



GREATER LOVELL
LAND TRUST

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023

SERVING LOVELL, STONEHAM, STOW, AND SWEDEN, MAINE

The mixed menu of weather extremes lasted through the summer, with the rainiest run in memory, hot spells, water levels that never seemed to drop, and even a 75MPH gust recorded from the last trails of hurricane Lee leaving us with days of power outages. Through it all the GLLT has stayed busy.

The Weekly Weeders and their pollinator garden thrived at our office, our Groundhogs trail crew undertook and FINISHED a beautiful walking trail in the Kezar Corridorlands reserve that climbs up Patterson Hill, and our friends at Saco River Brewing launched Patterson Hill Pilsner to celebrate our work. Our watersheds are the headwaters of the Saco River, and we agree, good water makes great beer.

Soon we will say goodbye to a very special staff member, and we have recently welcomed two new staff. School programs are back in session and this year's MESA middle school

group has started an exploration of geology and minerals. A busy season of walks and talks continues. And the next big thing is already on the horizon — a conservation-minded owner has agreed to GLLT acquisition of another major portion of the Kezar River watershed. By adding this southern section the pristine waters of the river and the underlying aquifer—important water sources for many communities—will be protected forever. As always, we welcome you to these special places and thank you for your continued support of our work to keep the lands open for our community today and for the future.

As we move into the future, the GLLT will continue to collaborate with our neighbors and friends to assure the wellbeing of this place that we all love.

Happy fall!

Jill Rundle, President

Leigh Macmillen Hayes has created magic in classrooms and along trails, for children, students, and adults throughout the seasons in her seven years as a volunteer and almost ten years as the Greater Lovell Land Trust education director. Though Leigh retires this year, it seems likely that we may still see her from time to time in the woods, wetlands, and open spaces that she has shared with us over the years. She has left a lasting legacy: so many friends who have learned to love the natural world as she does.

Transition

Leigh Hayes, GLLT Education Director

To walk into a cemetery on a summer day
And find an insect metamorphosing upon a gravestone,
I begin to understand the process of resurrection.

A life well spent questing root sap for sustenance
Prepares to crawl free of its past
And reach for heavenly aspirations.

Through a tiny slit, a spirit no longer contained
Emerges head first as a general shape develops
With bulging eyes to view a new world.

Gradually, a pale tourmaline-colored body extends outward
As stained-glass wings unfurl
That will provide baby steps toward freedom above.

I mourn the loss of your former soul,
But give thanks for a peek at your upcoming ascension
From this place to the next.

It is not for me to know when you will first use the gift of flight
As I didn't know when you would shed your old skin,
And I quickly offer a final good-bye when you spread your wings.

I rejoice that I will spend the rest of the summer
Listening to your raspy love songs meant to continue the cycle of life
As you play nature's lullabies upon violin strings from above.

On this day, I celebrate the secrets of a Dog-day Cicada's life,
Dying to the old ways and rising to the new,
While I wander among the graves of others who have done the same.



When we protect conservation lands we protect them in perpetuity. That implies a certain sense of stability, and a lack of change in the landscape.

It implies that these plots of land, guarded by boundary lines, will persist as snapshots that fix time in a wild landscape while the world builds up and changes around them. In many ways this is true, but it would be a disservice to the landscape to hold it to an ideal of unvarying stoicism while its strength is much more rooted in change.

Let's take a walk as I invite you to consider the landscape of GLLT's Long Meadow Brook Reserve.

As we begin our walk through the reserve we are passing beneath a ceiling of soaring white pines with long straight trunks standing side by side. It's impossible to deny the feeling; this place is grand. The short berry brambles and young beech at the trail edge accentuate the soaring scale of the mature trees.

Gray catbirds may flit around, and perhaps we are lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the broad antlers of

a bull moose as they sway above young branches. The abandoned logging road beneath our feet cuts like a fading scar through the forest, with ferns and lady slippers starting to heal the edges.

Further along the trail we arrive at the tip of a rock wall with a beautiful sweeping White Pine at its hip. This pine stands alone in its character with cascading branches that emerge low to the ground from a thick trunk. The stone wall and wolf tree call back to an earlier time of change when the

LET'S TAKE A WALK

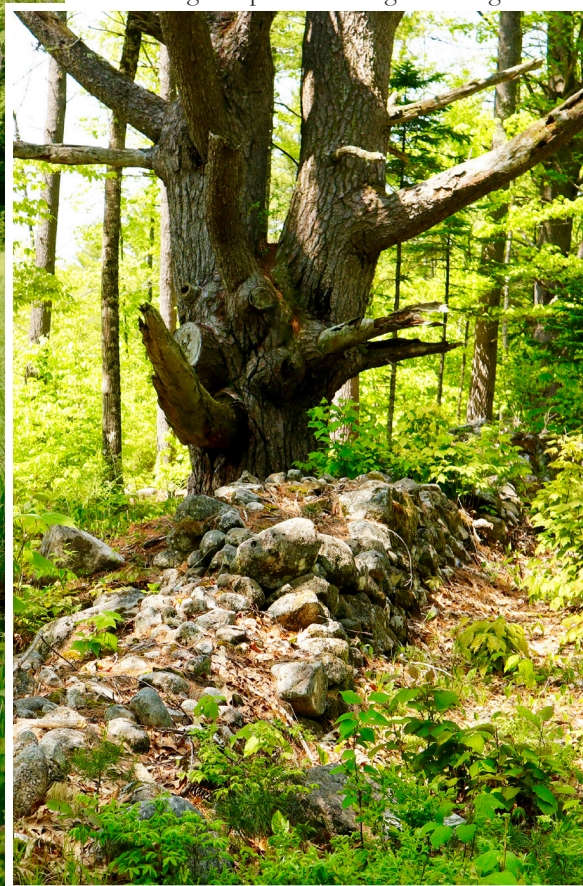
Landscapes in transition

By: Jessie Lozanski, GLLT Stewardship and Education Associate

forest all around us had been nothing but whispers of seeds in the ground. When this stone wall was built by a farmer's hands, cattle or sheep may have grazed where

can see the forest edges flooded by a beaver pond and hear the ascending call of a northern parula, a gray and yellow warbler that you won't see at a feeder, but that finds itself most happy in the canopy of these mature woods.

We turn back, towards the future, and the curving trail passes once again through



hermit thrushes now sing and new pines nuzzle the lowest boughs of their elder.

Down into the mire the trail meanders through a forest of hemlocks and black spruce draped in green lichen. Now our shoes squelch in wet sphagnum moss and leatherleaf reaches its long graceful arms out towards the bank of the brook. These fundamental plants harken back to an ancient glacial past when life was just emerging and this was a landscape of granite boulders and little else. Looking out to the brook we

the old, middle, and new landscape. Each age feels distinct and full of life, each portion of the ecosystem with its own sounds, shapes, and stories, some ending some still being written. Long Meadow Brook Reserve is a landscape in transition with its strength, beauty, and biodiversity rooted in its varying states. Our walk has taken us through eons of change, from the ancient rocks to the freshest seedlings.

Although shielded from a developing world, the properties we protect are anything but static. It is in the ability to adapt to change that resiliency is found. ■

But wait! There's more!

PROTECTING the Kezar River Watershed

Big(ger) things on the horizon

Rhyan Paquereau, GLLT Interim Executive Director

There are few remaining large, unbroken forest blocks in southwestern Maine; Kezar Corridor Lands, in the Kezar River Watershed is a legacy for the future. In 2023 GLLT completed a two year project to acquire 1,315 acres: Kezar Corridor Lands off Old Waterford Road on the east side of Lovell. The reserve covers important source water that includes the entire shore of Dan Charles Pond, over two miles of frontage on both sides of the Kezar River, extensive waterfowl habitat, and wetlands and forestlands that sit above an important underground freshwater aquifer. There are trails for walking, roads for ATV and snowmobile use, and a viewpoint from the pinnacle of Patterson Hill that gives a sweeping vista of the White Mountains in New Hampshire.

Now there's more.

The owner of a major parcel adjacent to the new reserve reached out to us with a proposal for GLLT to acquire over 1,350 additional acres.

The features of this special new property include a large suite of conservation values and public benefits. First on the list is three miles of frontage on both sides of the Kezar River in addition to frontage on almost a mile along both sides of Keyes Brook, and several other tributary brooks that will be protected. Kezar River and Keyes Brook are mapped as brook trout habitat by the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. The list of aquatic resources continues with four small ponds that have beaver activity, over a hundred acres of scrub/shrub wetland along the river corridor, and eight acres of emergent wetlands.

The property encompasses the summits of Howard Mountain and also of Edgecomb Hill with its views of the river valley from its exposed cliffs. Interesting geological features include the 60-foot-high bluffs carved by the Kezar River that are anchored with stands of mature hemlock, pine, and fir. As one might imagine, the property contains expansive upland forests, which have a history of forest management.

A once-in-a-generation opportunity.

The new project will more than double the Kezar Corridor Lands. Extending to the south the Kezar South lands will allow us to protect nearly five miles of the Kezar River Corridor in Lovell and Sweden in a 2,600+

acre preserve that is adjacent to other conserved lands. This will create a block of contiguous protected lands that will encompass over 3,600 acres along the Kezar River Corridor between Five Kezar Ponds in Stoneham and the Mill Pond in Lovell Village.

The Kezar Corridor Lands and the new Kezar South project represents our largest conservation project to date.

It is an important new conservation and recreation asset for the community.

Listing conservation values only scratches the surface when it comes to understanding the significance of the Kezar South project. Conserving the upland forests and wetlands provides for clean water, as these ecosystems serve to filter rainwater that feeds the aquifer under the Kezar River, and to prevent erosion of sediment into the river itself. Not only water quality, but these ecosystems also work wonders when it comes to pulling carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in plant matter, where it will stay locked up possibly for generations. As our communities develop and face impacts of a changing climate, protecting land at the landscape scale and ensuring access to critical ecosystem services such as these, will become ever more important.

In addition to protecting healthy ecosystems, conservation of the Kezar River corridor also secures access to land for recreation. In addition to forest management, the property has a long history of traditional recreational use. The Kezar River is renowned by local anglers for its brook trout fishery and there are also important stretches of ATV and snowmobile trails on the old woods roads, that are jointly maintained by the Kezar Trailbreakers Snowmobile Club and the Pulpit Rock Trail Blazah's ATV club.

With Kezar South, GLLT aims not to just conserve land, but to protect an entire landscape so that its benefits are felt today and into the future. The projects have been made possible through the generosity of landowners, generous donors, and various foundations and agencies. However, completing a project of this scale will not be possible without your support.

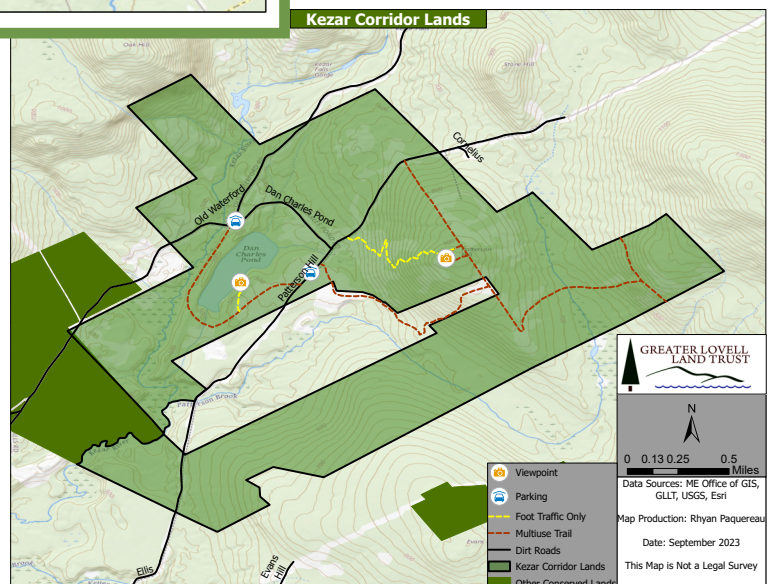
As we enter the second phase, please join us with a donation to complete this exciting work. ■



The Groundhog Trail at Patterson Hill is now open!

The professionally designed trail was built with the hard work of the dedicated the GLLT volunteer trail crew for which it was named: “The Groundhogs.”

The Groundhogs have met weekly all summer clearing trees, digging hundreds of feet of side-hill benching, and pulling out monumental boulders, to create a beautiful winding trail that starts at Patterson Hill Road in the Kezar Corridor Lands Reserve and reaches a sweeping overlook of the Kezar River Valley and beyond to the White Mountains from the top of Patterson Hill. At just under a mile, this trail of gentle switch-backs is a hike of moderate difficulty.





You've helped us achieve
so much in this special place!
Will you join our 5-year
Evergreen Society?



The generous donations of our neighbors and friends provide the core funding needed to deliver our conservation mission. **Protected lands are a community asset for recreation, land value, and as a legacy for the generations to come.**

Today, GLLT is a thriving land trust, nationally accredited by the Land Trust Alliance with an ever-increasing footprint of protected lands, many open for **public use in three critical watersheds.**

We need your support to lead us forward. Five years ago, our volunteers and staff stewarded 5,000 acres of easements and protected properties. **Today our professional staff and dozens of volunteers work to steward and protect over 8,000 acres.**

On the horizon is the second phase of the Kezar Corridor Lands project and several important conservation easements on private properties.

Contact us to make a 5-year pledge, or visit our website: GLLT.org

Please make your
donation to the Greater
Lovell Land Trust today!

We rely on your support
and generosity to provide
the **special programs**
and the important
environmental work
we do for our community.



Use the envelope enclosed,
or donate online at gllt.org

Scan the QR code with
your phone to donate today!

Calendar

We ask that you pre-register for programs.

Registration confirmation will include event location.

To register go to: gllt.org/calendar

Saturday, October 14, 8:00 - 11:00am

Capturing Fall Colors with Plein-Air Painting

Join local artist and GLLT Stewardship and Education Associate, Jessie Lozanski at our Whitney Pond Conservation Easement to learn the fundamentals of plein-air painting. All experience levels are welcome and bring a sketchbook and pencil along with whatever medium you would like—oil, watercolor, acrylic, colored pencils, etc.

No materials are provided so make sure to bring



what you will require to complete your artwork.

Friday, October 20, 5 - 7:00pm

Community Jack-o-Lantern Walk

GLLT and Lovell Rec's Trailblazers (our after-school nature explorers) will carve pumpkins and we invite you to purchase a pumpkin, carve it at home, and drop it off at GLLT's office by noon on Friday, October 20, so we can add it to the

jack-o-lanterns that we'll light up along the trail at Kezar River Reserve. Then, join us in the evening for a stroll along the Storybook Trail and enjoy all of



the carved pumpkins that will light the path. The more pumpkins the merrier!

Calendar

Pop-up events may occur with short notice and are announced via social media and e-mails. If you aren't on our e-mail list, subscribe here: gllt.org/email-sign-ups

Sunday, November 5, 12:30 - 2:30pm

Fill the Trunk for Lovell Area Food Pantry

Lovell Area Food Pantry volunteers work hard to provide for anyone in need. Let's help them by filling the back of the truck with as many non-perishable and toiletry items as we can. Stop by the GLLT office between 12:30 and 2:30pm to contribute to this important cause.



Thursday, November 23 through Sunday, November 26

Decorate a Woodland Holiday Tree at Kezar River Reserve

Decorate a holiday tree of your choice along Bev's Loop (the right hand loop) at Kezar River Reserve on Route 5, Lovell. Please make sure to remove your decorations by January 6, 2024!



December - All Month!

Festival of Trees

Treat yourself and the family to GLLT's Festival of Trees Walk along Bev's Loop at Kezar River Reserve. Take in the creativity of your neighbors as you enjoy the walk and get into the holiday spirit.

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

First Day Hike up Whiting Hill

Help GLLT ring in the New Year with a hot cocoa toast at the summit of Whiting Hill..

Wednesday, January 10, 10:00am - noon

Discovering Mammal Stories Written in the Snow

Join GLLT docents and Maine Master Naturalists Dawn Wood and Joan Lundin as they follow mammal tracks and help you decipher stories left behind in the snow.



Snowshoes and extra warm clothing recommended.

Saturday, February 17, 8:00am - 4:00pm

Follow the Loons

This will be a road trip as we'll head to the coast to look for "our" loons in the ocean, patiently waiting until ice out lets them return to Western Maine to breed. We should see ducks that normally breed up in the arctic and come down for the winter too – scoters, red-breasted and common mergansers, goldeneyes, harlequin ducks, horned and red-necked grebes, plus purple sandpipers, great cormorants, and more.

Tuesday, March 12, 5:00 - 6:00pm

Ambush Bugs to Zombie Grasshoppers: The story of Lovell's insects

Using her own photos, GLLT docent Moira Yip will show you the secret lives of some of our most interesting and beautiful insects. As world insect populations decline catastrophically, it is time to pay attention to those we have right there in Lovell, and learn to appreciate them fully.

Saturday, March 30, 9:30 - 11:30am

GLLT and Lovell Rec's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Bring your own basket or bag and hunt for eggs left by the Easter Bunny along the trail at Kezar River Reserve.



GLLT Board of Directors 2023

President Jill Rundle
Acting VP Michael Maguire
Treasurer Bruce Zabinsky
Secretary Carolyn Hotchkiss

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Betsy Alden
Jon Briccetti
Jim Buck
Thomas Clay, *Town of Stoneham*
Gail deWildt, *Town of Sweden*
Susan Golder
Nancy Hammond
Robert Katz
Robert Kroin
Deborah Nelson
Antonia Stechler
Moira Yip

Staff

Rhyan Paquereau: Interim Executive Director/Stewardship Director
Leigh Hayes: Education Director
Jessie Lozanski: Stewardship and Education Associate
Lizzy Echard: Education and Outreach Coordinator
Alice Bragg: Office Manager,

Wednesday, April 17, 10:00am - noon

Life in a Vernal Pool

GLLT docents Dawn Wood and Pippi Ellison will lead you to a vernal pool that teems with aquatic life in various life cycle forms. Prepare to be awed. Muck boots highly recommended.

Saturday, April 20, 10:00am - noon

Vernal Pool Exploration with GLLT and Lovell Rec

Families are invited to attend this vernal pool exploration led by GLLT docents Dawn Wood and Pippi Ellison.

This event is co-sponsored by GLLT and Lovell Rec. Children must have an adult partner.

Friday, May 3, 6:30 - 9:30am

The First weekly Feathered Friends Friday

For all ages and all birding abilities, including newbies. Learn from GLLT docents as we visit various sites and get to know the feathered friends of different natural habitats.

We have guide books, and binoculars if you need to borrow a pair.



The "Groundhog Trail" at Patterson Hill is now open!

The beautiful winding trail starts at Patterson Hill Road in the Kezar Corridor Lands Reserve and reaches a sweeping overlook from the top of Patterson Hill across the Kezar River Valley and beyond to the White Mountains. At just under a mile, this switchback trail is a hike of moderate difficulty.

In early October a large group of supporters and Groundhog volunteers gathered for the inaugural hike to the summit of Patterson Hill.

Bob Katz, GLLT board member, and coordinator of the volunteer trail crew, cut the ribbon and declared the trail open with Interim Executive Director, Rhyan Paquereau

CHECK OUT THE VIEW!



@greaterlovelllandtrust
 gllt.org
 207.925.1056
 info@gllt.org

We work with our neighbors, towns, and like-minded organizations to protect and preserve the ecosystems of the Kezar Lake, Kezar River, and Cold River watersheds for the benefit and enjoyment of the natural and human community today and as a legacy for the future. Our service area includes several municipalities including Lovell, Stoneham, Stow, and Sweden, Maine.

FALL & WINTER NEWS AND EVENTS! CALENDAR INSIDE!



PO Box 225, Lovell, ME 04051