access, and for protection and conservation. It was clear that Tom was a natural teacher. He delighted in sharing what he knew and fanning the sparks of interest and deeper thought that he kindled in his listeners.

The energy that Tom brought to that walk played out again and again—walks in the woods, berry picking in the fen, development planning, and writing. His writing often revisited his profound belief—the land is our legacy and our refuge, and we have a responsibility to protect it for our children.

The next generation is a significant part of the land trust mission. For Tom, it was fundamental to everything he did. He was as dedicated to the land trust's youth programs as he was to local school programs, including his work with MESA at Molly Ockett Middle School.

Last fall, at the same time that he was recovering from the first onslaught of medical challenges and working through physical therapy so that he could get back on the trails, he was also working out how to referee the local basketball games from a wheelchair.

But as we walked out together that first day of knowing Tom, I was given a small glimpse of his deepest passion. While the conversation on the walk in had been all about trails and future plans for the parcel, on the walk out it was all about what he clearly considered his greatest personal achievement—Aidan Henderson, his young son. Never was there a father as gratified, or more filled with wonder. He described

athletic teams, and outdoor adventures, and the pleasure of shared meals and shared dreams.

As Tom's condition deteriorated over this past winter, he made the decision to return home for hospice care with his partner, Teresa, and Aidan at his side. A few hours after Teresa messaged on April 16, "I think my forester will explore new wilderness today," Tom was gone.

As you step on to a Greater Lovell Land Trust property in the seasons to come, take a moment to soak in the splendor of our beautiful region and remember that we are all recipients of Tom's legacy: his vision, his work, and also his beloved son—the gifts he left for the generations to come.

—Jill Rundle

If you would like to honor Tom Henderson's legacy, please consider a contribution to the Greater Lovell Land Trust in his name. Contributions can be made online at gllt.org, or mailed to PO Box 255, Lovell, ME 04051.

In my first message, for the winter 2017/2018 newsletter, I lauded the GLLT's ability to focus on its mission to protect the ecosystems of its service area, relatively undistracted by the politics of the moment. I also noted the prevalence of this same, non-partisan atmosphere in other land trusts.

Camaraderie within does not prevent unfriendly attacks from without, however. This was evident in Governor Paul LePage's final State of the State Address, on February 13, 2018. Maine's land trusts, he asserted, now control over 500,000 acres of Maine property, by way of a "desire to preserve land without benefit to the taxpayers."

"Conservation land worth \$18.3 billion is tax-exempt," he complained, failing to mention that nearly 65% of that property is owned by the state, federal government, municipalities, or quasi-municipal agencies such as water districts. The remaining amount is owned by a wide variety of non-profit agencies: land trusts and churches, hospitals, chambers of commerce, and charitable organizations, as the *Portland Press Herald* pointed out. "Essentially," observed Jeff Romano, spokesman for the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, "[LePage] blames land trusts for every public school that is off the tax rolls, every government building off the tax rolls, every hospital and every nonprofit organization in the state."

In fact, a very different picture of the land trusts' relationships with the public emerges from a 2017 survey of the eighty organizations in the Maine Land Trust Network. Collectively, we provide 1200 miles of public hiking trails, over 275 miles of public bike trails, over 340 miles of public ATV trails, 570 miles of public snowmobile trails, 200 public beaches and about the same number of public kayak and canoe launches. The survey also revealed that over 90% of land trust service areas remain open to hunting, while the percentage of Maine land trust properties that remain on the tax rolls is even higher—over 94%!

Our policies and practices here at the GLLT furnish a case in point. Our common practice when reviewing a target property is to evaluate the taxes paid by the owner at the time of acquisition, and to voluntarily

Our mission is to protect the ecosystems and natural landscapes of our area, but not at its expense. Our properties are gifts from our general membership and our donors to every resident and visitor in our community who appreciates nature.



continued to pay at similar rates. We may request abatements from a given town, however, to offset maintenance costs for public trails and access infrastructure.

Although there are some preserves—ecologically sensitive areas we protect from human activities—on our properties, most GLLT properties are reserves on which we've created and maintained over 30 miles of



public hiking trails and scenic overlooks. In many instances, we also allow traditional activities such as fishing, hunting, and snowmobiling.

Our mission is to protect the ecosystems and natural landscapes of our area, but not at its expense. Our properties are gifts from our general membership and our donors to every resident and visitor in our community who appreciates nature.

Apparently, politics lay behind the Governor's commentary on land trusts, for he went on to blame the opposition party for supporting the land trusts' alleged malfeasance. "Politics are always with us," Thomas Lamont famously observed. We only wish the same was true of honesty.



With the advent of spring, my mind turns to the web of life. I watch it play out in the vernal pool on the Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve, where as soon as the sun's warmth and soft breezes melt the ice, I hear the songs of spring peepers and wood frogs. All fall silent when I near the pool and so I stand still. Ever so slowly, wood frogs break the water's surface, their eyes just above and four legs splayed below. Sometimes, I have the honor of spying two in amplexus, the smaller male atop the female. When I return a day or two later, my eyes cue in on masses of eggs attached to downed branches and vegetation.

Over time, those masses turn green with a symbiotic algae. Within weeks, I notice small tadpoles swimming, for the most part swarming close to the egg masses. Week by week, I return to watch the evolution of the tadpoles and the pond, for though the frogs grow, the water level decreases since it is a vernal pool and will eventually dry up. Some of the egg masses attached to branches close to the surface become stranded in the air and dry up too soon. Miraculously, a number of tadpoles do mature before there is only an impression in the land left, where matted leaves provide a memory of the pool that once was.

Within the former pool, the leaves slowly break down and provide nutrients for the plants that colonize the area. The flowering plants create habitat and food for tiny insects, thus adding to the variety of life. Shrubs and saplings try to take hold in this place as well.

Through photosynthesis, the plants convert solar energy to chemical energy, while decomposers, like fungi and bacteria, break down dead or rotting organisms. Worms and slugs do their bit by

consuming and recycling large particles of deceased organisms within the pool. And consumers—carnivores and omnivores, such as raccoons that feed here—eat other organisms and energy is passed on.

In the circle of life, the waste and decomposed matter return nutrients to the soil, water, and air around the pool and all other places on Earth.

The land that the Greater Lovell Land Trust protects, therefore, is more than just a bunch of trees—it is an intricately interwoven community of living things, animals as well as plants.



We, too, are part of the system. As humans, we are connected to each other and to the animals and all of nature and its cycles. Whatever happens in nature is a reflection of our behavior and vice versa. Everything and everyone has a role, no matter how significant or insignificant it may seem.

The very same is true for the Greater Lovell Land Trust's Board of Directors and all of its other volunteers, from property stewards and docents to envelope stuffers and donors. Each member comes with a

different skill set and network. Though you may not realize it, you are linked to each other as you work either individually or in a group to sustain the land trust, which could not survive without your efforts. Like a natural system, the interrelated actions of the group are far greater than the sum of its individual members.

I know firsthand that the web of life is delicate and dynamic. It is full of life's wonder and mysteries.

With that in mind, I leave you all with my wish for the future: May the GLLT volunteers and members continue to be ambassadors of the wild as you speak for the plants, and animals, and water, and the human community too. Let's always make sure our local ecosystems are sustainable. Let's also make sure that the GLLT has enough resources and people to fulfill its mission.

It's been my pleasure to have served you. Carry on and do great things.



Notes from the Board of Directors

Last fall, our Executive Director, Tom Henderson, was sidelined with what was expected to be a routine medical procedure. As more serious symptoms emerged, Tom, in typical fashion, worked through surgery, physical therapy, and medical treatments with the expectation of returning to his beloved woodlands by the time the ice went out of the lakes. Sadly, in March Tom returned to his home for hospice care. He passed away peacefully on April 16 with his son, Aidan, and his dedicated partner and caregiver, Teresa, at his side.

With the momentum of Tom's dedicated leadership, and a solid commitment to carefully steward the mission, the board has continued to manage the work of the GLLT and to promote the vision of conservation and protection that we shared with Tom. With the arrival of the summer season, the operations of the land trust will kick into high gear and there will be, as always, a full complement of events and outings created by our remarkable Education Director, Leigh Macmillen Hayes and her team of

The Greater Lovell Land Trust is fortunate to have had such a committed Executive Director for so many years—one who had a clear vision of our mission, and who gave us so much energy and momentum with which to move forward.

volunteer docents. The recreation nature program for young people will be a summer highlight, and we look forward to seeing members and friends at the GLLT Annual Meeting on August 11 at the VFW.

Again this year, GLLT will welcome a new intern—Isaiah Voter, a 2018 graduate from Fryeburg Academy. In addition, two young

men who benefitted from Tom's mentorship in the GLLT intern program in past seasons—Aidan Black and Dakota Ward—will return in important roles to contribute to the care and maintenance of the properties and programs.

Over the next six months the board will work on shaping the organization that will continue our important work. Jill Rundle has volunteered as Interim Executive Director with the help of Treasurer Bruce Zabinsky and our active board of directors. We invite any of our community who are interested in joining us to explore roles as volunteers, members, or to work with the board.

The Greater Lovell Land Trust is fortunate to have had such a committed Executive Director for so many years—one who had a clear vision of our mission, and who gave us so much energy and momentum with which to move forward. We will miss Tom Henderson profoundly, more as we step onto the lands that he so cared for and loved. Tom gave us a singular gift, and he will always be with us in everything that we, as a land trust, do.

The Year of the Bird

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act was signed by the United States and Canada in 1918 for the purpose of ending the commercial trade in feathers at a time when the long breeding plumes on many bird species were highly prized fashion accessories and thousands of birds were indiscriminately killed for this purpose. The treaty prohibited the hunting, killing, capturing, possession, sale, transportation and exportation of migratory birds, and their feathers, eggs and nests. —Cornell Lab of Ornithology

The Greater Lovell Land Trust has joined forces with *National Geographic*, National Audubon Society, Bird Life International and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to celebrate "The Year of the Bird," thus marking the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Through monthly e-mails and social media posts we're sharing ideas of ways you can participate at home or camp by decisions you make. So far, we've encouraged you to take part in the Great Back Yard Bird Count, shared how to encourage birds in your landscape with native plants, and described how to create a bird-friendly yard. As the year progresses, we'll continue to provide you with information so that you can be a part of the celebration.

In addition, this summer we'll provide birding events in May, June and August. Check the calendar on page 6 of this newsletter. Also, be sure to come to the August bird talks we'll host at the Charlotte Hobbs Library. Our own bird enthusiast,



Bonny Boatman, will present informational and witty slide shows about Northern Goshawks and Pileated Woodpeckers as listed on page 7.

Finally, we're pulling the younger set into the celebration. This winter, during our after school Trailblazers program, the children created bird feeders which they attached to tree limbs. We do believe more deer than birds ate the seeds, but . . . deer need to eat too. In addition, thanks to generous donations from Lovell Lumber, Lovell Box

Company, and Lovell Hardware, the kids will build birdhouses in May.

For the nature program we provide through Lovell Recreation's summer camp, we'll also focus on birds. Each week, the campers will participate in bird-related activities and then, as we hike different GLLT trails, they'll keep their ears and eyes open for the species that live in our forest.

To conclude the summer nature program, thanks to a grant from the Anonymous Foundation, we'll take the summer campers to Squam Lake Nature Science Center in New Hampshire, where we'll explore the Celebrate Birds and Live Animal exhibits.

How can you get involved? First, check out the *National Geographic* "Year of the Bird" website at www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/year-of-the-bird/, which includes articles that will provide even more information about the monthly topics. Second, scroll down on the website to Birds of the Photo Ark where you can learn more about bird species that are at risk. And finally, if you take a photo of a bird on a GLLT property, please post it to Instagram and hashtag the type of bird, Greater Lovell Land Trust, and name of the property.

We're proud to be a part of this celebration for our feathered friends. Thank you for helping us and at least 190 other organizations join in "The Year of the Bird."

Become a Member of the Greater Lovell Land Trust or Renew Today!

Annual membership runs from May 1 - April 30 of any given year. As a member-supported organization, the GLLT depends on your generous donations to support programs and services. Please consider renewing or joining today.

For over a quarter of a century, the GLLT has worked tirelessly with private landowners who wish to set aside their special places to benefit others today and for future generations. With membership and donor support, we have conserved 54 properties totaling 5,300 acres. We have preserved critical habitats for several rare, threatened or endangered species, and made available to the public over 2,800 acres for traditional uses. In addition, we have maintained 18 reserves, with over thirty miles of hiking trails. We also support the Kezar Trailbreakers Snowmobile trail system. And we offer dozens of environmental education programs throughout the year that are free and available to all ages.

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 for the benefit of human and natural communities.

Please take a moment to fill out the membership envelope, and send it back with your check enclosed. By joining or rejoining, you become an active participant for land preservation and environmental projects in the watersheds of Lovell, Stoneham, Stow, and Sweden.

Your support is priceless,
Bob Winship, GLLT Membership Chairman

Save the Date!
GLLT
Annual Meeting



August 11, 2018
Lovell VFW
8:45-10:45 a.m.

Greater Lovell Land Trust Endowment Campaign



The GLLT Endowment Campaign is planning to raise \$1 million dollars for our Endowment Fund to help preserve the ecosystems and natural resources that we value so much in our community. Our financial security is important to sustain our mission. Your contributions will allow us to continue our work, which includes such things as maintaining the properties and trails we oversee, strengthening our year-round educational programs for children and adults, and training young interns to become the environmental leaders of the future.

Our Board of Directors has already pledged over \$100,000 toward the Fund, and other generous donors are helping us to begin to achieve our fundraising goal.

If you would like more information about the Endowment Fund, or are interested in pledging your support, please contact Toni Stechler, Endowment Campaign Chair, antonia.stechler@gmail.com. Send contributions to: GLLT, PO Box 225, Lovell, ME, 04051.



Guided Outdoor Programs

May 12, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Enchanting Ephemerals: In celebration of spring, we'll savor the fleeting moments of glory as we spot emerging flowers and leaves. We should spy some warblers as well.

Location: Perky's Path at Flat Hill parking lot, Heald Pond Road, Lovell.

Degree of Difficulty: Easy.

May 24, 9:30 am - noon

Witness the Wonders of Whitney Pond:

Explore the wildflowers of three diverse habitats surrounding the GLLT's off-the-grid rental property on Whitney Pond in Stoneham.

Location: Meet at Melby's parking lot at the intersection of Route 35 and 5 Kezars Road, Waterford.

Degree of Difficulty: Easy.



June 16, 7:00 - 10:00 am

June Morning Chorus: Celebrate the dawn chorus with a walk guided by expert birders as we explore wetland and forest habitats in search of the sights and sounds of our feathered friends. Whatever your level of expertise, you are welcome.

Location: Meet behind the Charlotte Hobbs Library to carpool.

Degree of Difficulty: Easy.

June 20, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

The Five Kezars—From Top to Bottom: The GLLT and Lakes Environmental Association will co-host a hike and paddle at Back Pond Reserve and on the Five Kezars. First, we'll hike up for a view overlooking the ponds and then we'll paddle. Bring a snack, lunch, water, PFD and kayak or canoe. Join us for one or both events. Pre-registration is required.

Location: Back Pond Reserve, Five Kezar Ponds Road, Stoneham.

Degree of Difficulty: Moderate.

NOTE: Limited to 12. Email: lmachayes@gmail.com to register.

July 7, 9:30 am - noon

Children's Book and Fairy House Festival:

Author Sarah Frankel will read her recently published children's book, *Half Acre*, followed by an exploratory walk at Kezar River Reserve and time for children of all ages to build fairy houses using found natural materials.

Location: Kezar River Reserve, Route 5, across from the Wicked Good Store, Lovell.

Degree of Difficulty: Easy.



July 11, 9:30 am - noon

Frog and Toad Safari: Our eyes will focus on the ground as we look for wood frogs, tree frogs, bullfrogs, green frogs, pickerel frogs, and American Toads, plus spring peepers.

Location: Fairburn parking lot, just after the boat launch, Slab City Road, Lovell.

Degree of Difficulty: Easy.

July 19, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Colonial Walls of Lovell: Maine Master Naturalist Cheryl Laz will lead us along the Homestead and lower part of the Amos Andrews Trails at Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve, pointing out clues that hint at the role stones played in Lovell's history.

Location: Gallie Trail parking lot, Route 5, Lovell.

Degree of Difficulty: Easy/Moderate.



July 26, 9:30 am - noon

Wild About Wildflowers: Native wildflowers add color, beauty, and texture to our woodland treks. Along this walk we'll share their survival secrets, including natural history, habitats, and even folklore related to some of the most common plants.

Location: John A. Segur Wildlife Refuge West, New Road, Lovell.

Degree of Difficulty: Easy.

August 2, 9:30 am - noon

Hawk Watch: Long Meadow Brook Reserve provides a varied habitat for mammals and birds, including nesting sites for Northern Goshawks. Travel the trail with us to observe their preferred trees and look for evidence of feeding.

Location: Long Meadow Brook Reserve, Creeper Hill Road, Stow.

Degree of Difficulty: Easy.

August 3, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

A'pondering We Will Go: Get inspired by the beauty along the trail at the John A. Segur Wildlife Refuge East. This will be a stop-and-go walk as we pause frequently to sketch, photograph, and/or write about our observations, or simply ponder each time we stop.

Location: John A. Segur Wildlife Refuge East, Farrington Pond Road, Lovell.

Degree of Difficulty: Easy.

August 9, 9:30 am - noon

In the Footsteps of Our Young Adults: The Greater Lovell Land Trust's interns have spent the summer getting to know all of the properties. They'll lead us on a walk along their favorite trail and share interesting tidbits about nature, as well as their experiences with the GLLT.

Location and Degree of Difficulty: TBD

August 15, 9:30 am - noon

Loon Spotting on Trout Lake: In a joint effort with the Kezar Lake Watershed Association, Loon Researcher Lee Attix will help us spot loons that spend the summer on Trout Lake at Camp Susan Curtis. Bring binoculars and/or spotting scopes with tripods.

Location: Meet at the Charlotte Hobbs Library, Route 5, Lovell, to carpool.

Degree of Difficulty: Easy.



August 23, 9:30 am - noon*

Mushrooms of Lovell: We'll meet the most common families of mushrooms (fungi) in our area and find out more about their natural history and many ecological functions. Pre-registration is required.

Location: To be announced upon registration.

Degree of Difficulty: Easy/Moderate.

NOTE: Limited to 20. Email: lmachayes@gmail.com to register.

**Due to the popularity of this program, we are offering an afternoon session from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.*



August 30, 9:30 am - noon

Insects of Lovell: Michael Stansky, Forest Insect Ecologist with the Canadian Forest Service, will lead us on a walk along the trail at a private property under conservation easement with the Greater Lovell Land Trust. We'll also take advantage of Mike's knowledge about goldenrods.

Location: Meet at Long Meadow Brook Preserve to walk to property, Creeper Hill Road, Stow.

Degree of Difficulty: Easy.



September 8, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Meet the Evergreens: Evergreen trees and ferns are just that—forever green. We'll point out family traits and variations as we examine needles, cones, conifer bark, and fern fronds.

Location: Flat Hill parking lot, Heald Pond Road, Lovell.

Degree of Difficulty: Easy/Moderate.

September 29, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Great Maine Outdoor Weekend: We'll venture afield and paddle through Brownfield Bog with our friends from Upper Saco Valley Land Trust. Bring your own kayak, paddle and PFD to explore the wetland habitat with us.

Location: Major Gregory Sanborn Wildlife Habitat (aka Brownfield Bog), Bog Road, Brownfield.

Degree of Difficulty: Easy.

October 13, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

The Colors of Western Maine: A sea of autumn awesomeness will await us at the summit of Whiting Hill. With our friends from Western Foothills Land Trust, we'll hike up the Hemlock Trail and descend via part of the red loop back to the Gallie Trail.

Location: Gallie Trail parking lot, Route 5, Lovell.

Degree of Difficulty: Moderate.

Indoor Evening Programs

at Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library

Please note the new start time for our evening speaker series.



May 23, Wednesday, 7:00 pm

The Wonders of Whitney Pond: The GLLT owns an off-the-grid rental cabin on Whitney Pond in Stoneham. Maine Master Naturalist Mary Anderson Ginder will share information about the history of the property, its pond details, and the diversity of wildflowers found near the cabin, the surrounding woods, and at the water's edge.

July 10, Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Reptiles and Amphibians of Maine: Reptiles and amphibians rarely get center stage in people's hearts. Hidden under rocks or in thick woods, we walk by them without thought of their existence even though Maine is home to a variety of frogs, salamanders, turtles and snakes with fascinating lifestyles beautifully adapted to live here. Maine Master Naturalist Bryce Hach will share his life-long enthusiasm for reptiles and amphibians, and their conservation. A few of Bryce's amphibian friends will join him for the presentation.

July 18, Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Stories in Stone: Stone walls are windows through which we can learn about human history and natural history. Maine Master Naturalist Cheryl Laz will help us understand why there are so many stones and stone walls in Maine, as well as what the walls and surrounding terrain can tell us about human settlement and land use. We will also examine the role of stone walls in the natural landscape as habitat for animals and plants.

July 24, Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Connecting to the Landscape Poetry Reading: Enjoy the inspiring poems written by participants of the Hewnoaks Poetry Workshop. Even if you couldn't attend the workshop, you are welcome to join us and listen, or share a poem of your own. Light refreshments will be served.

August 1, Wednesday, 7:00 pm

The Gentle Hawk: Did you know that the Northern Goshawk is such a fierce hunter who when in pursuit of prey will stalk quarry on foot as well as from the air? Join us to see and hear about the many wonders of this remarkable and canny creature as Bonny Boatman leads us into the world of *Accipiter gentilis*, aka, the gentle hawk. Interestingly, the name derives from *Accipiter* (accipere: to grasp) meaning hawk, and *gentilis* meaning noble or gentle. Together, they refer to the Middle Ages when only nobility were permitted to own goshawks for falconry.

August 8, Wednesday, 7:00 pm.

Through Youthful Eyes: The GLLT's Interns and Lovell Rec Summer Campers are our future. We'll listen to the story of their summer adventures and appreciation of the natural world. The evening will conclude with an ice cream social and an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of these dynamic young people.



August 14, Tuesday, 7:00 pm.

Loons in the Kezar Lake Watershed: Lee Attix, lead researcher, will present preliminary results of the 2018 loon monitoring project sponsored by the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation on Kezar Lake and the surrounding ponds within the watershed. Join us to learn what the monitors discovered, what it means, and how you might be able to help with future research efforts. The presentation will include photos, and likely stories, which loons always seem to give us. The talk is co-sponsored by the Greater Lovell Land Trust and Kezar Lake Watershed Association.

August 22, Wednesday, 7:00 pm.

Fungi and Maine Forests: Despite their importance in ecosystems worldwide, Fungi remain some of the most overlooked and understudied organisms. Mycologist Jimmie Veitch of White Mountain Mushrooms will highlight local mushrooms and some of the critical roles they play in Maine forests.

August 29, Wednesday, 7:00 pm.

A Conflict of Scales: How to manage forests and their insect pests in a changing environment. Increasingly, the forests of the Northeast face climate change, novel pests, and multiple land-use pressures. Forest Insect Ecologist Michael Stastny will explain how the ecological dynamics are becoming more complicated, and old knowledge and approaches may no longer apply. In the light of these challenges, is it time to re-evaluate our vision and stewardship of this natural resource?

July 13, Friday, 1:00 pm.
Owls of Maine: Habits and Adaptations of Maine's Native Owls

Do you know the identifying characteristics and calls of each of our native owls? The GLLT and Charlotte Hobbs Library will cohost a Chewonki presentation that includes an exploration of owl adaptations and an intimate and detailed look at live owls, bringing these creatures of the night into the light!

Three live owls will be the highlight of this program. Location: Charlotte Hobbs Library, Lovell.

July 17, Tuesday: 10:00 am - noon
Connecting to the Landscape Through Poetry: The Greater Lovell Land Trust, Charlotte Hobbs Library and Hewnoaks Artist Colony invite you to join us at Hewnoaks to explore and reflect on our personal connections to the landscape, elements, seasons, birds, and other wildlife. Under the guidance of Poet Judith Steinbergh, and with inspiration from our surroundings, plus short pieces by poets and naturalists, we will draft our writing and share with the group. Adults and teens are welcome. Location: Hewnoaks Artist Colony on Kezar Lake, off Route 5, Lovell. Limit: 20 participants. To register: lmachayes@gmail.com.


August 10: Friday, 1:00 pm.
Maine's Largest Woodpecker: The Pileated Woodpecker is the largest woodpecker found in the woods of North America. From beak to tail they can measure 16 to 19 inches. Their excavated holes are rectangular instead of the round holes made by other woodpeckers, and can be so extensive that other birds use them as well. Join Bonny Boatman for a closer look at this magnificent bird. Location: Charlotte Hobbs Library, Lovell.

August 17, Friday, 1:00 pm.
The Gentle Hawk: Did you know that the Northern Goshawk is such a fierce hunter who when in pursuit of prey will stalk quarry on foot as well as from the air? Join us to see and hear about the many wonders of this remarkable and canny creature as Bonny Boatman leads us into the world of *Accipiter gentilis*, aka, the gentle hawk. Interestingly, the name derives from *Accipiter* (accipere: to grasp) meaning hawk, and *gentilis* meaning noble or gentle. Together, they refer to the Middle Ages when only nobility were permitted to own goshawks for falconry. Location: Charlotte Hobbs Library, Lovell.

**WELCOME TO
 THE GREATER LOVELL LAND TRUST'S
 SELF-GUIDED NATURE WALK
 IDENTIFYING SOME COMMON PLANTS**

During July and August, signs identifying certain plants will be in place along the Sabattus Mountain trail. The trail starts at the parking lot. This is a 1.4 mile loop trail. It is moderately difficult with an observation area at the summit. This year we have included some common ferns, mosses, and trees, along with the flowers. Each sign gives information about the specific plant and its botanical family (circled in red below). Knowing some family characteristics can help you to recognize other plants in that family.

**HOG PEANUT
Amphicarpaea bracteata
 Pea Family**



- Flowers of 2 sorts: short, drooping clusters of pea-like lilac flowers in the leaf axils and small, hard-to-find flowers at base of plant.
- Delicate twining vine with pointed, light-green, 3-parted leaflets

In some cases there may also be an additional marker in the soil directly in front of the plant to help in locating it.

Two good resources on identifying local wildflowers are:
 Lawrence Newcomb, *Wildflower Guide*
 Roger Tory Petersen and Margaret McKenny, *A Field Guide to Wildflowers*

The GLLT offers two Self-Guided Nature Walks. One is permanently located at the Wilson Wing Moose Pond Bog Preserve on Horseshoe Pond Road, where signs identify interesting things to observe as you walk alongside Sucker Brook.



The second nature walk is located on a different trail each year. For 2018, signs will be placed on Sabattus Mountain from the beginning of July through Labor Day.

Each label shows a picture of the tree or plant, plus the key identifying characteristics you will observe.

Sabattus Mountain was purchased by the State of Maine with two Land for Maine's Future grants because of the cooperative efforts of the Bureau of Parks and Lands and the Greater Lovell Land Trust.

To reach the trailhead, from Route 5 follow Sabattus Road 1.5 miles. At the fork in the road, bear right onto Sabattus Trail Road. Continue another 0.7 miles to the parking lot on the right.

Four years ago we began offering a weekly nature program for the Lovell Recreation Summer Campers that included a theme and a hike.

Rec Director Meg Dyer recently said this about the summer programs: "Working with the Greater Lovell Land Trust has opened up tremendous opportunities for the children involved with Lovell Recreation. The docents each bring their knowledge to the day's adventure. Whether it is checking out porcupine dens or exploring the woods, there is always something to see and learn. The campers' favorite activities have been creating nature mobiles and fairy houses, leaf rubbings, bird feeders, and hiking. They enjoy singing songs and love sharing their stories. Parents often say that their child's favorite day of camp is hiking day. They are impressed with the knowledge that their child shares when they, as a family, are out."

Building upon the positive collaboration between our two organizations, this past fall we initiated an after-school program called Trailblazers.

Each Wednesday afternoon, we had a program in mind, but remained flexible and open to the spontaneity nature offered. To that end, we all gazed at a spider and fly as the fly battled for its life. We listened to a barred owl ask us, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?" And we responded. We rolled a fallen tree limb and discovered a red-backed salamander underneath. And we noticed patterns and asked questions and delighted in exploring a trail together.

The kids' excitement and curiosity were contagious and so we offered a winter program to learn more about the landscape on snowshoes, with lots of falling to start. One preferred to explore via his cross-country skis.

The kids spied sap icicles for the first time, became experts at identifying mammal tracks, created bird feeders, played snow games and built fairy snow castles.

With the advent of spring, we're offering a third session because at the end of the winter program Meg Dyer said other kids wanted to join us. Apparently, the secret is out—Trailblazers is fun.

Owen, who has been a regular summer camper, participated in all three sessions of Trailblazers. He commented: "I love that Trailblazers is an activity for outdoors after school. And we get to look at tracks. I think we would have a more fun time if it was Wednesdays AND Thursdays."



His mom, Andrea Walker, added, "Trailblazers is a great opportunity for kids who love doing things but are not sports-oriented. Owen loves to keep busy with friends but prefers solo-group activities like Trailblazers and karate where others aren't relying on him."

It's no secret that the docents and I enjoy the nature programs we offer through Lovell Rec, for like Owen and all of the others, we like to have fun naturally as well.



Get Outside with a GLLT Nature Backpack

available at Charlotte Hobbs Library



The GLLT is loaning free nature-themed backpacks so kids of all ages can enjoy the outdoors and learn about nature and science. It is a great outside activity for families and groups, such as scouts and other youth organizations.

- GLLT Nature Backpack contents:**
- Field guides
 - Maps of GLLT properties
 - Port-A-Bug Field Observation container
 - Magnifying lens
 - Leave No Trace card
 - First Aid Kit
 - Activity suggestions
 - And more

How long do you check out a Nature Backpack?
 GLLT Nature Backpacks may be checked out for one week
 This program is funded and made possible through a grant the Greater Lovell Land Trust received through the Anonymous Foundation.



Winter Education Update

Since we plan our hikes well in advance so that we can announce them in our newsletters, winter storms sometimes throw us curveballs. Such was the case for two events this year; we had to cancel the owl prowl and a family snowshoe/ski we'd organized with Lovell Rec.

All other hikes, however, went off without a hitch and we had a delightful time sharing the wonders of winter with a variety of people. Among this year's themes: Christmas on Flat Hill to enjoy trees decorated by local homeschooled children; First Day on Whiting Hill—an annual event; a tracking event co-sponsored by Western Foothills Land Trust on one of their properties; and an exploration of the wetland at the John A. Segur Wildlife Refuge off New Road.

In addition, we continued to offer Tuesday Tracker Tramps for anyone interested in looking for mammal sign. Our explorations included finding active beaver lodges, fresh porcupine trails, bobcat prints, otter slides and scat, and more, as well as a delight in just being outdoors with a group of like-minded people on a cold winter day.



News From the Kezar Lake Watershed Association

Jim Stone, President

Since my last article for your newsletter in the fall, the KLWA has been busy on several fronts.

First, in December the US Forest Service (USFS) published its Draft Decision and Final Environmental Assessment on their Albany South timber harvest. Unfortunately, of the several plans the USFS was considering, they chose the alternative that involves the most harvesting in our watershed. After reviewing the plan, the KLWA met with the USFS and made a number of specific requests to minimize the

risk of damage to our habitat. I am pleased to tell you that the USFS accepted our recommendations, which were supported by the GLLT Board of Directors, and we jointly agreed to meet quarterly during the harvest period to review environmental impacts from those activities.

Second, in January we published the *Lake Dweller's Handbook*, which we will provide to property owners on the lake. The book is a comprehensive source of information on how environmental- and human-sourced events impact the watershed

and what we can do to protect it, including a discussion of relevant laws and ordinances. It is our hope that this handbook will encourage residents to become more involved in watershed protection efforts.

This year, as we have in years past, we will continue our water quality monitoring programs, the Lake Patrol, loon platforms program, and the activities of our Climate Change Observatory. And we expect to continue our collaborative efforts with the GLLT to "preserve and protect" our watershed from the risk of negative environmental impacts of development.

An Update on Evergreen Valley

By Jim Stone and Heinrich Wurm



In the last GLLT newsletter we told you that a large tract of land known as Evergreen Valley had undergone a contract of sale to Harold Brooks. Brooks announced plans to develop the area into a site for multi-day mass gatherings and other similar events. Given that Evergreen Valley is within the Kezar Lake watershed that we are committed to protecting, the KLWA joined with the Greater Lovell Land Trust to form the Cold Brook Committee. Thanks to the generous contributions to the Cold Brook Fund from over 125 concerned neighbors, we have been able to take a number of actions to mitigate the risk of extensive development.

We have hired the legal firm of Drummond Woodsum to review local ordinances and Maine DEP regulations. And we have retained the engineering firm of Gorrill Palmer to review any development plans for their environmental impact. We have been working with our counsel on several initiatives, including discussions on site ordinances with the Town of Stoneham and communicating with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

During the fall, the Seller approached us to see if we were interested in signing a back-up contract for purchase of the property if the Brooks contract was not consummated. Thanks to generous commitments by a number of individuals, an LLC owned by the KLWA signed a contract for the purchase of the property.

Unfortunately, we were not able to complete the purchase. Brooks transferred the original contract to an LLC (owned by Tina and Ray Gilliam, Brooks sister and brother-in-law), which bought the property on December 4, 2017. While we were disappointed, we intend to continue to do everything we can to ensure any development is well planned and environmentally sound. Our attorneys are in contact with Maine DEP and will advise us of any proposed plans to develop this property. Gorrill Palmer, our engineers, will assist in any such review.

Our continued vigilance will be required. The Cold Brook Committee is most grateful for your strong support; and we will keep you informed of new developments. We pledge to remain committed to this issue for as long as it takes.

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 the 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.”



Like the Greater Lovell Land Trust on Facebook

And if you enjoy wondering about nature, check out this blog:

<https://wondermyway.wordpress.com>

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