



Photo: Carolyn Lewey

## Great Kids! Great Teachers! & Great Places for Learning

By Tom Henderson

It seems that once again the GLLT has expanded its education program with specific offerings for the Lovell Summer Recreation program and the Maine Environmental Science Academy (MESA) at Molly Ockett Middle School. Leigh will tell you about the Lovell Rec program and let me tell you about MESA. The GLLT began partnering with MESA in 2014 to offer programs that complimented and enhanced the curriculum being designed by the teachers. You may recall my sharing earlier of our adventures at Great Brook.

This fall we were asked to present three days of programming, two on forestry and a day at the Kezar Outlet Fen exploring wetland habitats and species. I have to tell you, these seventh and eighth graders are impressive. They and their teachers arrive prepared and engaged, having done some research on the topic and with questions they hope to answer. They follow my former professor's mantra of "there is no such thing as inclement weather, just improper dress." I can quite honestly say, I have never led a group of 32 kids and three teachers into a boggy, wet-over-the-top-of-your-rubber-boots place, that displayed such enthusiasm, excitement and outright joy.

It was October 16 and the day was supposed to be cold and rainy. We embarked from the bus ready with rain gear to explore the mysteries of the fen. Before I could even start, we were treated by a visit from a northern harrier, a large raptor species that often hunts the wetlands of the fen and at Sucker Brook. After a brief discussion about fens and the very important role they play in water storage and flood control, water filtration and habitat, the students were instructed to keep their ears open and eyes ready to capture a possible encounter with the flock of eleven sandhill cranes.

They took turns carrying the two wood duck boxes that Scott Lusky had made for us and which we planned to place at ideal locations. After crossing the first drainage, some of us still had dry feet and some did not, but high-pitched shrills seemed to erupt from everywhere. And smiles and laughter abounded. I failed at good planning and design to actually place the wood duck boxes on the trees, but they learned how to do it, how not to do it, as well as how to GPS the location so they can return and assess the use and success by opening the boxes and counting egg shells and unhatched eggs. They seemed a little skittish when told before

opening a box that they should rap on it to see if anyone is home as often grey squirrels or flying squirrels will charge out. They also learned how a short section of stove pipe wrapped around the tree can help ward off predators like raccoons and snakes.

Then we walked deeper into the fen, heading north toward Lower Bay. I stopped at a beaver canal, which was muddy and silty, indicating we had spooked off a beaver with our approach. After we discussed how to identify the canals and why they build them, we paused to watch a low flying "V" of Canada geese pass just over the tree tops.

We heard a few calls and one student said, "Here comes another." I replied, "No, that is the call of sandhill cranes!" These majestic birds rose up above the tree tops just long enough for all to see their size, grace and beauty and I heard it exclaimed, "This is a number ten MESA day on a scale of ten!"

By now they were really pumped and anxious to get to the place where they could gather wild cranberries. You would have thought it was Christmas morning! Their giddy smiles, laughter and delight at finding an abundance of the perfectly ripened berries melted away the storm clouds, with never a drop of rain reaching us, and soon the sun

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poured out over the fen. In no time at all, they learned how to find the cranberries, slightly elusive under the taller sedges, grasses, laurels and leatherleaves, and how to pick more cranberries than they stepped on. One young lady told me as we picked, "This is the best day ever. Thank you for taking us to this place!" Still others were thrilled to know they could return with their families anytime and collect more. Some bragged about all the yummy treats they would help make at home. Still excitedly picking over an hour later, the teachers called it quits for lunch. I estimated that 20-30 gallons of berries went home and at least two gallons went back to school for the students to use in their cooking class.

Here are two quotes sent to me by the teachers from their students:

From Ian Jacobson: "Thank you Tom at GLLT for bringing us to the cranberry bog. This was one of my all time favorite outings we have been on. I learned a lot from this trip. I hope you give this opportunity to many other classes/schools in the future."

From Padric McGrath: "Thanks Tom! I had a really great time and it was lots of fun picking cranberries and learning about new things such as coppices and fens. It was a really great time!!! Thanks!"

Professionally, I know how vitally important introducing children to the wonders of nature is and all of its magical offerings and the GLLT does a great job of it. Personally, I love being around such youthful spirit and energy with their compassion for experience and learning. I find it just as rewarding and empowering as experiencing the power of the northern harrier, the grace of the sandhill cranes and the persistence of the cranberries in an otherwise hostile environment. So much so, I wanted to share this day with you.

## President's Message by Rob Upton, President



I love coyotes and I love the fact that there are coyotes in the Lovell region, thanks in some part to the GLLT. Why do I love coyotes? They are the essence of wilderness. There is no sound more wild than the howl of a pack of coyotes.

We had lived in Lovell less than a week when I first heard it. I shot out of bed and ran to the kitchen to make sure our dogs did not go out to confront them. Not a worry. The dogs were curled up on their beds and clearly understood they did not want to meet the pack. Since then, when I hear that wonderful howling, I remain in bed and enjoy the show.

I also love coyotes because of the balance they help keep in nature. There have been periods of time when the pack has moved to other places. When that happens, the chipmunk and rodent population increased dramatically, and boy, are they pesky little creatures that take a great deal of effort to control. I greatly appreciate how the coyotes perform that control for me.

When I first made inquiry about why these wonderful creatures existed here, I learned about their ability to adapt to habitats around humans, but strong need for large ranges of wild places to roam and thrive. When they began arriving decades ago, they discovered the greater Lovell region was ideal because of the expansiveness of the forest and the variety of habitats it offered. Around that time I learned of the GLLT's focus on setting aside large blocks of habitat with corridors or land bridges between them, through conservation easements and acquisitions. Here, coyotes and other wildlife have unencumbered passage through and around our towns and villages to the more wild places for them to hunt and thrive within. That was it! I was hooked on the work of the GLLT.

Because of my love of coyotes, I was thrilled that our Annual Education Meeting featured a presentation from Geri Vistein, a conservation biologist who has focused her work on carnivores and in particular, coyotes. She pointed out that coyotes, in addition to keeping rodent populations in check, also prevent the spread of disease. According to Geri, the bacterium for Lyme disease is carried by these rodents that infect the ticks that feed on the deer population. By keeping the rodent population down and by keeping the deer population in balance, coyotes suppress the expansion of the tick population and the spread of Lyme disease.

When Geri finished her presentation, I realized to an even greater extent how important the work of the GLLT has become. By creating some permanence of habitats, "wild places" and the land bridges between them, we are providing a home for the incredible carnivores, establishing greater biodiversity and helping to prevent the spread of a terrible disease. Join me for a loud howl for the GLLT! I love coyotes!



Photo: Carolyn Lewey



# Notes from the Desk

by Tom Henderson, Executive Director

"I don't always know what I am seeing, but I usually know when I have never seen something before!" These were the words I excitedly offered my colleagues at the Back Pond Reserve when my eyes beheld dozens of pinkish-lavendar orchids.

It was the summer of 2006 and the land trust had just entered into a Purchase and Sales Agreement to buy 110 acres behind Back Pond at the beginning of the Kezar River watershed. My colleagues were Properties Commission members Rick Johnson and the late Ron Gestwicki and Ron Schutt. Together, they were leading the fundraising campaign on behalf of the GLLT to raise the money needed to complete the purchase.

Our objective that day was to walk the property and catalog the natural features present including flora and fauna, assess hiking trail opportunities and discuss long-term forestry objectives. We never expected to discover an orchid listed as "state endangered" and surely not in large numbers.

*Triphora trianthophora*, commonly known as Nodding Pogonia or Three-Birds Orchid, grows to a height of three to twelve inches with small oval leaves clasping a slender stem, almost appearing leafless. The pale pink flowers bloom in August and early September, however, the plants may not even appear above ground every year.

Our field survey had taken us to a "plateau" at the base of a steep section of ground, a common feature scattered across the landscape. These hillside depressions are mini, enriched forest sites where leaves and vegetative debris collect as water frequently filters through the rich, organic humus depositing nutrients from the upslope sites. Tree cover is nearly all beech, setting the stage for the perfect conditions preferred by Three-Birds Orchid.

Rick, the two Rons and I were all taken by the large number of flowering plants and Ron G. took several photos, which were overexposed, unfortunately. We followed the base of the hillside to search the next depression, where to our delight we found dozens more. Our field trip ended abruptly as thunder clapped, warning us of a rapidly approaching—as they do in that area—thunderstorm from behind the mountain and thus not visible to us. We made it down the hillside with only seconds remaining before the rain began.

A few weeks ago, I received an email and photo image from long-time volunteer Parker Veitch. His cousin Melissa was hiking at the Back Pond Reserve and sent him a photo of a woodland turtle "playing in the mud." Parker quickly and accurately identified it as an Eastern box turtle, *Terrapene carolina*, with endangered status in the State of Maine. It is only verified present on six sites in Maine, one of which is on the GLLT's John A. Segur Wildlife Refuge. State turtle experts validated that it was a young female, suggesting a larger population.



Photo: Melissa Loewe

The next week, I spent the better part of the day searching for what Derek Yorks of the Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department described as "the most elusive reptiles I search for." Despite an end of the day effort of plunging elbow deep into the mud to discover a burrowed turtle, we found none that day. He told me that in September they have already gone to their hibernation destinations and that the location for this turtle was ideal overwintering habitat.

He then asked me how this location could be related to the Saco River, a suspected travel corridor for the advancement of Eastern box turtles in Maine. He said the turtles prefer to move through sandy floodplains. I described to him the Kezar River and explained how it was a continuous network of sandy floodplains, glacial outwash and glacial lake deposits from the Five Kezar Ponds to the Saco River. His assessment of the landscape was that this riparian corridor was the likely avenue that led the turtle to Back Pond. This is specifically the region that the GLLT identified in 2007 as the Eastern Wildlife Habitat and Corridor Focus Area, where we have been proactively seeking to build a contiguous network of conserved lands to support viable native wildlife populations through the

preservation of the habitats upon which they depend. Very exciting.

Another exciting development for local conservation and wildlife is the recent arrival of a flock of sandhill cranes. The sandhill cranes arrived three years ago and have returned each season since. These magnificent birds were once common in Maine but populations declined around 1900, eventually disappearing from the summer landscape. Sandhill cranes began returning to the state in the early 1980s and the reason for their long absence is not well understood. This flock of approximately twelve individuals seems to be attracted to the marshy wetlands of the GLLT's 265-acre property, the Kezar Outlet Fen at the south end of Lower Bay. They also seem to favor gleaning the nearby cornfields in Fryeburg Harbor during fair week as the silage is cut.

Sometimes we do not always know what gems we are preserving when we set land aside for uses that are compatible with nature. We know we have something beautiful or maybe the property is a priority parcel that can support a larger vision such as the GLLT's Eastern and Western Wildlife Habitat and Corridor Focus Area. We can always identify very important conservation values such as wetland habitats, water quality preservation, highly productive forestland or opportunities to support public recreation. But knowing that a woodland orchid that may only show itself every seven years or that a population of the elusive box turtle thrive on the property are not always realized until years later.

Setting land aside and maintaining its functional integrity such as the Kezar Outlet Fen may have many unknown rewards in years to come such as its discovery by the cranes. For the past ten years, the land trust has focused its land preservation on building a network of connected lands and land bridges between them. We know that the healthy functioning of forests and wetlands is critical to the habitat needs of our native species and to the natural filtration of our water and bigger is frequently better. We may not always readily see all that are benefiting from the land we set aside or anticipate the many new creatures that will later discover them, but preserving healthy ecosystems in large scale promises to yield exciting results. It is thrilling to know that to do so may provide more delightful surprises yet to be discovered.

# Wi-Fi Free in Western Maine

For several years the GLLT has focused on the importance of “connectivity” as it relates to the habitat needs of wildlife. Large blocks of forest and wetlands, and land bridges connecting them, are vital to the preservation of viable, native wildlife populations. This time it is not about “connectivity,” but “disconnecting.” Ironically, the GLLT is encouraging families to “disconnect” and get themselves and their children off their smart phones and computers for a technology-free vacation in beautiful western Maine.

Recently, the Board of Directors approved a two-year trial program whereby members and the general public may enjoy a short term or extended stay at Whitney Pond, electronic free in a comfortable, remote setting.

Beginning in the spring of 2016, the GLLT will make available for rent a 20 x 30' two-story, well maintained, rustic cabin overlooking Whitney Pond and surrounded by 64 acres of conservation land in a remote setting.

Are you looking for a quiet retreat on a small pond in a remote setting without many modern comforts-or the distractions of today's technologies? Then this is the place for you. If you like the quiet and solitude needed to search out and recreate your inner being, this is the place for you. If you enjoy a camp setting where you can immerse yourself in some simple daily chores such as carrying your wash water from the pond or bringing firewood in, and you enjoy “supervising sunsets” in a pristine setting, this is the place for you.

Before making reservations, potential guests should understand the nature of the remote setting and its rustic amenities. These offer a century-old experience uncommon in western Maine. Henry David Thoreau would be right at home at this cabin overlooking Whitney Pond. There is no electricity or running water. Utilities (e.g. lights, refrigerator and cook stove) run on propane. The bathroom is an outhouse. The swimming is enjoyable but can intimidate those not accustomed to the tannin-stained brown waters of Maine's shallow, warmwater ponds.

The cabin includes an upstairs sleeping loft with two double beds and room for more if guests bring padding. The downstairs includes a living room, kitchen, bedroom with double bed and two bed-length window benches with cushions and room for a few more people to sleep on the floor if they bring pad-



ding. A covered porch off the first floor offers a commanding view of the pond and sunsets.

It is important to note that the GLLT Board of Directors views this trial program as a natural extension of our Environmental Education Program. It does not view it as a source of new income but a unique opportunity to offer people extended time to explore rich and personal experiences with nature. Through such experiences the GLLT aspires to engage people in the natural world and instill a deep appreciation within them for its preservation.

The cabin is located 1.7 miles into the woods on a logging road, which requires a vehicle with good clearance and a cautious driver.

The normal rental season will be from May 1st through October 31st, with off-season availability upon request. The cabin is available by reservation only (through the GLLT Web site) for \$35 per person per night. Children 12 and under are free. The maximum per night fee is \$125 in hopes that affordability for all is achieved, especially for large families or multi-family guests. The recommended minimum stay is 3-7 nights, with the possibility of longer stays by special arrangement in advance. Each person making a reservation will be asked for contact information so that a land trust representative can be in touch before the start of the rental period and afterward, if needed. Reservations will open February 1, 2016 for members only and then open to the general public beginning March 1, 2016. Non-members wishing to secure a reservation during the month of February will be given the opportunity to become members and make a reservation.

Photos: Jim Owen



In a *Wall Street Journal* article, published on March 5, 2015, entitled “Family Vacation Must: No Wi-Fi,” author Cecile Rohweeder reports on families seeking vacations “with the ulterior motive: to get their children off their cellphones and computers.” She reports on summer camps, resorts and dude ranches from Maine to Colorado that have intentionally decided to disconnect or not connect and offer only device-free experiences. Demand is increasing and popularity is high. The feedback from guests is overwhelmingly positive with one mother stating: “They never missed their devices.”

The GLLT has tried to remain on the cutting edge in providing community benefits in all that we do. We hope the opportunity for this device free, extended time in nature will meet just such a need at a time when families are yearning for it. More information is available on the Web site at [www.gllt.org](http://www.gllt.org) or by calling the office at 207.925.1056. We look forward to a great first season for our guests and 100% satisfaction by all. Disconnect and make new connections with the natural world around you.



# GLLT Education Programs

text & photos by Leigh Macmillen Hayes

The life of a GLLT docent is extremely busy year round, but especially so during the summer months.

We began the 2015 season with a one-day docent training workshop. This year, we met at the newly acquired Whitney Pond property for a time of education and exploration. In the morning, two of the docents, Susan Winship and Joan Lundin, shared their knowledge of fern and tree bud identification with us. We spent the afternoon practicing our newly acquired skills.



And then we jumped into our weekly roles as trip leaders. In total, we led eleven spring, summer and fall walks (in addition to five winter activities). Prior to each walk, the trip leaders spent time on a pre-hike, noting places to stop and share along the way. The average attendance on walks was sixteen, though a record 39 participants climbed Lord Hill with us on a warm day in August.

We changed things up with our evening natural history talks. In the past, these always occurred on a Wednesday night. This year, we offered three on Tuesdays and three on Wednesdays. The average attendance was 30 and one day didn't seem to outweigh the other, so we'll continue this format going forward.

One of our docents was among the guest speakers. Bonny Boatman made four presentations, including an owl talk in February and three bird talks this summer—one in the evening and two during the afternoon.

The docents also stepped out the door each week for a Tuesday Tramp. This is a time for us to walk the different trails and wonder together. We learn from each other and build camaraderie along the way. We often laugh be-

cause we may spend two or three hours only a short distance from the parking lot—there's so much to see and learn out there. Of course, this is a come-when-you-can activity, so if you are thinking of becoming a docent, please don't be scared away by the time commitment.

This summer, we added a new activity that proved to be successful—a nature program for the Lovell Recreation Department. Each Wednesday in July, one or two docents introduced the kids and the Rec counselors to a different aspect of the natural world. We used the Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve as the home base and took several short and one long hike.

That's not all, several of the docents were instrumental in creating the self-guided nature walk temporarily installed at the Fairburn parking lot. While the signs identifying the shrubs and trees remained until Labor Day, they also updated a list of blooming plants, which they posted on the kiosk each week.

In addition, a couple of us updated the self-guided nature walk at Wilson Wing Moose Pond Bog Preserve. Weather and insects had affected the signs that were installed about twenty years ago. We replaced those with ten new signs indicating cool finds and facts along the trail and in the brook.

And then there was Family Fun Day. The docents and others played a key role in offering interesting activities for participants, including hikes, scavenger hunts and even a



bird-house building session.

Though some of our docents head for warmer climes as the leaves change color, many of us live here year round so we will continue to offer walks throughout the seasons. For our winter/spring schedule, look at the calendar on page 6.

We also continue our Tuesday Tramps on an every other week basis. Once we have snowfall, these expeditions become focused on animal tracking, though we've been known to stop and wonder at anything we see along the way. If you'd like to join us for a winter tramp, send me an email: [lmachayes@gmail.com](mailto:lmachayes@gmail.com).

And if you think you'd like to participate as a docent, please let me know. We are planning a natural history course for new docents, which will take place on a weekday in early summer. Watch the spring/summer newsletter for more details.

The GLLT education program continued as strong as ever this year due to the dedicated docents who volunteer innumerable hours both on and off the trail. Hats off to Ann Johnson, Bob Winship, Bonny Boatman, Carol Gestwicki, David Sears, Dennis Smith, Ellen Smith, Janet Mahannah, Joan Lundin, Kevin Harding, Linda Wurm, Moira Yip, Pam Katz, Parker Veitch and Susan Winship.

# Winter/Spring Hikes



The Greater Lovell Land Trust walks are free and open to the public. Look for "Land Trust Walk Today" signs posted on Route 5 and leading to the trail head.

Be aware that though dogs are welcome on some properties, we ask that you not bring a pet on a GLLT-sponsored walk. Thank you for your cooperation.

Walks last approximately three hours, so please dress for the weather conditions and bring plenty of water and snacks.

## **Saturday, January 9, 2016, 9:30am**

**The Joy of Winter Weeds:** Join us for a snowshoe hike at the John A. Segur Wildlife Refuge on New Road in Lovell. Along the way, we'll take a close look at winter weeds and even examine some of their seeds under the hand lens and field microscope.

Trail Head: New Road, Lovell  
Degree of difficulty: Easy



## **Saturday, February 13, 2016, 9:30 am**

**The Art of Seeing:** Animal tracks abound in winter snow and tell us something about the mammals who inhabit Lovell. Join us for a snowshoe hike at the Wilson Wing Moose Pond Bog Reserve as we search for animal prints and try to gain a better understanding of the mammals that pass through this property.

Trail Head: Horseshoe Pond Road at the Kiosk, Lovell  
Degree of difficulty: Easy



## **Friday, February 19, 2016, 6:45pm**

**An Evening with Owls-**Listen for the "Who cooks for you?" call of the Barred Owl or maybe even the seven-noted hoot of the Great Horned Owl on this nighttime owl prow. Under the night sky, we will call out to owls in an attempt to receive a vocal response. Be prepared to spend at least 45 minutes in the woods and dress appropriately. Head lamps or flashlights are important for the short hike and snowshoes may be useful if deep snow is present.

Trail Head: Meet at the GLLT office for a brief introduction. We'll carpool to trail.  
Degree of difficulty: Easy



## **Saturday, March 12, 2016, 9:30 am**

**Which Birch Is It?** The birch or Betula family is a group of trees or shrubs that include the birches, alders, hornbeams and hazelnuts. We'll explore the Chip Stockford Property, pausing to examine the characteristics of the various birch trees we meet along the way. Snowshoes may or may not be necessary.

Trail Head: Ladies Delight Road, Lovell  
Degree of difficulty: Easy



## **Saturday, April 23, 2016, 9:30 am**

**Vernal Pool Exploration:** You'll want to wear your rain boots as we explore a vernal pool in search of amphibians. We'll listen for the songs of the spring peeper, wood frog and gray tree frog. And we'll search for egg masses. If time allows, we'll also walk to Otter Rock to search for life at the edge of Heald Pond.

Trail Head: Fairburn Parking Lot, Slab City Road, Lovell  
Degree of difficulty: Easy

## **Saturday, May 21, 2016, 8:00 am**

**Birds and Botany:** Our eyes will search high and low as we look for warblers in the treetops and spring ephemerals blooming near our feet. Bring your binoculars and field guides. You'll want to wear waterproof hiking boots or rain boots to traverse Perky's Path.

Trail Head: Flat Hill parking lot, Heald Pond Road, Lovell  
Degree of difficulty: Easy

## **Have you considered naming the GLLT in your estate plans?**

Everyone has the capacity to leave a legacy to the organizations they care most about. There are a number of simple ways you can make a lasting gift for local land conservation. The GLLT has established a Pooled Income Fund with the Maine Community Foundation, which can be named as a beneficiary in your will, IRA or charitable trust. Please contact us for more information on this and other options available to provide a legacy for future generations.



# Small Rewards

adapted from my Web site:  
[wondermyway.com](http://wondermyway.com)

by Leigh Macmillen Hayes

## March 2015

Small Rewards are huge in my book of life. Today's Mondate (Monday date) found us climbing The Mountain at GLLT's Back Pond Reserve.

Since yesterday's precipitation, no one had traveled down the Five Kezar Ponds Road—except for the red fox and snowshoe hares that crossed it. We know the red fox marked its territory as it moved along, because even though we didn't climb over the snowbank to follow its tracks, we could smell the skunky scent. Seems a bit late in the year for that, but this year, everything is a bit late.

Hi Ho! Hi Ho! It's off to climb we go. Oh—be thankful you can't hear me sing. My voice is as flat as the [newsletter] you are staring at and someone reminded me that enough was enough.

Pausing along the way, the ponds were coming into view. It won't be long before leaves obscure this. That's one of the things I'll miss about winter, which I know must come to an end eventually. But it provides us with sightings we might not see during other seasons.

Like this. I was scanning the landscape, with the hope of finding this. And I was rewarded. Yes, this tree has a case of beech bark disease and exhibits the perennial cankers, but look toward the left of the trunk and you'll see the pattern of bear claw marks.

As we continued to climb, we were also rewarded with a variety of animal tracks, from mice and squirrels to snowshoe hare, weasels and porcupines. I really wanted to see bobcat, but it wasn't to be. I've seen their tracks and coyote tracks here in the past. The thing I should remember is that I need to live in the moment and enjoy what I see, rather than have expectations of what I want to see.

The view opens to several of the ponds at Five Kezars—Back Pond, Middle Pond and Mud Pond. Pleasant Mountain and Shawnee Peak Ski Area are in the background.

As we started down the connecting trail, marked with orange blazes, the flat and floppy growths of rock tripe lichen jumped out at me. Though it's supposed to be edible, I think

you have to do some severe boiling and who knows what else to eat this. I'm not about to try, but what I do appreciate is that rock tripe changes with the weather—from leathery and brown to pliable and bright green.

I've saved today's best reward until almost the end. Do you see it?



How about now?



This guy was big. As were its eyes and ears. Eyes on the side—born to hide. A prey animal for predators like bobcats.



My, what big feet you have. And to you we gave thanks today for our snowshoes.

We crossed the bridge and then sat on a rock to eat lunch. PB&J as usual. And the final reward—homemade brownies. Life is good.

Thanks for stopping by for another wonder-filled wander. I hope you found today's tramp as rewarding as I did.

## News from the Kezar Lake Watershed Association

Jim Stone, President

It was a beautiful summer in the Kezar Lake watershed and I hope all of you had an opportunity to enjoy our unique environment. If the lake water seemed clearer to you, as some have remarked to me, you were correct. Our latest water quality test showed clarity to 10.56 meters, a new record. Tests of other parameters of water quality showed no significant trends; and we continue to enjoy one of Maine's most spectacular natural resources.

During the summer the KLWA continued our traditional activities:

- funding and manning the Lake Patrol boat
- testing regularly the water quality of the watershed
- managing the loon platform program
- continuing the development of the Climate Change Observatory
- organizing outreach programs to encourage broader knowledge and appreciation for our environment

New this year, we joined with the Town of Lovell to evaluate road culvert effectiveness as part of an effort to reduce/eliminate point source pollution coming into our watershed. These efforts identified fifteen culverts needing repair; and the Town has begun a program to remediate these problems.

Finally, I'd like to summarize our activities regarding the US Forest Service's Albany South timbering project, parts of which could occur in the Great Brook watershed at the north end of Kezar Lake. The Great Brook watershed accounts for 30% of the water coming into the lake. Logging, if not done carefully, could result in a reduction of trout and salmon in the streams and increased sediment flowing into the lake itself. In response to these risks, the KLWA has had regular contact with the US Forest Service to help them identify all the streams in the area. We are encouraging them to require larger buffers to those streams, which should significantly reduce the risk of damage to the watershed. We also held a well attended informational meeting at the Charlotte Hobbs library in September. The Forest Service currently expects to release a preliminary plan in late October/early November. Their plan and our comments will be available on our exciting new website: [klwa.us](http://klwa.us)

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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."



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