

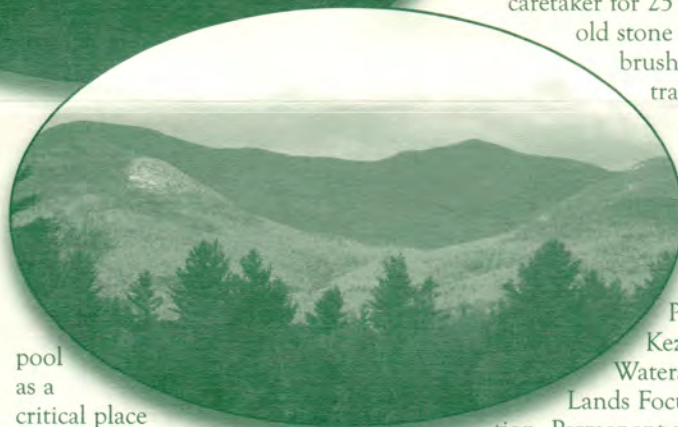
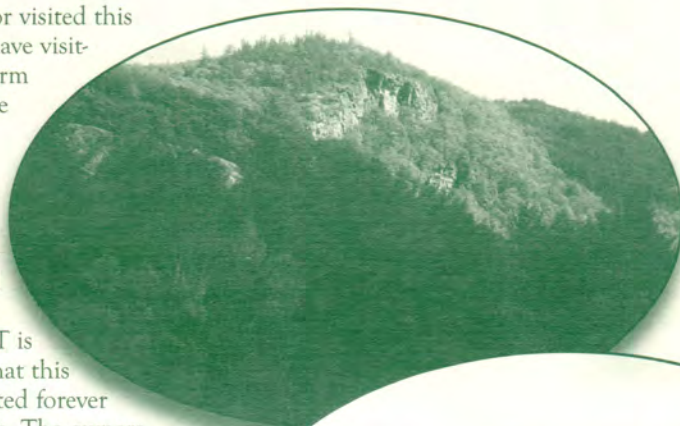
# Stone House Farm Conservation Easement

If you have ever lived or visited this area, you surely must have visited the Stone House Farm property in Stow. There are few places more spectacular than this local gem. The property, with its rich and interesting history, surrounds Shell Pond and is host to four popular hiking trails. The GLLT is pleased to announce that this property will be protected forever in its undeveloped state. The owners, David Cromwell and Sharon Landry, established a conservation easement to be held by the GLLT that allows for traditional uses such as commercial agriculture and forestry, but prohibits development and subdivision, in perpetuity.

The Stone House property is about 890 acres in size (1.4 square miles), surrounded by the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF). In addition to the hiking trails, this private property offers many peaceful and pretty views of the Baldface Mountain range and other surrounding hills. The bulk of the land is hardwood and softwood forest, last lumbered in 1977.

In the early 1850s, Abel Andrews built an unusual 40' x 25' stone house out of large, hand-hewn granite slabs from Rattlesnake Mountain for his wife and 13 children. He also cleared almost 200 acres of pasture, of which only 25 open acres now remain.

Rattlesnake flume (a gorge that is 300 feet long and 20 feet wide) and Rattlesnake pool (a natural swimming hole that is 20 feet deep) are easily accessible on the property via the Stone House Trail. These features are destinations for many hikers, including those with young children. The State of Maine designated Rattlesnake



pool as a critical place of scenic beauty.

Another popular hiking trail goes two miles around Shell Pond, a shallow 50-acre great pond. This trail offers scenic views of nearby mountains and Rattlesnake ledges, including a peaceful trail through an old apple orchard and past an old sugar maple factory.

Over the years, numerous couples have held their wedding ceremonies on the property.

The Stone House Farm provides natural habitat in which vegetation and wildlife thrive. Wildlife includes bear, moose, deer, coyote, beaver, hare, red fox, porcupine, and fisher cat. Birds include wild turkey, gamecock, ruffed grouse, geese, great and blue heron, hummingbirds and a variety of hawks, ducks and songbirds.



Descendants of Abel Andrews owned the farm until about 1917. The Andrews womenfolk found it too isolated. "Nothing to do but look at mountains." They sold it to a lumber baron. The Cromwell/Landry family bought the farm from Saunders Brothers, a lumber company, in 1986. Frank Eastman has been the caretaker for 25 years. He has restored old stone walls, cleared underbrush and constructed many trails and hiking bridges.

The Stone House Farm property is a high priority parcel for the GLLT for permanent protection. It was identified in the Conservation Plan for the Kezar River, Kezar Lake and Cold River Watersheds as the Shell Pond Lands Focus Area for land protection. Permanent protection will ensure the ecological integrity of the large unfragmented forest block, surrounded by the WMNF and the exemplary natural communities within this forest.

The owners want to sustain the property forever in its natural and scenic condition. They want to preserve it as land that is free from commercial, industrial or real estate development. "I cannot imagine this beautiful property covered with condos or a golf course," said David Cromwell. "We think the best way to ensure its preservation is to make a gift of a conservation easement to the Greater Lovell Land Trust." "We are grateful," said Tom Henderson "to David Cromwell and Sharon Landry for their generosity and vision in preserving this very special place forever."

# President's Message

Robert Winship, President

When Susan and I purchased our little bit of paradise on Bradley Pond in 1995, our neighbor to the south was the James River Company, a large timber and paper operation. We were a little concerned about what might transpire on the land next door, but on balance we thought this beautiful spot would serve us well. Within a few months, however, Howard Corwin's troops from the GLLT were knocking on the door looking for help to purchase the timber company's forest land, to be preserved forever. Such was our introduction to the GLLT and the beginning of our fifteen year saga with the land trust. We quickly learned about the weekly walks during July and August and one thing led to another. Susan and I became docents through the great training program begun by Kevin Harding and we learned about the flora, fauna and wonderful properties that the GLLT had acquired. The docent-led walks, along with the weekly talks at the library, form the foundation of the education program which the GLLT sponsors and which is now under the direction of Bridie McGreavy. During this past summer, Bridie's first as our Education Director, over five hundred participants enjoyed a highly varied program that included something for every member of the family. I hope you will all have a chance to join us next summer to explore some of our interesting properties and take part in the natural history presentations at the library.

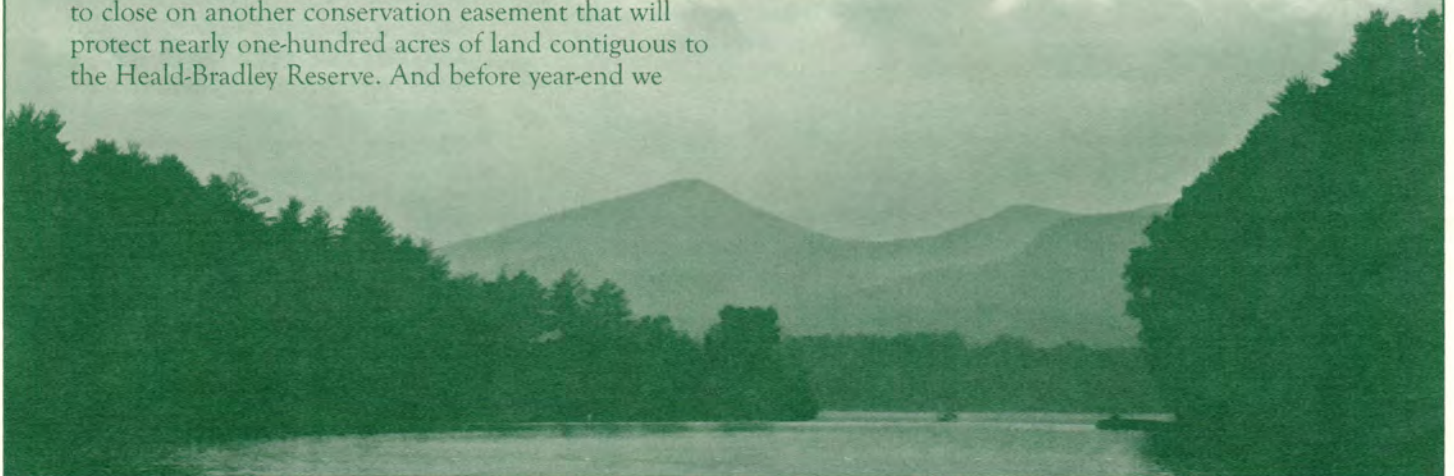
Our program to protect special land from development is proceeding apace. In this issue of our newsletter you will read about the conservation easement, which we will hold on the Stone House Farm in Stow. This eight-hundred acre property includes all of Shell Pond, the old farm with its large apple orchard and the trails, which provide access to Rattlesnake Pool and Blueberry Mountain. This is truly a local treasure, which will now be protected forever. We are also ready to close on another conservation easement that will protect nearly one-hundred acres of land contiguous to the Heald-Bradley Reserve. And before year-end we

plan on closing on a three-hundred acre parcel on the west side of Sucker Brook, adding an important link in the western wildlife corridor project.

We recently received notice that we are named heir to a fifty-three acre parcel of woodland, including a homestead, in Lovell, formerly owned by Lucy Irion. Although the disposition of the homestead is uncertain at this time, the balance of the forest land will be protected in perpetuity in accordance with Mrs. Irion's wishes.

These superb additions to our protected lands come as the result of years of work with local land owners and friends of the GLLT. The groundwork laid by Howard Corwin, Bill McCormick, Tom Henderson and many others has made this great organization into a first-rate success story. We will continue to grow our successes by further collaborating with the Kezar Lake Watershed Association. We have recently agreed to share a part of our office with the KLWA and their logo has been added to our office sign. By working more closely with the KLWA, we will strengthen our collective effort to protect and enhance the waters, wetlands and forests, which we all so much appreciate.

One last item of interest is our next annual education meeting. Mark your calendar for the second Saturday in August, when we will be honored to have as our speaker George Jacobson, Professor Emeritus of Biology, Ecology and Climate Change at the University of Maine in Orono. Professor Jacobson is also the State Climatologist and a founder of the Climate Change Institute in Orono. He will speak on living with climate change in Maine, and I assure you that he will be both entertaining and thought provoking.



# Notes from the Desk

Tom Henderson, Executive Director

**Passions** can be a source of great motivation and when acted upon can result in untold and unexpected reward. Those of us in the land trust community share a passion for the natural world, which motivates us to join together with others to preserve it. I believe it is the land that we are most passionate about, as all else follows: native wildlife, clean water, incomparable landscapes and rich and diverse recreational experiences. The GLLT expects to complete three significant land protection projects this year including the Stone House Farm conservation easement featured here. Combined, these projects total 1,391 acres. This is the highest number of acres ever preserved in a single year throughout our history. Notably, the donation of a conservation easement on the 890-acre Stone House Farm property is the largest protection project we've ever completed. Acres are only one measure. Each of this year's projects is a high priority parcel for advancing our goal of preserving intact ecosystems and the species that depend upon them through a network of conserved and connected lands across the landscape.

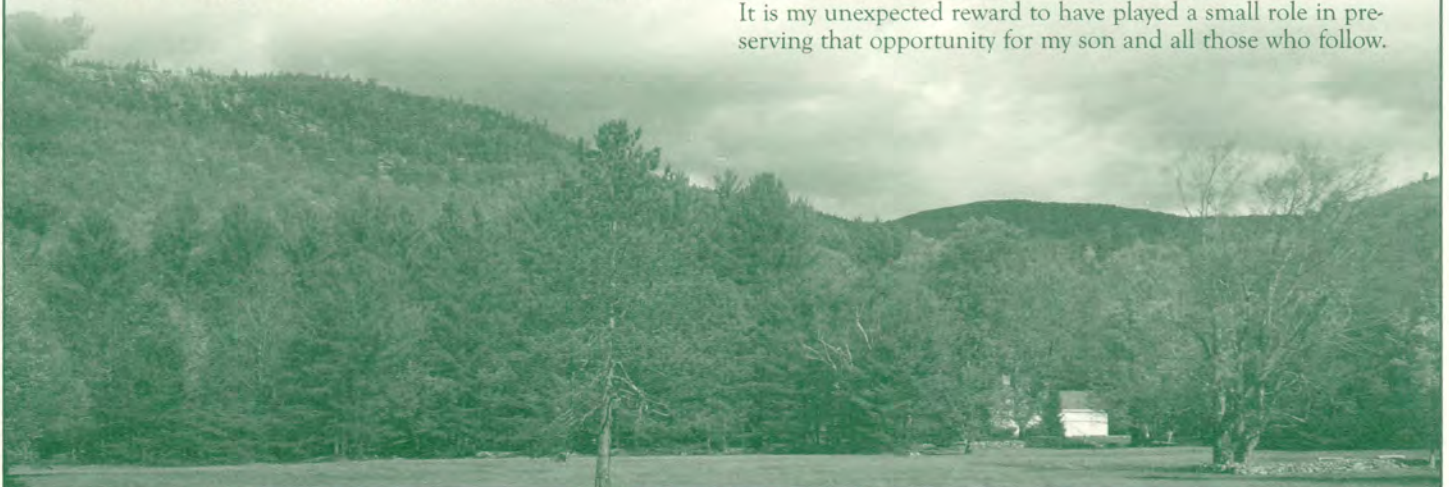
Many of us have a personal connection to one of the properties, the Stone House Farm and I am no exception. My first experience with this special place in Maine turned my young interest in the natural world into a devotion for it . . . almost overnight. A decade later, that interest, turned devotion, became a passion. It all began in Evans Notch, 38 years ago on my first weekend camping trip after joining Boy Scout Troop 22 in South Portland, Maine. My Scoutmaster, Frank Maguire, led trips every six weeks and he had a particular love for the Evans Notch region and its multitude of trail and destination offerings. It was late September and darkness had long fallen when we arrived in the little field along the Cold River, which would serve as our camp for the next two days. Being from the city, I was not accustomed to the deep darkness of Evans Notch, nor the eerie silence of its forest. That first night, the silence would be broken several times. With the thoughts of an imaginative 11-year-old trying to sleep in the woods for the first time, I laid shivering slightly, nervously in my sleeping bag. Then I heard it—a low, deep sound roaring in the distance. I stiffened when I realized something was approaching as it grew louder and more forceful. The wind had risen over the surrounding summits. It moved downslope, squeezing through the narrow notch walls, increasing in speed and force. It bore down on our field encampment and poured under the

side flaps of my floor-less tent. Cool, crisp, mountain air breezed through. As each new wind rose up in the distance, I listened to it make its journey through the notch, under the flaps of the tent, across the field, and finally escape down the Cold River Valley. What at first was unknown and unnerving became fascinatingly reassuring and soothing. I drifted off to sleep as yet another wind rose up and began its journey.

The following day, we hiked to the summit of Speckled Mountain with its magnificent views so expansive that the State of Maine built a fire tower there. We returned by way of the Rattlesnake Pools and the bravest of us took a plunge, my first plunge into a frigid mountain stream. At last we descended from the wooded mountain trail into a beautiful field framed by Baldface Mountain. These were the fields of the Stone House Farm. I was intrigued with this house made of cut granite. It was not occupied and the older Scouts claimed it was full of snakes. We were weary from the day and the old apple trees provided a refreshing treat. Before leaving for the camping trip, my aunt had given me my first instamatic camera. I exhausted my film taking pictures of Baldface, the Rattlesnake Cliffs, the Stone House, the fields and the surrounding landscape. This place, nestled in the Cold River Valley, spoke to me and I have returned often to enjoy the peace, tranquility and beauty it offers.

Ten years later I moved to Fryeburg upon graduating with a degree from the University of Maine's School of Forestry. Since then, I've spent many weekends rediscovering Evans Notch and the amenities of the Stone House Farm property. The property was put on the market at that time and I remember being deeply concerned. Could I lose access to this gem that meant so much to me? What would become of it? I feared big changes that never came to pass. I am personally grateful to the Cromwell/Landry family for their fine stewardship of the property these past 25 years and their willingness to continue to permit public access to the hiking trails.

I frequent Evans Notch for inspiration, to relive these moments of my youth, to retrace my steps and share with family and friends the experience of the area and the special place known as the Stone House Farm. I know the strongest roots of my passion for land conservation began to grow that September weekend nearly 40 years ago. The Stone House Farm contributed directly to the development of that passion. It is my unexpected reward to have played a small role in preserving that opportunity for my son and all those who follow.



# Tales of WWh

From the age of 11, early spring evenings would find me walking fast and expectantly through the pasture carrying a flashlight for the return trip. In central Maine Aprils, when the first green shoots of grass appeared in the fields and patches of snow remained in the woods, the melting snow fed the brook so it overflowed the stone bridge. That brook divided the pasture that began near the barn from the far pasture that abutted the woods.

Tinker, the family mutt, galloped heedlessly through the icy water, but I walked carefully so as not to slip and fill my boots with water. Across the brook, we were in the far country, closer to the wildness and mystery of the woods.

After climbing over the bar gate, part of the fencing that kept cows in the pasture, the sense of excitement increased. Gnarled cedars predominated in the woods closest to the pasture, but as we continued up the winding path, we passed through mixed softwoods—pine, spruce, balsam fir—interspersed with maple, beech, tamarack and poplar.

Just at the edge of the woods bordering the abandoned field—our destination—we would stop. Still sheltered and hidden by trees, Tinker sat quietly by my side while I scanned the field in eager anticipation.

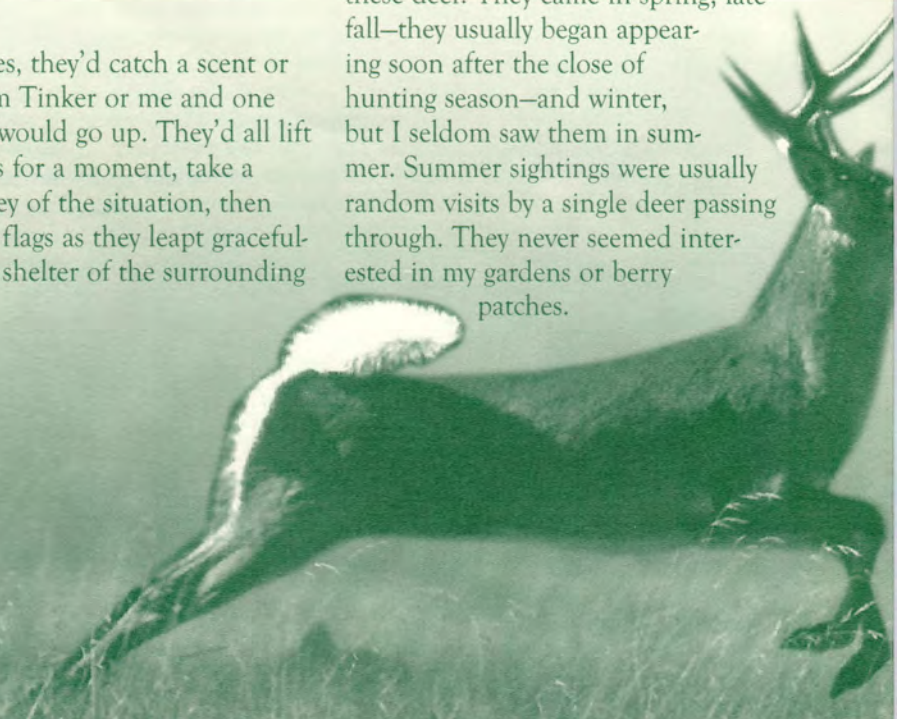
Then, if we were lucky, we'd see them, a herd of white-tailed deer grazing on new spring grass, oblivious to our presence. Sometimes I could watch them until it got too dark to see any longer as they moved slowly about the field, heads down, greedily grazing the spring treat. Those times, I'd need to use the flashlight to light the path on the way home, but I didn't mind stumbling over rocks and tree roots. The elation I felt was worth it.

Other times, they'd catch a scent or sound from Tinker or me and one white flag would go up. They'd all lift their heads for a moment, take a quick survey of the situation, then flash their flags as they leapt gracefully into the shelter of the surrounding woods.

They were probably the same deer we could sometimes see from the house, grazing in the far pasture, but they were just dark shapes at that distance. In that abandoned field, far from home and close to the deer, I felt the wonder and the sense of being unusually privileged to observe these magnificent wild creatures living the mystery of their natural lives. Sixty-five years later, I'm still enriched by the thrill I felt then.

About 20 years ago, living in a tiny town, Stacyville, with a magnificent view of Mt. Katahdin, I was granted another experience of the white-tailed deer. The dog I had then, Monty, a black lab and English sheepdog mix, was as obedient and silent at deer watching as Tinker had been 45 years earlier.

I didn't have to go anywhere to watch these deer. They came in spring, late fall—they usually began appearing soon after the close of hunting season—and winter, but I seldom saw them in summer. Summer sightings were usually random visits by a single deer passing through. They never seemed interested in my gardens or berry patches.



# itetails

by Joyce White

In spring, they would come to eat the first green grass on the lawn while there was still snow in the woods, sometimes four or five, sometimes 11 or 12. They most often came mid to late afternoon, but a few could surprise me at any time of day.

From their daily visits, I began to recognize individuals and I could observe their interactions. From those close observations, one of my preconceptions—that deer always lived peacefully and harmoniously—was demolished. One of the big bucks was a bully, a greedy one. He would push other deer away when they were grazing. Other times I observed him coming down hard with a front hoof on the head of a fawn or yearling who was reaching for an apple.

If the cat, Shadow, wandered out while they were munching on apples, the deer closest to the cat would snort and raise a hoof as if to strike—but they would continue eating, apparently aware that the cat was really no threat. If Monty or I went outside when they were around, however, they would retreat to the cover of the woods. They usually didn't go far though, and would often return for more apples when we were back inside.

In addition to their supply of apples in the old orchard, I harvested and stored apples in the cellar for them. When that supply ran out, they got Macs from the store. In winter, one of my morning tasks was to quarter a big bowlful of apples and wade down through snow to push the pieces onto the lower branches of small apple trees for my four-footed friends. Then, while other women were watching their "soaps," I got to watch a real live show from the comfort of my kitchen! The south-facing slider framed their activity about 20 feet beyond the deck and Mt. Katahdin made a perfect backdrop.

During my last year there, Monty died and six months later, I adopted another black Lab mix from the shelter. Unlike Tinker and Monty, though, Lady barked furiously whenever she saw the deer in "her" yard. They stopped coming regularly, or at least, when I could see them.

I felt a strong sense of loss. Something very important, an aspect of the magical and mysterious that I had been privileged to participate in, was no longer a dependable part of my life.

Stacyville, that little town south of Patten, is the only place I've lived where in early spring people would

drive around the back roads just to watch herds of deer grazing at dusk. Once I learned about that spring ritual, I participated by driving an elderly friend past the fields and pastures where they were grazing and she would count deer—13 in this field, 32 in another, 24 in that far pasture—often reaching a sum of 100 deer sighted in the course of one evening.

In Stoneham, where I've lived for the last 14 years, I seldom see deer, but I know they are around, though not in great numbers. In winter, they reveal their presence with tracks they leave in snow and the pawing they do beneath apple trees to get at the fallen fruit. Since both my neighbors and I are now dogless, the deer apparently feel free to graze my green beans and broccoli and blueberries—but only at night when I can't enjoy seeing them.

They are undeterred by the scarecrow—except for the first week of her appearance in "their" garden. The only success I've had in preventing their grazing is a spray of cayenne and peppermint oil—and that has to be re-applied after every rain. Even though I'd prefer they not eat my gardens, I'm still glad to know they are around.

# GLLT Education Program by Bridie McGreavy

It was about this time last year that I was touring all of the GLLT properties with Kevin Harding as he passed on his deep, place-based knowledge to me. He showed me the smooth-barked beech trees with the five-toed claw marks from repeated bear climbs and taught me place names like Otter Rocks and Moose Pond Bog. We toured familiar sites at the top of Whiting Hill and made new discoveries where a fisher clawed into the base of a stump at the Kezar River Reserve. And what he didn't have time to share, he included in a GPS inventory of Heald and Bradley Pond, which summer intern Parker Veitch took on as a project to eventually upload to the Web site. My main goal this year was to work with Tom and the docents to maintain the integrity of the program that Kevin built with such care and skill. After this first year, there are several metrics by which I measure our success in this endeavor.

To start, we offered a full schedule and attendance at all of our programs was high, with an average of 37 attendees at the evening presentations and 12 participants in our guided walks. David Brown drew a crowd, as always, and shared his stories about the Brownfield Bog. Bonny Boatman offered three of her very popular programs. Attendees at both of her talks on the ruby throated hummingbird learned that this little animal doesn't walk, can fly backwards, and is nick-named "the rain bird" (you'll have to do some research to find out why). She also presented on the bald eagle in a second children's program at the Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library.



Lynda Thayer and Nancy Hart shared moose stories and stunning photographs, especially of the moose named "Twigs" because he appeared to have deer antlers! I gave a presentation on Nature's Numbers, and as promised we did not use any calculators. Instead, we learned about fractals, Fibonacci numbers and the golden mean and how these mathematical patterns and numbers help us understand nature. Finally, Susan Sidwell encouraged us all to turn our attention to the plants and pollinators, both for their beauty and importance to the planet. In sum, more than 500 people joined us this summer out on the trail, investigating natural history, and learning about land protection at the annual meeting.

Docents are the heart of the GLLT's education program. This year, we welcomed two new docents: Carol Gestwicki and Paula Hughes. The docents led walks on Wednesdays and Thursdays at nearly all of the GLLT properties. We started the summer with a special training on natural history interpretation with Dr. Jessica Leahy from the University of Maine, which guided the development of themes and content for the weekly walks. We ended the summer with a docent dinner, graciously hosted by Dennis and Ellen Smith, where we talked about the program and made plans for next year.

Bob and Susan Winship, Moira Yip, Dennis and Ellen Smith and Mary Adams created and installed a self-guided plant walk at Heald-Bradley leaving from the Flat Hill parking area. Look for the self-guided plant walk at the

Kezar River Reserve next year and the permanent self-guided trail at the Wilson Wing Moose Pond Bog Preserve.

I also offered the annual natural history course. On a beautiful August day, eight of us took to the woods to read the forested landscape at Heald-Bradley Ponds Reserve and search for animal sign at the Kezar River Reserve. Along the way, we discovered stone walls and cellar holes; evidence of glaciers, wind and rain; moose scat, raccoon tracks and more.

As much as we tried to keep things the same, we also added a few things this year. The GLLT now has a growing e-mail list-serve where we post upcoming programs, including guided walks, evening presentations and other things we think you might want to know about. If you are interested in joining this list, please send me an e-mail at [Bridie.McGreavy@maine.edu](mailto:Bridie.McGreavy@maine.edu). We videotaped the summer lecture series, and our programs will air on Lake Region Television this winter. Copies are available to borrow at the office. Finally, next summer look for two additional programs in the evening natural history series which will be co-sponsored by the Kezar Lake Watershed Association (KLWA) and will focus on lake and watershed-related topics.

I learned this year that the educator position is not a job that one person does alone. The GLLT education program is a community in which docents and participants come together to explore the natural world as a means for encouraging its conservation. I am grateful to have stepped into this community and I look forward to helping it grow in the coming years.

## Winter Walks Planned

Spend an incredible two hours on a wintry snowshoe walk exploring, observing and reflecting upon the natural world we encounter during this season of cold. Discover animal tracks and signs, beautiful winter scenes and more. Bring your own snowshoes, water and snack. Dress warmly and in layers for the conditions. All ages welcome.

### *Walk Schedule:*

- **Saturday, January 7:** Wilson Wing Moose Pond Bog Preserve/Bishop's Cardinal Reserve. Meet at the kiosk, Horseshoe Pond Road.
- **Saturday, February 25:** Heald and Bradley Pond Reserve. Meet at the Fairburn parking lot, Slab City Road.

# Announcing the 2011 Marion Rodgeron Scholarship Award

In honor of one of our earliest easement donors, the GLLT offers a \$500 scholarship each year to a graduating senior at Fryeburg Academy. We are pleased to announce that the 2011 recipient of the Marion Rodgeron Scholarship is Lauren Brooking of Lovell, Maine.

Lauren tells us a little bit about herself and what the scholarship means to her: "I've always been interested in sustainability and greener energy, and I've always really loved the outdoors, especially the forest. I excelled in science throughout school, but what really inspired me to pursue environmental sciences was a trip I took with Fryeburg Academy's ecology club to Puerto Rico. We went there for a week to a research base in the rainforest where a few scientists were working on their ongoing projects. We helped them collect data by measuring and marking vines, and counting and identifying different species of small lizards. I really enjoyed collecting the data to help the scientists, and it was inspiring when they showed us all of the data they were already analyzing and the details of what they were working on. The fact that we were surrounded by the GORGEOUS Puerto Rican

rainforest wasn't too bad either! I learned so much and had so much fun on that trip that I decided that I definitely wanted to do something science related. I chose environmental science because of my love of the outdoors, and I really want to focus on sustainability research because preserving our planet is of the utmost importance and not enough people realize the dire situation that the planet is already in, let alone where it will be if sustainability research and development continues to be labeled as less important.

My choice of college is directly influenced by my chosen course of study. The Evergreen State College is known specifically for its sustainability research, development, and practices, and I know that I will learn everything I need and want to know there. It is also right in the middle of the Washington rainforest, so it is the perfect place for studying different plants, especially trees, which is what I'm most interested in. After college, I think I'd like to go to South America to continue researching the environment."

Congratulations, Lauren. The GLLT Board and members wish you well in your studies.

## News from the KLWA

by Ann Williams and Tom Henderson

The KLWA and the GLLT have a long tradition of working together for the health of Kezar Lake and the watershed. Many of these efforts have been highly visible and well known, others less so. Did you know, for instance, that each year the GLLT has invited the KLWA to appoint four of its trustees or representatives to serve as GLLT Directors? And that several years ago, the KLWA changed its By-Laws to permit up to three GLLT representatives to serve as non-voting members of its Board of Trustees? In addition, the KLWA and GLLT have had a joint standing committee for five years, working together to explore, propose and implement collaborative projects. This KLWA/GLLT Committee has four primary collaborative goals for the coming year:

- Continued publication and distribution of the *Land, Lakes and Us* magazine. This is a free educational outreach tool for visitors and residents alike, with interesting and timely articles about the land, lake and watershed.
- Two lectures and two docent-led walks, sponsored by the KLWA. These will be added to the GLLT Environmental Education Program and will focus on topics relating to wetland ecosystems, hydrology, and the watershed.
- Shared office space and staff resources of the KLWA and GLLT. This mutually beneficial arrangement will help to advance the KLWA goal of having a higher visible profile in the community. Two organizations operating out of a single location will demonstrate to the public our mutual dedication in promoting stewardship of land, lake and watershed.
- Continued joint support of the efforts of the Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention Committee (LIPPC). This Town Committee was established initially by collaborative efforts of the GLLT, the KLWA and the Town of Lovell.

The two organizations are pleased to continue this collaborative working relationship that is leading the way to protect the watershed.

## Meet the newest members of the GLLT Board of Directors

**Robert Upton:** Robert is an avid outdoorsman with a broad range of personal experience in civic affairs, and has served on numerous boards. He is an attorney from New Hampshire with a practice in North Conway, and moved to Lovell 2 years ago.

**Joan Lundin:** Joan is a long time resident of Hollis, Maine, and has enjoyed time spent at a family camp on Kewaydin Lake for the past 14 years. She has a love for all outdoor activities, including hiking, skiing and snowshoeing. Joan is a GLLT docent and leads both summer and winter walks. She is also a member of the informal GLLT animal tracking group. Says Joan, "The Greater Lovell Land Trust's deep commitment to the management of properties in the Lovell area allow us the resources to learn about and enjoy nature. I'm thankful for being able to identify different trees, plants and wildflowers, and knowing how to read different animal signs and their tracks because of the outstanding educational programs that the GLLT offers."

**Heinrich Wurm:** Heinrich grew up in post-WWII Germany and has a deep appreciation for open space, nature and the preservation of the natural environment. As an anesthesiology chair at a Boston teaching hospital he has found balance and enjoyment on and around Kezar Lake's Lower Bay for the last 30+ years. Heinrich is an avid sailor and amateur nature photographer and with his wife Linda he has been an active supporter of GLLT's mission of conservation, public access and education. Heinrich states, "As I am approaching retirement, I am looking forward to spend more time in Lovell and participate in GLLT's future growth and development."

## KLWA To Share Office With GLLT

by Ann Williams

The KLWA is pleased to announce that it is sharing an office with the GLLT! And not only the office, since the KLWA now has a dedicated work station complete with office equipment, computer, internet, printer, filing space, and space for meetings and assembling the newsletter. The GLLT staff will assist with program support, grant writing, project leadership, and response to public inquiries regarding lake and wildlife concerns.

The new phone number for the KLWA is 207.925.8020. Roger Williams created the colorful sign. Do stop in!

## GLLT Mission Statement



“The mission of the Greater Lovell Land Trust is to protect the ecosystems of the Kezar Lake and adjacent watersheds by promoting an appreciation of natural resources and responsible preservation, conservation, stewardship, development and public policy.”

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