



Box 181, Center Lovell, Maine 04016

Summer 1998

### Welcome to Summer at Kezar Lake

We are continuing this style of newsletter because of the enthusiastic reception last winter. Several committee chair-people will give their reports in this letter.

First, hats off to Ed Nista and his commission who have done a marvelous job with the Heald and Bradley Reserve. They have instituted programs and changes that are creating a first rate Forest Park.

Tom Henderson and his Stewardship Committee have done an excellent job getting Sabattus Mountain readied for another summer. They are making plans for Sabra-Creeper Hill and Sucker Brook to bring them on line in our attempt to improve the availability of our nature preserves.

Kevin Harding, our conservation educational specialist, has designed an outstanding summer program. There will be hikes led by docents, as well as evening lectures about nature in our area. This is an expansion of our nature program which is co-sponsored with the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Kevin's program was enthusiastically received last year and will be expanded this summer.

The GLLT applauds the Lovell Historical Society's plans to purchase the Kimball-Stanford Homestead and the whole-hearted support it has received from the Town of Lovell. This is in the same preservationist spirit which is so clearly related to conservation to which we are dedicated. I believe it would be fiscally wise for the Town of Lovell to make a significant investment in conservation land as it has in historical preservation.

I would like to share my current perspectives on our goals. Conservation easements within the watershed are the only enduring restraint on development. Town zoning can be changed. This spring, Lovell's Long Range Plan was amended so that the minimum lot frontage on rural zoned land was decreased from 400 to 200 feet. From a visual standpoint, this essentially doubles development density. Again, I emphasize that we are not opposed to reasonable development. Hopefully, input from a non-voting representative from the GLLT at the Town Planning Board could bring ideas and assets to the table that would be mutually beneficial in long range planning for this area.

Further, I believe it would be fiscally wise for the Town of Lovell to make a significant investment in conservation land as it has in historical preservation. Time and again it has been demonstrated that undeveloped land keeps down the tax base of rural towns.

On other fronts, GLLT must also look towards strategic acquisition of watershed and park land for public usage or wildlife preserves where that is appropriate. the GLLT must develop the financial capacity to respond appropriately, and have a voice in the planning of developments in order to save strategic watershed areas as opportunities develop or circumstances demand. This is our next horizon.

The conservation and preservation mission of the land trust remains the same. The scope of our activities is clearly increasing. We wish for higher participation on the part of both winter and summer residents in the work and goals of the GLLT. We believe that successful conservation will be locally based and we work towards that end. We reach out for and welcome a greater involvement of the year round residents of Lovell.

We enclose our semi-annual contribution envelopes for either new memberships or for donations to our unrestricted operating or endowment funds. Regular memberships are renewable in July of each year. New memberships are encouraged at any time. Major contributions to our endowment or operating funds are deeply appreciated.

Finally, please come to our Annual Summer Educational program on August 1st, featuring Kent Wommack, Vice-President and Executive Director of The Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. He will speak on TNC's concentration on environmental protection projects in Western Maine including the Kezar Lake and Saco River Watersheds.

Howard A. Corwin  
President



# Bradley and Heald Ponds Reserve Activities Report

The Commission held 7 meetings since the Columbus Day weekend directors meeting and acted upon a large number of issues, not the least of which was to name the property the Bradley & Heald Ponds Reserve and to call the committee charged with managing the property, the Bradley & Heald Ponds Reserve Commission.

The 9 members of the Commission are, Bev Bassett, Sally Davey, Nancy Gardner, Kevin Harding, Tom Henderson, Juanita Perkins, George Scala and Ed Nista. One position is left open for a member of the board of selectmen. As of this date, the selectman's position is still vacant.

The Commission started out at ground zero, as the entire year between the purchase of the Reserve and the start up of the Commission was spent in an unsuccessful attempt to come to terms with the Town over ownership and operation of the property.

While we've accomplished quite a bit during the past Winter, we still have a long way to go. Our achievements to date include:

1. Development of commission by-laws.
2. Development of a list of allowable and prohibited uses on the Reserve. This list will be posted at the primary entrance points to the property, and will be shown on our brochure, enclosed.
3. We prepared property use applications and permits for group activities on the Reserve.
4. The Commission made revisions to and accepted the stewardship plan and the 1998 operational plan.
5. We obtained a building permit and have started construction of the first kiosk, to be located at the Heald Pond Road entrance to the property. We have contracted with Carlton Barker, Jr., for the construction of our first parking area. The kiosk and parking area are scheduled to be complete in July.
6. Tom Henderson has made arrangements for and has been working with a young man from a local boy scout troop. Tom, was instrumental in writing a grand proposal to the Fields Pond Foundation, whereby the Commission was awarded \$2,000 to be spent on educational pursuits at the property.
7. We established our own local checking account so that local contractors & suppliers can be paid in a timely manner and we've been in contact with the local snowmobile club (The Kezar Trailbreakers), in the person of their president, Steve Fox. The Kezar Trailblazers have received approval to continue their use and maintenance of a section of trail that runs through the Reserve. Steve Fox has volunteered to groom and maintain a section of trail on the property for cross country skiing.

We've made a good start, but this is just the beginning. We still have issues to attend to, including the possibility of a future parking area at the Slab City Road entrance, trail development and maintenance, possible view corridor development, signage, animal trapping and whatever issues may come up as we all learn how to develop and manage a 600 acre tract of private land which is open to the public.

— Ed Nista

# Stewardship Committee Report

The Land Monitoring and Stewardship Committee has been active in maintaining trails through the spring and early summer. We have rerouted the trail entrance on Sabattus Mountain to avoid the west section in the beginning. We are near completion of a "loop" trail to provide an alternate route and reduce use of a single trail. We will be opening this section during the summer of 1998. Several volunteers including Juanita Perkins, Nelson Wall, and Nancy Wall have been busy clearing the main trail of the debris left by the Ice Storm. Thanks to all for this effort.

Our committee also monitors the easements held by the GLLT. We have organized this effort for the summer. We plan to visit all sites this season. IF you are an owner with an easement, one of our committee members will be contacting you soon to schedule a brief visit. The purpose of this monitoring effort is to comply with the GLLT to monitor the condition of properties under easement to ensure compliance with the easement terms. It is also a great opportunity to establish and maintain a working relationship with our property owners. We are able to assist in interpreting the easement, and provide owners with stewardship resources and information.

The Sucker Brook and Creeper Hill properties will be monitored and maintained by subcommittee of the Land Stewardship and Monitoring Committee. Volunteers are being organized for this purpose and we expect to be functioning by mid summer. Anyone interested in serving on this committee or assisting in our efforts should contact Tom Henderson at (603) 367-4468. Plans for this summer include trail maintenance, and erecting a new kiosk at Sucker Brook, and needs assessment and long-range planning for both parties.

Looking forward to a productive, safe and fun summer!

— Tom Henderson

## Tours of Eastman Hill Open to Public

A tour of the grounds of the Eastman Hill Stock Farm sponsored by the GLLT is scheduled for August 8 from 1-4 p.m. The tour will be conducted by the owners of the property. Because of the logistics, there will be two groups limited to 30 each. One group will leave promptly at 1 p.m.; the other will leave at 2:30 p.m. Please sign up in advance at The Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library if you intend to participate. Kindly arrive early enough to park and be ready to go at the appointed times.

In 1993, the GLLT and the National Trust for Historic Preservation reached an agreement which authorized sale of the estate together with the creation of a maintenance fund for upkeep of the property. The agreement also provides for periodic tours of the Eastman Hill Stock Farm open to the public. This will be the first of the scheduled tours.



## GREATER LOVELL LAND TRUST : WALKS AND TALKS 1998

As the summer begins the GLLT is please to offer a number of guided walks on lands owned or administered by the GLLT as well as a speakers series highlighting the natural world of Maine.

Our walks are free and led by trained docents at Heald Pond, Sabbatus Mt. and the Sucker Brook Preserve. Please see our calendar for details. No prior sign up is necessary. Docents will guide visitors on trails and point out important natural features, identify plants, identify animal sign, and help participants learn to read the forested landscape. Please be prepared to walk on unimproved trails that can sometimes be wet. Please bring appropriate clothing, bug spray, and good walking shoes to deal with all weather. Pets are not invited. Please park carefully to avoid obstruction of fire pipe, launching facilities, and roadways. Car pooling is encouraged.

Our evening speakers series are held at 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in July at the Lovell Library. All are welcome to these free lectures that include videos, slides, and experienced speakers. Please see accompanying flyer for details of each program.

We sincerely hope that by sharing knowledge of the natural world that we are all privileged to enjoy we will come to a better understanding of how important it is to continue to work together to preserve our legacy.

### THE CALENDAR

#### Guided Walks:

June 13, Saturday: Bird Migration and Spring Flowers at Heald Pond 9 to 11.  
July 12, Sunday: Heald Pond 9 to 12.  
July 18, Saturday: Heald Pond 9 to 12.  
July 26, Sunday: Sabbatus Mt. 9 to 12.  
August 10, Monday: Sucker Brook Preserve 9 to 11.  
August 17, Monday: Sucker Brook Preserve 9 to 11.  
September 19, Saturday: Heald Pond 9 to 11.  
October 3, Saturday: Heald Pond 9 to 12.

#### Lecture Series:

July 1, Wednesday: Natural History Books  
July 8, Wednesday: Woodland Fauna  
July 14, Tuesday: Ecology of the North Woods  
July 22, Wednesday: Beavers and Otters  
July 29, Wednesday: Insect life



**The Greater Lovell Land Trust Presents:  
Natural History Night at the Lovell Library: Weekly in July**

Come and join us for a wide variety of presentations that explore the natural world that we have come to Maine to enjoy. From the world of insects to the top of Mount Washington, through literature and video tape, we will investigate the treasures that we are trying to preserve for future generations.

**A Review of Natural History Books - Getting Outdoors Through Books - Wednesday, July 1.**

We will look at a selection of books that explore the outdoors. We will examine books that open our eyes to outdoor adventure, natural history, and animal stories. If you are one of those individuals who can't pass by a good bookstore, this presentation is for you. Come and share the genuine thrill of discovering great authors and great books. We will share a recommended annotated reading list, read a few brief selections, and give you some "secret" sources to buy your own collection. Come and get a look at the books first hand. Speaker: Kevin Harding, teacher and amateur naturalist.

**Woodland Fauna - Wednesday, July 8.**

Spend an evening exploring the habits and habitats of our indigenous woodland animals. Through careful observation and interpretation of both obvious and subtle field depictions we will investigate how various species (emphasis on our larger northern mammals) interact with the landscape and its botanical composition. This program will be about physical sensing, awareness of forest inhabitants, recognizing dynamics and disturbances, and becoming one and the same with nature. Recognizing and reading remote environs allows you to become part of the forest community. In so doing, you will come to know the forest just as you know your home and yourself. Speaker: Alcott Smith, naturalist and D.V.M.

**The Ecology of the North Woods: A Closer Look at Summer - Tuesday, July 14.**

In this slide/lecture program we will take an ecological look at Summer in the North woods. Our adventure begins at the summit of Mount Washington where man has been able to adapt in order to survive some of the most severe weather ever recorded. In this land above tree line rare and intriguing alpine flora can be seen surviving the harsh Arctic like conditions. We'll then descent into the forest and valleys below to take a closer look at some of the wildlife that calls New England home. What strategies are adopted to survive the drastic changes in New England's seasons and how birds and mammals are shaped by this northern environment will be some of the questions answered. The northern forests provide the scenic backdrop as we take this fascinating closer look at Summer. Speaker: Christopher Lewey, teacher and naturalist.

**Beavers and Otters. - Wednesday, July 22.**

Beavers were trapped into local extinction in colonial times for their beautiful pelt which was made into gentlemen's hats in Europe. With the reforestation of New England these animals have made a strong recovery but because they damage trees, flood land and spread the giardia cyst their reputation has suffered. However in cutting down trees to build their dams, beavers admit sunlight to the forest floor and provide the other necessary ingredient for life: water. The result is an explosion of wildlife in and around these ponds. Through slides of tracks and sign as well as video of the animals themselves, this program will acquaint you with the amazing diversity of wild animals, ranging from otters to hooded mergansers, which benefit from the rapidly increasing number of beaver ponds in New England.

Speaker: David Brown, tracker and naturalist.

**Creatures of the Water - Bugs and Amphibians. - Wednesday, July 29.**

Most of the life of our lakes, ponds, swamps, bogs, streams, and rivers are the little critters that we never take the time to see. There is a whole web of life that is virtually invisible to most of us unless it is busy dining on our blood. Come and learn a little about this "other world" from a biologist who loves to spend his time wading through the waters looking at invertebrate life. Speaker: Ned Hatfield, biology teacher.



# Over 1300 Acres are Now Protected and Preserved by Easements or Ownership

The Greater Lovell Land Trust currently has 1,329 acres that it owns or holds as conservation easements. Properties owned range from 12 acres to 603 acres, and those under easement range from 1 acre to 251 acres. As far as the Land Trust is concerned, no property is too small if it projects valuable resources within the Kezar Lake watershed.

Resources protected and preserved with the Land Trust include shoreline, forest land, wetlands, brooks, hills, flora and fauna habitat, and scenic views.

Maine offers several programs that specifically protect productive forest land, productive farmland, and open space of scenic, wildlife or public recreational value. These *current use tax programs* have special qualification requirements and apply only to tracts that are undeveloped. Please contact the GLLT for further information on these programs.

The GLLT Easement Committee is currently working with a number of landowners in the watershed who are considering placing conservation

easements on their properties. These include more than 200 acres of significant environmental land that would be protected in perpetuity.

Members of the Easement Committee would be pleased to discuss easements and other conservation options and preservation techniques with anyone who has a concern for the land and a desire to secure its future. Just contact Mary Louise Blanchard, George Cadigan, Howard Corwin, Tom Henderson, Dan Stockford or Charlie Sullivan.

## PROPERTY UNDER PROTECTION

<u>Easements</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Acres</u>
1. R. Beckhard	Palmer Lane	4
2. G. Cadigan	Conifer Road	12
3. H. Corwin	Rte. 5 - Mud Cove	4
4. Eastman Hill (Nikazmerad)	Eastman Hill Road	251
5. B. Molloy	West Lovell Road	51
6. F. Semple	West Lovell Road	17
7. D. Thomson	Rte. 5 - Mud Cove	5
8. Wood	Westways	1
		<hr/> 345

## Owned

1. Heald/Bradley Ponds	Slab City Road	603
2. Lovell Septage	Eastman Hill	70
3. Sabra-Creeper Hill	Stow	65
4. Sucker Brook	NorthWest Cove	32
5. SWOAM/DuPont	Eastman Hill	202
6. J. Wing	Hartman Road	12
		<hr/> 984

**Total acres under protection** 1,329





**You and all Residents in  
and around Lovell are  
welcome to join us.**

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**Our Ninth Annual Meeting  
10 a.m., Sat. Aug. 1st, 1998**

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**At the Town Hall  
Center Lovell, Me.**

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**"Kezar Lake and the  
Saco Watershed: the  
W. Maine Ecosystem"**

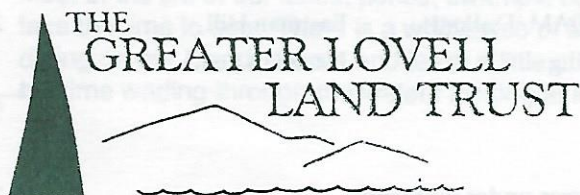
Our program will focus on the preservation of the Western Maine ecosystem. Executive Director and Vice-President of the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy will discuss his long range plans. His talk, **The Saco River Watershed: Conservation at a Landscape Scale** will be illustrated with slides and will give a perspective on Kezar Lake as one of the headwaters of a unique ecosystem which must be preserved.

We will have other updates concerning the Heald and Bradley Reserve, Sucker Brook and Sabra Creeper Hill. Kevin Harding will report on our expanding Nature Education Program.

We will have an overview and progress report on The Lovell Historical Society's plans for purchase and renovation of the Kimball-Stanford Homestead. We applaud its preservationist mission.

So please join us to enjoy this program and celebrate another outstanding year.

Anyone wishing to become a member of the GLLT may return the enclosed envelope or join us at the meeting of August 1st. We welcome new members and offer the opportunity for active participation in our activities and programs.



■ Box 181, Center Lovell, Maine 04016

## **A Land Trust Primer**

- Land trusts are private, nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations, and are funded largely through membership dues and donations from individuals, businesses, and foundations.
- Land trusts are not "trusts" in the legal sense. In fact, many refer to themselves as conservancies, foundations, or associations.
- Some are small and are run solely by volunteers. Others manage thousands of acres and have large, professional staffs.
- Land trusts protect land permanently and directly. They accept donations of properties, buy land, or help landowners establish legal restrictions that limit harmful use and development.
- They protect land that has natural, recreational, scenic, historic, or productive value, depending on the needs of the community or region. Some preserve many different types of land. Others focus on a particular area or resource.
- Land trusts are usually not adversarial, but work cooperatively with landowners and government agencies.
- Some own and manage nature preserves, recreation areas, or historic sites. Others monitor the development restrictions they have helped establish, but own no land at all. Some work in partnership with government conservation agencies, acquiring critical land that they later convey to the agencies.

### **Donations to the Land Trust's Heald / Bradley Fund**

Number	Range	Total
144	to \$100	\$4,717
109	\$100-\$400	16,829
37	\$500-\$2,000	20,200
57	\$1,000-\$4,500	85,622
17	\$5,000-\$26,000	194,994
2	\$50,000-\$100,000	150,000
366		\$472,362

### **Utilization of Heald / Bradley Fund to July 1, 1998**

Acquisition	\$400,000
Closing costs	15,000
Professional Fees	14,000
Return of Lovell contribution	7,350
Materials & supplies, etc.	1,300
Paid Lovell in lieu of taxes	800
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	\$438,450
Property Maintenance Fund Balance	\$35,000