

27 Volunteer Docents

sharing the wonders of the natural world



Erika Rowland, PhD
NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Drop in and say hello!

A **self-guided**
educational nature trail



So many Lovell Rec Summer Camp outings

A **Storybook Trail**
for children and families on the Kezar River Reserve

WHAT A YEAR!

8 partner organizations and growing

- Charlotte Hobbs Library
- Hewnoaks
- KLWA
- Lakes Environmental Assoc.
- Loon Echo Land Trust
- Western Foothills Land Trust
- Upper Saco Valley Land Trust
- Mahoosuc Land Trust

Backpacks and snowshoes on loan
at the Charlotte Hobbs Library



Geocaches located on several GLLT properties.



17 GLLT properties offer public access for traditional use, and 8 now include **georeferenced trail systems**

Two new interns joined **three past interns** on a growing roster of inspiring young people

A dozen or more unstoppable **Groundhogs**—our volunteer trail crew—opened vistas, cleared trails, moved boulders & built bridges



15th Annual Marion Rodgerson College Scholarship Awarded



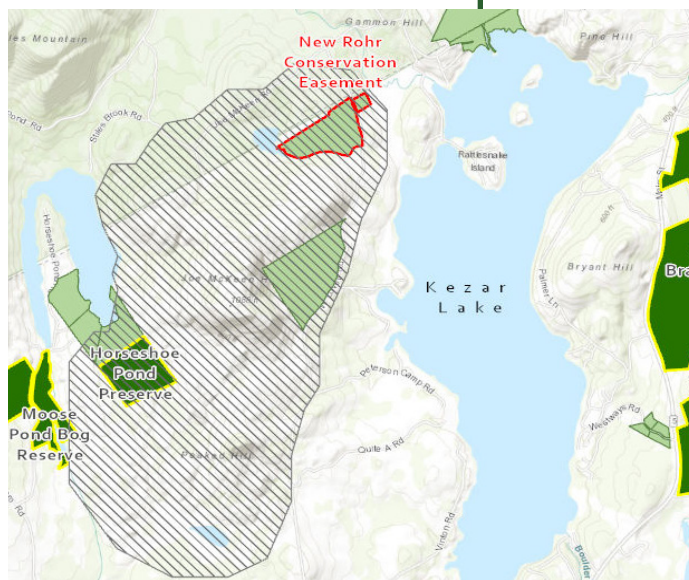
51 added acres conserved at Horseshoe Pond Highlands

-Erika Rowland, Executive Director

Peter and Megan Rohr have done it again! In 2019 the Rohrs donated a second conservation easement to GLLT. The 51-acre parcel was acquired by the Rohrs from previous owners interested in expanding the conservation work in the GLLT's Horseshoe Pond Highlands Focus Area. The area, located between West Lovell and Foxboro Roads, also includes a 62-acre easement that was donated by the Rohrs in 2016. Their conservation efforts now encompass over 100 acres of important ecosystems.



Kezar Lake from the property (early 1900's). *Photo courtesy Rohr family*
wide-ranging wildlife that connects northwest into the White Mountain National Forest. Peter and Megan feel it's important to keep it that way.



Rohr conservation easements within the Horseshoe Pond Focus Area, and proximity of other conservation lands (dark green owned by GLLT; medium green is private conservation easements).

While easement properties are privately owned, conservation easements limit uses on the lands to provide both wildlife habitat and open, scenic views. Along with upland forest, the current property protects the wetlands around Cold Brook and Mud Pond and more than 2,400 feet of Benning Brook, all natural communities that support wildlife, from bear and moose to beaver and mayflies.

Other easements and GLLT properties around Horseshoe Pond extend the important conservation area. The Rohr family hopes that their generous gifts will inspire other landowners on the west side of the lake and throughout the area to consider conservation and share in a legacy of forested open space now and for the future.

To learn more about conservation options, please contact: info@gllt.org or 207.925.1056

The family connection to the area and to Kezar Lake runs deep. Peter's great-grandfather, Andrew Vauclain, first visited Kezar Lake in 1898 and, after joining a large 1903 outing to Brown's Fishing Camp with his fiancé Margaret, he purchased the family's lakefront lot on Alaska Bay. Through five generations, the extended family has watched the forest grow back from cleared meadows. But the landscape on the western shore of Kezar is still a largely undeveloped block of habitat for



Andrew Constant Vauclain
1908-2003
(Peter's Grandfather)
Photo courtesy Rohr family



The Vauclain launch. The only access to the western shore in 1910.
Photo courtesy Lovell Historical Society.

Notes from Jill -Jill Rundle, President

GLLT is part of an active Maine land trust community—Maine has more land trusts per capita than any other state in the country. Land trust work is important in our state as Maine has the lowest percentage of public lands in our region. At 6.5%, it is also one of the lowest percentages in the country, lower than 36 other states.

Percent of Public Land, by State

Maine ranks last in New England

1. New Hampshire	20.2%
2. Massachusetts	14.8%
3. Vermont	14.4%
4. Rhode Island	11.1%
5. Connecticut	10.4%
6. Maine	6.5%

Table from MLTN Publication "Land Trusts Work for Maine". Based on numbers from "Federal Land Ownership: Overview and Data" a 2017 Congressional Report and information collected from state websites, including individual State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans. Public lands are defined as conservation properties owned by Federal, State, or local governments.

In most of the nation, municipal, state, and government owned lands provide public access to the outdoors, support local economies, protect wildlife, and safeguard the drinking water. In Maine, where government and municipal ownership is low, it is the land trusts that meet public goals of conservation and environmental protection. In our region, land trust properties provide places to hunt, hike, fish, snowmobile, picnic, birdwatch, and enjoy nature for residents and visitors, young and old.

Since it was established in 1985, GLLT has defined our service area by the three dominant watersheds. They are also the headwaters of the Saco River and include the woodlands and waters in our service area towns of Lovell, Stoneham, Stow, and parts of Sweden, Waterford, and Fryeburg.

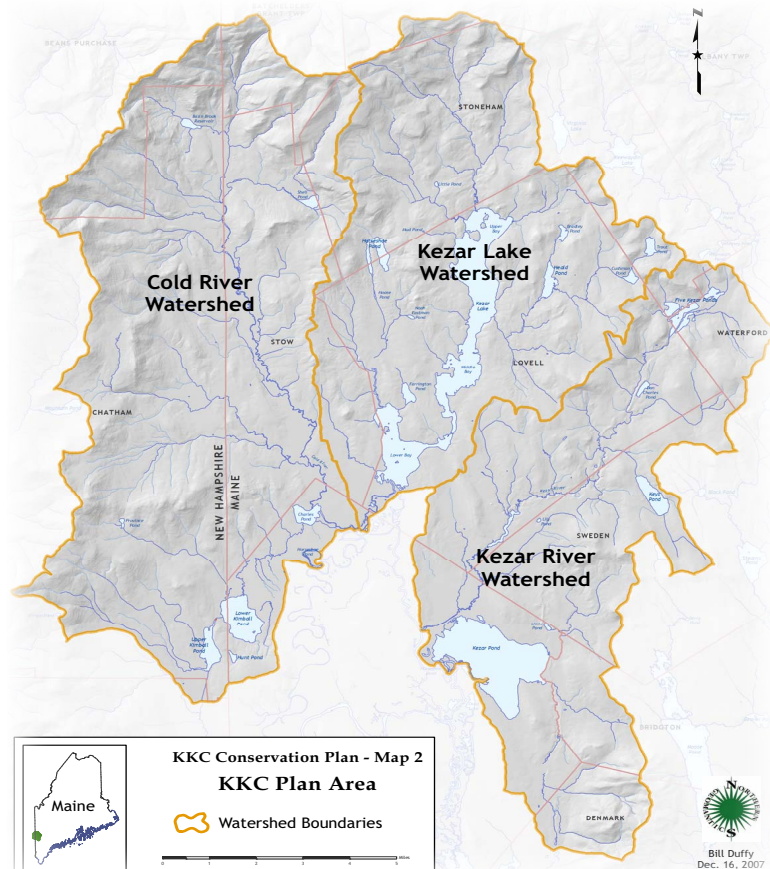
These Saco headwaters include the Kezar River that runs from the Five Kezar Ponds Reserve in Stoneham, through Kezar Gorge, and past the Kezar River Reserve, through the mill pond in Lovell and onwards. The Cold

River starts on the eastern side of Evans Notch near the Stone House Easement and public trails, and meanders through Stow, ME and Chatham, NH. The rivers join the waters of Kezar Lake, which is sourced by many streams, including Great Brook that flows through a conservation easement of wetlands at the lake's north end, and Sucker Brook flows out of Horseshoe Pond, through the John A. Segur Wildlife Preserve into Lower Bay. Finally the lake waters flow into the outlet and over the dam where they drop into the Old Course of the Saco and the Canal River and become the Saco River. The Saco grows with additions from other headwaters in New Hampshire and in Maine and continues past six hydro power stations on the way to the sea at the Maine coast between the towns of Saco and Biddeford.

In these watersheds, the GLLT provides over 2,500 acres of lands and over 30 miles of maintained trails for public use and enjoyment, and pays required local taxes. More important,

the open lands protect water quality for drinking water and recreation for a large population. Our public lands are havens from everyday stresses and a natural legacy for the future and our water is clean and plentiful, but the lessons that are being learned in other ecosystems are important. The supply of clean water is not unlimited and the quiet joy of a walk in the woods and the opening of a distant view through the trees is a treasure, but not a guarantee.

We are proud of the work that we do to protect our resources, and grateful for the vision of the private conservation easement owners whose properties that remain on the tax rolls while they continue to provide habitat for the wildlife, filter the water, and protect the environment. With the support of our members and friends, we are able to share the gift of the natural world and plan for a future that includes the healthy environment that is so much a part of our community for the generations to come.



Current Use, Deed Restrictions and Conservation Easements

-Erika Rowland, Executive Director

Just as there are many types of trails through the forest—old woods roads to single-track—there are many pathways to conserving land and achieving forestry, wildlife, and management goals for your property.

Several options for conserving and managing open lands leave property in the hands of private landowners and on the tax rolls of local municipalities. Roughly half of the lands conserved in our area are owned by individuals, families, and private landowners whose property taxes support our towns.



Mud Pond, on the border of the new Rohr North Conservation Easement. Photo by Aidan Black

Conservation easements, Maine's Current Land Use Taxation Program, and deed restrictions are examples of the options available. The different tools achieve similar outcomes and can help protect important conservation values. All involve limitations on land uses; the differences between them are related to who is responsible for upholding the use limits, the effects on property and income taxes, and how long the limitations remain in effect.

Conservation easements are agreements between a landowner and conservation organization that permanently extinguishes some

property uses specifically to protect conservation values. Land trusts* and conservation entities, such as town conservation commissions and public agencies, administer and manage (i.e., "hold") conservation easements. Maine state statutes and the IRS regulate conservation easement practices.

The Current Use Taxation Program is offered through the Maine Revenue Service Tax Division. The application is administered at the town level because of the direct impact on property taxes. Anyone may apply, but properties need

to meet certain criteria to qualify.

In contrast to conservation easements and Maine's Current Use Program, deed restrictions are developed entirely between private parties—typically current owners or developers—with minimal required uniformity. Deed restrictions are the realm of landowners and their lawyers, although the tool can be part of larger land trust conservation projects.

The reserves owned by the GLLT take advantage of different tax options offered by the state and local government, while providing a recreational resource to our communities with public access,



Haying, an allowed land use, on the Rodgeron Conservation Easement. Photo by Erika Rowland

maintained trails and scenic vistas. In this way, GLLT and other landowners protect important conservation values in the area while sustaining municipal budgets with tax payments.

Just as the forest is easier to navigate with trail markers, navigating these options for managing your land can be easier with help. GLLT can answer questions about choosing a good fit for your property goals. We are able to provide information about all these options, and offer particular expertise in conservation easements. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at (207)-925-1056 or info@gllt.org. If we don't know the answer, we can likely point you in the right direction.

**Land trusts are community-based, usually 501(c)(3) nonprofits, and work with landowners to conserve land using acquisition, conservation easements, or other interests in real property.*

FAQs

Q. Does my deed change?

A. Deed restrictions and conservation easements are a legally-binding part of property deeds and the chain of title. Current Use Programs are not linked to a property's deed.

Q. How long do these changes last?

A. Conservation easements are permanent. Deed restrictions are intended to be permanent but may be removed through legal action. Current Use Program have a penalty for withdrawal.

Q. Who makes sure the plans are followed?

A. Land trust staff visit conservation easement properties once a year to verify that limitations are followed. Towns oversee Current Use Programs. The landowner who put deed restrictions in place, as well as neighbors, may take legal enforcement action if current landowners do not adhere to restriction.

Q. Who is eligible to use conservation tools?

A. Property tax reductions through the Current Use Programs are open to any qualifying, privately-owned property, including those with deed restrictions. A conservation easement is the only tool of the three that offers potential income tax benefits, as well as enhanced property tax reductions through the Current Use Program. Land trusts employ all of these tools in conservation work.

Table: A comparison of common options available to private landowners for conserving and managing land.

Options	Deed Restrictions	Current Use Taxation	Conservation Easements
Description	A clause in a deed for a property that limits the uses of the property.	A state program that changes the assessed value of land that is managed in particular ways, which may reduce property taxes.	A voluntary agreement between a private landowner and a qualified conservation organization that permanently limits property uses to protect conservation values.
Examples	Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for a property owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Growth • Open Space • Farmland 	Typical restrictions include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no or limited development • sustainable forest management • no or limited resource extraction • limits on commercial uses.
Property tax implications	None based on the deed restrictions, but a current use designation may affect taxes.	Designed to reduce property taxes. Property value is assessed based on current use rather than top potential market value.	None related to the conservation easement, but a landowner may apply for a "Permanently Protected" Open Space designation.
How long does it last?	Restrictions run with the deed but may be legally challenged.	Until the landowner changes the classification. There is a penalty for withdrawal.	In perpetuity (forever).
Who ensures restrictions are upheld?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • homeowners associations • neighbors • previous owners. 	Local municipality	A land trust or other conservation organization (e.g., state agency) who holds the conservation easement.
Does it affect income tax?	No	No	Following donation or sale of a conservation easement at below market value, the difference from the market value is considered a charitable donation to be claimed on federal income taxes.
Contacts for more information	Your attorney.	www.maine.gov/revenue/propertytax/propertytaxbenefits/current_use.htm Or your town office.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Lovell Land Trust or other conservation organization • your attorney and tax advisor • Maine Land Trust Network www.mltn.org

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Donations to the Greater Lovell Land Trust sustain our mission and support our programs, our work, and our communities.

To our donors, thank you. And to the large roster of volunteers who are dedicated to the work we do, a special expression of gratitude for the many ways that you make the work of our organization and the future of our environment possible.

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Kevin Henderson
via the Sudbury Foundation

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THANK YOU!

Thank you. Our work would not be possible without your ongoing support and generosity. Please consider a donation to our work this year to support the projects and planning that will provide a legacy for the generations to come!

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Connecting Kids to Nature

-Leigh Macmillen Hayes, Education Director

Connecting kids to nature is one of the greatest gifts we can offer. Here at the Greater Lovell Land Trust we love spending time exploring with them. Their eagle eyes always spy things we overlook no matter how intentional our focus. They ask questions, process what they experience, and come away with fresh learnings. So do we.

Our hope is to balance the virtual world with what's happening outside, whether at one of the GLLT properties or in the school yard. Over the course of this year, we've shared experiences with local kids (and a few "from away") through programs we offer to the elementary and middle school, as well as homeschooled children.

Lovell Recreation's Summer Camp Nature Hikes:

Six years ago we initiated weekly nature hikes for the summer campers. This year's geology theme concluded with a visit to the mineral and gem sluice at Bethel Outdoor Center and donning white gloves to hold a moon rock at the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum.



Lovell Rec Kids working at the sluice at the Bethel Outdoor Center. Photo by Leigh Hayes

Girl Scouts and Daisies:

Local troop leaders have reached out to us and we've happily offered lessons on tree identification and hiking safety to help the scouts earn their merit badges.



Looking at a water magnifier!
Photo by Leigh Hayes

New Suncook Elementary School:

Alternative Education Day:

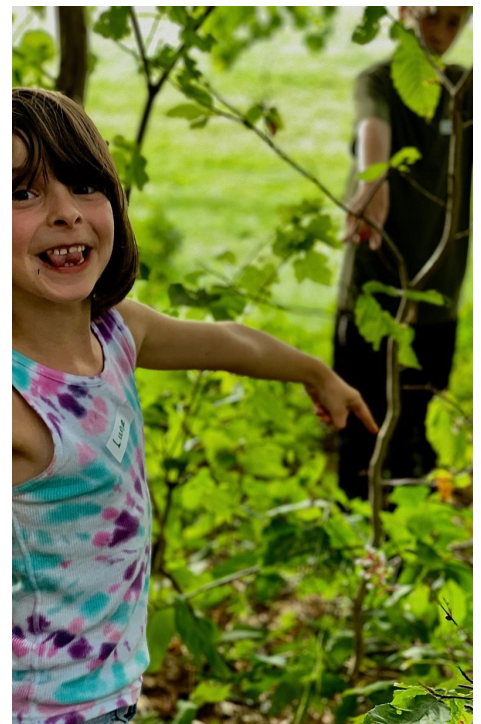
For one day each spring, instead of regular classes, students sign up for activities offered by community members and local organizations. The GLLT presents the mammals of Maine by sharing our collection of scat and other mammal signs, plus pelts and skulls borrowed from the Maine Warden Service. The red fox pelt is the crowd pleaser—it's so soft.

1st and 2nd Grade Landforms Unit:

When principal Rhonda Poliquin of New Suncook Elementary School contacted me about three field trips related to landforms for Lovell and Fryeburg students I said "yes." Then I panicked. But... in my back pocket were three retired elementary school teachers and a GLLT docent. Thanks to volunteers Kathy McGreavy, Sarah Otterson, Trish Curtis, and docent Alice Goodwin, for helping develop the plan and for being flexible during each of the trips.

Students joined us at Pleasant Point beach on Kezar Lake where they noticed and sketched the landforms

surrounding them, then re-created the mountains and lake in the sand. They looked for signs of erosion, and launched boats they'd built from fallen leaves and twigs, which helped them understand how the wind and weather influence the landscape. At Kezar River Reserve, they followed the storybook trail that featured Jim LaMarche's *Pond*, an apropos tale about kids damming up a stream and creating a pond.



Luna and her big brother point to examples of White Baneberry, aka Doll's Eyes.

Photo by Leigh Hayes

Trailblazers:

When we first initiated the after-school program in conjunction with Lovell Recreation two years ago, three kids joined us for the fall session. This fall our roster was full as eleven students participated each week. The group may be a bit loosey goosey—after being in school all day they have lots of energy to release—but we are always amazed at the knowledge they retain. This year, the kids are learning about the flora and fauna in the woods near their school in hopes of creating a nature trail for all to enjoy.



GLLT Nature Explorers:

Maine Master Naturalist and Docent Juli Coombs leads the monthly Nature Explorers for homeschooled children. Typically, she has a theme for each program. The kids and their moms have walked like a fox, hopped like a hare, waddled like a porcupine, and bounded like an otter. They've measured mammal prints and followed their tracks in the snow, identified trees and ferns, wandered on and off trail looking for signs of the season, and repeatedly found fairy shrimp in a vernal pool

This surely has been The Year of the Kids and we're grateful for the opportunity to explore the natural world with them. We're also grateful to their teachers, troop leaders, and our docents and other volunteers, as well as Lovell Recreation Director Meg Dyer. It takes a village and we love ours.

(Left) Brian Hammond teaches MESA students about water pH and conductivity levels in the Kezar Outlet Fen. Photo by Leigh Hayes

Molly Ockett School:

Maine Environmental Science Academy (MESA): For many years we've had a relationship with the interdisciplinary MESA program that serves 35 middle school students. Their theme this school year is eco-hydrology. So we collaborated with Ed Poliquin from the Kezar Lake Watershed Association for a walk along Great Brook as we examined the lay of the land and the buffer zone.

On a second field trip, we explored the Kezar Outlet Fen. Retired geologist and GLLT member Brian Hammond conducted a few field tests that led the students to conclude that the water in the old course of the Saco River has radically different pH (acidity) and conductivity levels when compared to the water in a kettle hole and fen. The kids listened intently, took notes, and shared their learnings with each other. Then they picked cranberries. Oh, and they got a wee bit muddy.



The youngest Nature Explorer explores an LEA property. Photo by Leigh Hayes

COMING UP SOON! ↙

January 16, 10:00 am - noon

Indoor/Outdoor Twig and Bark Workshop

Winter is a great time to learn the idiosyncrasies of trees. Seeing them without leaves makes identification easier. GLLT and LEA will co-host this workshop. Dress appropriately for indoors and out.

Registration Required: alanna@mainelakes.com.

Location: Lakes Environmental Association's Maine Lake Science Center, 51 Willet Road, Bridgton.

February 8, 9:30 am - noon

Winter Wetland

In celebration of Great Maine Outdoor Weekend, we'll explore beside Bradley Brook and the wetland of John A. Segur Wildlife Refuge West. Our focus will be varied as we look for mammal tracks, insects, seed pod structures, lichens, and more. Snowshoes necessary.

Trailhead: John A. Segur Wildlife Refuge, New Road, Lovell.

February 12, 10:00 am - noon

"I Love The Woods"

GLLT and LEA will co-host the 2nd annual Great Maine Outdoor Weekend winter snowshoe hike while celebrating our Maine trees. Along the way, we'll explore the trails and wetland, talk about winter tree buds and animal winter adaptations, and search for tracks. At the finish of our hike, we'll partake in some tasty "tree cookies." Need snowshoes? Let us know.

Registration required: alanna@mainelakes.com.

Trailhead: Lake Environmental Association's Highland Research Forest, Commons Drive, Bridgton.

March 21, 9:30 am - noon

Goodbye Winter/Hello Spring

There may still be some snow on the ground, but let's climb Flat Hill, say farewell to the season left behind, and welcome the new season as we look for signs that spring is about to unfold. Snowshoes or micro-spikes may be necessary.

Trailhead: Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve parking lot #1, Heald Pond Road, Lovell.

April 18, 9:30 am - noon

Earth Day Clean-up

Let's get a head start and honor our Earth before we celebrate her day. We'll assign sections of Route 5 and other main roads to canvas for trash and recyclables. Blaze orange vests a must (we have some to loan). Registration required:

leigh.hayes@gllt.org.

April 22, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Earth Day Celebration

We'll honor the globe—or at least a small portion of it—as we climb up Amos Mountain via the Rogers Family Trail and the Heritage Loop with a slight detour to the summit and a toast to Earth Day before descending via the RFT.

Trailhead: carpool from the town lot behind Charlotte Hobbs Library, Route 5, Lovell.

May 9, 9:30 am - noon

Vernal Pool Ponderings

It's become a yearly tradition to check on ephemeral creatures in a vernal pool at the Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve. We'll dip small containers and see what aquatic insects we might find, taking a closer look through hand lenses and a field microscope.

Trailhead: Heald and Bradley Ponds Reserve parking lot #2, Slab City Road, Lovell.

Tuesday Trackers

Are you curious to learn more about the mammals with which we share the woods? Join us as we head off trail and try to discern patterns and behavior in the snow.

1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesday of every month.

Registration required: leigh.hayes@gllt.org.

Locations: TBD

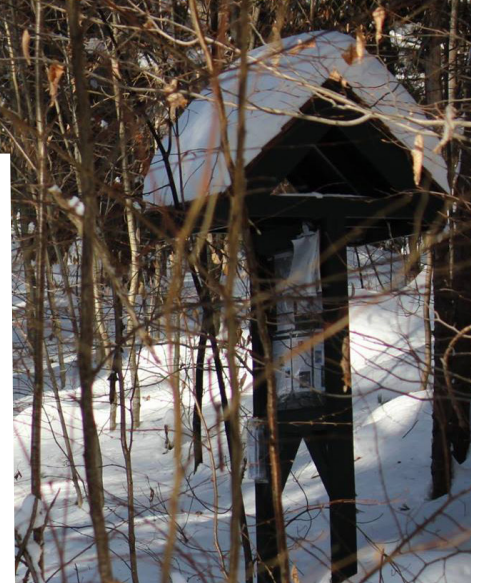
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for the latest events, walks, and talks.

Photos are by GLLT staff, board members, volunteers, friends, and **YOU**—tag us to see your photos posted.



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Ryan Schutt helps blaze a trail at the Long Meadow Brook Reserve. Photo by Leigh Hayes

"The care of the earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility."

– Wendell Berry

There are many ways to volunteer, year round. Give us a call and let us know what you enjoy.

Call **207.925.1056** or send us an email at info@gllt.org. Be sure to let us know your name, contact information, availability, skills, and interests.

The Zabinsky/Boatman Challenge



At the 2019 Greater Lovell Land Trust Annual Meeting a pledge challenge was announced:

\$5,000 A YEAR FOR 5 YEARS.

Board member Bruce Zabinsky and his wife, long time GLLT volunteer Bonny Boatman, take inspiration from the many volunteers who work to protect our lands and waters today and for the generations to come. They invited partners to match their generous pledge.

We have received matching pledges from some of our most dedicated supporters.

JOIN THEM!

Support our conservation operations and the work of protecting the lands that provide us with public access and clean water for drinking and recreation.

- Conservation work.
- Property and trail management.
- Public access.
- Environmental education for all ages and interests.

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE, SUPPORT OUR VITAL WORK... TODAY AND FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME.

Notes from KLWA -Rick Pilsbury, President

We watched winter move in through the holidays and the Kezar Lake Watershed totally ice over for the season. The lower bay goes first and this year one loon overstayed the season and found the launch path too short to reach takeoff speed. Our loon volunteers jumped in small boats, braving wind, waves and chill. But they couldn't open a long enough stretch of water and had to give up.

They were out early the next day in larger boats accompanied by Maine Game Warden, Kris Barbosa. And it seems loons have proper respect for the law. As Barbosa and company approached, the loon found the speed needed for takeoff and was on its way. Happy ending.

This has been banner year for the Kezar Lake Watershed Association as we celebrated our 50th anniversary. We said fare well to three board members: Jim and Cecily Stone and Marti Kinsel and welcome to Laura Robinson and Shelley Pilsbury.

Thanks to everyone who supported us including our partner organizations.

Best wishes for the new year!



Three men in a boat go to rescue a loon. Photo by Leigh Hayes

GLLT Board of Directors 2020

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Sara Cope, Bob Winship

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Carol Gestwicki



On a wintery Tuesday Tramp. More info on page 10 if you want join. Photo by Leigh Hayes

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Alice Bragg, Office Manager, 207.925.1056

  @greaterlovelllandtrust —  www.gllt.org —  207.925.1056

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.

P.O. Box 225, Lovell, ME 04051

