



# Winter 2016/2017 Newsletter

## Long Meadow Brook Reserve

By Tom Henderson

PHOTO: W. HEINRICH WURM

**M**ountain views, majestic white pines, beaver dams and broad expansive wetlands—if you love the natural world, then this place has something for you. Long Meadow Brook is likely so named for the lowland meadows that are characteristic along its short course from Creeper Hill to the Lower Bay of Kezar Lake. The largest meadow, approximately 100 acres, begins at the beaver dam approximately half way along the course of the brook. It broadens quickly into a mix of standing water grasses, sedges and shrubs.

In September, the GLLT purchased a 98-acre property at the southern end of the large meadow that includes the beaver dam and frontage along both sides of the meadow and associated beaver bog. The photo above was taken at the beaver dam and shows the land along the shorelines. This is a beautifully wooded property and host to many large white pines that the former owner left when the property was thinned in a 2014 logging operation. At that time, a two-acre and a six-acre clearcut were created to provide for two house lots with fantastic views of Baldface Mountains, Mount Kearsage and others. Additionally, a road was made that will serve as the public access for trailhead parking.

This property has been a high priority parcel for conservation for many years due to the quality of its habitat and its location within the Western Wildlife Habitat and Corridor Focus Area. The conservation goal of this focus is

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to preserve viable, native wildlife populations through the preservation of the habitats upon which they depend and land bridges between these habitats to permit movement. This acquisition adds to the continuity of conserved lands in the Lower Bay region as it abuts an 88-acre Long Meadow Brook property already under conservation easement

and is in close proximity to the 32-acre Sabra Creeper Hill Reserve, the 592-acre John A. Segur Wildlife Refuge and the 265-acre Kezar Outlet Fen.

Our 2016 interns, Aidan Black and Hannah Rousey, spent time on the property evaluating the ecology and writing a stewardship plan that includes infrastructure for public access. The plan calls for a trailhead, kiosk and two “destination trails” that will lead the visitor(s) to two vantage points along the meadow.

Funding is being sought to stump the two-acre clearcut and a portion of the six-acre clearcut, and seed them to serve as permanent wildlife openings. These upland meadows can be mowed periodically to retain the magnificent mountain views and wildlife habitat. The trails will lead visitors to the best viewing spots, where benches will be installed encouraging peaceful time witnessing a beautiful landscape. The goal is to have the trails open and ready for public use by July 1, 2017. Place a visit to Long Meadow Brook on your 2017 bucket list—you will love it!

This purchase was made possible with funding from an anonymous donor, the Davis Conservation Foundation and the John A. Segur Trust.



As President, I have the privilege to welcome two new people to our Board of Directors: Bruce Zabin-sky has taken on the Treasurer's responsibilities; and Jill Rundle brings many strong skills to the Board, including outreach through social media. I am grateful for their willingness to serve and look forward to introducing them to you through the new board member features we will share in the spring newsletter.

As I have served my term on the Board, my love and commitment to the work of the land trust has grown greatly. I am a huge supporter of the Environmental Education and Internship Programs. Each are investments in the people of our communities for a future of conservation-minded folks who love the natural world around them, which is only enhanced by their increased understanding of it. Recent expansions of each have been funded in the near

term by a handful of anonymous donors. The Board is currently planning for more secure funding of each, which I will address below.

Before I do though, let me discuss our core mission, land protection. My path to the land trust came through my love of the land. I discovered the land trust through use of its many reserves and preserves and the trails and recreational opportunities they provide. Since my time on the Board, more lands have been added to that base. After all, acquiring land to provide public benefit is a very significant community investment.

How these were funded became a growing curiosity as it appeared to be a lot of money for a very small land trust. Tom Henderson tells me that historically, land acquisitions that were not donations were mostly funded through the generosity of people in the community. At his first Annual Meeting as Executive Director, he told the attendees that he considered it a top goal to "give credence to their generosity by reaching outside the community for funding resources to build upon their collective work."

Here are a few important results that I find intriguing. Since 2005, the year we hired a full-time Executive Director, 1,856 acres have been conserved through the donation of twenty-one conservation easements. During that same time, we have completed twelve transactions of a total of 1,319 acres for a total cost of over \$2.1 million. Of that funding, over \$1.4 million has come from new sources including state and federal programs and donors outside the community but with long-standing family ties here. **In fact, during the past eight years, we have completed nine**

**of these twelve acquisitions without coming to you and asking for your help.** I believe the commitment that so many of you gave to our early land conservation efforts is being recognized and rewarded.

It is mostly through your sustained support that we are able to have effective people in place to carry on our core mission in land conservation, Environmental Education and the Intern Program. This is the time of year we ask for your support through your year-end giving to our Annual Appeal. I thank you in advance for your generous consideration that will keep these programs robust for the next year.

The land trust has demonstrated that having a full-time Executive Director and Education Director are vital to effectively advancing those core mission goals. It is also clear that the Environmental Education Program continues to expand to meet new community needs as evidenced by the partnerships with the Molly Ockett Middle School and the Lovell Summer Rec. Dept. The Summer Internship Program, a three-year trial, has exceeded its goals in every measurable way and provides two local students purposeful summer employment in a valuable learning environment.

The Board of Directors is strongly committed to the continuation of each and is currently in the beginning stages of a two-year Endowment Campaign to raise significant funds to ensure the land trust has the resources to confidently support these programs and positions. I look forward to playing a strong role in the campaign and to personally share my passion for the work we do in the coming months.

It was two days before the beginning of the boys' middle school soccer season at Kennett Middle School. My son is the lead goalie and I got a call from a parent who was struggling to get her son signed up for the team. I told her I could help and she said thanks but if they did not find a coach they were cancelling the season. I confirmed with the Athletic Director that she was days away from cancelling. After getting permission from GLLT President Rob Upton to work six shorter days a week versus five, I applied for the coaching position and the season was on.

Many of you know that I have been active in youth sports for several years as a coach or official. If you have done so yourself, you can probably relate to the very positive energy that is present. It is a learning atmosphere with kids excited about almost everything they do individually, but especially as a team. Last night my team lost and as the opponents ran to the sideline cheering and jumping, my team captain for the day said while smiling supportively, "You guys are really excited and you should be." The referee noticed and complimented his sportsmanship and that of his team.

The environment of positive energy at the land trust is just as prevalent and rewarding. The attendees at guided walks are met by very enthusiastic docents, as eager to share the natural world as those attending. It is a great atmosphere to highlight any day. The docent team is such a positive welcoming group that it attracted several new docents this year. I occasionally can join them on a "Tuesday Tramp" and wish I could more often. They support and encourage each other's cu-

riosity as we explore the world together. And this past summer, I had the chance to spend some time at the docent-run "nature days" with the Lovell Rec Kids. They would fill the forest with sounds of joy and excitement like a celebratory gathering of playful woodland elves. Likewise, the field trips with the MESA kids as featured on pages 8-9 have been equally wonderful.

That positive energy was also visible with our summer interns. Aidan and Hannah are some of the most delightful people I have ever met. I had the joy of supervising their work while sometimes working side by side, and other times helping them plan for their day before sending them off together to complete tasks. For eight weeks, my days included quality time with spirited and fun young adults who had a thirst for knowledge and a zest for the work they were doing and experiences they were having.

Similarly, I have been interacting with our guests who have stayed at the Whitney Pond cabin. All have loved the experience and have expressed great appreciation for our preservation of such a special place and the opportunity to spend quality time there. I share their love for the place and their comments are uplifting and endearing.

In addition, I have been working with five families who love their land and want it to be preserved. It is a real pleasure meeting and speaking with them about the passion for the land and how meaningful it is to them that they can take action to set it aside for future people to enjoy.

The Board has always been populated by people who share a love for the area and what it has to offer. In recent years, we have



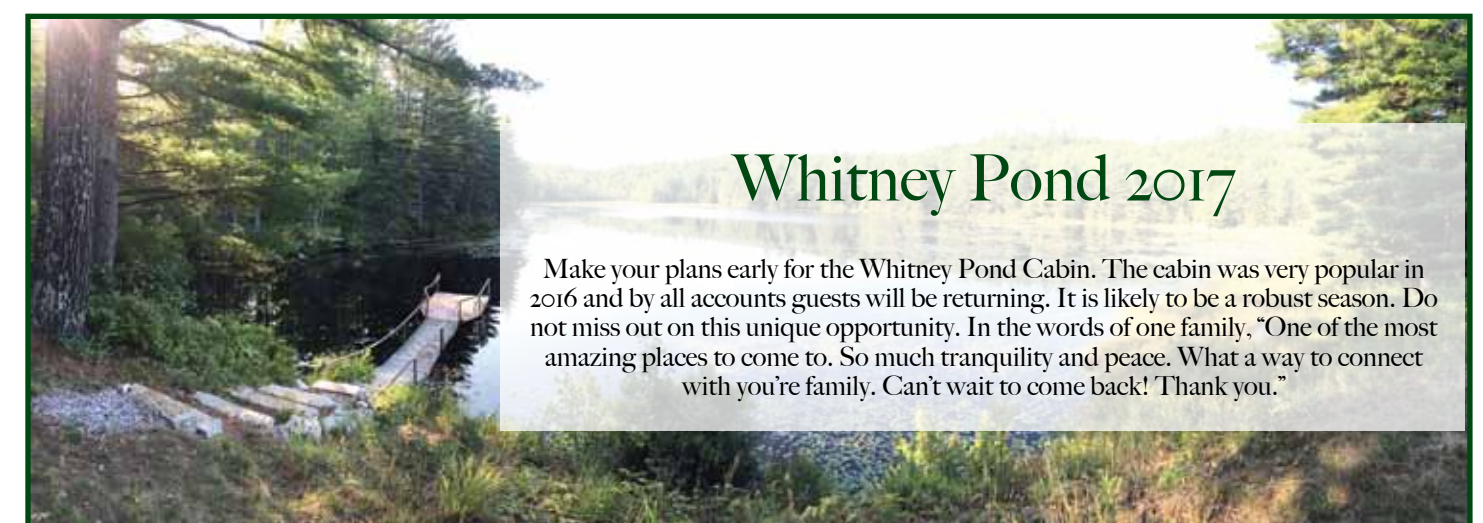
been fortunate to bring onto the Board new directors who contribute passion and skills to the work we do. They bring new ideas, new energy and new enthusiasm and add positively to the Board's culture.

Toward the end of their internships, Hannah and Aidan spoke of the positive energy that surrounded them throughout their days. Not only was the work purposeful, but it was fun. The people and the enthusiasm were what made it really fun. I agree completely as that is my experience too. Whether on the job or the soccer field, my days are engulfed by positive energy from the people I am with. If you love being surrounded by such energy or if you find it lacking in your life—there is no shortage here. Get engaged and do it for yourself and those around; salvage the season as I did and reap the rewards. The offerings of the natural world and the people you meet along the way will truly enrich your life.



## Annual Appeal

This is the time of year we ask you to consider us in your year-end giving through our Annual Appeal. It is through the Annual Appeal that we receive the majority of the funds that support our work for the coming year. Your generosity will allow us to offer two summer internships in 2017 and will support the Environmental Education Director's and Executive Director's positions so we can continue to deliver the high quality of programs, projects and services you have come to expect.



## Whitney Pond 2017

Make your plans early for the Whitney Pond Cabin. The cabin was very popular in 2016 and by all accounts guests will be returning. It is likely to be a robust season. Do not miss out on this unique opportunity. In the words of one family, "One of the most amazing places to come to. So much tranquility and peace. What a way to connect with your family. Can't wait to come back! Thank you."

# Hannah and Aidan's Summer Internship with the GLLT

by Moira Yip, Tom Henderson, Hannah Rousey and Aidan Black

The GLLT exists to preserve our lands for future generations, and so we particularly want the future leaders of our community to learn about us and what we do, and to get involved. Our local high schools graduate dozens of thoughtful, ambitious young people every year, so a few years ago we designed an internship program to persuade two of them each summer to work beside us, learn from us, and contribute to our mission. Priority goes to high school and college students with strong connections to our local area, and they are paid a competitive summer salary for their work. This year's interns were Hannah Rousey from Lovell, and Aidan Black from Sweden.

The two interns' eight weeks with the land trust were a mixture of work in the woods, including trail maintenance, axe training provided by the US Forest Service, trail mapping using GPS, plus environmental education for the public (weekly sessions with Lovell Recreation kids, evening talks at the library, and guided walks), and administrative sessions (learning about conservation easements, fundraising, and grant writing).

For Hannah, the Lovell Rec kids were a highlight—she loves kids and teaching. She emphasized that the program had been thoughtfully constructed to be busy and varied, and new every week. The supervision had a light-touch, and felt like a dialog, so she didn't feel watched over or talked down to. There wasn't too much office stuff, and nothing was pointless busywork. After being given an exorbitant amount of information, she is now quite aware that the land trust's work is way more complicated than you think, and she respects the GLLT greatly. For Hannah, the internship provided a perfect transition to college. Working on the guided walks taught her how to talk to people who know less (or more) than she does. In all, it was both a great preparation for conservation, or for working with the public in other roles.

**Hannah Rousey:** in her own words

*When Tom Henderson called to inform me of landing the internship I was so excited. I wasn't quite sure what to expect but after the first day, which we spent really getting to know Tom and the properties, I knew that this summer was not only going to be an incredible opportunity to learn, but it was going to be a lot of fun. Being able to have learned from Tom this summer is something*



*I will never forget. The Greater Lovell Land Trust is lucky to have him.*

*Each day was something new, either trail maintenance, boundary walks, or reading about different conservation easements. When I got home at the end the day I would tell my family about my adventures and all of the new things I had discovered.*

*On top of spending time with Tom, Aidan and I helped Leigh Hayes with guided walks and the Lovell Recreation kids' program. Personally, I adored the time I spent with her and the rec. kids. I had so much fun on*

*the beaver walk and making gnome homes alongside the Kezar River Reserve trail.*

*This summer has made me fall even more in love with the natural world. Meeting people that feel the same way and have committed so many hours to help preserve the beautiful land we have here in the Lovell area is inspiring. I am lucky and grateful to have had the perfect summer to prepare me for Sterling College in the fall. All I can say is thank you.*

*Hannah started at Sterling College in Vermont this fall.*



Turning to Aidan, somewhat to his surprise he discovered that he particularly enjoyed being in the woods with different groups of people. He now thinks that he would like to spend some proportion of his future in the woods, although his main goal remains to work on environmental policy issues. The internship involved a broad spectrum of jobs, and everything had a purpose. The balance between independence and supervision was good: more supervision at first, more independence later. He appreciated the fact that he and Hannah didn't spend the summer sitting in the office doing busywork, but instead co-led hikes, worked on trails and spent time sharing the natural world with kids. He particularly liked collecting GPS data to create future trail maps. He learned a lot about nature, the importance of diplomacy in a community, how land trusts work, where the money comes from, and the link between the land and the economy.

**Aidan Black:** In his own words

*Interning at the GLLT was an incredible experience. Every day, I got to explore the GLLT's properties and work alongside amazing people. The very first week Hannah and I were sent off to the White Mountain National Forest to receive trail maintenance and axe training from the US Forest Ser-*

*vice. Even though my axe skills were never needed while working on the GLLT's trails, I had a blast working with the people from the Forest Service and it's a skill I'm glad to have. After such a great start to the summer, I figured the fun would subside and the labor would increase in the following weeks as the internship really got going . . . but I couldn't have been more wrong. Every day, Tom had a new project for us or a new property to visit. Everything we did had a purpose behind it that usually provided great teaching points about the land trust or environment. The big project that we worked on throughout the summer was the Long Meadow Brook Stewardship Plan. Hannah and I designed a trail system on the newly acquired property and laid out the property's management plans for the future. It was a rewarding process that gave me experience in drafting an official stewardship plan and an everlasting connection to the property as I look forward to coming back and seeing its progress in the future.*

*This internship gave me so many great experiences that will be valuable wherever I end up, but at the end of the day it was the people at the GLLT who truly made this internship special for me. I learned so much from the weekly*

*tramps in the woods with the docents whose passion for the outdoors made every walk fun. Especially Leigh, whose enthusiasm and creativity was contagious, and allowed me to develop a greater appreciation for all aspects of nature, big or small. Last, but certainly not least, Tom was a tremendous role model and mentor to me throughout the summer who taught me so much about the land trust, environment, and life in general. It was a truly memorable summer, and I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to work at the GLLT with these amazing people.*

*Aidan is now a Junior at Colby College.*

*As you can tell, their GLLT summer was a hugely positive experience for both, but it was also of great benefit to the land trust, for whom they put in many hours of cheerful hard work, and to the community, whose children they guided and taught in our beautiful Maine woods. This program costs money to run because we think it is essential to pay these young people as much as they would earn in any other summer job, but it is just one example of the important work the GLLT does in stewarding its lands and opening them to the community. If you know any 18-25 year-olds who might be interested in working with us next summer, tell them to contact Tom Henderson (925-1056 or info@gllt.org) for details.*

The Greater Lovell Land Trust is fortunate to have a dedicated group of twenty volunteer docents who are always eager to share their love of the natural world with you. Each week during the summer and on a bi-weekly basis the rest of the year, the docents head off on Tuesday Tramps to explore the GLLT properties and sometimes venture further afield so that we can learn more about the flora and fauna that surrounds us. And prior to any public walk, we conduct pre-hikes and prepare materials in order to make your experience in the woods more pleasurable.

**Our 2016 summer highlights included the following:**

- We had the joy of working with interns Hannah Rousey and Aidan Black. They jumped in with enthusiasm and contributed greatly to our efforts. I can still see Hannah mesmerizing the Lovell Rec kids with her animated descriptions and Aidan role-playing how a porcupine grooms itself in a game of charades. These two college students willingly helped with all aspects of the education program, and always with a smile.
- Attendance was up at our weekly walks and talks. We tried some different things including a journal walk, open mic poetry reading and viewing of a documentary film, all of which we would like to continue going forward. We also appreciated our partners who co-hosted some of the talks, including KLWA and its Climate Change Observatory, the Sweden Historical Society, Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library and Hewnoaks Artist Colony.
- Once again, we worked with Lovell's Recreation Director Meg Dyer to bring a weekly nature program to the summer day camp. We were excited to share five GLLT properties with the group and engaged them in a variety of activities while hiking the trails, including going on a sensory hike, mimicking how a beaver fells a tree by chomping on carrots, exploring a stump dump porcupine condominium, meeting trees while blindfolded, and building gnome homes. The latter was a highlight for all. Our plan for next summer is to develop two nature programs for the Rec Department based on age levels. We'd also like to start a junior docent program. Stay tuned.
- Continuing a tradition that's long been established, a group of docents developed a self-guided nature trip along the trail to Otter Rock at the Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve. They posted 25 signs with information about flowers, shrubs, trees and other natural phenomena. Each year, they determine a new location for the self-guided tour and create appropriate signs which are in place for the summer months. (We also have a "permanent" self-guided tour along the trail beside Sucker Brook at the Wilson Wing Moose Pond Bog Preserve.)

As for next summer, we're already developing new ideas and themes so be sure to check out our schedule in the spring/summer newsletter and on the GLLT Web site. And if you have any ideas you'd like us to consider, please contact me at [lmachayes@gmail.com](mailto:lmachayes@gmail.com).

The docents and I can't wait to share the trail with you again.

 Like the Greater Lovell Land Trust on Facebook

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



**Saturday, December 10, 9:30am-12:30pm  
Winter World  
John A. Segur East, Farrington Pond Road**

Though it isn't quite winter yet, the temperature will be on the nippy side. Let's show cold who is boss as we explore the trail system to Sucker Brook and take in the sights along the way from frosty fungi to mammal signs. Snowshoes may be appropriate. Trailhead: Farrington Pond Road. **Degree of Difficulty:** Easy.

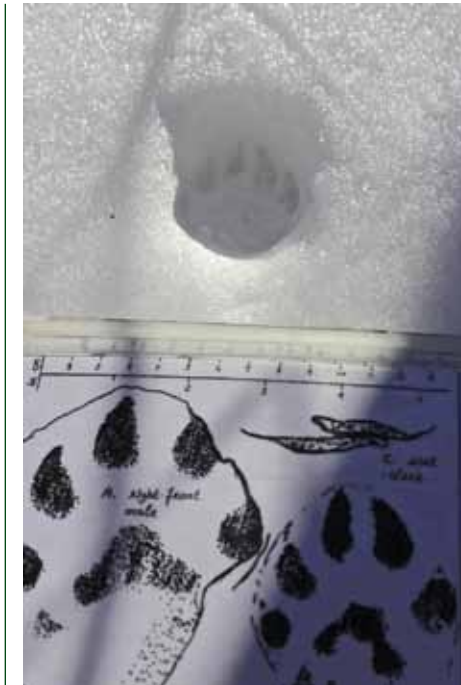


**Sunday, January 1, 12:30-3:30pm  
First Day Hike  
Whiting Hill, Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve**

We'll ring in the New Year with an afternoon hike as we climb to the summit of Whiting Hill. At the top, let's toast Lovell with hot cocoa as we take in the view of Kezar Lake and the White Mountains. Trailhead: Slab City Road. **Degree of Difficulty:** Moderate.

**Saturday, February 4, 9:30am-noon  
Mammal Tracking  
Ron's Loop, Back Pond Preserve**

Through the prints animals leave in the snow, we can read the story of their movement. We'll teach you how to measure tracks and look for other signs that indicate what mammals inhabit Back Pond Preserve. Trailhead: limited parking. Contact us to carpool. **Degree of Difficulty:** Easy.



Evergreen trees and ferns are just that—ever green. We'll point out family traits and variations as we examine needles, cones, conifer bark and fern fronds. If trail conditions are good, we'll climb to the summit of Flat Hill, otherwise, we'll circle Perky's Path. Trailhead: Flat Hill parking lot, Heald Pond Road. **Degree of Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate.

**Saturday, April 15, 9:30am-12:30pm  
From Fairy Fish to Exoskeletons: A Vernal Pool Exploration  
Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve**

We'll look for frog and salamander eggs, dip our nets and learn more about life in a vernal pool. We'll also walk to Otter Rock and search for exoskeletons of dragonfly and damselfly nymphs. Trailhead: Slab City Road. **Degree of Difficulty:** Easy.

**Saturday, May 6, 9:30am-12:30pm  
Up High, Down Low: Birds and Wildflowers  
Long Meadow Brook Reserve**



Join us for an exploration of this new property, where we'll bee-line to the wetland and practice our birding skills. On the way back, we'll pause to appreciate spring ephemerals. Trailhead: Meet behind the library to carpool. **Degree of Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate.

**Saturday, June 17, 9:30am-1:30pm  
Stop and Smell the Flowers (and Ferns)  
Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve**

This hike will take a bit longer than usual, so pack a lunch and plenty of water. We'll hike along the Homestead Trail and then follow the Gallie Trail to the Amos Andrews Trail. Along the way, we'll stop frequently for flowers and ferns. And the crème de la crème should be the blooming wild columbine at the summit of Amos Mountain. Trailhead: Gallie Trail parking lot, Route 5. **Degree of Difficulty:** Moderate/Difficult.





September means the return to school for the students of the Maine Environmental Science Academy (MESA) at Molly Ockett Middle School in Fryeburg. These students are always learning about their world in or out of school. They are actively engaged in their surroundings, enhanced by the MESA curriculum. The GLLT partnered with the MESA program this fall to deliver field trips to Great Brook and the Kezar Outlet Fen as part of their semester study of hydrology.

One goal for the Great Brook trip was to witness the annual spawn of the salmon of Kezar Lake. The students had done significant research on "landlocked" salmon and we started the day fielding their many insightful questions regarding the life cycle and needs of these and other cold water fish, such as native Brook Trout, that inhabit Great Brook and most of its tributaries above Dwyer's Falls. The students thought that the salmon of Kezar Lake were landlocked, having travelled up the Saco River from the Atlantic Ocean, as in other Maine riverine systems. I challenged them to trace the Saco River back to the ocean to determine if that was possible and indicated

there are at least two impediments to such a journey, one in nearby Hiram and another in Hollis. They soon realized that the salmon are introduced by stocking and therefore not native.

The current drought resulted in extremely low flow and volume preventing the spawn. We hiked, however, from the Hut Road Bridge to Dwyer's Falls and learned about the hydrology of brook, stream and river systems.

Along the brook, we stopped in many locations to observe the various characteristics created by the interaction of water and land, including the channel, the cut banks and the fallen trees that divert water and trap organic material. We noted how water is forced downward, scouring pools and depositing larger stones first in "cobblestones" and finer materials further downstream in pebble and sand banks. We examined the floodplains and discovered the beneficial effects of woody debris of all sizes. In all, it was another fine day with the MESA students learning about the workings of the natural world, the web of life and our role in it.

We also enjoyed a second field trip this fall. Recalling that last year's visit to pick cran-

berries in the fen was one of their favorites, we decided to repeat the experience. October 5th was like "déjà vu all over again" in the words of Yogi Berra. The day started as it did last year, damp, foggy and chilly with a heavy dew on the tall grasses that thrive in the fen. We began in the standard "horseshoe" formation so we could learn from each other all we knew about fens, the important hydrological functions they provide and the critters that thrive there. The students learned that there are two types of fens in Maine—acidic and calcareous. Our 500-acre fen is acidic and therefore dominated by wetland vegetation such as grasses, sedges and woody bog shrubs. It is also host to the prized wild cranberries.

As our discussion began about the species found at the fen, a Great Blue Heron flew over, followed shortly by a Bald Eagle. The fen is also host to thousands of the globally rare Long's Bullrush and other uncommon wetland sedges. Species of concern that are commonly present include American Bitterns, Northern Harriers, Merlins and numerous waterfowl and wetland dependent birds. We were not lucky enough to see the flock

of Sandhill Cranes that have been breeding there in recent years, but we did get to hear them calling to each other.

GLLT Board member Heinrich Wurm joined us and brought the proper tools to erect wood duck boxes where the students had selected to place them. Future classes will monitor use of the boxes, clean them and record data for years to come.

Clearly the highlight of the day was picking cranberries. By the time we arrived at the harvest site, the fog had lifted and the day became sundrenched and warm. After some instruction on where and how to find the berries and a cautionary note not to step on more than you pick, the students excitedly fanned out across the fen. The crop was prolific this year and this event was like an Easter egg hunt for older kids who expressed the same joy with their finds. I witnessed a few savvy students who called out territorially, "Don't come over here—there are hardly any here!" Most students hiked back to the bus with more than a half gallon of the reddish gems.

These students are kids that learn best from rich experiences using outdoor skills to complement their studies. I sometimes refer to them as "sensory learners." Once again, my trips with them informed me that the habitat and hydrological values of Great Brook and the fen are not the end all. Our GLLT properties help provide a wonderful opportunity in meeting the needs of these young learners.

Astrid Eklund:

*"The Greater Lovell Land Trust was such a cool experience to me, because I never would think that cut up leaves would be food to other animals, and it gave me an opportunity to let me realize to take more passion to my surroundings and to take care of this environment. It felt like a whole other world when I went on that field trip, and it was just extraordinary to hear the same guy talk about a creek for like, 3 hours, and it inspired me, and I hope that it inspired other people when us MESA students went on that field trip."*

Padric McGrath

*"The salmon walk was a wonderful day for learning and it brought us a huge step further for what we are learning in school."*



## News from the Kezar Lake Watershed Association

Jim Stone, President

It was another beautiful summer in the Kezar Lake watershed and I hope you all had a chance to enjoy our unique environment. We undertook two new initiatives this year:

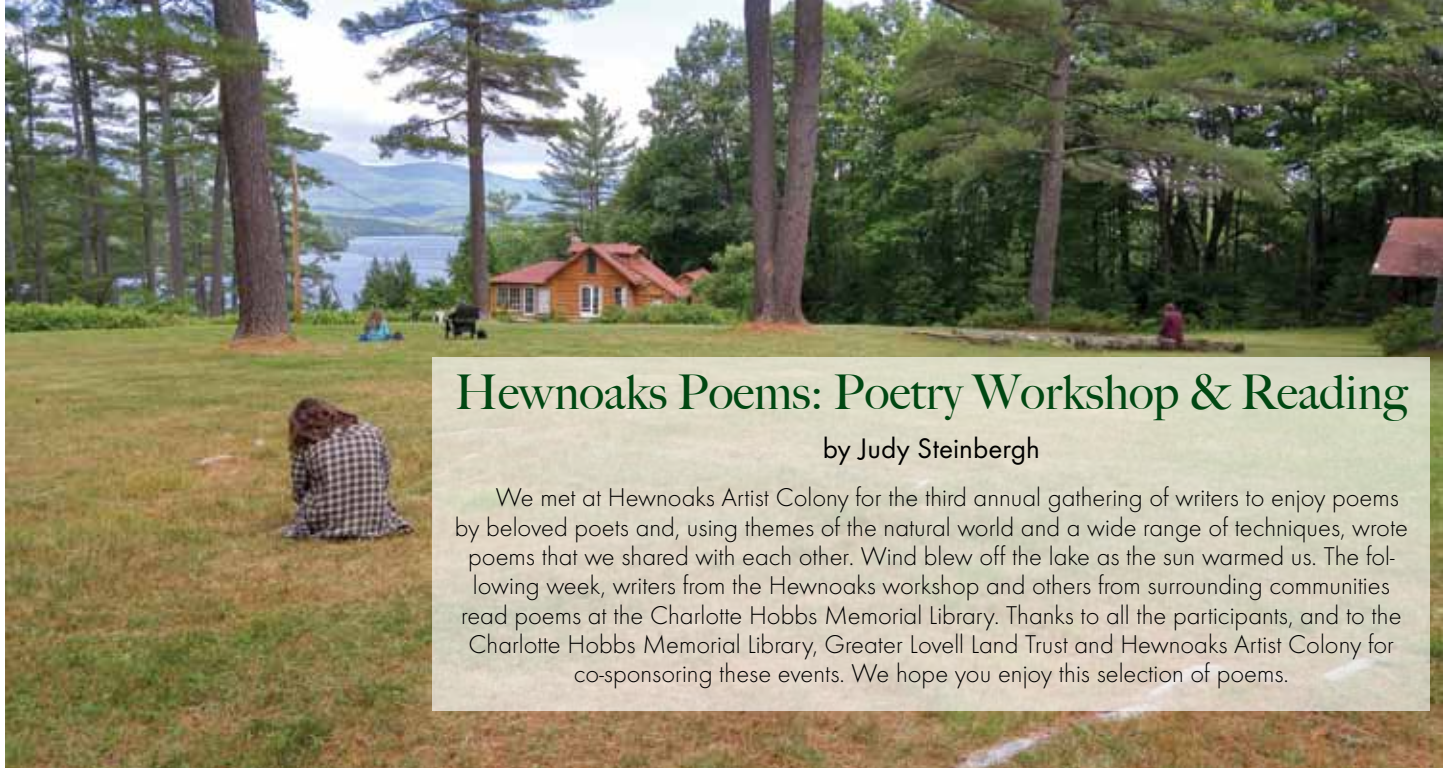
We prepared a laminated poster outlining a range of shoreline conservation practices aimed at reducing pollution entering the lakes and streams. This was distributed at the KLWA Annual Meeting plus various other venues and was reinforced at Maggie Shannon's presentation at the library entitled "Our Vital Shorelines."

In August, we conducted a survey of Brook Trout in Great Brook and Beaver Brook in coordination with biologists from Stantec, Inc. and the US Forest Service. I am pleased to report that the fish count, despite this summer's drought, was comparable to the peak levels reported in 1995 and 2009.

During the summer, the KLWA continued our traditional activities:

- Testing, regularly, the water quality of the watershed. The sampling done so far this year shows no significant changes and we continue to enjoy one of Maine's most spectacular natural resources.
- Funding and staffing the Lake Patrol boat.
- Managing the loon platform program.
- Continuing the development of the Climate Change Observatory, while organizing outreach programs to encourage broader knowledge and appreciation for our environment.

Finally, as previously reported, the KLWA is concerned about the potential risks to our environment from timbering activities in our watershed. There are two large projects, one planned and one underway, in the Great Brook Watershed. We are in active discussions with both logging entities and have proposed practices that will safeguard all streams in the area.



## Hewnoaks Poems: Poetry Workshop & Reading

by Judy Steinbergh

We met at Hewnoaks Artist Colony for the third annual gathering of writers to enjoy poems by beloved poets and, using themes of the natural world and a wide range of techniques, wrote poems that we shared with each other. Wind blew off the lake as the sun warmed us. The following week, writers from the Hewnoaks workshop and others from surrounding communities read poems at the Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library. Thanks to all the participants, and to the Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library, Greater Lovell Land Trust and Hewnoaks Artist Colony for co-sponsoring these events. We hope you enjoy this selection of poems.

### New Friends

by Ann Johnson

To my eyes in the past only a mass of green in the backyard.  
 One, an old friend, with three fond, strong and bold, is a protector from bugs.  
 Now, here is a seductive lady friend, with black unshaven leg hairs and lovely curved eyebrows.  
 Her escort is regal, crowned, broad leafed, standing by the river edge. This hardy friend with stout green boots will be here through the winter.  
 A different fate from this summer companion who is the most sensitive of my new friends and recoils at the approach of cold.  
 A slender candle burning at both ends glows in the low greenery, hiding under the open arms of tall lookalike neighbors, one with pointed finger tips and hairy armpits, the other, no hair and a rounded manicure.  
 This fellow looks a bit stiff: flat and fused at the shoulder blades, with a long, heavy tail.  
 Some backyard friends are not familiar faces yet. I know a few of their names: hayscented, wood, ostrich. The wood family has many lookalike siblings. I met evergreen wood and silvery glade just today. I hope I will recognize them when we meet again. These fern folks are a few of the green people that enrich my life.

### For José

by Anna Römer

I call my husband over  
 To the porch  
 Where I was reading.  
 Listen, do you hear that?  
 He does not.  
 He pushes his ear against the wet screens.  
 Now he does.

A long screech, sad and eery.  
 Over and over.

My husband gets out his iPhone.  
 Together we listen to recordings of birds,  
 Our ears close to the little speaker.

Then our heads lift again to listen,  
 To the live sound.

Back to our recording.  
 There, that's it!  
 A fledgling barred owl begging.  
 Pure poetry in one sentence.

We look at each other,  
 loving the words,  
 loving the porch,  
 loving each other.

### Camp

by Jill Rundle

The rusticator, with one child lost to the flu  
 and the one remaining a shameless cad.  
 Picked a hilltop with a modest view  
 of a distant drumlin.

Hope built the seven bedrooms;  
 possibilities the sweep of a porch;  
 potential the tumbling stone chimney  
 high above the lake in a song to the future.  
 The docks and boats a distant diversion over  
 the rise that the fourth generation  
 cursed each afternoon on the trudge  
 back to the house he called "Stonehenge."

The conceit of the name redeemed  
 by a day in the garden where the  
 stone crop was ever the most reliable  
 perennial among the cutting flowers.

Gladiolas that spread in fanned vases behind  
 candles and glasses laid in the evening for cocktails.

Grandmother's sparkling eyes and crinolined dresses  
 Mother's perfume; Green and White.

This was the routine.  
 The end of the days of woodland hikes,  
 hopeful dangling of fishing lines,  
 canoeing to the shallows of the brook.

He wouldn't imagine the angry end.  
 The boathouse fallen to the years of ice.  
 The tennis court a nursery to a forest of white pine.  
 The cutting gardens vanished in the forest.

Where the view has grown in.

### Lake News

by Judith Steinbergh

We're out talking about herons, our paddles  
 dripping, as we nose toward your canoe,  
 the eagle, immense and looming, returned  
 to perch on your towering pine, its nest  
 a distance up the shore from which we hear  
 squawks and squeals, the young? or are they  
 fledged? evident in a huge mottled bird  
 we see skim out dipping toward water.

No loon chicks swim on the backs of the parent,  
 but a grandchild is due for you, David and Nell,  
 and Mina up on her hands and knees rocks  
 toward crawling; our Julian orbits in his cardboard  
 spacecraft, the teen girls, sleek in their fashions,  
 hair pressed and toes painted, lean and lure.

Our boat tips lift lily pads, send up  
 nets of dragonflies, a hushed music of motion.  
 A winged shadow circles and swoops,

and we with our aches and creaks, our retirings  
 and survivings, our long memory of weather,  
 glide on: the day is clear, a wisp of wind,  
 white clouds nudge peaks of the Carter range.

## A Journaling We Will Go



On the last Saturday morning of July, we offered a journal workshop along Perky's Path in the Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve. Led by docents Ann Johnson and Pam Katz, participants stopped periodically along the way to sit and sketch, write, photograph and meditate. On this page are some of their sharings:



I found the whole morning very relaxing. At one place I wrote that I could sit there all day listening to the birds and the breeze blowing through the trees. The small group left time to sit by ones self and meditate. The guides were very helpful in identifying various species of plants and mushrooms. I do hope the same trip will be offered again!

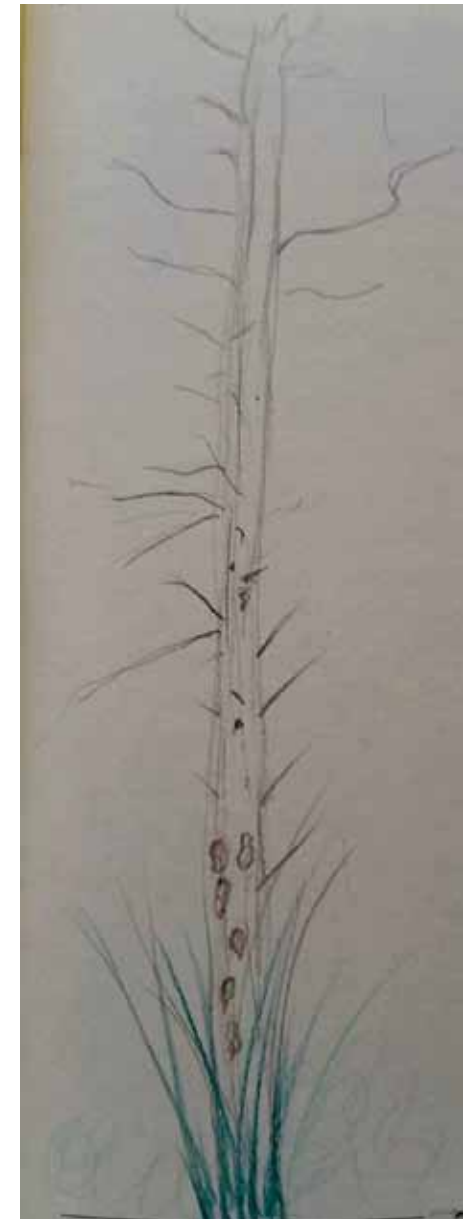
—Sue Black

the woods always fill me with awe  
 so raw  
 so complicated  
 so unknown

—Pam Katz

With wind on my face  
 and sun in my eyes  
 what a wonderful spot  
 to contemplate

—Pam Katz



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### Contact Information:

Tom Henderson, Executive Director,  
207.925.1056, [tom@gllt.org](mailto:tom@gllt.org)  
Leigh Macmillen Hayes, Education Director,  
Newsletter Editor and Photographer  
[lmachayes@gmail.com](mailto:lmachayes@gmail.com)



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."