



Spring/Summer 2017 Newsletter

PHOTOS: ROHR FAMILY ARCHIVES

GLLT Announces 62 Acres Preserved in Lovell The donated conservation easement is on West Lovell Road

Tom Henderson, Peter & Megan Rohr

A drive down the remote northern portion of West Lovell Road is like a journey back in time. Power lines disappear soon after one passes the Stearns' barn, a stately reminder of the farming days of old. There is a wildness that follows as the surface changes to dirt and the path is narrowed by the encroaching trees. Homes are absent for the next three miles but stone walls dominated by large rocks adorn the way, a testament to historic attempts to tame the rugged nature of the land. This section of the road is closed to winter travel, thus any voyages are limited to summer and fall.

In December 2016, Peter and Megan Rohr placed a conservation easement on their 62-acre parcel that includes over 1,800 feet of frontage along the northwesterly side of West Lovell Road. In doing so Peter stated, "We have long-standing family ties here. My grandfather bought a lot on the west wide of Kezar Lake in 1898 and built the first home there in 1903. He became engaged at Kezar Lake and Megan and I got engaged on Joe McKeen Hill and now we own and have preserved a piece of it. Much has



changed from those early days of my grandfather, where the landscape was dominated by apple orchards, pastures and cows, and petty coats were the fashion. The land has reverted back to forest, providing Megan and me pleasant hikes back to Joe McKeen Hill, which we do often."

"This is also bear country and I have seen some big ones around here," says Tom Henderson. He notes that the property features a rugged landscape that is relatively remote with ease of range over an expansive area. There are thousands of acres of undevel-

oped land that extend from the camps along the west shore of Kezar Lake to Horseshoe Pond and north to the White Mountain National Forest that provide the solitude that bears prefer. The forest is dominated by northern hardwoods including beech and red oak that can provide mast crops of acorns and beechnuts to help them thrive. A network of logging roads and landings support berry production for mid-summer forage. In addition, the boulder slopes of Joe McKeen Hill, a prominent feature on the landscape, likely support good denning opportunities.

Located in the GLLT's **Western Wildlife Habitat & Corridor Focus Area**, the easement furthers the land trust's goal of preserving viable, native wildlife populations through the preservation of the habitats upon which they depend. Simultaneously, the GLLT is pleased to help Peter and Megan achieve their goals for the property and the neighborhood.

Peter says, "We hope our actions inspire others in the neighborhood and along West Lovell Road and the west side of Kezar Lake to do the same."

Notes from the President

by Rob Upton

We have exciting news from the Land Trust. The Board of Directors decided to launch a \$1 million campaign to increase our Endowment Fund. Strengthening our financial position will enable the current and future Boards of Directors to make decisions with confidence that the funds will be there to support our activities. The additional funds that we raise will help us strengthen our partnership with the community as we work together toward an ecologically sound future.

Using the interest from the Endowment Fund, we plan to do the following: (1) continue the full-time position of Executive Director, which plays such an important role in our efforts; (2) make our summer internship program permanent, funding 2-3 local students as paid interns; (3) pay the part-time, year-round Education Director adequately; and (4) add a part-time Stewardship Coordinator to oversee the properties that we protect, including the trails and public access infrastructure, responsibilities that have begun to outpace our current capacities.

The Land Trust has promised to preserve local ecosystems for the benefit of the region's natural and human communities. The Board of Directors has engaged in the Endowment Campaign to ensure that this promise is fulfilled for the foreseeable future.

Our Endowment Campaign Committee, consisting of Tom Henderson (consultant), Gloria Kushel, Mike Maguire, Toni Stechler (chair), Ralph Tedesco, Heinrich Wurm, Moira Yip, and me, has planned a number of events to inform the membership and the greater community about this campaign. Although we are still in the silent phase of our campaign, we have already received a collective pledge of more than \$100,000 from members of the Board of Directors and some large donations, pledges, and matching funds from anonymous donors. We hope that when you are approached by GLLT members, or have the opportunity to make a pledge, you'll be able to give generously, to protect your community, its wildlife habitat, and its many recreational activities.

As a GLLT member or a taxpayer in Lovell, Stoneham, Sweden and Stow, you will want to support our efforts to maintain and enhance a sustainable, ecologically sound future for

your community. Our Land Trust members and local citizens are all welcome to make a contribution, large or small, to this campaign.

Our Education Director, Leigh Macmillen Hayes, has done it again. A quick trip to www.gllt.org or to the pages of this newsletter will provide you with a complete listing of the incredible program she has put together for 2017. WOW. The guided walks (including many family-oriented outings) and evening talks at the library are so varied and interesting. And the work with the kids in the summer nature program of the Lovell Recreation Department is so important and so much fun for so many. Please join Leigh and/or some of her wonderful docents at these educational and fun programs.



Earlier, I mentioned the summer internship jobs. We hire local students so that they can explore the field of conservation and learn about forestry, trail work, and ecology, train-



ing with Tom and Leigh. We started offering these job opportunities in order that local young people could pursue their interests in conservation. These young people are the future decision makers, who may have a great impact upon the growth and development in our community. We have three interns this summer that I hope you have the opportunity to meet.

Finally, I want to encourage as many of you as I can to take advantage of our cabin at Whitney Pond. It is a great opportunity for you and your family to spend time together in a peaceful, comfortable, and off-the-grid location. Visit www.gllt.org for more information.

Notes from the Desk

by Tom Henderson, Executive Director

I have heard that the sense of smell is the one that most readily triggers memories. I was raised on the coast of Maine and can certainly vouch for that. Every time I smell the ocean, I am brought back to enjoying family picnics at the beach, skipping stones, and collecting shells and sea glass. Then there were the boyhood days of mackerel fishing off the state pier, the beach party after high school graduation and a wonderful, surprise vacation to the Caribbean. One whiff of the ocean can return me to any of those times.

The scent of balsam fir is another strong trigger for me. We always had a fir tree for Christmas. Even on a hot August day, walking through a balsam fir forest brings fond memories of the holiday, complete with family, food and surprises.

I am deeply connected to the seasons in how I live my life and the change of seasons have their own signature scents serving as triggers. As the snow banks recede and the days warm, the earthy smell of partially decomposed organic compounds triggers me to start the vegetable and flower seedlings in the south windows. This coincides with the sugaring season with its sweet smell of boiling maple sap and wood smoke. These remind me to write my newsletter and magazine pieces to meet the deadlines and to check my umpiring equipment to make sure I am ready for opening day of baseball.

The natural world is full of triggers, reminders that a season is upon us and it is time once again to renew a ritual or embrace one for the first time. To ignore these triggers, one does so at his own peril. It is easy to ignore these reminders as we pursue our busy days. Ignoring too many of them often denies us rich connections to our inner selves, those around us and the natural world. I admit to not having time to pursue them all, but I do have many seasonal rituals that enrich my life.

Every year, I produce maple syrup. People often ask, "How do you know when to tap your trees?" "Watch the red squirrels," I tell them. What, the red squirrels? Yes, they know when the sap begins to flow. I watch one climb a maple tree and scurry along a thin branch, where it nibbles at the twig, creating a wound in the bark. When that wound "bleeds" with sap, the squirrel returns to it, often throughout the day, to drink the mildly sweet sugar water that we call sap.

I love the early light amber syrup that is produced at the beginning of the season. If I ignore the squirrel's trigger and delay tapping, I run the risk of losing out on the beautiful "blonde amber" colored sugar that I prefer the most.

Likewise, I love fresh peas and am assured to have them for the fourth of July if I pay attention to the crocuses. What? Let me explain. You see, my crocuses are planted in the front yard where the snow lingers long in the shade



of the nearby pines. My vegetable garden is in the backyard where it receives full sun and is the first to lose its blanket of snow. Peas germinate best in cool soil, emerging and rapidly surpassing the garlic that had sprouted under the snow revealing itself while most of the yard was still white. The crocuses, like the garlic, will sprout under the snow and rapidly bloom while the snow continues to recede, permitting the daffodils and iris greens to emerge. If I wait until the blooms of the crocuses fade, my window of time for planting a good crop of peas closes. Strange how blooming crocuses remind me of July peas.

I umpire baseball and my goal is to complete the articles for this newsletter two weeks prior to opening day. I dragged my feet or should I say fingers this year. Opening day is now two days, not two weeks away but my peas are in the ground and my crocuses are still blooming.

Oh, did I mention balsam fir earlier? That reminds me. After many years of family and friends selecting their "favorite" from our plantation, the supply has slowly dwindled. Spring is the best time to plant and doing so now ensures a steady supply going forward. It's time to take wheel barrel and spade for a walk on the power line right-of-way and grab some seedlings before they mow below the lines.

GLLT properties provide wonderful opportunities to spend time in nature taking in the natural world with all of one's senses. I encourage you to bring your family and friends to as many as you can. Build new connections and memories and renew some old. "Listen" to your own personal triggers. May your senses bring fond memories and remind you of outdoor rituals worth pursuing.



2016 Recipient of the Marion Rodgerson Scholarship

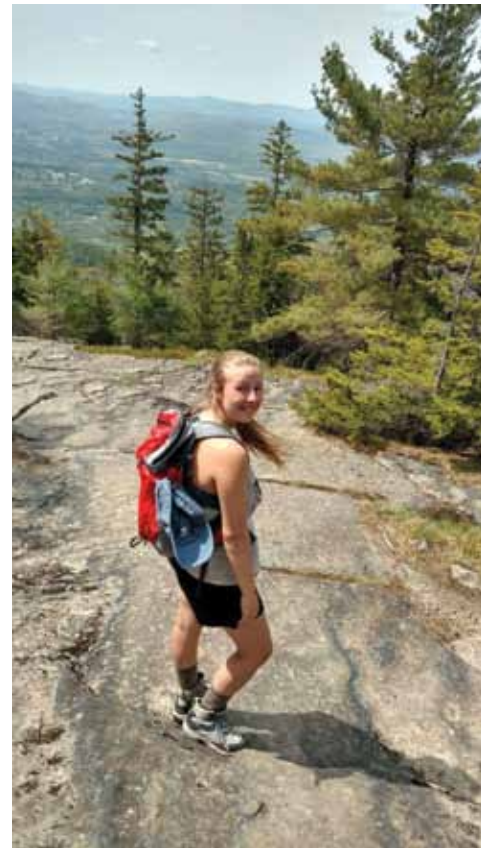
In honor of one of our earliest easement donors, the GLLT offers a \$1000 scholarship each year to a graduating senior at Fryeburg Academy. We are pleased to announce that last year's recipient of the Marion Rodgerson Scholarship, as selected by a team of Fryeburg Academy teachers and staff, was Hannah Howard of Fryeburg.

Aspirations Essay by Hannah Howard, 2016 graduate of Fryeburg Academy

As a graduating senior at Fryeburg Academy, I plan to attend Sterling College in Vermont in the fall to study Sustainable Agriculture. At FA (sic), I have been working very hard with the environmental club to promote environmental awareness. I co-wrote a grant in which we received funds to purchase cover crops for our gardens. I was also awarded a full scholarship to attend a summer camp at Hurricane Island this summer, where I will be living off the grid learning hands on about sustainable agriculture and alternative energy sources, while also improving my leadership skills.

In addition to promoting environmental awareness, I have been working hard to promote community. I recently spoke at our all school meeting about the importance of working together and supporting one another, and encouraged students to get involved. As a small school with a diverse student body, we are very fortunate that we do work together and respect one another. I hope to see this mission continue at the academy.

One of my long term goals is to live on a sustainable farm, have a CSA (Community Service Agriculture) and to work with the community in which I live; to educate them about the environment and farming, and to share my crops. One of my more immediate goals is to continue to work with the Fryeburg Academy community and have the produce from the school gardens contribute to the dining hall. I hope to see at least 25% of the produce served come from the school gardens.



Winter Education Update



by Leigh Macmillen Hayes

Once again, our volunteer docents offered a hike during each month from September through June. Among the themes this year, we included an exploration of the Great Brook neighborhood, fall foliage from Sabattus, a visit abroad—to Bridgton's Pondicherry Park, mammal sign, evergreens and fairy shrimp. For the first time ever, we offered a First Day hike to the summit of Whiting Hill during the afternoon of January 1, that was well attended. Weather permitting, we'll make that an annual event.

As has been our tradition for a few years, a group interested in exploring the winter woodland have meet twice per month for about three hours. Known as the Tuesday Trackers, the group focuses on mammal sign, but also bark, lichen and any thing else that catches our fancy. Let me know if you'd like to join us next winter.

Winter was long and we enjoyed every moment as we explored the GLLT properties.

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

The membership drive season is upon us. Annual membership runs from May 1-April 30 of any given year. The GLLT is a member-supported organization with all programs and services dependent upon your generous donations. Please consider joining or renewing your membership 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 conserved 54 properties totaling 5,300 acres including some of the region's finest forest land, farms and wetlands. 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 such as nature observation, wild food gathering, fishing and hunting. In addition, we have maintained 18 Reserves, with over thirty miles of hiking trails open to the public. We also support four miles of 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. Your contributions make it all possible. Please take a moment to fill out the membership envelope, and send it back to us with your enclosed check. By joining now 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 12, 2017
Lovell VFW

8:45-9:15am Social time with refreshments

9:15-9:45am Business meeting

9:45-10:45am "Our town, not what will be, but what can be."

Build Out Analysis presented by Executive Director Tom Henderson

The Amazing GLLT Scavenger Hunt

The Amazing GLLT Properties Scavenger Hunt is designed for land trust owned properties in Lovell, Stoneham, Stow and Sweden. The properties are great places to explore by yourself or with family and friends.

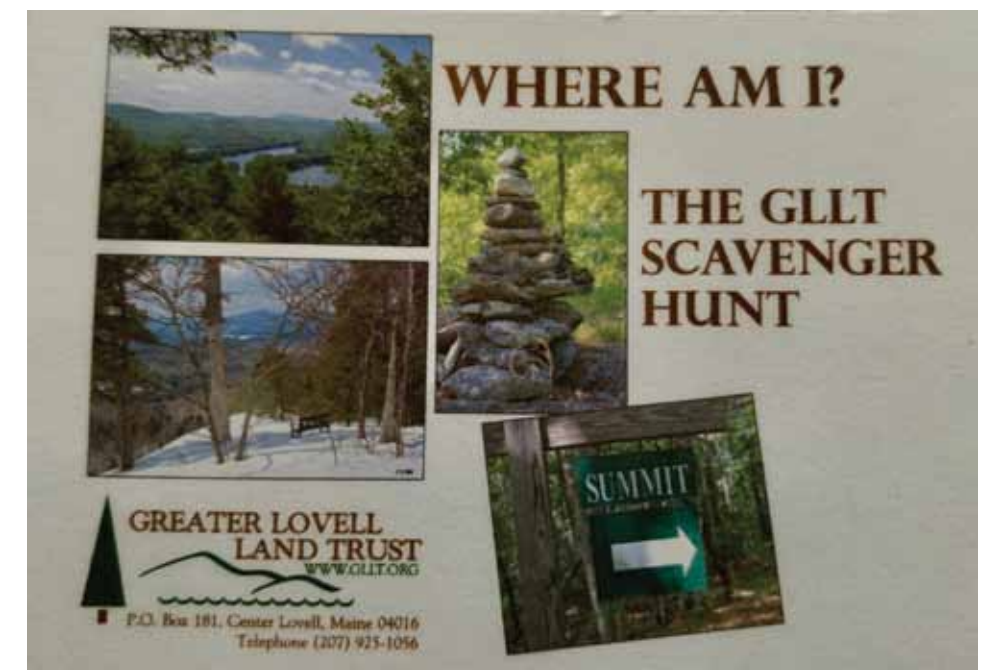
Stop by the GLLT office and purchase the Scavenger Hunt cards for \$5. If you choose to return the set of cards after you've completed the hunt, you'll be reimbursed \$5.

Your mission:

Take a digital photo of yourself or your group at 10 of the 12 locations we've chosen for the scavenger hunt. When you have finished, stop by the GLLT office to show Tom your photos and be able to name each location.

Be sure to give Tom your contact information. At the end of the year, a winner will be drawn from those who shared their photos of ten of the sites and correctly identified all ten.

Happy Hunting!



Guided Outdoor Programs

May 20, 2017, 9:30am-12:30pm

Up High, Down Low: Birds and Wildflowers: Join us for an exploration of the Long Meadow Brook Reserve where we'll bee-line to the wetland and practice our birding skills. On the way back, we'll pause to appreciate spring flowers. Bring binoculars.

Trailhead: Meet behind Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library to carpool
Degree of Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

June 21, 2017, 6:30-8pm

Longest Day Hike: Celebrate the longest day of the year with a hike to Otter Rocks at Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve. Bring a picnic supper to enjoy beside the pond as we celebrate the summer solstice.

Trailhead: Fairburn parking lot, Slab City Road
Difficulty of Difficulty: Easy



June 24, 2017, 9:30am-1:30pm

Stop and Smell the Flowers (and Ferns): This hike will take a bit longer than usual, so pack a lunch and plenty of water. We'll walk along the Homestead Trail, stopping frequently for flowers and ferns. Participants may choose to turn around at the end of the trail or join us for a climb up Amos Mountain, where the crème de la crème should be the blooming wild columbine at the summit.

Trailhead: Gallie Trail parking lot, Route 5.
Degree of Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

July 6, 2017, 9:30am-noon

The History and Future of Forest and Wildlife Management at Long Meadow Brook: The recently acquired Long Meadow Brook Reserve hosts a mixed forests and an array of wildlife habitats that have been molded by the forces of nature and human intervention. We will witness the evidence of this historic relationship and learn of the GLLT's future management goals for the reserve.

Trailhead: Creeper Hill Road
Degree of Difficulty: Easy/Moderate



July 15, 2017, 9:30-noon

Lookin' for Lichens: Maine Master Naturalist Jeff Pengel will show us how to examine the unique and colorful miniature forms of lichens. We will attempt to identify the species and also discuss their many unique reproductive structures. Bring a hand lens if you have one, 10X is ideal. We will have a few loaner lenses as well.

Trailhead: Kezar River Reserve, Route 5 (across from Wicked Good Store)
Degree of Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

July 20, 2017, 9:30am-noon

Native American Medicinal Plant Walk: See the woods in a different light with the help of Kerry Hardy, author of *Notes on a Lost Flute*. We'll explore the medicinal power of native woodland plants and their uses as we follow the Homestead Trail.

Trailhead: Gallie parking lot of Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve.
Degree of Difficulty: Easy

July 27, 2017, 9:30am-12:30pm

Exploring a Black Spruce Peat Bog: We'll walk on the seldom explored east side of the Kezar River Reserve and wander the section of forest that is approaching old growth conditions, including a black spruce peat bog. Along the way, we'll look for evidence of pileated woodpecker works.

Trailhead: Meet at the Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library to carpool.
Degree of Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

August 2, 2017, 9:30am-noon

Mosses, Liverworts and Hornworts: We'll hike with Ralph Pope, author of *Mosses, Liverworts, and Hornworts, A Field Guide to Bryophytes of the Northeast*, and try out some field identification techniques. If you have other bryophyte identification references, please feel free to bring them along. (Copies of Pope's book will be available for sale or loan.)

Trailhead: Westways Trail, Route 5
Degree of Difficulty: Easy

August 10, 2017, 9:30am-noon

Mushrooms of Lovell: Beside Sucker Brook, 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. Note: The focus of our walk is fungi's important and under-appreciated role in forest ecology, not the edibility of particular species of mushrooms.

Trailhead: Wilson Wing Moose Pond Bog Preserve, Horseshoe Pond Road
Degree of Difficulty: Easy

August 12, 2017, 12:30-3pm

Take a Walk With Lovell Kids: The GLLT interns and Lovell Recreation Summer Campers have spent the summer learning about all things nature related. You are invited to join them as they share their knowledge of the land trust and the natural world.

Trailhead: To be decided by the kids. We will announce via the newspaper, e-mail, GLLT and Lovell Rec Facebook pages.

August 17, 2017, 9:30am-noon

Pollinators and the Pollinated: On property under conservation easement with the Greater Lovell Land Trust, local beekeeper Guy Pilla will share the inner workings of his hives. We'll then walk the surrounding forest and created meadows as we examine plants the bees utilize for nectar and pollen, and discuss how to best increase the bee friendliness of your own property. The crème de la crème-sampling local honey!

Trailhead: Meet at the Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library to carpool
Degree of Difficulty: Easy

August 24, 2017, 9:30am-noon

This and That: While most of our walks have a theme that we try to stick to, today, we'll journey along the trail at the Chip Stockford Reserve and enjoy whatever tickles our fancy.

Trailhead: Ladies Delight Road
Degree of Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

September 2, 2017, 9:30am-12:30pm

A'journaling We'll Go: Get inspired by Back Pond Reserve's beauty and reflect about the natural world around you. Bring your own journal and writing utensils. This will be a stop-and-go walk as we pause frequently to sketch, draw, photograph and/or write about our observations.

Trailhead: Ron's Loop, Back Pond Reserve, 5 Kezar Ponds Road, Stoneham
Degree of Difficulty: Easy

October 21, 2017, 9:30am-2pm

Shell Pond Spectacular: As we circle Shell Pond, we'll pause periodically to take in the glory of the autumnal display and enjoy the view of the White Mountains from the air strip. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Don't forget your camera.

Trailhead: Shell Pond Road/Evergreen Valley Road, Stow (not at the gate on Stone House Road)
Degree of Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

November 11, 2017, 9:30am-12:30pm

The Wonders of Wilson Wing: Members of the younger generation will share their favorite wonders as we walk beside Sucker Brook. It is hunting season and though no hunting is allowed on this particular property, we strongly encourage you to wear blaze orange.

Trailhead: Horseshoe Pond Road
Degree of Difficulty: Easy

December 9, 2017, 9:30am-12:30pm

Christmas on Flat Hill: On our hike to the summit of Flat Hill, we'll stop along the way to decorate a few trees. And at the summit, we'll take in the distant mountains while also noting the evergreens that surround us, including red pines.

Trailhead: Heald Pond Road
Degree of Difficulty: Moderate

January 1, 2018, 12:30-3:30pm

First Day Hike: Let's ring in the New Year with an afternoon hike as we climb to the summit of Whiting Hill. At the top, we'll toast Lovell with hot cocoa while we take in the view of Kezar Lake and the White Mountains.

Trailhead: Slab City Road
Degree of Difficulty: Moderate

Indoor Evening Programs

July 5, 2017, 7:30pm, Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library

The Art of Preserving Land in Perpetuity: Executive Director Tom Henderson will kick off our summer talk series by explaining the art of preserving land in perpetuity. What is a conservation easement? What makes it such a powerful tool for land conservation? The GLLT holds conservation easements on 36 properties for a total of 2,508 acres or nearly 50% of the land conserved. Participants will be introduced to the structure, strength, nuances and potential pitfalls of such perpetual agreements.

July 12, 2017, 7:30pm, Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library

Lookin' at Lichens: Lichens are a combination organism that occur in large numbers in Maine. They come in a huge variety of colors with odd and remarkable forms. They are often overlooked because of their small size and challenging identification. Maine Master Naturalist Jeff Pengel will share photos and discuss some of the peculiarities of lichen biology. He'll also show specimens of many common and unique lichens.

July 19, 2017, 7:30pm, Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library

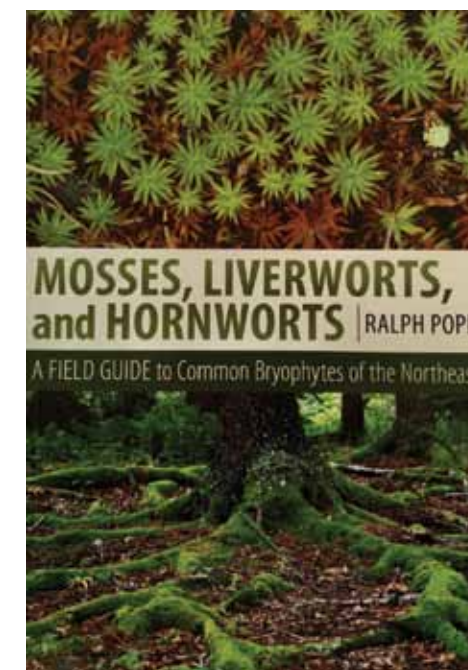
Native American Medicinal Plants: Kerry Hardy, author of *Notes on a Lost Flute*, will combine photos of native plants with a sampling of the written accounts of dozens of the earliest explorers, missionaries, historians and researchers, telling how Native Americans used the plants. He'll include a bit of linguistic analysis, showing how a plant's name can provide clues to its perceived medicinal importance. The discussion will include the ritual and spiritual importance of some plants.

July 26, 2017, 7:30pm, Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library

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.

August 1, 2017, 7:30pm, Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library

Mosses, Liverworts and Hornworts, Oh My! Ralph Pope will introduce mosses and their close allies, the liverworts and hornworts, with a brief discussion of how they fit into the larger scheme of biodiversity. The evening will include a look at some bryophyte ecol-



ogy, and finish with a primer on collection and identification. Copies of his recent book, *Mosses Liverworts and Hornworts*, will be available for purchase.

August 9, 2017, 7:30pm, Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library

The Youth Among Us: For the last few years, the GLLT has sponsored interns who learn all about land conservation and work with the education department. The land trust has also hosted a weekly nature program for the Lovell Recreation Summer Camp. Join us to listen to the interns and summer campers as they share their learning experiences.

August 16, 2017, 7:30pm, Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library

Beekeeping in a Changing World: Local beekeeper Guy Pilla will discuss hive management and the impact of world trade on hive sustainability. He'll also show us some of the beekeeping equipment that he uses for his hives.

August 23, 2017, 7:30pm, Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library

Evolution of the Maine Lake Science Center: In this talk co-sponsored by the GLLT and KLWA, Dr. Ben Peierls, research director of Lakes Environmental Association's Maine Lake Science Center, will share the journey that brought him to the Center. He'll also discuss the latest activities and research the Center is undertaking and how our local water resources compare to others in Maine and beyond.



July 18, 2017, 10am-noon
Change and Transformation Poetry

Workshop: Poet Judith Steinbergh will conduct our third annual workshop co-sponsored by the GLLT, Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library and Hewnoaks Artist Colony. Together we will read and discuss lyric poems in various styles, and draft poems or short prose connected to our natural world, and our own lives and relationships. Adults and teens are invited to attend. Please sign up at the library.

Location: Hewnoaks Artist Colony, Route 5

July 25, 2017, 7-8:30pm
Change and Transformation Poetry

Reading: Enjoy the inspiring poems by participants of the Hewnoaks Poetry Workshop. Even if you couldn't attend the poetry workshop, you are welcome to join us and listen, or share a poem of your own. An open mic for children and adult writers will conclude the evening.

Location: Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library

August 11, 2017, 1-2pm
Wild Turkeys are More than Just Big Chickens

Have you noticed all the Wild Turkeys strutting about our woodlands? That's because they have made a remarkable comeback from near extinction and now number in the millions. Did you know that you can distinguish a turkey's sex by the shape of its poop? Bonny Boatman will provide a lighthearted pictorial tour of facts and stories about this ubiquitous creature with which we share our outdoor space.

Location: Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library

August 18, 2017, 1-2pm
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 Memorial Library



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 Preserve 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 2017, tree, lichen and plant signs will be placed on Perkey's Path at the Flat Hill property from July 1st through Labor day for the self-guided tour. Directions to the parking lot can be found at www.gllt.org.

Walk on Perkey's Path to read about the various species. Each plant label shows a picture of the tree, lichen or plant, plus the key identifying characteristics you will observe. Many of these species may be found on other GLLT properties as well.



Owl Girl by GLLT member Mary Atkinson

Share your love of time spent in the natural world of western Maine with a young reader in your life. When you stop by the GLLT office and purchase a copy of Owl Girl, you will support the mission of the land trust. The GLLT receives 100% of book sales made through the office. Check it out on our website: gllt.org.

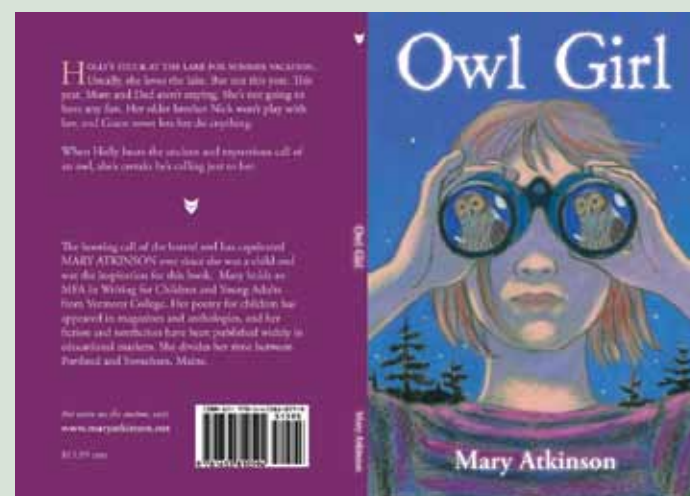


PHOTO: JOHN MCKEITH

Established by Maine voters in 1987, the Land for Maine's Future program celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. In three decades, LMF has conserved more than 150 special places, totaling over 600,000 acres. It has made Maine a more desirable place to live and raise a family, while strengthening some of our state's most important industries, including tourism, forest products, agriculture and fishing.

Expanding Public Access

Securing guaranteed public access to the outdoors has been central to LMF's mission from the beginning. Through the addition of new public lands, the program has greatly expanded the availability of world-class outdoor recreational opportunities for citizens and visitors alike. Locally, LMF funds were used to purchase the popular Sabattus Mountain state park. The Lovell Conservation Commission, with assistance from the GLLT, proposed the first purchase of 90 acres provided by voters in the 1987 bond approval. LMF funds were again used in 1992 to add 75 acres to the property.

Supporting Community Partnerships

The bonds approved in 1987 and 1992 were restricted to use by the State of Maine to acquire land for the citizens. In 1999, the legislature broadened LMF's mission to include investments in land trust and municipal properties. This change served as a catalyst in communities across Maine, spurring partnerships among landowners, municipalities, small businesses and other local organizations. In 2007, the GLLT received \$153,000 of LMF funds to aid in the purchase of what is now the 598-acre John A. Segur Wildlife Refuge at Sucker Brook.

Bolstering Local Economies

LMF has a long track record of protecting land vital to the state's forest products, agriculture, tourism and commercial fishing industries. The program has conserved 40 farms, 24 commercial waterfronts, and more than 250,000 acres of working forestland. At the same time, LMF's efforts to expand public access for outdoor activities including hiking, hunting, birdwatching, snowmobiling and fishing have greatly benefited the state's tourism economy.

Broad Public Support

The program was established under a Republican administration and received renewed funding proposals from the Independent and Democratic governors who followed. In the legislature, LMF bond questions have always enjoyed broad bipartisan support. Maine people have also strongly endorsed the program at the ballot box—comfortably passing bond measures to fund the program in 1987, 1999, 2005, 2007, 2010 and 2012.

Future of LMF

Over the past few years the program has faced unnecessary delays for political reasons. Yet, just like in 1987, there are still special places in every corner of the state where LMF investments would enhance local economic prosperity and improve the quality of life for Maine people. Despite recent political challenges, LMF is well-positioned to begin a new chapter of land conservation in the years ahead.

In the meantime, there has never been a better time to get out and enjoy the incredible work that LMF has already accomplished. Take a moment this year, with friends and family, to experience these special places for yourself. To learn more visit: <http://www.landformainefuture.org/>



Serving on the committees and governing boards of our land trusts in the Upper Saco Valley has always been a pleasure, and for many of us perhaps a compulsion. Preserving natural lands, waters, and the ecosystems they comprise is to preserve life as we know it. Of late, however, these land trust communities also have come to feel a bit like the sanctuaries we create for other forms of life. We have no shortage of issues and critical decisions before us, but within the Greater Lovell and Upper Saco Valley land trusts our deliberations are courteous and constructive, and our friendships intact, while public affairs beyond our walls seem ever more polarized and inflamed by political, racial, and socio-economic class differences. (So it appears, at least to this writer, who speaks for himself in this commentary.)

It surely is no secret that American government and politics today are beset by extremism, hostility, and gridlock in Washington and in many of our states, as blaring media headlines and shrill commentators remind us every day. Our public interest has long been buoyed by a proliferation of voluntary organizations bent on good works; but these days the news is full of those who are resorting to lawyers and demonstrations, in confrontation with each other, with corporate interests, or with government agencies of all stripes. We should hope that Year Seventeen of this century will not become a medical milestone as politics induce chronic hypertension.

There is no reason to think that land trust members are any less engaged than most Americans in many civic concerns or campaigns. Nevertheless, the partisan politics of the moment seldom seem to cross the thresholds of our land trust meeting places and boardrooms.

An historian by profession, necessarily immersed in explaining politics and governance, this writer lately realized that I knew with certainty the political loyalties of not a single member among the two land trust boards of directors with whom I have served for some years. When asked, the executive director of one land trust could come up with but a single board member of whose political affiliation he was certain. His curiosity piqued by my question, he queried a group of other Maine land trust executive directors. Their responses were similar.

The fractured state of American politics is more readily explained than are the cultures within land trusts. Historians, political scientists, and other scholars have been tracing the decline of legislative consensus for the past half-century. We, the voters, bear much responsibility. Too few vote in primary elections. Many of us also have become independents, either uninterested or legally unable to vote in party primaries. Thus we have ceded the selection of final candidates to those with extreme opinions.

Several generations ago there were two wings of each party in Washington. Unlike their more opinionated fellows, substantial contingents of moderates on both sides could "reach across the isle" in Congress to find common ground and pass bills in the interest of moving forward. Even if no one was fully satisfied these "centrists" could compromise.

Surviving moderates now are scarce and seldom heard, muted by extremists of the left and right, and by news media that deal in hyperbole and controversy for the sake of revenue. Put simply, we've lost our political center.

Yet no such rift seems to bedevil our land trusts. There is no shortage of pointed debate in our committees and boards, but we find our way to common ground. Why so? Commitment to our mission, quite likely: protection of lands, waters, and ecosystems for generations to come.

Indifference to socio-economic classes among us likely has a bearing as well. Those who populate our committees, governing boards, and lists of contributors range from wealthy landowners to lawyers, educators, realtors, business interests, vacationers, trail bikers, rock climbers, town selectmen, foresters, small farmers, students, and more. Diversity is no obstruction to community when we share a mission.

A clear purpose does not mean our operational methods remain static, however. We've grown and changed, and soon may take up an ambitious new initiative. Our educational programs for many years have shared with the public the natural habitats found along our trails and waters. But that's likely not enough. Our ecosystems may be facing existential threats and there is pressing need to provide the public with accurate information, identifying dangers we can foresee with reasonable certainty, and investigating possibilities that currently are uncertain.

We have set ourselves to systematic research, which we may share with the public and our governmental agencies. Land trusts are worthy of this role not because we're politically biased, but because we aren't. You may be confident we won't be speaking for Republicans or Democrats, for the right or for the left, or for any economic interest group. We'll be voices of reason rather than rancor, speaking for the ecosystems and all their forms of life.

News From the Kezar Lake Watershed Association

Jim Stone, President

Summer is fast approaching and the KLWA Board has been meeting monthly to get ready for this year's activities. Our mission, as stated in our By-Laws, is to "preserve and protect the watershed." Among the efforts we undertake in that regard, two of the biggest are our water quality monitoring program and Lake Patrol; and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the value they contribute to the community.

As I'm sure you know, the KLWA is the only organization monitoring water quality in our watershed. We will again be conducting regular testing in Kezar Lake and the area's ponds. New this year will be the installation of buoys in the Upper and Lower Bays to constantly track temperature and dissolved oxygen at varying depths, which will provide data to help

us better understand and monitor changes in those important parameters. This program enables us to identify anomalies at an early stage and take appropriate actions. Without this program we are at risk of incurring environmental damage that goes unnoticed until it reaches an advanced stage making any remediation, if possible, more difficult and more expensive.

The Lake Patrol boat will be on the water again this summer and I am happy to tell you that Tyler Wilson has again agreed to serve as its officer. Tyler's experience and temperament make him well-suited for this job. His efforts will focus on encouraging safe boating practices and include reminding boaters in the sensitive "No Wake" zones to maintain an appropriate speed, thereby lessening the risk of shoreline erosion.

I also want to give you an update on the US Forest Service's Albany South project. As you may know, the Forest Service is considering a potentially significant timber harvest in the Great Brook and Beaver Brook watersheds. The KLWA has maintained an active dialogue with the Forest Service focused on the identification of all streams in this area and timbering practices to protect them. The Forest Service has recently advised us that they now expect to release their draft decision notice in the June/July timeframe. We will review that and keep our membership and the community informed of our assessment of potential risks to our watershed.

Finally, we will host our Annual Meeting on July 8, 2017, at the VFW Hall in Lovell beginning at 8:30am. Please join us.



Lovell Recreation Summer Nature Program

In our third year of collaboration, Greater Lovell Land Trust docents will work with Meg Dyer and her camp counselors to offer a weekly nature program for children participating in the Lovell Recreation Day Camp. Each week, we will visit a different GLLT reserve/preserve to explore the world around us as we hike. The children will learn cool stuff together while deepening their sense of community, self-confidence and an appreciation for the natural world.

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."



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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