

Newsletter

Winter 2017/2018



PHOTOS: JOTHAM OLIVER



School is Open!

By Tom Henderson

September means the return to school for the students of the Maine Environmental Science Academy (MESA) at Molly Ockett Middle School in Fryeburg. I recently met the 35 students in this year's program for two field trips.

The students of the MESA program learn by active engagement in their surroundings. The GLLT partnered with MESA this fall in delivering field trips to the Kezar River Reserve and the Kezar Outlet Fen as part of their semester study in ecological systems.

We first met at the Kezar River Reserve where the topics of the day were going to be geology, wildlife habitat, and forest succession and growth. The reserve sits atop a large glacial lake bed that extends from Hiram, Maine, to Glen, New Hampshire. The flat terrain is actually the lake bottom that measures 50-70 feet deep of sediment in places. Within the reserve, "ravines" disrupt the smooth terrain with a 3-dimensional, v-shaped form. This feature results from a geological process called "headwall erosion," a feature uncommon on the east coast.

Our focus began at a point where a small stream flows over relatively flat terrain before disappearing underground. As we followed its course, the students saw that the stream occasionally rises to the surface only to flow underground again. After a short distance, the beginnings of a v-shaped bank becomes evident. Here, the ravine also begins to exhibit its v-shaped widening. Instead of the water eroding the soil by flowing over it and scouring it downward like the Saco River, it erodes the fine sediments of the lake bed from underground. Hence the v-shapes form as the walls and "roof" collapse into the flow, where it is carried away by the water's journey.

While that was interesting enough for middle schoolers, what they really wanted to see was the quicksand. We returned to the point where the stream first disappears underground. A short distance along the underground course brought us to a wet area that measures about 20 feet by 20 feet. They thought it looked innocent enough and not at all what they expected. They were expecting

a wet sandy beach, instead of the moist grass and muck. One adventurous boy was even willing to test it, of course, but was not permitted to take his science lessons that seriously. We know from experience that it is at least 11-foot deep and also know that there are small pockets of quicksand in the area, especially in the Sweden Plains.

After we explored the various wildlife habitats and discussed the two-aged nature of the forest, we settled down on the shores of the mill pond. Here, I opened up a question that was part civics, part ecology and part cultural. I explained to them that the citizens of Lovell were trying to decide the future of the dam that created Mill Pond. If the dam is repaired, the land trust property has forest land that lines its shores. If the dam is removed, the pond will drain and a new environment will evolve, that of a broad meadow with a thin thread of the Kezar River.

—continued on page 4



My twelve-year connection with the Greater Lovell Land Trust came to pass through a chance encounter not long after my wife and I swapped the southern White Mountains for Brownfield, Maine. A newfound friend, a land steward for the GLLT, was about to migrate to the state we'd just left. Somehow she coaxed us into joining her for a meeting of the land trust's Properties Commission, which creates the trails through its fields and forests, and keeps them open for the public.

We dutifully attended the meeting and introduced ourselves, but our friend never appeared; and somehow before that meeting adjourned I had become her replacement. I'll refrain from revealing her name, to protect the guilty, but I still complain to her whenever our trails cross. She knows it's in jest.

It seems as if I was destined to be an "environmentalist." Time spent as a youth anywhere but along the streams or in the woods of Vermont was time begrudged, as was that of many years spent in metropolitan colleges and universities, refining an historian's craft, and that of academic administration. But I appreciated my profession most profoundly when it brought us to the destination on which we'd always fixated.

We won't again be pried from the North Country. I'm a constant patron of its ecosystems through the work of the GLLT, as are so many of our members, year-round and seasonal residents alike. The lady who lured me to this land trust knew me too well, it seems, and here I remain.

I'm something of an anomaly: the first GLLT president who is not a "local" - a towns person or seasonal resident within its designated service area. Brownfield lies forty minutes to the south. It was not proximity, but the clarity

of focus on its mission, its particular location, and the foresight of its decisions on behalf of our ecosystems that lured me and keeps me committed.

It's very difficult these days for any public agency to avoid distraction, given the climate of political dispute and socio-economic polarization that now gridlocks Washington and often state governments, while sowing partisan attitudes that often seep into the affairs of other organizations. Among the committees and the directors of the GLLT, however, deliberations typically are amicable, constructive, and on point. We likely are no less engaged than other Americans in many civic concerns or campaigns, and the socio-economic differences among us are no less diverse. But here the politics of the moment rarely intrude. Other land trusts in Maine have reported the same phenomenon. We're bound up in dedication to our purposes, evidently.

We've recently discovered just how essential the GLLT's service area truly is. Scientists of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), a flagship organization from which the land trust movement emerged, have conducted research to assist conservationists in protecting ecosystems in the face of an uncertain climatic future. Geophysical settings and elevations are primary factors that foster a variety of micro-climates within a given area, they have told us. The presence of such micro-climates can maintain a healthy diversity of life forms over time. Ecosystems thus may remain resilient even in the event of broad, regional climate changes if local terrains contain corridors that enable migration within them.* 1

Participants in TNC's workshop at the Maine Land Trust Network Conference in April 2017 were galvanized by one conclusion in particular: The most resilient area along the East Coast of the U.S. is in fact the spine of mountains in the state of Maine! This results from the great variation of elevations and geophysical characteristics. The service area of the GLLT, indeed, is to be prized and protected, not only for the potential resiliency of its own ecosystems, but for critical migration corridors into the rest of this mountain chain.

Thanks in particular to the leadership of our Executive Director, Tom Henderson, we're ahead of the curve in this respect. For 31 (50% volunteer and 50% staff years) years he's helped us identify, purchase, and protect healthy, contiguous properties that provide not only passages but also a greater variety of micro-climates to sustain species diversity. We're now considering ways to expand this initiative.

I believe this is the right land trust, in the right location, at the right time. We have here the common will, the experience, the direction, and the committed membership to manage the future on behalf of our plants, animals, humans and natural landscapes; all situated in a terrain of mountains and waters as fine as any in the American Northeast. Where better to invest one's time and effort?

*1. [file:///C:/GLLT/Global%20warming/ED_Resiliency%20Fact%20Sheet_full%20region_07112014%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/GLLT/Global%20warming/ED_Resiliency%20Fact%20Sheet_full%20region_07112014%20(1).pdf)

* Dr. Smith currently teaches a course in the ecological and cultural history of New England, at Granite State College in the NH University System.

Annual Appeal

This is the time of year we ask for 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 in 2017 will support the Environmental Education Director's and Executive Director's positions delivering the high quality of programs, projects and services you have come to expect.



White Heron



American Bittern



Golden Eagle

It was a trip to the science museum in Boston that began my lifelong interest in birding. I was seven years old and my aunt and uncle invited me to join them and their foster children for the trip. As I recall, it was not the museum or the spam and egg salad sandwiches we ate along the way, but my aunt's insight and thoughtfulness prior to the trip that made it so special.

As we departed for Boston, she handed me a copy of *Peterson's Guide to North American Birds*. I was immersed throughout the two-hour drive down and back. I flipped one page after another just looking at the pictures and asking myself if I had ever seen that bird. It had never occurred to me before how many different birds I had seen or that I knew the names of many. Once delighted in that knowledge, I was hooked.

The land trust owns and cares for over 3,000 acres, much of which features highly-valued habitats that our native species require. In particular, the wetland habitats of the John A. Segur Wildlife Refuge and the Kezar Outlet Fen provide breeding grounds for at least twelve species of federal concern. The American Bittern, a species still on my bucket list, breeds in both. Michelle Luongo, a local photographer, provided the accompanying photo. This bird is highly cryptic, meaning it blends into the surrounding landscape. Both that fact, and its habit of standing motionless while hunting, makes it very difficult to observe.

My visits to the fen over the years have nearly always yielded sightings of the Northern Harriers that hunt the wetlands. This has also been true for the students in the MESA program at Molly Ockett Middle School on their annual cranberry picking trip (see page 1 article). Merlins can also be frequently seen in both wetland systems.

Sandhill Cranes that are native migrants to Maine for unknown reasons, disappeared from our landscape around 1900. These tall,

white, majestic birds have "top hats" of black and red feathers on their crowns. Sandhill Cranes began returning to Maine around 1980, again for an unknown reason. The fen has hosted a flock of them since 2009. They have a flight display like none I have ever witnessed. They spiral upward in a flock that mimics a spiral staircase. With necks and legs extended, the last crane moves to the front and then the next moves forward and the next, a dance of constant motion. I was treated to that display three years ago—a highlight for me. This October was the second year the MESA students got to see the flock and hear their constant vocalizations, but not yet the flight dance.

Unfortunately, I did not see the heron subspecies captured here again by Michelle Luongo. It is a white form of the great blue heron that usually resides in Florida. This avian tourist took a trip to Maine this summer and enjoyed some time around Kezar Lake.

Also since 2009, many have witnessed mature and immature Golden Eagles throughout the region and often hunting the open landscape associated with the Lake Kezar Country Club. Golden Eagles are known to migrate through Maine to get to their breeding and hunting grounds in Canada, but not known to breed in recent decades in Maine. The accompanying photo was taken in late July during the brooding season, not the migration season, by summer intern Dakota Ward. It was riding the updrafts on a late summer morning off the ledges of Sabattus Mountain.

I have had many close encounters over the past eight years with these resident eagles. Their size and power awe me. My recent encounter was previously unimaginable and the

treat of a birder's lifetime. I was heading south on Route Five on a blustery day. The road was quiet as I approached Lake Kezar Country Club. A blast of wind carried leaves and dust across the road from the first fairway and out of the sky dove a mature Golden Eagle. He/she flew south along Route Five, up and down nearly a foot off the pavement at the apex of its dive, and back and forth from road shoulder to road shoulder like a snowboarder competing in the pipe. At first, I might have thought it was out of control due to the strength of the wind gust. But that fleeting thought was replaced by an acknowledgment and deep respect for its power to not only remain under control, but seeming to be thoroughly enjoying itself. With the road still empty, I slowed the car. The bird turned and flew behind my car, then turned around and came alongside the driver's window, as if to wink like a fighter pilot pulling up along his comrade to give a thumbs up. I stopped. It soared forward, turned and came, windshield high toward the car. As it approached and the wind still raged, it pulled up just feet from the windshield, exposing the distinctive undermarkings of its plumage. I pulled the car onto the shoulder and took a moment to absorb this encounter. A truly memorable moment for this birder.

These birding adventures enrich my life and the lives of many. They are possible due to the quality and quantity of diverse habitats that meet the specific needs of these species and others. They persist in our region due to the care given them by those that came before us. By setting some of these properties aside for conservation purposes going forward, we preserve habitat. In addition, we provide for rich encounters for ourselves and our children. And we honor those who once cared for these places and for all others who call them home.

In our spring newsletter, I look forward to reporting on two or more new land conservation projects that promise to continue this work.

Since the land trust had been asked for its opinion, I explained that the GLLT was neutral on the question and that it was up to the citizens. Then I asked the students for their opinions. Most said it would harm the aquatic life that needs the pond and we should favor dam repair. A couple asked what it would look like if the pond drained? If drained, the previous habitat of grasses, sedges and wetland meadow-type plants would slowly return. This would create habitat that is highly valued by other species at the expense of those dependent upon the pond. As an environmental organization, we value both. I did say that if the decision is to remove the dam, the land trust and the MESA program would then have a multi-year opportunity to study emergence of a new habitat and be able to compare it to what it may have previously been.

In mid-October, we took our annual trip to the Kezar Outlet Fen. We started the day 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 in the habitats they offer.

The water is filtered of natural sediments, nutrients, and contaminants, and then slowly released through the sand as clean water to the acquirers and streams. The students were quick to point out the need for human and aquatic life to have such high quality water to meet their needs.

As we descended upon the cranberries in the fen, a Northern Harrier soared over the grass and kettle pond to the delight of us all.

Clearly the highlight of the day was the picking of cranberries. After some instruction on where and how to find the berries and a cautionary note not to step on more than they picked, the students excitedly fanned out across the fen. Most hiked back to the bus with more than a half-gallon of the reddish gems.

Before loading up for their journey back to school, we were graced by the flock of sixteen Sandhill Cranes and listened to them calling to each other.

These students are kids that learn best from rich experiences using skills to complement their education. I sometimes refer to them as "sensory learners." My field trips with them inform me that the habitat and hydrological values of our properties are not the end all. Through our organization's work of protecting and preserving the ecosystems of the Kezar Lake, Kezar River, and Cold River watersheds, we're also providing a wonderful opportunity in meeting the needs of these young learners.

Summer Internship Program



Have you climbed Sabattus Mountain lately? Perhaps you have had the pleasure of visiting our new property at Long Meadow Brook. Did you hike the trail at the Kezar River Reserve, Chip Stockford Reserve, or spend time at the John A. Segur Wildlife Refuge this summer or fall?

If you did any or all of these, your visit was made more pleasant by the hard work of our ambitious and enthusiastic Summer Intern Team made up of Dakota Ward, Kelley Attenborough and returning intern Hannah Rousey. While the goal of the summer internship program is not to get a lot of work out of them, we certainly do! With nearly 32 miles of hiking trails and 11 trailheads to maintain, the concentrated effort of these three was invaluable this summer. Their mark is everywhere.

The actual goal is to introduce local young people to every aspect of what we do, in the hopes that they may remain or return to our community as leaders with a conservation ethic. To that end, the interns are treated to a complete immersion into the everyday functions of the land trust, from delivering environmental education programs to drafting and monitoring conservation easements, to delving into how to efficiently and effectively operate a not-for-profit business.

Recently, Dakota Ward shared his thoughts about the experience:

"I came to the Greater Lovell Land Trust Internship without a clear idea of what to expect, and if I would enjoy it . . . yet, I was pleasantly surprised. Starting with the valuable time spent with Tom Henderson, Leigh Hayes, and the wonderful docents to learn about the natural world surrounding our area, and continuing throughout the summer with the weekly talks and walks, I found there was

always something new to learn. And learn I did, about everything from conservation easements, to the various species of ferns, and the proper way to build a water bar to prevent trail erosion (which we put into good use in our efforts working on the Sabattus Mountain Trail, which the GLLT maintains). We learned about practically every aspect in the land trust! I then could share my knowledge through the Lovell Recreation program, and hopefully inspire future generations of GLLT interns.

My fellow interns (Hannah Rousey and Kelley Attenborough) and I have shared many amazing experiences over the last several months that are sure to provide me with many wonderful memories. . . . we even saw a bear! I cannot thank them and all of the people that have taught me so much over the last months enough. The GLLT is an amazing organization, and I am very grateful for the opportunity I had to work with it. If you are a young conservation-minded person (and who shouldn't be? This is our future, and we should be aware, and a part of it) I would highly recommend applying for the GLLT internship."

The three interns left their mark of enthusiasm for nature on the campers of the Lovell Summer Rec Program. They constructed 32 stone waterbars on Sabattus Mountain, which should hold up for decades. They installed new trails at Long Meadow Brook Reserve and built robust benches in the two view sights. They widened, weed whacked and cleared trails at several other reserves. And they even began to design the trail for the new property at Lower Bay for construction in 2018. Perhaps the mark that will endure just as long is the positive and enthusiastic impression they made upon all of us through their interactions with us.

Profile in Volunteering

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Greater Lovell Land Trust. We appreciate all who donate their time and efforts on behalf of nature and the natural areas we cherish.

Once a year we choose an outstanding volunteer to profile. This year we'd like to recognize the work of Vanny (pronounced Vah-nee; the "va" like vanilla) Nelson, a summer resident of Lovell.

Last spring, we received an e-mail from Vanny inquiring about joining our docent program. At that time she was completing her sophomore year at the Pingree School in Hamilton, Massachusetts, but was eager to attend our docent training day in early July, Tuesday docent tramps, and work with us as we provided nature programs for the Lovell Recreation summer campers.

Vanny is a science/ecology/education lover who wanted to explore her options as she begins to build her college path. And so . . . in what seemed like warp speed because summer always passes quickly, she jumped in and joined our team.

During her first venture with us at our docent training, we overwhelmed her with information about how to use a wildflower identification key. But . . . she came back. The next day, Vanny met docent Joan Lundin and Intern Hannah Rousey at the Kezar River Reserve for our first Lovell Rec nature program of the summer, which focused on insects. We expected about ten kids to get off the bus that day, but like the ants we were going to show them, they kept marching down the steps one by one and the group included over twenty youngsters.

From the very beginning, Vanny fit right in, helping Hannah lead the group from Route 5 to the kiosk, as they marched in threes—each set representing a head, thorax, and abdomen. The kids sang the chorus of "The Ants Go Marching One by One," while Vanny and Hannah took turns with the refrain.

And so it went for the rest of the summer. As often as she was available, she helped with the rec program and came on Tuesday Tramps to learn more about the natural world.

When she noticed on the docent calendar that no one had signed up to lead a late August hike at the Chip Stockford Reserve, Vanny and one of her mothers, Deb, volunteered to meet me for a pre-hike and then led the way, sharing knowledge of various sights along the trail.

Usually, new docents match up with others and do only some of the research and talking for a guided hike. Not so with Vanny and Deb. The two took the bull by the horns and made a point of learning and preparing without a third docent. Following our pre-hike, they did their homework and made it all the more interesting by sharing tidbits they'd learned—and their enthusiasm.

Vanny was the real star of the show (sorry Deb), for she began with a twinge of shyness before a group of adults and then got into the swing of it. Smiling and animated, it quickly became obvious that she was having fun while she shared her knowledge.

As participants left that day, they made a point of telling me how much they enjoyed the walk. One gentleman even said that walks such as this made him realize how much he's missed all his life.

Overall, we were wowed by Vanny's willingness to join our group of volunteers, especially given the age gap. Our experiences were enriched by having a teenager along for the journey.



Announcing the 2017 Marion Rodgerson Scholarship Award

In honor of one of our earliest easement donors, the GLLT offers a \$1,000 scholarship each year to a graduating senior at Fryeburg Academy. We are pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the Marion Rodgerson Scholarship, as selected by a team of Fryeburg Academy Teachers and staff, is Taylor Kruger of Fryeburg, Maine.

Taylor states, "Ever since I was a little girl, nature has been a part of me. One of the most vibrant and colorful memories of my childhood is the long walks I would take with my family in the conservation center. Tired out from my constant explorations into the forest, I would ride piggy-back on my dad the whole way home. Luckily, my zest for exploring nature did not tire out as quickly as my four-year old legs—in fact, it grew and grew as I got older and progressed through my schooling.

Now, I am off to Colby College to study environmental science with a focus in chemistry, and I could not be more excited about it. I hope to learn as much as I can about the inner workings of the Earth we are so lucky to inhabit, and to help discover new and improved ways to protect and respect it. Every time I step into any part of nature, whether it is on a nice long hike up into the breathtaking mountains, or a day spent crashing into the waves on the coast, I am awestruck by Earth's beauty, and I feel an intense responsibility to do my part in conserving and preserving the sheer majesty it offers us. Hopefully, college will help me open those opportunities and I will be able to give back even the tiniest amount to the planet that gives us so much."

Marion Rodgerson owned an old farmstead in Lovell off the West Lovell Road. She deeded the GLLT a conservation easement on the property prior to her death. The easement limits future uses of the property that would have detrimental impacts to the water quality of the lake and the scenic enjoyment along the West Lovell Road. The property includes 1600 feet of Kezar Lake shore frontage, two fields, the old farmhouse and over 30 acres of forestland. The easement limits development while permitting traditional agricultural uses and forest management.

Marion Rodgerson embraced the GLLT's mission and protected her land soon after we incorporated, in hopes that it would encourage many others to do the same. We established the scholarship in her memory to honor her convictions by supporting the next generation of citizens that appreciate our natural world and our role in caring for it.

The GLLT wishes Taylor Kruger all the best in her educational and professional pursuits.

Our summer season was filled with walks and talks attended by many. We also again co-hosted the poetry workshop and open mic poetry reading with the Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library and Hewnooks Artist Colony.

But perhaps one of our most important activities was the weekly nature program we provided for the Lovell Recreation Department. Of course, when Lovell Rec Director Meg Dyer and I sat down last spring to coordinate this year's offerings, we planned on twenty participants, give or take a few. We thought we'd found the magic formula by hosting two sessions. The first group would consist of younger campers and we'd provide a hands-on learning experience with some hiking in the mix. Each week they'd be bussed to a different property.

About an hour or so after the first group had started, the second group of older campers would arrive. For them, the focus would be more on hiking, for as they were quick to tell us, they wanted, "More walk, less talk."

In a perfect world, it would have worked. The twenty or so campers would be divided into lopsided halves since we knew that they'd have more younger than older attendees. And then, when Meg finally finished sign-ups a few days before, she sent me a message stating that there would be about thirty. Well, that number quickly grew and we worked with about forty campers each week. Over the winter we'll tweak our plans again because offering a nature program to such a large group isn't always easy—especially when we hike in a single-file fashion along some of the trails.

Because of the success of the summer program, those of us who live here year-round (and a few straddlers this fall) have volunteered our time to offer an after-school program called Trailblazers at the New Suncook School. Our group is small by choice—we wanted up to eight in the program and actually have three to five on any given week. We play nature games, create crafts using natural materials, and spend some time learning more about the world around us. Always, we have a plan, but sometimes our nature distraction takes over and that's a great thing. One afternoon, we happened upon a web that one of the boys spied and so we spent some time watching a bumblebee try to escape the clutches of a spider. The spider ate a fine meal that night.

The program runs for five weeks. Because of its success, the docents and I have agreed to offer a winter after-school program that will focus on tracking and the winter landscape.

And as you can see by our schedule in this newsletter, we also have many other fun adventures scheduled. Dress for the conditions, don your snowshoes, and join us on the trail.

Like the Greater Lovell Land Trust on Facebook



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



Endowment Fund Campaign Update

Toni Stechler, Chair

The members, volunteers, and staff of the Greater Lovell Land Trust are doing a wonderful job in preserving this beautiful area we enjoy, educating our children and young adults about the environment, taking care of properties and trails for the public to enjoy and where wildlife can flourish, training our docents to lead fascinating hikes that provide great learning experiences, and fostering a deep appreciation of nature.

To be certain that the GLLT will continue to thrive and will have professional expertise to protect this valuable resource for the community, the Board of Directors decided to embark on a campaign to raise an additional \$1 million for our Endowment Fund. To get us started, our board has contributed more than \$100,000 to the fund, and a number of donors have begun to pledge contributions so that we have raised approximately 25% of our goal.

You may have attended one of our parties this summer, where we talked about the GLLT and enjoyed meeting many new people. We plan to continue these gatherings for another year. Let us know if you'd like to be invited. You can meet some of our board members and your neighbors, and learn about our goals for continuing to protect the land you love.

If you are interested in contributing to the Endowment Fund, contact Tom Henderson, and we will set up a brief meeting to talk about your wishes.

Guided Hikes

Saturday, 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 appreciate a few trees decorated by local home-schooled children. And at the summit, we'll take in the distant mountains while also noting the evergreens that surround us, including red pines. Snowshoes may be necessary. **Trailhead:** Heald Pond Road

Degree of Difficulty: Moderate



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

First Day Hike: Let's ring in the New Year with our second annual First Day hike. We'll climb to the summit of Whiting Hill and toast Lovell with hot cocoa while we take in the view from Kezar Lake to the White Mountains. Snowshoes may be necessary. **Trailhead:** Fairburn Parking Lot, just beyond the boat launch, Slab City Road

Degree of Difficulty: Moderate



Saturday, January 27, 2018, 9:30am-12:30pm

Following in the Footsteps: Join Maine Master Naturalists from the Greater Lovell Land Trust and Western Foothills Land Trust as we follow in the footsteps of the mammals who call this place home. We'll snowshoe through the meadow and beside the outlet at Robie Meadow in Harrison, stopping frequently to measure prints and notice patterns in the snow. Snowshoes recommended. Also bring a snack and camera. Be sure to dress appropriately. **Trailhead:** Robie Meadow, Scribner Mills Road, Harrison

Degree of Difficulty: Easy



Saturday, February 3, 9:30-noon

Wetland Wonder: In celebration of the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend, we'll explore on and off the trail at John A Segur West Preserve. If conditions allow, we'll venture beside or even into the wetland. Snowshoes recommended. **Trailhead:** New Road, Lovell

Degree of Difficulty: Easy

Friday, February 23 2018, 6:45pm-8:30pm

Owl Prowl: For this evening hike, we'll use our expert owl caller to give you the experience of hearing wild owls. Species that are most often heard are Barred and Great Horned Owls. Keep in mind that these are wild owls and there are no guarantees. Snowshoes, headlamps or flashlights a must. **Trailhead:** Meet at the GLLT office to carpool

Degree of Difficulty: Easy

Friday, March 2, 2018, 6:30-8:30pm

Under the Glow: Experience nature from a different perspective, under the glow of a full moon. We'll strap on snowshoes or cross-country skis and savor the crisp air and nighttime landscape. Bring a headlamp or flashlight. Hot cocoa provided. This event is co-sponsored by the Lovell Recreation Program. (Need snowshoes or skis? Let us know by noon on March 2.) **Trailhead:** Lake Kezar Country Club, Route 5

Degree of Difficulty: Easy

Saturday, April 21, 2018, 9:30am-12:30pm

Life in the Pool: It's become an annual tradition to visit the vernal pool where we typically discover wood frog and salamander eggs, as well as the crème de la crème—fairy shrimp. We'll dip some bowls and take a closer look. If time allows, we'll walk to Otter Rock where we may see dragon and damselfly exoskeletons. **Trailhead:** Fairburn Parking Lot, just beyond the boat launch, Slab City Road

Degree of Difficulty: Easy

Saturday, May 12, 2018, 9:30am-12:30pm

Enchanting Ephemerals: In celebration of spring, we'll savor the fleeting moments of glory as we spot emerging flowers and leaves. Bring your binoculars, because we should spy some warblers as well. **Trailhead:** Flat Hill parking lot, Heald Pond Road

Degree of Difficulty: Moderate



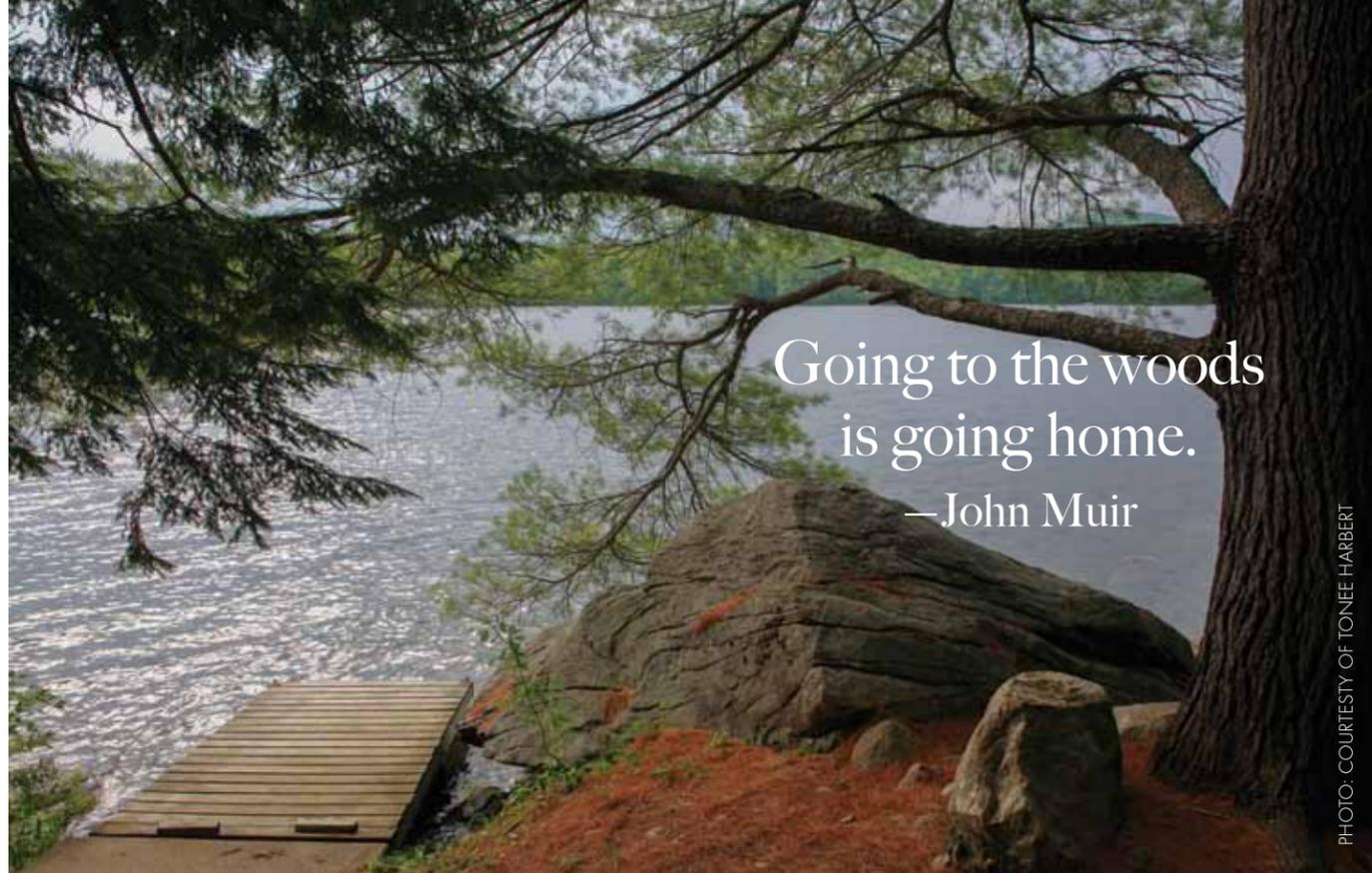


PHOTO: COURTESY OF TONEE HARBERT

Going to the woods
is going home.
—John Muir

Wild Ride Home
by Judith Steinbergh

Mazzy's in his booster in the back seat,
rolling home from pre-K,
discussing his day, well... me asking,
him mumbling something, as we drive through flickers
of late fall; scarlet and golden leaves tumble along
the roadway, while dusk sweeps blue away.
We curve, we bend, we turn toward East
at the main road by the college; students cross,
flashing caution lights behind them;
fuchsia streaks adorn a grainy dusk,
the Reservoir holds silver in the evening light.
Then huge as Jupiter approaching,
translucent as a Chinese lantern, papery,
ephemeral as a luna moth...
What the heck! we shout,
driving toward the rising moon, born
out of earth, dripping from the sea, emerging
from the road ahead, obscuring
city towers, palming the horizon.
The circle of the pond is milk, the moon
a gauzy haze; Oh gravity, set free and let
the pallid face of moon arise...
as we near home, safely
tugged by family tides.

The woods always fill me with awe
by Pam Katz

So raw
So complicated
So much unknown

Shine a Light on the World
by Ken Rose

Sun spread your rays to all,
Make the grass grow tall.
Create a glow on every race
And a smile on each face.
Nature's shadow gives pause,
That we must be true to cause,
Open hearts and mind,
To all mankind.
Illuminate the sky,
Let the birds fly,
May flowers bloom in fields,
To have us lower our shields.
Creation is a miracle to see,
Hearts will fill with glee,
Honor everyone at home,
Let no one be alone.

Waiting
by Dina Dubois

I am waiting	to find Susan's voice.
I am wanting	to see through her eyes.
I am wondering	how to jump
	how to scurry
	to nibble words.
	Watch
	Wander
	When?

Friday's child is loving and giving
by Susan Welchman

A lucky life stands before you,
Uncommon to my thinking.
I have so much of everything,
While the world around is sinking.
Neither sick nor poor, tired nor lonely,
I've got ideas and hope, love and friends -
What I have is yours for the taking.

Porch Rockers
(for Allen)
by Leigh Macmillen Hayes

Side by side
they sit
on the porch at camp,
reflecting a life shared.
At once
worn and tattered
with scuffed floor below,
but still a comfortable place
in a heavenly spot,
just right
for morning breakfast
and an occasional crossword puzzle,
evening repose
and our days' story.
They provide a view
on the world beyond
where loons call,
eagles soar,
chipmunks gather,
stars glimmer,
and we watch.
Sometimes we rock in silence
or converse about issues.
A table between
holds our cups and food
and books and newspapers,
giving us space
to be our own selves
while pulling us together
with the loads we carry.
Each piece of cane
and all four armrests
know us intimately,
having heard
our joys and concerns.
And still
they invite us
in the light of the day
and the dark of the night
and provide support
as we grow old together.
These are our porch rockers
and we are theirs—
forever.

**Appreciating the
Homestead Trail of
Heald and Bradley
Ponds Reserve**

by DB Reiff

Maybe it's the scent. Or the majesty. Or
the mystery. The woods have always called to
me, perhaps none so fervently as the trail up
Mt Sabattus. I had hiked it almost every day
of our two-week Kezar Lake vacation for the
last 25 years.
But three years and five surgeries ago
I had to abandon Sabattus because no
amount of yearning could haul me and my
crutches up the trail I loved so well. Of the
many activities injuries have taken from me,
hiking has cost dearly.
Now, thanks to the GLLT, I have new
woods and a new trail I can navigate. The
handicapped-accessible Homestead Trail's
gentle slopes are "hikeable," even on crutches.
I can commune with the settlers and their
homes' stone foundations and root cellars.
I can gaze at the sun playing on the leaves
and needles of a panoply of trees. I can
watch mosses and mushrooms grow anew
each day. Best of all, I can smell the baking
pine needles and decomposing vegetation
renewing the forest floor.
I haven't given up on Sabattus, but the
Homestead Trail will always be a place I can
go to when the woods beckon.



**Thank you to the
Volunteers of the Lovell
Fire Department**

We are grateful to Chief Mckenzie and
the volunteers who took several hours out of
their family time on a Sunday and during the
Patriots football game to ensure a fire ignited
on one of our properties did not become a
much more damaging and dangerous event.
On Sunday, October 1, 2017, a property
steward for the land trust received a report of
an underground fire smoldering at the John
A. Segur Reserve along the banks of Sucker
Brook. A Lovell Volunteer Firefighter was con-
tacted, who reported the fire to Chief Tommie
Mckenzie. Six volunteer firefighters arrived
on site and after much hiking and searching,
located and extinguished the fire.
Such fires occur when campfires are
improperly built on organic soils. They can
smolder in the peat and semi-decomposed
material for extended periods of time before
erupting into full scale forest fires.
It was duck hunting season and evidence
at the site suggests an unauthorized campfire
possibly made by some duck hunters. Hunting
is permitted on most GLLT properties, but open
fires are not permitted on any GLLT properties.
The one exception is at the Whitney Pond
cabin where there is a permanent enclosed
outdoor fire pit built on mineral soil and brick.
The GLLT extends its thanks to all members
of the Lovell Volunteer Fire Department.



News from the Kezar Lake Watershed Association



Jim Stone, President

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer in our beautiful watershed. It was a busy summer for the KLWA as we undertook two new initiatives.

KLWA installed a state-of-the-art weather station and webcam on the edge of the lake just south of Boulder Brook. The output from these devices can be viewed on any computer or mobile device that has access to the internet at the following address: KLWA's website (klwa.us) and Weather Underground (Boulder Brook site Station ID: KMELOVEL4).

The weather station measures rain and snow precipitation with a Doppler radar sensor, and wind speed and direction with ultrasonic sensors. We have also included a water temperature sensor to measure the lake water temperature at about three feet depth. Other measured parameters include the following: temperature, barometric pressure, and relative humidity.

The webcam has a 90° view of the lake, western mountains (from Baldface to Speckled), a local land view of trees and a snow depth gauge.

KLWA's Climate Change Observatory (Don Griggs and Heinrich Wurm) collaborated with Lee Attix from the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) in Portland to successfully obtain a grant to study the Common Loon population in our watershed. The project, entitled "Sustaining the Loons in the Kezar Lake Watershed: A Community's Response," will allow KLWA and its volunteers, along with scientists from BRI, to launch a two-year in-depth assessment of the demographic pattern, health, and reproductive success of the Common Loon in our watershed. This foundation-funded study will be unique in scope among western Maine lakes.

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, we also joined with the GLLT to 'preserve and protect' our watershed from the possible negative environmental impacts of announced development plans in the north end of the Lake.



An Update on Evergreen Valley

Early this summer, after years of tranquility, a large tract of previously developed land within this scenic resort location came up for sale. The prospective buyer announced plans to develop the area into a venue where large crowds would gather to enjoy camping along with Oktoberfest-like activities. Since Evergreen Valley is entirely within the Cold Brook watershed and Cold Brook is a major tributary to Kezar Lake, KLWA and GLLT jointly formed the Cold Brook Committee to protect this environmentally sensitive area from development detrimental to the health of the watershed.

In August, the Cold Brook Committee was formed to represent the interests of KLWA and GLLT and to work with concerned citizens to coordinate alternative plans and solutions. Working with the firm of Drummond Woodsum, the Cold Brook Committee is reviewing local ordinances and Maine DEP regulations designed to protect the watershed. The Town of Stoneham has passed a Mass Gathering Ordinance which is an encouraging first step in this direction. The Cold Brook Committee is continuing to coordinate a number of strategies to protect the watershed and ensure that the Evergreen Valley property is developed in a well-planned and environmentally appropriate manner."

Heinrich Wurm for the Cold Brook Advisory Committee.

Meet Our Newest Board Members



Bob Katz and his wife, Pam, spend much of the year in Chatham, New Hampshire, and have been involved as docents with the land trust for several years. Bob's earlier experiences include undergraduate and graduate studies in natural resources and fisheries with work as a field fisheries biologist. His professional career has been as a doctor of veterinary medicine, with a small animal practice in Stuart, Florida. We welcome Bob as a new director.



Deb Nelson and her family are comparatively new summer residents of Lovell. Enthusiastically exploring what it means to be a steward of this beautiful place, Deb and her teenage daughter became GLLT docents this year. Deb is a licensed psychologist and health services provider in Massachusetts, with extensive experience in supervision, management, strategic planning and customer service. She is also an educator, having held lecturer positions at Boston University and Harvard Medical School, as well as teaching yoga to middle school students. With her extensive board experience, we look forward to Deb's participation.

In a letter to the Board of Directors, Deborah writes: "We have thoroughly enjoyed the many land trust events we have attended and the wonderful people we have met. I am looking forward to contributing some of my time, talents, and enthusiasm to the great work of the land trust, and meeting and making new kindred friends along the way."



Reserve time at the Whitney Pond Cabin now. The off-the-grid cabin has become increasingly popular. 2018 is likely to be another robust season. Do not miss out on this unique opportunity.



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Contact Information:

Tom Henderson, Executive Director,
207.925.1056, tom@gllt.org
Leigh Macmillen Hayes, Education Director,
Newsletter Editor and Photographer
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."