

Celebrating the Acquisition of Two Major Properties

The Greater Lovell Land Trust invited over 300 donors, family members and guests to gather in celebration of the acquisition of the Back Pond Reserve and the Sucker Brook Outlet Reserve. The celebration was held on Saturday evening, September 1, 2007 at the Lake Kezar Country Club on a fine late summer evening. A chicken bar-b-que, catered by Fandangles, was the perfect atmosphere for meeting friends old and new and sharing the passion and joy of saving our special places. The high spirits were reflected in tables adorned with vases of field flowers beautifully arranged by Susan Sidwell from the Old Stage Farm.

In his remarks, Howard Corwin, President of the GLLT, noted the tremendous community support for these two conservation projects: "It was through the hard work and dedication of the community that this success was made possible. The Back Pond Reserve was the result of a true grassroots neighborhood movement. The community at the Five Kezar Ponds asked the GLLT for their assistance in preserving this 140 acre property, but without their own personal dedication, it never would have happened." Howard expressed gratitude for the assistance provided by many at Timber Bay Shores for their perseverance and dedication, culminating in



the 200 acre Sucker Brook Outlet Reserve: "The GLLT and members of the Timber Bay Shores Association partnered for over four years to accomplish permanent protection of this highly valued wildlife habitat and water quality protection project. These two projects demonstrate how conservation-minded individuals can join together with dedicated leaders to accomplish significant preservation of that which we value most."

Ron Gestwicki, President of the Five Kezar Ponds Watershed Association was recognized for his leadership along with the important role the Association played in the Back Pond Reserve. Gestwicki recounted how the project began as an idea and dream expressed in the kitchens and living rooms around the Five Kezar Ponds. He stated how this project was consistent with the long history of care and stewardship for the land and waters displayed by the association members over the years. He gave special recognition to the

many children that contributed to the project with confidence that a conservation ethic had been instilled into future generations.

These 2006 additions to the land holdings of the Greater Lovell Land Trust represent a truly effective and successful preservation effort. Combined, the 340 acres of property protect valued habitat for over two dozen plant and animal species of concern, and recreational opportunities for future generations to enjoy. In addition, the Back Pond Reserve protects a valuable ridgeline to water stream course at the headwaters of the Kezar River watershed. The Sucker Brook Outlet Reserve protects over 4,000 feet of shorefront and expands permanently protected land within Sucker Brook and Lower Bay to 894 acres, giving a big boost to our efforts to maintain a wildlife corridor from the White Mountain National Forest to the Saco River.

The Greater Lovell Land Trust would also like to thank The Lake Kezar Country Club for their generous donation of the club as a location for this celebration, and D&D Necessary Rooms for the generous donation of the two necessary rooms used for the occasion.

President's Message

Howard A. Corwin, M.D., President

I am pleased to report that the GLLT has had a truly spectacular year. We had planned this to be the "year of the conservation easement," and it has exceeded our expectations. Our motto is, "We measure success one acre at a time." This year, if all goes as currently expected, we will have conserved several hundred acres through easement and acquisition. In addition, our federally financed Conservation Plan is drawing to completion. It will guide us in our prioritization of critical areas for future preservation and conservation.

Those who live in the GLLT watersheds, whether voting or seasonal residents, have a true treasure in our surroundings. Recently, this area has been likened to a Stradivarius violin—it can only get better if it is maintained as the rarity that it is. Our waters, wildlife, mountain views, natural areas, farms and forests are unique.

Let me be clear. The GLLT is a very successful organization, recognized as one of the most outstanding land trusts in western Maine. We have met many challenges and see more ahead. While we have leveraged our own local fund-raising with private foundation, state, and federal support, we continue to rely on local support for our financial base.

This leads me to the focus of this newsletter. As we enjoy our successes and fulfill our mission, we have to remain a financially strong organization. This year, we have planned a transition to emphasize Membership renewal in the spring and summer, and an Annual Appeal for operational funding and endowment development in the fall and winter. At this time we need your contributions to our annual operational funding. We are also attempting to raise an endowment of two million dollars over the next five years and will depend upon your support.

As you read on and share our successes, please realize that you are our partners. The many options which we hope you will consider are highlighted in the enclosed brochure. Please feel free to contact John Duffy, Director of Development, Paula Hughes, Associate Director of Development, Bill McCormick, Treasurer, Tom Henderson, Executive Director, or me to discuss any questions you may have.

We promise to continue our best efforts to serve the preservation and conservation efforts in all our communities. We need your help.

Notes from the Desk

Tom Henderson, Executive Director

Here in Maine, it is a very exciting time for land conservation. Preservation of the lands and waters that sustain our communities and enrich our lives is experiencing a level of public support not seen since the early 1980's. Federal, state and local leaders are providing tools and incentives. Private landowners are responding with enthusiasm and action. Land trusts are effectively rising to the challenge. Current public policy encourages landowners to preserve their property for future generations and the public good.

Private landowners have been and continue to be the most significant conservation force in protecting our forests, farms, wetlands and wildlife habitats. Nationally, the majority of land protected in recent years is the direct result of voluntary actions by private landowners. They have turned to land trusts for assistance through the use of a legally binding deed restriction known as the conservation easement. In Maine, fully one-half of all permanently protected land is privately owned.

The use of a conservation easement is a personal decision made by families and individuals who wish to continue to own and use their land, but want it protected from detrimental uses. Conservation easements neither remove these lands from the tax rolls nor do they require public access. The landowner normally reserves the right to conduct forestry or farming and/or restrict or allow public access, along with other important private ownership rights. As such, the conservation easement is favored as an effective tool for resource protection by landowners, land trusts and communities alike.

The favorable incentives of the 1980's paved the way for the founding of the GLLT and for the conservation of local land by private landowners.

Currently, there are over 1,200 land trusts across the nation, with Maine boasting 104. According to the 2007 Biennial Report to the Legislature by the Land for Maine's Future program, 16% of Maine's land has been permanently protected by either fee ownership or conservation easement. The Brookings

Institution Report, commissioned for the State of Maine and available at www.growsmartme.org, applauds Maine's conservation efforts and highly recommends substantial further investment in preserving Maine's natural environment. It observes that Maine has not squandered its natural resources, its forested landscapes, clean lakes, or rural villages, further noting that Maine's environment provides an experience that is highly desirable and in diminishing global supply.

In 2006, federal legislation provided new incentives for landowners to place their property under conservation easement. States like Maine have followed with additional supporting actions, such as public funding of the Land for Maine's Future program and changes to the Maine Conservation Law Act to strengthen conservation easements as a legal tool. Once again, landowners have been encouraged and empowered and they are responding with enthusiasm and action. Once again, the GLLT is effectively rising to the challenge of protecting the environment and advancing the dreams of visionary landowners.

2007 – 2008 Annual Appeal

Announces Matching Grant Requests Donations to the Endowment Fund

The Greater Lovell Land Trust recently kicked off its 2007 – 2008 Annual Appeal. John Duffy, Chair of our Development Committee observed, "Membership dues account for only about 20% of the GLLT's operating budget. Clearly this falls far short of funding the annual cost of our programs. We need the ongoing support of our generous donors through this appeal to raise the funds necessary to supplement and balance the operating budget required to effectively continue our mission."

In conjunction with this year's appeal, the GLLT was pleased to announce that an anonymous donor had generously pledged \$25,000 as a matching gift to our Endowment Fund. What this means is that for every dollar contributed to the Endowment Fund, an additional dollar, up to a total of \$25,000, will be matched one for one. This is a time when every dollar goes a long way toward helping to ensure our financial future. Once established, the purpose of the GLLT

Endowment Fund will be to provide in perpetuity a predictable level of funding that guarantees the future sustainability of the GLLT's mission. It also allows us to execute long-range plans, confident that the funds will be there when the future becomes the present.

The financial support of our contributors has allowed us to achieve permanent and lasting protection of some of our finest forests and wetlands. These special places preserve water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities for all. Our donors' vision and generosity ensure that we continue to make these lasting gifts for ourselves and for our children's children. We greatly appreciate their continued support. We also encourage everyone reading this newsletter to help further our mission by contributing for the first time or by increasing the amount of his or her pledge.

The Greater Lovell Land Trust is a Maine not-for-profit corporation and is exempt from taxes under section 501(c) 3

of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions made to the GLLT are tax deductible in accordance with the rules of such Code. As a result, there are a number of ways to make tax advantaged contributions to the GLLT. The specifics are spelled out in more detail in the accompanying brochure entitled, "Tax Advantaged Giving". If you are interested in learning more about any of the contribution vehicles included in the brochure, please do not hesitate to contact the Development Committee by calling the office at (207) 925-1056.

In addition, the GLLT strongly advises that before you take action on any of the current of planned giving opportunities mentioned in the brochure, you discuss your plans with your personal tax advisor or professional financial planner to fully understand how each of these options work in your specific financial situation.

Give Your Children a GLLT Membership for Christmas

Yes, I/we would like to be a member of the Greater Lovell Land Trust.

- Youth/Visitor \$15 Individual \$50 Family \$85 (Number of children under age 18___)
- Premier \$125 (includes a premium gift from the GLLT)

In additional to my membership, I/we would like to make a contribution to the GLLT at this time in the amount of \$_____.

Make checks payable to the Greater Lovell Land Trust (GLLT). The GLLT is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Name _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

We all want to pass our heritage on to our adult children and grandchildren. May we suggest a gift membership in the GLLT this Christmas. This will help keep them abreast of the conservation efforts that you are providing for them. They, too, can join in and be a part of our heritage. This is a great way to pass on your love of our environs. To send a gift membership, please complete the form below and mail it with your check to:

The Greater Lovell Land Trust
PO Box 181
Center Lovell, ME 04016

If received by December 15, 2007, we will acknowledge this thoughtful gift to the recipient(s) before Christmas.

www.gllt.org

Profiles in Volunteering

We are grateful to the many individuals who give their time to make the Greater Lovell Land Trust an effective community organization. The GLLT would like every member of our community to get to know these valued volunteers and to appreciate the expertise and dedication they've contributed to our efforts to preserve and protect our land and resources. This profile focuses on Linda Wurm. Linda has been a docent in our Education Program for over ten years. She is part of a team of twelve docents who act as naturalists while conducting guided hikes, help inventory the animal and plant species on GLLT lands, and contribute to the upkeep of our trail system. Over time, each docent finds a special area of interest to study and share. Linda has developed a special expertise in ferns, flowers, reptiles and amphibians. She has also become the docent who organizes and leads family walks especially designed to make the natural world more interesting for school age children.

Let Linda tell you in her own words why becoming a docent for the GLLT has been so important for her.

"Our family was fortunate to discover Kezar Lake in 1976. We rented a cottage at Gilmore Camps, spent an entire week in



the rain, fed the numerous mosquitoes, and yet still returned. There is indeed something very special about Kezar and the area. We were fortunate to purchase our camp on Lower Bay in 1980, and it certainly is one of the best things we have ever done. Our three daughters are the people they are today partly because of the times spent at the lake swimming, sailing, canoeing, playing games and being an outdoor family, without TV! My girls and husband will tell you I have always "been a docent", and they are probably correct. I don't remember not being curious about the natural world. It was very important to me that my children also appreciate the environment and have a basic understanding of the world around them. I also inflicted this on several years of Girl Scout troops and any guest my kids brought to the camp with them! There is

nothing like a questioning child to prompt me to go to the library.

When I learned about the program that the GLLT offered, I really thought this had been designed particularly for me. The Land Trust has offered great training, teaching us about everything from ferns to birds to the geology of the area. Being confident in taking interested people onto a GLLT property and helping them discover the beauty in the intricate structure of a fern, or watching the excitement a child feels in learning not to be afraid of what's in the woods or the slimy salamander under the rock, or being the person who finds a goldenrod spider camouflaged on the goldenrod flower—all of these moments can open a new world for someone.

I truly believe that when someone really sees with their eyes and grasps the splendor of the outdoors, they are compelled to protect that gift. If I can be a small part in bringing an individual to seeing the world as a child, with astonishment and excitement, then I am "doing OK." Being a docent for the GLLT is fun, rewarding and valuable."

Come and join Linda on a walk next summer. You're sure to discover a part of the natural world you've never seen before.

Opportunities to Volunteer

Volunteers are our foundation. They make it possible for us to do more and better for the communities we serve. As our programs grow, the volunteer opportunities become greater than ever before. Please consider joining with our enthusiastic and interesting volunteers in bringing some of your time and talents to our programs. Paula Hughes is our Volunteer Coordinator. She can help guide you to activities that match your interest and the organization's needs. Please contact her directly at (207) 925-6846 or hughes.paula@yahoo.com.

Some of our current opportunities include the following:

- **People that can be on call for assistance with mailings 2 to 3 times per year**
- **People interested in training to become a Docent with our educational programs**
- **People interested in volunteering to help with special events**
- **Writers that can compose articles of interest for our newsletters and "Land Trust Notes"**
- **People interested in learning how to write conservation easements and work with area landowners in completing their projects. This is an area of specialty that will require an investment of time, depending upon what previous knowledge a volunteer may have. An interest in legal documents and knowledge of sustainable land use practices is helpful**
- **A Website Manager who can make edits to our site and add new pages as they are developed. The website is managed with Adobe Contributor software.**
- **Cranberry pickers for a few hours in the first two weeks of October each year**
- **Property management volunteers, including multiple tasks such as trail maintenance, new trail layout and construction, boundary maintenance, kiosk repair, and updates, etc.**

Update on Hewnoaks



Photo: Toni Seger

The history of Hewnoaks represents some of the most storied love and appreciation for the majestic beauty of Kezar Lake and the surrounding landscape. For nearly 100 years, it served as an inspirational summer retreat for many nationally recognized artists. Douglas Volk, the owner, was an outstanding resident artist working in the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Among the other outstanding artists who painted Kezar Lake and the surrounding landscape most lovingly were Eastman Johnson and Marsden Hartley. The Volks also collected significant works of many other artists, and displayed them at Hewnoaks.

The GLLT shared the vision of Jessie Volk, who wished to preserve the property as a collection of rustic seasonal camps, softly nestled into the landscape. Volk's bequest to the University of Maine Foundation specified her desire that the property be used to promote the creative arts. The GLLT notified the University of Maine Foundation of our interest in supporting this vision. We provided letters of support for the proposal to establish the Camp Susan Curtis Arts Education Center. We are pleased to have played a small role in protecting this special piece of the Kezar Lake environment. We hope this camp program will instill in Maine's youth,

our future conservationists, a love, appreciation and commitment to preserving our most valued natural areas. An update of the first season, provided by Pat Carson, Director of Camp Susan Curtis, follows.

Hewnoaks: An Arts & Environmental Education Center for Lovell

The first year of the Camp Susan Curtis Arts Education Center at Hewnoaks provided high quality Arts & Education programs for underprivileged Maine youth. Designed in concert with University of Maine students and professors, Hewnoaks has become a viable option for over 80 attendees of the Camp Susan Curtis program to continue with additional educational programs and remain a part of the support system designed to help youth escape the cycle of poverty. The program was so successful that the University of Maine Foundation established a college scholarship program to help former Camp Susan Curtis program participants attend the University of Maine at Orono.

In 2008, Camp Susan Curtis will run 5 two-week sessions with follow-up retreats on weekends in the fall and spring. But the question must be asked: What about the other days of the week, and the other weeks and months of the year? Would Lovell and the surrounding towns of Stoneham and Stow be interested in partnering with Camp Susan Curtis and utilizing Hewnoaks for Arts, Environmental Education and Leadership Development programs for local youth? Is the school district interested in after-school programs or educational programs for its students? Could a partnership with Fryeburg Academy help with the increasing drop-out rates and better serve local at-risk youth?

Hewnoaks will open many doors to helping Maine's most vulnerable youth population find their passions, recognize their talents and strengths, graduate from high school and even attend the University of Maine. If people are willing, it also has the same potential for our local youth.

For more information, thoughts or ideas pertaining to Camp Susan Curtis serving local youth please contact: Pat Carson, Camp Susan Curtis Director, at (207) 928-2955.

Today's Youth-Tomorrow's Leaders

If the recommendations of the Brookings Institution's report, "Charting Maine's Future" continue to be embraced by Maine's leaders, it promises exciting new opportunities for Maine youth in the environmental professions. How many times in the past have we witnessed the loss of such leadership from a local community as our young people seek such opportunities elsewhere? The young people who live in our watersheds have close ties to the land and waters we seek to preserve. Who better to pass the

torch of stewardship and preservation to than our local youth? Programs like the Molly Ockett Youth Summit provide our area's middle school students with perhaps their first glimpse of local support for the professions they might one day pursue. Imagine talented future environmental leaders and professionals working for local preservation who are strongly committed by local roots and associations.

Molly Ockett 8th Grade Environmental Youth Summit

On October 10th-12th, local 8th grade students from Molly Ockett Middle School participated in the 4th annual Molly Ockett Environmental Youth Summit.

The Summit is a partnership between: The Camp Susan Curtis Education Center, Tin Mountain Conservation Center and high-school volunteer students at Fryeburg Academy. Staff from all three educational organizations join together for the 3-day Summit to deliver college level environmental and conservation education for local area youth.

Plenty of fun was had on the shores of Trout Lake and the 2200 conservation acres of Camp Susan Curtis. Over 70 students studied: Water Ecology, Wildlife Habitats, Plant Taxonomy, Forestry, Land Use History, Local Environmental Issues and Leadership Development through Ropes Course activities.

The summit concluded with a "Natural Resource Hearing" where students participated in a 2-hour town meeting and shared their scientific data opposing a development that



Fifteen Fryeburg Academy volunteers from Joel Rhymer's Biology and Environmental Science classes helped co-facilitate activities and mentor the Molly Ockett students. Casey Mealey, Camp Susan Curtis Education Center staff and former intern at the G.L.L.T. made note that "without the effort and willingness of Fryeburg Academy volunteers, the project would not be possible".

The Molly Ockett Environmental Summit is one of 15 school programs delivered by the Camp Susan Curtis Education Center. Through grants, volunteer efforts and local partnerships, the C.S.C. Education Center provides high quality leadership development and environmental education programs to local students from Oxford County schools at 1/3rd the traditional cost.

endangered the natural qualities of the area. The summit is part of the environmental curriculum that Tin Mountain Conservation Center provides the school district that begins in kindergarten and continues yearly through 8th grade at Molly Ockett.

Mike Cline, Executive Director of Tin Mountain who also taught Forestry, expressed his satisfaction in this years project by commenting: "I have never seen a more engaged group of forward thinking young adults immersed in learning about the natural beauty and history of western Maine".



KLWA News You Can Use

The KLWA has been restructuring itself so as to provide more oversight and protection of Kezar Lake and the ponds in the watershed. Our recently adopted Statement of Purpose reads as follows:

The purpose of the KLWA is to preserve, protect and maintain the ecological, scenic and recreational resources of Kezar Lake and its watershed for the benefit and enjoyment of residents, summer residents, and visitors, now and in future generations.

Scott Williams, Executive Director of Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) has begun monitoring the ponds, as well as Kezar Lake, for measurable markers such as water clarity, phosphorous, dissolved oxygen, algae, and acidity. This has been done for nearly three decades for Kezar Lake, but has only recently begun for the ponds. These baseline figures will enable us

to recognize adverse changes and react accordingly, in order to preserve our exceptional water quality. The KLWA has commissioned a study by biologists at UMaine/Orono designed to measure zooplankton in the lake. These are the microscopic creatures such as Daphne which are at the base of the food chain of fish and invertebrates.

Several open meetings were held this past summer with the Lovell Selectmen about the Cushman Pond Dam. The 1898 dam, constructed of granite blocks which have shifted and settled, is in poor condition. A number of trees have grown into the structure, weakening it further. The Selectmen have sought advice from the state dam inspector, Tony Fletcher, and are in the process of determining the best course of action as to repairing/rebuilding the dam.

Of concern, of course, is the presence of milfoil in Cushman Pond. The Town, together with Cushman Pond residents and the KLWA, has been diligent in monitoring the situation. There have been 3 dives each summer by scuba divers trained to remove this highly invasive aquatic plant. Diver and Cushman Pond summer resident Doug Faille reported that the result has been about a 50% reduction each year of the amount harvested. In 2006, there was a total of about 5 gal. for the whole season; the last dive of 2007 resulted in no new plants found! This is indeed amazing news. Cushman Pond is a Poster Child for the state of Maine's milfoil control program.

The KLWA and the GLLT continue to work together to protect the ecology of the watershed. Visit the now up-and-running KLWA website at www.kezarlake.org.

Take a Moment It's Simple, Easy and Free!

What if the GLLT earned a penny every time you searched the internet? Well, now we can! The GLLT is registered with Good Search as a recipient of advertising revenues generated from the daily internet searches of people like you. For every internet search done through goodsearch.com advertisers will contribute \$0.01 to the GLLT. Imagine if 1,000 people search twice a day, the GLLT would receive \$7,300 annually, without anyone spending a dime. Here's how:

1. Go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> and add GoodSearch as one of your computer search options, or better yet make GoodSearch your homepage. Both options are easily accessed with one click at the bottom of the GoodSearch homepage.
2. At the same time enter the "Greater Lovell Land Trust" in the box entitled "I'm Supporting", thus directing contributions to the GLLT.
3. Ask your family and friends to do the same.
4. Do it today, and you can see daily how your choice made a difference.

GoodSearch.com is a service powered by Yahoo so you get great results. They donate 50% of their advertising revenues to the charity of your choice. Thank you for making us the charity of your choice.

GLLT Welcomes Officers and Directors for 2007 - 2008

The following Officers and Directors of the Greater Lovell Land Trust were elected and announced at the Annual Meeting on August 11, 2007:

- Howard Corwin - President
- Sara Cope - Vice President
- Bob Winship - Vice President
- Bill McCormick - Vice President and Treasurer
- Tom Sheehan - Secretary
- Dan Stockford - Counsel and Clerk

2 Year Term Ending in 2009

- John Duffy
- Paula Hughes

3 Year Term Ending in 2010

- Ron Gestwicki
- Jim Owens
- Dennis Smith
- Hunt Stockwell

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.



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GLLT's New Reserve: The Back Pond Reserve at the Five Kezar Ponds

1980

Looking back, this new Reserve-to-be started in 1980 when twelve families on Back Pond raised \$5500 to purchase 10 acres on the shore of Back Pond. Their foresight proved correct as the shoreline of Back Pond has slowly, but steadily, been developed. The land was deeded to the GLLT in 1998 as "forever wild" land, meaning that no human activities are permitted. Access to the property by water is not permitted.

2006

What the owners did not foresee was that the 10 acres on the water could be important to wildlife when combined with abutting land directly north of the shore land. That is exactly what became a reality in 2006 when the Five Kezar Ponds Watershed Association raised the funds to enable the GLLT to purchase 139 acres between the shore and State of Maine land—2000 acres around Trout Pond where Camp Susan Curtis is located. Funds came not only from many owners but also from next generation owners, a new group of "friends of the ponds," and the children and grandchildren of owners. The Reserve now creates a corridor that will insure at least some respite for wildlife as development continues to dramatically take place in our area. There is no water access to the Reserve.

2007

This past summer was a time of celebrating the new Back Pond Reserve (a combination of the 10 acres and the 139 acres). Kevin Harding, David Brown, Tom Wessels, and Linda Wurm led four walks

on the property. Linda's walk was a special walk for the Kezar Kids who contributed their money for the purchase. The grand opening of the property began with champagne, a speech by Howard Corwin and then a walk led by Kevin Harding for 23 people.



Earlier Kevin had noticed that an existing old logging road that would be part of any proposed trail was so badly eroded due to poor logging practices that soil was moving down slope and into the main stream flowing into Back Pond. Kevin returned for a "workshop" on water control devices. Under his guidance, three different trail crews have placed six such devices on the old logging road.

2008

As part of his work on the Reserve, David Brown suggested the location of a loop trail on the lower half of the property. One was chosen, and David flagged it. Next summer it will be combined with the old logging road to form a loop trail of over one mile. Kevin will determine the best way to trim out the trail, put up the blazes, place boardwalks in one moist area, etc. It is anticipated that the owners—together with next generation owners and the older children—will enthusiastically maintain the trail.

The grand opening of the trail will take place next summer with Kevin leading a walk

with a focus on the new part of the loop trail. In addition, three of the four members of our new Education Committee, who were participants in Kevin's two-day beginning naturalist course this past summer, are now assuming the leadership and with Kevin are planning future

walks on the property. Four walks are planned for next summer: one by Kevin (back by popular demand), one on mushrooms by members of the Maine Mycological Society, one on geology (by one of our owners), and one for the children (a night event on the property to listen for night sounds and especially to "talk" with the Barred Owls who nest on the property).

Finally, based on this past summer's walks by the four naturalists, a trail guide is being prepared and will premier for the grand opening of the trail. It will consist of laminated pages giving visitors descriptions of the Reserve by David Brown, a topographical map showing the trail, and highlighting the natural features on the loop trail, along with surveys for birds and mammals done by David Brown, and a survey of the flora done by GLLT docents.

The Stewardship Plan

Each new property acquired by the GLLT must have a stewardship plan indicating how the property is to be managed. The Five Kezar Ponds Watershed Association has

taken this plan very seriously. The Association began working on it last fall once we knew the purchase was imminent. Our Land Preservation Committee submitted our recommendations to the Properties Commission of the GLLT and they were accepted. We have submitted the plan to all of our owners for their responses since we want everyone to be involved in all aspects of the new Reserve. Next summer we will have meetings and an educational process so that we come close to a consensus on the plan and, more importantly, so that we position ourselves in a united way for future projects with the GLLT.

Future Reserves

We thank the GLLT for the opportunity here to talk about our role in their new Reserve. Actually what we are doing is setting a high standard for ourselves for protecting the land around us. As we learn the details of the Conservation Study by the GLLT for our greater region, we want our Association to play an active role in protecting land, especially in the Kezar River watershed. It's been relatively easy to establish this Reserve since the land is in our backyard. Now the challenge for us is to look beyond our immediate hills in order to do the right thing for the whole ecosystem around us. Otherwise we will become just an island in a compromised ecosystem. Our focus now is working with the GLLT toward a healthier ecosystem.

Ron Gestwicki,
the Five Kezar Ponds Watershed
Association