



■ Box 181, Center Lovell, Maine 04016 • (207) 925-1056

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2005

President's Report **REWARDS AND CHALLENGES**

The twentieth year of the Greater Lovell Land Trust has been rewarding in many ways and we are enthusiastically beginning our 21st year. Simply stated the GLLT is doing very well indeed. I would like to share our successes and describe the challenges we see going forward.

We have fully implemented our goal adopted in the Long Range Strategic Plan of providing a staffed, full time office in Lovell, and have found this presence to be a valuable resource to the organization, its contributing members and the communities the trust serves. Our full-time Executive Director, Tom Henderson, has done an outstanding job in representing the organization in the community, in facilitating and upgrading the effectiveness of each of our committees and has worked closely with volunteers to implement our proactive land protection program. He is planning a number of informative conservation sessions to be held this winter and to hold some GLLT sponsored winter activities as well. He is available daily from Tuesday through Saturday throughout the year at our new office at 208 Main Street in the Lovell village and can be reached at 207 925-1056 or by e-mail at tomgllt@earthlink.net.

The land trust has been pursuing several potential conservation easements which will protect lands important to the history, culture and natural resources of our communities. Protecting conservation values through easements keeps the land in private ownership while maintaining our capacity to meet our conservation objectives. Stay tuned as we anticipate announcing two new easements before year end.

We are actively involved in negotiations for significant protection of Sucker Brook and Farrington Pond and additional properties in the Sucker Brook drainage. We remain competitive for grant funding of a habitat inventory and conservation plan of the Kezar River Watershed and have been active in overseeing the future outcome of the Hewn Oaks property.

Under the direction and guidance of George Westerberg, the GLLT has solidified progress in the Five Land Trust Alliance. The alliance is actively working on collaborative projects that promise to strengthen the capacity of each trust to accomplish its individual missions.

We are pleased with the success of our well attended joint annual educational meeting with the Kezar Lake Watershed Association and are making plans for another interesting and informative meeting next summer. The two organizations are

working closely to identify watershed concerns and the actions necessary to mitigate these concerns. Together we are monitoring and working with potential buyers and developers of the remaining 1700 acres of Evergreen Valley to assure ecologically sound development.



The GLLT sponsored the Beginning with Habitat program to introduce us and our municipal leaders with new tools and resources in planning for community conservation. Focusing on protection of our most critical wildlife habitats in land use planning is a goal most of us share and appreciate.

The trust continued to play a major role in the Pleasant Point litigation to protect the Middle Bay and will update that situation as legal developments take place. We are very hopeful that there will be a favorable resolution this winter. You can follow the details on our web site at www.gllt.org where all developments are posted.

We are encouraged by our progress as we recognize and prepare to face the challenges going forward.

WE WILL BE FOCUSING OUR EFFORTS ON THE FOLLOWING CHALLENGES IN 2006:

1. To fulfill our primary mission of conservation of the natural areas vital to maintaining the cultural and ecological well-being of the Kezar Lake watershed.
2. To adequately fund our current operations and special projects, and endow our future.
3. To integrate our high level of volunteerism with increased professionalism to meet the revised standards and practices and accreditation standards of the Land Trust Alliance.
4. To further integrate our efforts at conservation with those of the towns of Lovell, Stoneham and Stow.
5. To develop new partnerships with like organizations that can strengthen our capacity to achieve our mission with additional technical and financial support.

Our mission continues to address our most valued community assets due to the dedication of our volunteers, the generosity of our contributing members, the vision of our supporters and the commitment of our Directors and Officers. With such continued support, I am confident the GLLT will meet these challenges going forward.

Howard A. Corwin, M.D.
President

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS (AND OTHER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

Having a daily presence in Lovell Village has been valuable to me in my role as Executive Director. My presence here has made it convenient for people to stop, ask questions, raise issues or coordinate projects. Of course, when away from the office and in the field, I frequently miss a visitor. I have disappointed only a few that were looking for a haircut, as formerly our office was a hair salon.

Visitors have inquired about the organization in general or to compliment our work. Most have asked to be included on the mailing list and a few have volunteered. Some are looking for a place to hike. Others want to know how they can protect their land or a neighboring parcel. Other questions relate to our stewardship policies such as: "Why do you cut trees on your properties?" or "I have hunted there for years. Are you going to post it?" Providing easy access to information about our trails, our stewardship policies and our mission increases understanding of the organization and the benefits we provide to the communities we serve.

One question that arises often is "How can you claim to benefit the town when you remove land from the tax rolls and pay no taxes?" Determining annual tax payments or payments in lieu of taxes is simple: it is more complicated to explain the less tangible benefits such as how towns benefit from avoidance of the cost of services associated with year round and seasonal homes. My response assumes that the towns' financial well being is the real concern being expressed. So I limit my response to money matters.

The GLLT protects land by either conservation easement or full ownership, known as ownership in fee. The conservation easement is our preferred tool as it provides adequate conservation, is least expensive to the organization, and the property remains in private holding. Land ownership is used when an easement is not an option on a parcel with significant conservation value. Taking title to a property can remove it from the tax rolls under our charter as a non-profit organization as do properties owned by other non-profits, churches and governmental agencies. The GLLT does not always take advantage of this tax exemption. We make annual payments on a 13 acre property and several other parcels. Our policy is to pay taxes on lands not open for public use.

The total estimated tax due on our lands, if held privately and assessed under the Tree Growth Tax Assessment Program, is \$1,279 per year. Since 1996, the GLLT has made annual payments taxes averaging \$1,128 per year for a total of \$12,418. In addition, the Board of Directors generously provided the town of Lovell with a \$3,000 donation in 2004, as a shared timber revenue from our cutting off Ladies Delight Road. Factored in, the total average annual payment of \$1,401 per year compares well with revenues expected under private ownership. These properties require less in services than they raise in revenues and are thus a net gain to the town budgets.

An alternative use of these properties would be for residential or vacation housing. Both are necessary as they provide for new homes for our children and employment opportunities for our workers. However, both can cost the town taxpayers as increased revenues from taxes assessed rarely cover increased expenses. Educational costs per child per year far exceed the tax collected on single family homes. Towns rely on revenues from state aid to education to cover these costs, but revenues

diminish as total town valuations increase. Each additional home, residential or vacation, increases the town's valuation and reduces state aid. Towns are then forced to increase local taxes to recover the difference. Therefore a balance of conservation and housing growth helps to ease the burden of tax increases and directly benefits the community.

Towns invest annually in their public recreational programs and facilities. Voters approve expenditures for ballfields, beaches, public parks, salaries and equipment, and contributions to local groups providing public recreational facilities. The GLLT properties serve as public recreational areas for hiking, snowmobiling, hunting, cross country skiing, outdoor education, and many other uses. No taxes are raised or expenditures appropriated to support these public recreational facilities. GLLT properties serve a valuable need at no expense to the taxpayers.

Our natural communities have long supported our communities with jobs. Protecting these areas provides opportunity for traditional employment. The GLLT operates 989 acres of working forests providing the potential for traditional employment and raw material resources for our local logging and milling industries.

One of the greatest benefits to date to the Town of Lovell occurred when the GLLT and Town Officials negotiated for the permanent protection of the Eastman Hill Stock Farm. The GLLT took the lead and was successful in defeating the plans of the National Trust for Historic Preservation to subdivide the 523 acre property into 5 acre lots. As a result the town retained approximately 433 acres of working forests held in private or non-profit ownership. The Town of Lovell received a needed 70 acre parcel for use as a septage disposal site without cost to the taxpayers. A \$40,000 cash endowment, known as the Lovell Fund was established for use in conservation and recreational projects benefiting the citizens of the Town of Lovell. This fund grew through investment and at this time more than \$70,000 has been appropriated from it and utilized for various projects in the town of Lovell. These include the lighting at the Lovell recreational ball fields, a contribution to the purchase of the Kimball Stanford Homestead and other community projects. This fund has saved the taxpayers of Lovell tens of thousands of dollars and ensured the completion of projects important to our citizens. This fund was established at the insistence of the GLLT and we look forward to its continued benefits to the community, especially in important town sponsored or GLLT conservation projects.

You can imagine anyone dropping into the office with this question is advised not to leave the vehicle running. These are some of the ways the GLLT contributes to the bottom line of a town's budget. We are confident that our projects provide significant community benefit in three ways:

1. Direct cash contributions.
2. Reducing town expenditures from cost of services not incurred.
3. A significant and unique cash endowment.

We are committed to being a vital part of our communities and for the preservation of healthy ecosystems, healthy communities and healthy town budgets.

Tom Henderson
Executive Director

—UPDATE—

Pleasant Point Legal Action

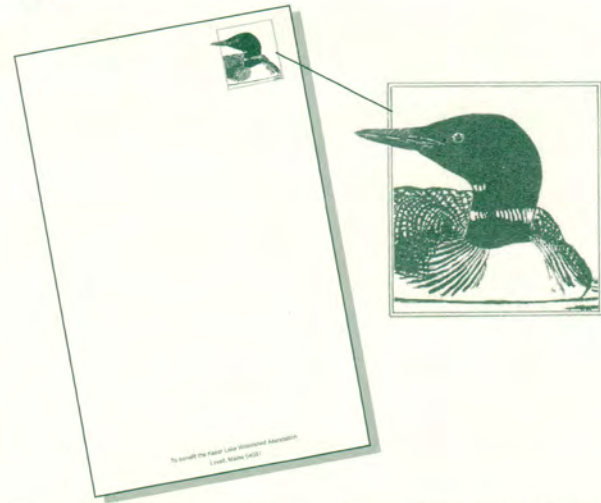


The Greater Lovell Land Trust is involved in three legal actions in relation to its commitment to oppose the applications of Pleasant Point Realty Trust/Conway Lake Resorts, Inc. (CLR) for changes which would increase the density of usage of the Pleasant Point property to the detriment of the adjacent town beach as well as the Middle Bay of Kezar Lake.

The Maine Law Court (Supreme Court) heard oral arguments in the first Rule 80B case on Friday, October 21st. In the second Rule 80B case, the Superior Court has not yet ruled on CLR's motion to exceed the page limits for its briefs so that case is not yet ready for oral argument in Superior Court. In the Farrington's dock case, we are waiting for that to be placed on a trial list in Superior Court.

The GLLT has joined the Town of Lovell, the Kezar Lake Watershed Association, Quisisana and the Farrington Homeowner's Association in the two Rule 80B cases which are applications to the Board of Appeals and Planning Board respectively for changes which we believe would result in dramatically increased usage of the property. In the Farrington Homeowners Association, the issue is whether Pleasant Point has the right to two docks with boats; namely, 32 rather than 16 boat slips.

The litigation has been costly to date. What is at issue is not the right to develop, but the density of development on the site of the Pleasant Point Inn. It is the hope of the GLLT that the extensive use of our non-commercializing easements will prevent our need to litigate in other vulnerable sites on Kezar Lake and its surrounding ponds.



KEZAR LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NOTEPADS

Since the closing of the two gifts shops in Lovell, we have received inquiries from many people anxious to know where they can purchase our popular loon notepads. We are very grateful to Lynda Rudd at the Harvest Gold Gallery and Tripp Turner at the Center Lovell Market for agreeing to carry a limited number of these notepads and to Lynda for accepting mail orders. The large pads are \$2.00 and the small ones are \$1.00 each plus postage. All proceeds will benefit KLWA. If you wish to order by mail, please call or email Lynda for details at 207-925-6502 or harvestgold@pivot.net.

Our sincere thanks to Lynda and Tripp for carrying these notepads so KLWA can continue to make them available to the many people who say they can't live without them!!

Joan Irish
President, KLWA

Invasive Study Completed

After two years of work the GLLT has completed the terrestrial invasive plant study project funded by the Davis Foundation. Our findings are disturbing, but it is important to keep in mind that there are steps that can be taken to deal with the problem. In simple terms, there is a terrestrial invasive problem in the Kezar Lake Watershed. Although our early surveys of GLLT and public lands seemed to indicate a limited problem except for the widespread presence of Japanese Knotweed, further surveys of private lands have indicated the presence of many more invasives including Sheep Sorrel, Coltsfoot, Black Locust, non native Honeysuckles, Japanese Barberry, Autumn Olive, Asiatic Bittersweet, and Purple Loosestrife. Several of these plants are very aggressive and out compete native plants to alter the balance of the ecosystem. In addition, our work confirms the findings of Dr. Drew Barton (University of Maine), that in most cases these plants were brought in by well intentioned landowners as ornamentals and are spreading.

So...what now? There are several actions that can be taken to deal effectively with this problem. All invasive studies indicate that the key to dealing effectively with the problem is early detection, public education, and elimination of the plants before they are widely spread.

EACH OF US CAN DO THE FOLLOWING TO HELP BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE LAND.

1. Learn to identify common invasive plants.
2. Do not buy invasives and urge local nurseries not to sell them.
3. Survey our land to identify problem plants
4. Take appropriate actions to control or eliminate these plants before they spread.
5. Urge local government to join the effort to control invasive plant.

The GLLT will continue to help deal with problem by continued monitoring of GLLT lands, public education, political action when appropriate, helping landowners identify invasive plants, and providing information on control and elimination. If you would like more information on this topic drop by the GLLT office to view identification guides and recommendations for control, or contact Kevin Harding at kharding55@earthlink.net.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As is the case with most of us as winter sets in and the year-end is nigh, our focus turns to fiscal matters - where we are financially, our financial successes and non-successes for the year, and our goals for the New Year. As you can readily glean from other articles in this newsletter, all of these points are very much at the fore of the minds of the Officers and Directors of the GLLT. Because of this intense focus and drive, I do not believe that there is a need for reiteration or further explanation by me. Instead, I want to focus on some of our less obvious accomplishments for the year and some of the financial aspects of the GLLT that make it unique among its peers.

First, the audit of the GLLT financial statements for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2005 was successfully concluded in mid-September by its independent auditors and accountants, Chandel Associates, P.A. of Bridgton, Maine. This gives the GLLT three consecutive years of fully audited financial statements and a number of years of financials that were subjected to review procedures by its accountants prior to that. In my view, this track record of independent involvement in our financial reporting process and our business practices is

unique among not-for-profit entities of a size similar to the GLLT. We believe that this status will accord the GLLT a level of financial sophistication and credibility with the philanthropic and investing public that will hold it in good stead for the future, particularly if the GLLT were to pursue conservation projects and/or fundraising vehicles that are unique in form from what has been used traditionally, such as limited partnerships, joint ventures, etc.

Second, despite our increased cost base brought about by the hiring of our first employee, Tom Henderson, as our Executive Director and establishing a physical presence in the Town of Lovell, both of which the Board deemed to be absolutely essential to the pursuit and attainment of the GLLT Mission and Long Term Plan, we continue to be a program centered organization, and are committed to the goal of keeping our fund raising costs at less than five percent of our total revenue, over time. Such costs have averaged less than 3% for the last three years, even though our recent mailings have almost doubled with the inclusion of all taxpayers in Stow and Stoneham. This widening of our potential membership base recognizes that, now more than ever, the mission of the GLLT to protect the watershed of Kezar Lake and its environs is not and can not be limited by political boundaries.

The principal concern that one has from this ratcheting up a notch of the operations of the GLLT, is that these incremental costs, coupled with the extraordinary expenses incurred in the defense of the Middle Bay through the Pleasant Point litigation and our basic pay-as-you-go fund raising, causes the GLLT to be a deficit spender. This causes us to utilize a few cash reserves that had been painstakingly generated over the years and which, in the current environment, are not so readily replaceable. Although the just-in-time methodology has worked wonders in the industrial segment, it does not translate well to the not-for-profit world of fund raising where we are constantly trying to raise a dollar today that was actually spent yesterday. This is a monumental distraction to our limited volunteer resources and uses time that would be much better spent in our primary function.

I want to thank you for your past support and hope we have earned your confidence for your future support.

If you ever have any questions or if I can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me at the GLLT address, 207-925-1263 or at wjmcormick@aol.com.

Bill McCormick
Treasurer

Report Joint KLWA/GLLT Committee

A joint committee of four members each from the GLLT and the KLWA (Kezar Lake Watershed Association) has been working since the summer of 2004 to consider how our two organizations can become stronger by working together. We recognize that although these organizations differ somewhat in mission, we share similar goals of maintaining and enhancing land and water resources. By working cooperatively, we hope to be more effective stewards of the area as a whole.

To this end, both Boards have passed the following recommendations:

1. Each Board will appoint representatives (subject to approval of the reciprocal Board) to serve on the other Board. The subject of full voting rights of these 'guest representatives' is not yet resolved; however, they will attend Board meetings, and participate fully, and will be expected to report back to their 'home' Boards the results of items of mutual interest which could lead to cooperative involvement.
2. We will hold joint meetings, combining each organization, when appropriate. The first of these was held in August 2005 and which received excellent feedback. Each organization will have an opportunity to conduct brief articles of business at these meetings.

3. We will share advocacy in pursuing grants and garnering support for our goals. There is strength in numbers.
4. We will encourage coordination of events, projects, mailings and fund-raising efforts to avoid duplication and scheduling conflicts.
5. We will provide reciprocal space in each other's newsletters and websites.
6. We will create joint committees to bring expertise from each organization to issues of shared concern.
7. Lastly, we will share contact information of our respective Trustees.

We encourage your active participation in both GLLT and KLWA. Our stewardship of this whole area is essential for its future, our future, and the future of coming generations.

Ann K. Williams
Representative from KLWA



ASSURING OUR FUTURE

“The land trust community recognizes the GLLT as an innovative, creative, and effective publicly-minded organization.”

The GLLT has achieved a most enviable record in its first twenty years. We were the first land trust in western Maine and have achieved significant success in fulfilling our primary mission of preservation of the Kezar Lake watershed. This includes the permanent protection of over 2100 acres through the acquisition of eleven critical properties and through voluntary conservation easements on an additional thirteen parcels.

The land trust community recognizes the GLLT as an innovative, creative, and effective publicly-minded organization. The Board of Directors thanks you, our supporters, who have made this possible. The plain truth is that being an effective conservation organization requires funding and you have provided it.

The Board of Directors has committed itself to continuing this record by instituting our long range plan. This means providing our communities with the protection tools and resources unique to land trusts. We want to be in a position where we can continue to meet the current and future challenges and increase our proactive land protection program which is the key to our mission.

Here are the facts about our operations. Between grants and fund raising for special projects alone we have raised in excess of \$1.5 million dollars over the past ten years. We have used this to purchase properties considered strategic in the Upper and Lower Bays and to protect the Middle Bay from excessive development at the Pleasant Point Inn. In addition, this year we have created and filled the full time executive director position which was determined to be vital to our work going forward. Funding this position and keeping the lights on at our office in Lovell village costs us \$60,000 per year. An additional \$40,000 is necessary for our operational budget which covers the cost of newsletters, “Land Trust Notes”, property taxes, maintaining public access to our properties, land stewardship, our annual Marion Rodgeron Scholarship, and our educational programs. Our current annual operating budget is \$100,000/year.

The Development Committee is making a special appeal this year to assist us in three ways: (1) membership dues to fund operations; (2) completion of the Kezar Outlet Fen Acquisition Project; and (3) consideration for giving to an endowment program.

Membership Dues:

Contributing membership continues at \$10 with most members giving at a higher level. It is our policy to make contributing membership affordable to all citizens, and we appreciate the many increased contributions made voluntarily. Please consider an additional contribution this year or stepping up to a higher level.

Special Projects:

We do not budget annually for special projects as we are opportunistic

and make direct appeals as these situations arise. We purchased the 265 acre Kezar Outlet Fen for \$103,000 in two separate transactions. We have paid the first three installments from a combination of contributions from individuals in Lower Bay, grants of \$3500 from the Maine Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and \$5000 from the Fields Pond Foundation, and revenues realized from the thinning of timber on the Kezar River Tract.

We are appealing this fall for an additional \$40,000 to support the final two installments on the mortgage leading to completion of this acquisition. Please contribute generously to this project.

We are thankful for having received strong community support for our many special projects and initiatives over the years. However, we have failed to raise sufficient funds to support the litigation against the over development of the Pleasant Point property and have had to dip into our reserves. This remains an area of critical importance and your generous support for The Middle Bay Defense Fund is needed at this time.

Endowment Programs:

The Development Committee is embarking on a program that emphasizes endowment development to ensure the long range financial sustainability of the trust. Instruments currently exist for you to invest in the future of our mission while simultaneously realizing personal tax and other financial benefits. The GLLT has a **Charitable Remainder Trust** program available that is administered through the Maine Community Foundation. In addition, we are able to accept bequests, gifts of securities and multiple forms of giving by designation of the GLLT as a beneficiary. We are preparing to introduce a Revolving Endowment Program in 2006 that would allow donors to loan significant funds to the endowment, thus providing interest income to the annual operations of the GLLT.

You may ask why we want your help. Quite simply, without your financial help, much of what you value in the Kezar Lake and Kezar River watersheds would have deteriorated markedly in the past few years. An investment in the GLLT is not only an investment in the future pleasure and enjoyment for all who vacation here, but also an investment in the livelihood and economic well-being of those who are full time residents. Kezar Lake and its surrounding lakes and ponds and communities are a way of life which we believe should endure. If it is feasible, please help us now and in the future by making us a significant part of your annual charitable giving. The many ways you may give are listed in *Planned Giving Benefits* article. If you have any further questions regarding our fund raising programs, please call our President, Howard Corwin at (239) 821-4988, Executive Director, Tom Henderson at (207) 925-1056 or our Treasurer, Bill McCormick at 207 925-1263.

The Development Committee

Celebrating 20 Years of Service

Welcome to our website.
E-mail us with questions
and suggestions.



There is a lot of news at...
www.gllt.org

New Winter Tracking Programs!



The GLLT will offer two new winter animal tracking programs this year. For those who want to know more about the lives of the mammals who inhabit our woodlands, there is no better way than tracking to learn about their lives. The first program will introduce participants to animal tracking through a slide and video program at the Charlotte Hobbs Library, and the follow up program will be a field exercise. Feel free to attend either session or come to both for a more complete experience. The presenter, David Brown is an expert tracker with many years of tracking experience who has published his own guide to animal tracking.

Tracking Winter Animals

Wednesday, December 28 from 8-9 pm

Charlotte Hobbs Library

Tracker-naturalist David Brown will present a slide and video program on tracking wild animals in the Maine

woods. Learn to distinguish the tracks, trails, and other sign of animals such as bobcats, coyotes, foxes, fishers, and otters, all of which are common in local woodlands but which hide from us at night or in foliage. The program will also show how to interpret trails for behavior of animals: Why are they here? What were they doing?

Snowshoe Tracking

Saturday, December 31, 9 am to 12 noon

Meet in the GLLT parking area on Slab City Road

In this companion to the Wednesday evening program, we will don snowshoes and trek into the GLLT's Heald-Bradley Pond property to search for tracks and sign of the many wild animals that live there in the winter. About 2 miles will be covered at a slow pace, so dress warmly with snowproof boots, extra clothes and water. Participants should bring their own snowshoes. This program is recommended for reasonably fit people, free from any medical condition that might be aggravated by long periods of exertion in the cold. The program will run whether there is snow or not.

For more information contact Tom Henderson @ 925-1056 or tomgllt@earthlink.net

Do You Remember?

Do you remember what it was like in Lovell, last summer, or even earlier this Fall, when you vacationed or just escaped for a few days to your special getaway somewhere in the neighborhood of Kezar Lake? The sky was mostly blue and the water was warm and inviting. The trees and flowers were in summer foliage or blossom, or on their way to becoming so. Or maybe the leaves were colored and the air was crisp and the nights were cool and good for sleeping? Those memories are growing dimmer, now, as the days grow dimmer, too, and the air is less warm or crisp and getting just plain cold and we've had too much rain. It will soon be winter, and really cold, and those summer memories will be hibernating until the days get warm where you are now, and then the memories will begin to return, to Lovell, and so will you. It happens this way every year.

Speaking of memories, do you remember too the day last August when wildlife biologist, Bill Hanson, talked to us about loons and eagles at the combined meeting of the Greater Lovell Land Trust and the Kezar Lake Watershed Association? I was so taken with the awareness of all that greater Lovell affords us—including the lake and its watershed and

wildlife—that I jumped to my feet and suggested to everyone present we all go home and tear out the last check in our check book and save it for one last big contribution of the year, payable to the GLLT and/or KLWA. If you didn't do it then, you can do it now, because if we let Lovell and its land become part of the Boston-Portsmouth-Portland sprawl, today's water and wildlife—including eagles and loons—will likely be only in our memories.



As the gray days of November become dark in December, they begin to brighten at the winter solstice, about December 22. Not a bad day to think about summer, or to remember last summer, or to write that last check.

The Greater Lovell Land Trust and the Kezar Lake Watershed Association. They work to keep the memories coming. Be generous.

George Westerberg

Board Director

Hewn Oaks

Hewn Oaks is a property consisting of 13.25 acres with 500 feet of water frontage on the eastern shore of the Upper Bay. Jessie Volk, its recently deceased owner, had a strong interest in art and art history and had been renting the cottages during the summer for many years. Upon her death, she bequeathed the property to the University of Maine Foundation (UMF) with the stipulation that "for a period of at least fifteen years it be used primarily for education, research and related charitable purposes with a preference for the study and promotion of art..." In her will, Jessie Volk clearly stated her wish that the "University of Maine Foundation will, if at all possible... maintain (her) Hewn Oaks Real Estate in a state that is relatively consistent with the current use of such real estate, to preserve the natural beauty

thereof and to use such real estate for education and research, including in particular uses related to the study and promotion of art."

The GLLT has contacted the Executor of the will and the UMF and offered its services to see that the provisions of the will are carried out. We are particularly concerned that the property not be sold for a development which would increase the density of usage of the property and might significantly alter its natural features. This is a very steep property and excessive development could negatively impact the Upper Bay and Kezar Lake in general. We have been reasonably reassured that the University of Maine Foundation will adhere to the terms of the will.

Howard A. Corwin, M.D.
President

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Planned Giving Benefits You, Your Family and the GLLT

There are many other vehicles available for you and your family to donate to our mission and the current and long term financial viability of the organization. Gifts to the GLLT can be structured to benefit both the donor and the land trust through the following instruments:

CASH Gifts of cash are generally deductible for tax purposes in the year the gift is made.

SECURITIES Gifts of securities, common stock or mutual funds can yield a double tax benefit. Gifts of appreciated securities to the GLLT offer potential capital gains tax savings. In addition, you typically receive a charitable deduction for the value of the securities contributed.

LAND Gifts of land can offer the same tax advantages. You can give the entire interest in real estate, a conservation easement on a certain property, or retain a life estate in residence, vacation home or farm for a fixed term or your lifetime.

RETIREMENT ASSETS You can name the GLLT as beneficiary of an IRA, 401(k) or other form of qualified retirement plan account. Income tax and estate tax are avoided when this type of asset is paid directly to the GLLT.

LIFE INSURANCE The GLLT can be named as owner of and beneficiary under your life insurance policy, which reduces the amount of your estate subject to estate taxes.

WILLS A gift of cash, securities or real estate can be made to the GLLT in your will. While you receive no current income tax deduction, the value of the cash or property left to the GLLT reduces the amount of your estate subject to estate taxes.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST You transfer assets (cash, securities or real estate) to a trustee,

which pays either a fixed or variable amount to one or more income beneficiaries for their lifetime or a term of years. Upon termination of the income interest, the remaining principal becomes a charitable gift to the GLLT.

CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST You create a trust for a term of years to which assets (cash, securities or real estate) are transferred; your trustee invests the assets and distributes either a fixed or variable amount to the GLLT each year. At the end of the trust's term, all trust assets are returned to you or your beneficiary as required by the trust terms.

MAINE POOLED INCOME FUND (through the Maine Community Foundation) You transfer assets to the Maine Pooled Income Fund, which are pooled with other donors' assets and invested together. You designate one or two income beneficiaries to receive lifetime income from the Fund, which equals your share of the Fund's net income. You also designate the GLLT as beneficiary upon the death of the last income beneficiary. Your assets are then removed from the Fund to establish a Designated Fund that pays its annual income to the GLLT.

With assistance from your tax and legal advisors, we encourage you to carefully consider how one or more of these opportunities can work for you and your family. If you would like more information on any of these gift methods, please contact us. We will be happy to work with you and your advisors, confidentially, to achieve your goals in making a gift.

"The Long View"

After participating for 20 years in the GLLT and coordinating the educational programming for eight years I thought it was time for a look back to consider what the GLLT has been able to provide for learning activities to the community. We don't really blow our own horn very often, and it is helpful to step back and evaluate how far we have come in order to consider where we should go.

Since 1985 the GLLT has been working to fulfill its mission to **preserve the watershed**. The beginnings were not always easy and there were times when I wondered if there was a future for a land trust in the region. But thanks to the hard work of many who have volunteered thousands of hours and the generous contributions of hundreds, we can be certain that we are here to stay. Now there are over 90 land trusts in the State and there's no doubt that the land trust movement is accepted as one useful tool to provide for ordered development as the state grows.

From the beginning the GLLT adopted the idea that we had an obligation to provide **educational services** to the community to help everyone appreciate all that the land has to offer. A few of us came up with the idea of offering nature walks, hikes, lectures, and similar activities to learn as much as we could about the environment we were working to save. It is not unique for a land trust to offer such programming, but the GLLT has made a larger commitment in this particular area than most.

We began by learning as much about our woodlands as possible so we could begin to share with others. Since 1996 a dedicated group of up to twelve docents have attended many training sessions by professional naturalists. Those who participate in the walks may not realize that each docent prepares their walk carefully and continues to broaden their pool of knowledge each year as a result. Our goal is not just to identify the trees, shrubs, plants, animal sign; but to gain some basic understanding of how things fit together, how the forest interacts, and how we can be better stewards of the land. Our walks have been a wonderful tool to share knowledge as the participants often have insights and expertise to contribute. Most importantly, we have fun in the woods. Please come and join us and bring the family.

Our evening lecture series in collaboration with the Charlotte Hobbs Library has been a success right from the start. The topics have been varied ranging from the life of a lumberjack to the problem of invasive plants. Any topic related to the natural world is fair game. Four or five Wednesdays each summer we have about 20 to 35 people join us at the library and I honestly believe they rarely leave disappointed. Come and give us a try. I guarantee it is better than TV!

Of course without the **Library** we would have no place to hold these lectures, and we thank them for their hospitality. We partner with the library and for several summers have made financial contributions so they might continue their excellent **summer program** for the town's children. Our support helps pay for programming by **Tin Mountain** and the **Chewonki Foundation** who have a long tradition of educating children in schools and camps. The programs draw thirty to forty children as well as adults. In addition, the GLLT has donated books and cash to expand the library's natural history collection. It is vital that the area non-profits pool our efforts and work together to better serve the diverse needs of the community; we plan to continue to support the library as we grow together.

In the past two years with a grant from the **Davis Foundation** we have extended our goals to inform the public about the problems associated with terrestrial invasives. We have distributed literature, held an evening lecture, done docent training, conducted town-wide surveys, and this summer we provided free surveys to individual landowners to help them identify invasive plants. We hope to provide special programs in the future as we seek new ways to understand our woodlands.

A review of the past would not be complete without a large thank you to the team of docents who have volunteered many hours of their time to learn about the forest and conducted the walks. The list is long and some have moved on to other tasks, but a big thank you to **Mary Adams, Bev Bassett, Jeannette Corwin, Sally Davey, Bill Gardiner, Ron Gestwicki, Dennis and Ellen Smith, Chip Stockford (deceased), Joyce White, Bob and**



Board Director Charlie Sullivan seeking advice on an easement with a friend.

Susan Winship, Linda Wurm, and Moira Yip.

So...what else does the future hold? Certainly we hope to continue our present level of programming and find additional ways to serve the public.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

What would you like the GLLT to do to enhance your understanding of the land? If you have any suggestions please e-mail me (kharding55@earthlink.net). New ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Looking back, the GLLT has fulfilled its commitment to provide educational services, but we want to do better. None of this work happens without your support—both by attending our activities and by contributing financially. **All of our programming is free**, but even with the work of volunteers there are significant costs involved. It is no secret that we hope by investigating the natural world with you that you might support the land trust in some manner. The more knowledge one has of the natural world, the more dedicated to the concept of preservation one becomes.

Our intentions are best served if we all have a good time learning together, so please come and have fun with us.

Kevin Harding

Education Director