

TWENTY YEARS OF GLLT HISTORY

This year the GLLT proudly celebrates its Twentieth Anniversary. Over the years we have had many successes. We have worked to fulfill our mission by preserving strategic areas in their natural state within the Kezar Lake watershed.

We want to thank you, our membership, and the permanent and summer residents of Lovell for contributing to our success. None of this would have happened were it not for strong support from the local community. During this period, you have helped us raise over \$1.25 million for acquisition costs alone for strategic lands which permanently protect our lakes, rivers, streams, bogs, fens, forests, and farms. Wherever possible, we have opened these properties for public recreational usage and developed walking and hiking trails as well as view sites on them. Our ownership and conservation easements combined now total more than 2100 acres. We continue to seek a balance between development and conservation.

We take pride also in the impact that we have had on important local, state and national issues. We have had favorable outcomes in: (1) preserving from development the lands of the historical Eastman Hill Stock Farm; (2) gaining permanent funding by the Maine legislature of the bill dealing with invasive aquatic species (milfoil); (3) founding the Maine Land Trust Network which now has 92 member organizations; (4) development and utilization of the unique non-commercializing easement; (5) defeating the federal proposal to use this region as a nuclear waste site;

(6) the development of the new national Standards and Practices of the Land Trust Alliance; and (7) helping to formulate the Land Trust Alliance position on Congressional efforts to refine the tax code for the conservation community

Despite this record, we face many challenges as we look to the role of the GLLT in the future of the Kezar Lake watershed. The "playing field" has changed since 1985 when we were first organized.

1. Development pressures and urban sprawl are leading to the increased utilization of all lands, and especially waterfront. More marginal lands are being developed with greater potential to do damage to the environment.
2. According to the Maine State Planning Board, development could soon lead to our area losing its rural character and becoming suburbanized.
3. The price of land has increased dramatically which makes outright purchase of endangered lands more difficult.
4. There is much greater competition for grants from foundations and a relatively diminishing charity and government funding base.
5. The Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices have become more exacting and a mandatory accreditation program will be instituted soon.
6. Land trusts have had to become more professionalized because of increasing legal requirements and must rely on trained professionals in addition to their volunteer base.

How do we intend to meet these changing situations? We will continue to work with the towns of Lovell, Stow and Stoneham to fulfill the public purposes expressed in Maine conservation laws, the Shoreline Zoning Act and town zoning regulations... We will work with the town of Lovell as it considers updating its long range comprehensive plan and hope to create a shared vision of conservation within the Greater Lovell region... We will continue to target strategic properties and hope that we can obtain more non-commercializing easements on critical waterfront properties... We will work to facilitate local projects and seek critical conservation easements wherever possible... We will combine forces with the Kezar Lake Watershed Association wherever we can to effectively work together... We will work with developers to maximize the conservation values on their properties... We will continue our education and outreach programs... We will continue to work to create a regional alliance of five land trusts for projects which exceed our individual capacities or boundaries. To help us meet these many new challenges, as of January 1st the GLLT added the position of Executive Director, and we are fortunate to have Tom Henderson fill that role.

As always, we face significant financial challenges. Our litigation on the Pleasant Point Inn continues and is discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. We would appreciate your sending special contributions to the Middle Bay Defense Fund of the Greater Lovell Land Trust to assist in our legal efforts. This is also the time to renew dues and we hope you will all join and get your neighbors to help support our efforts. Membership in the GLLT has one basic meaning: you have a love of this area and are committed to its preservation.

Finally, I would like to invite everyone to a *Combined GLLT/KLWA Annual Educational Meeting* to be held at the New Suncook School on Saturday, August 13th, 2005 at 10 a.m. Our featured speaker will be Bill Hanson who will speak on **Life Histories of Loons and Eagles on Maine Lakes**. He is Senior Biologist for FPL Energy, a Division of Florida Power and Light Co. This will be preceded by our annual breakfast open to everyone from 8:45 a.m. to 10 a.m. prior to the meeting.

Howard A. Corwin, M.D.
President

GREATER LOVELL LAND TRUST WALKS 2005

Our walks are free and led by trained docents at Heald Pond, Sabbatus Mountain and the Sucker Brook Preserve and other specified locations. Please see our calendar inside for details. No prior sign up is necessary. Docents will guide visitors on trails and point out important natural features, identify plants, identify animal signs, and help participants learn to read the forested landscape. 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 services, launching facilities and roadways. Car pooling is encouraged. Families are welcome, but programs are most suitable for children over age 5. **All our walks are scheduled on Thursdays to make it easier to remember and plan your calendar.**

Guidelines For Walks

- A gentle walk is on wide, flat trails that do not go long distances.
- A casual walk is on developed trails on mostly level terrain.
- An active walk is on developed and rough trails up and down hill.
- A strenuous walk is on and off trail, up and down hill.

**THE WALKS
SCHEDULE IS
ON PAGE 4**



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Change is natural, unavoidable and constant. It can occur as slowly as the patient weathering of wind and water on a granite outcrop, seemingly unaltered for decades, all the while being reduced to tiny fragments of mineral and stone. It can occur as rapid and dramatically as a sudden wind that reduces thousands of forested acres to broken and uprooted relics overnight, as in 1980. Regardless of its pace, it is ever present. It often affects us personally as we struggle to adapt to its effects on our communities, our institutions, and our lives. Change is most unwelcome when not expected or understood.



How our community anticipates, reacts or responds to change tests our character and defines our heritage. The Greater Lovell area has benefited from a history of slow change and a community that seeks to keep it so through ordinance and attitude.

We have been fortunate to avoid the challenges faced by rapidly changing communities throughout New England. Land is at a premium in the northeast. The need for careful planning and community partnerships has never been greater. Our Planning Boards, Conservation Commissions and elected officials will be at the forefront of the pressure to change our community. Each will need our input, support and participation if we are to preserve those elements of our community that define us and make us proud.

The GLLT has been a visionary institution with a mission to anticipate change, advocate for its management through planning, and mitigating drastic community changes through conservation. We are fortunate to still have beautiful natural areas worthy of protection. We recognize that we need to change as an organization to meet the challenges that time and loss of these great places presents. This was aptly embraced by our Board of Directors in adopting our recent Long Range Plan as described last year. The Board established the position of a full time Executive Director to meet today's challenges and ensure that our next 20 years will be as successful as our first.

New standards, regulations and procedures are affecting all land trusts, nationally. The GLLT is not alone in the need to adapt to the increased demands on our land trust community. We are working internally to meet these demands with organizational upgrades while maintaining our local conservation focus. Two specific national issues are now part of our daily focus.

The Standards and Practices of the Land Trust Alliance have been revised. These are the ethical and technical guidelines for responsible operation of a land trust. The GLLT committed to these national guidelines in 1989, adopted the first revisions in 1993 and has now adopted new revisions. Implementation requires the drafting of new procedures and the adoption of new policies. Employing these guiding principles ensures we remain a credible organization upholding the public trust. They are the cornerstones of the effectiveness and permanence of our local conservation program.

Within the next 6-12 months, a national land trust accreditation program will be created. Voluntary accreditation is a direct result of congressional review in Washington D.C.

The Joint Committee on Taxation, challenged to find new sources of revenue and balance the budget, made sweeping recommendations that threatened to halt all conservation transactions nationally. The Senate Finance Committee has rejected many of these recommendations. However, it has insisted upon improved land trust practices and greater oversight of local activities. Voluntary accreditation has been offered by the land trust community as a means to address Congressional demands. The GLLT will need to become accredited in the first round of the program. Failure to be accredited would have a direct effect on our ability to receive foundation and public funding support, would potentially increase our cost of insurance, and would potentially risk easement donors from having their charitable donations recognized by the IRS. We are actively reviewing draft requirements and preparing to meet the accreditation standards.

Local land trusts are struggling to attract limited public and private funds for their local conservation projects. This is not due to a lack of public and private commitment to conservation. It is the direct effect of strained federal, state and local budgets and the reduced investment returns of foundation endowments. Competition for limited funds has always been strong but never has it been greater. If the GLLT is going to attract foundation funding and public investment in our watershed, we need to improve our competitive position. The Alliance of Five Land Trusts promises to provide us with this competitive position while ensuring we remain autonomous in our mission, projects and programs. We are committed to the successful creation of this alliance.

Our commitment to our mission is the foundation supporting our adaptation to a changing world. Our mission adopted in 1985 remains unchanged and reaffirmed by our members and the Board of Directors. Dedicated volunteers continue to deliver high quality programs, complete valuable conservation projects and drive the success of the organization. Our donors and contributing members remain visionary and generous in their support. We retain a vision that the GLLT contributes greatly to the Greater Lovell community as a valued and fully engaged partner. As we celebrate our first 20 years of accomplishment in good conservation, we are prepared to meet future challenges by remaining true to our heritage.

Tom Henderson, GLLT Executive Director

“Nine walks are scheduled for July and August...all start at 9 a.m. on Thursdays...on September 17th, we'll have an 8 a.m. start for our Baldface Mountain hike...and on October 1st, we plan a 9 a.m. start for our Caribou Mountain hike”

–Kevin Harding, GLLT V.P.

THE CALENDAR FOR GUIDED WALKS AND HIKES

- JULY 7** 9AM–12PM: **Lower Caribou Mtn. Trail (Active)** Meet at the Caribou Mtn. parking area off Route 113 (with appropriate White Mountain National Forest Sticker available from any ranger station). We will walk the lower section of the trail (quite flat) up Caribou Mountain to have a look at an old growth forest. Tree identification will be our focus. The trees here are really worth the drive, so please join us.
- JULY 14** 9AM – 12PM: **Sucker Brook Preserve (Active)** We will focus on the bear activity in this area (on and off trail) and examine a bear tree, bear prints, a bear's skull, bear feeding activity, and if we are lucky we might find a bear track.
- JULY 21** 9AM – 12PM: **Kezar Lake Tract (Strenuous)** Come and walk our newly acquired 114 acre tract of land that borders the Kezar River. We will walk on old roads, bushwhack through the forest and climb up and down several steep ravines to examine what a newly cut forest does for wildlife.
- JULY 28** 9AM – 11AM: **Heald Pond Area (Gentle)** We will look for medicinal and edible plants along the roadsides and in the Heald Pond area.
- Note: There are two programs on August 4th that will occur at the same place and time designed for different audiences.*
- AUGUST 4** 9AM – 11AM: **Sucker Brook Preserve (Casual)** We will focus on mushrooms and ground cover in this lovely shaded riparian environment along the brook. Designed for adults.
- AUGUST 4** 9AM – 11AM: **Sucker Brook Preserve (Family)** Parents must accompany children. A look “under a log at critters.” A special program for families with school age children to explore things close to the ground!
- AUGUST 11** 9AM – 11AM: **Stockford Preserve (Gentle)** We will focus on wildflowers and the forest management of this preserve as we walk to the top of a small hill to enjoy the view.
- AUGUST 18** 9AM – 12PM: **Heald Pond (Active)** A walk to the summit of Whiting Hill then down to the pond to explore the woodlands and look for plants and animal signs of particular interest.
- AUGUST 25** 9AM – 12PM: **Heald Pond (Casual)** With the guidance of Tom Wessel's *Reading the Forest Landscape* two sites will be visited. At Heald Pond the concepts will be introduced and then participants will proceed to the Bradley Pond parking area to apply these ideas to a new site.
- FALL HIKES:** Two hikes are planned. *Note: Be sure to have an appropriate parking pass from the National Forest.*
- SEPTEMBER 17** **Saturday, 8AM: Baldface Mountain** We need to get there early to assure adequate parking at the Baldface parking lot. We will not go to the highest summit, but will ascend the rock scramble to enjoy the views. This is about a six hour hike for those in good condition. If time permits we may explore the Chandler Gorge on the way back.
- OCTOBER 1** **Saturday, 9AM: Caribou Mountain** We were rained out last year, but will once again attempt this six hour hike for those in good condition. Meet at the Caribou Mountain parking area off Route 113.. We will ascend the Caribou Trail and come down the Mud Brook Trail.

DIRECTIONS

The Heald Pond and Flat Hill walks will take place at the Heald and Bradley Preserve. From Lovell drive north on Route 5 and turn right on Slab City Road and proceed a short distance over a bridge to a small parking area on your left past the launching area where a docent will meet you.

The Sucker Brook walks will use the Sucker Brook Preserve off Horseshoe Pond Road. From Lovell drive north on Route 5 to West Lovell Road on your left. Proceed over the bridge to Foxboro Road (a left at the next fork). Drive about two miles to Horseshoe Pond Road on your right. Proceed down this dirt road a short distance to the Horseshoe Pond parking area.

The Kezar River Tract and Stockford Preserve walks will meet at the Library due to limited parking.

The Greater Lovell Land Trust Presents

Natural History at the Lovell Library

Wednesday Evenings in July and August at 8:00 PM

July 6: David Brown, Tracker and Naturalist.
Eco-birding: Hawks Overhead II

This program is a follow-up to last summer's video presentation on common raptors. It will show footage of lesser-known hawks found in New England at one season or another, as well as intimate video of some of the owls that live in our woods. Along with the videotape, behavior, life-histories, and flight dynamics will be discussed.

July 13: Michael Perry, Professional Speaker.
Summer on a River, Maine's Allagash Wilderness

Join Michael Perry (founder-director) of Dreams Unlimited for a slide show journey along Maine's historic Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Beautiful summer sunsets, brilliant wild flowers, majestic moose, and evergreen-lined riverbanks characterize his trip that starts at Churchill Dam and explores the history of the river, the thundering Allagash Falls, and ends 95 miles later. Come join Michael for a look at one of America's most treasured and revered rivers, where Maine wilderness and the spirits of eras gone by bewitch the fortunate visitor.

July 20: Dr. Drew Barton, Asst. Professor, University of Maine. *Invasive Plants*

Dr. Barton's main goal in this talk will be to teach you the fundamentals of invasive plant ecology and then to empower you to make plant selections that will help stem the tide of this problem. He'll begin by introducing invasive species: who they are, what they're like, and what they do to native ecosystems. Then, he'll describe some case studies, including his own research on invasive trees and shrubs in Maine. In the last part of the presentation, he'll provide practical information about garden and landscape plants to avoid, and ideas for readily available replacement species.

July 27: Kevin Harding, Amateur Naturalist.
Beavers and Man.

Last year we looked at the life of beavers. This year, we will examine the historic interaction of beavers and man to ponder what would cause man to virtually eradicate a resource he was dependent on. The North American beaver trade is a fascinating example of how a single animal created an enormous industry that changed the landscape, created the mythological voyageur and mountain man, and almost exterminated the creature that was the foundation of the enterprise.

August 3: Chris Lewey, Local Ecologist.
H₂O, The Wonder of Water.

This strange substance covers 71% of the globe and causes our planet to glow in the heavens like a cerulean jewel. We are awash both inside and out with one of the simplest and most abundant compounds on the planet, and yet this common chemical is one of the most amazing and unusual substances known by man. The attributes of this awesome material are rock shattering and earth building, beautiful and horrific, life giving and life taking. Water is odd, unique, wonderful, and along with 30% of some added materials, is reading this page. We are mostly water. Join Chris as we plunge into a wet and miraculous adventure and take a closer look at the nature of water.

Celebrating
20 Years
of Service

Welcome to our website.
E-mail us with questions
and suggestions.

There is a lot of news at...

www.gllt.org

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What Can I Do About The Invasive Plants?

Invasive terrestrial plants is really not a very exciting topic until you realize that these plants can in fact endanger our ecosystem. When one starts reading about invasive organisms it can be frightening and elicit a feeling of hopelessness. But as with many environmental issues the trick is to act locally and think globally.

What can the average citizen do? The first step is to be aware that there are invasives that spread easily. Learn to identify the most common problem plants. The GLLT can help you. One of our qualified staff (with a masters degree in environmental studies) will come to your property and do a free survey to see if you have problem plants. The GLLT is grateful to the Davis Foundation who is funding this project.

We cannot guarantee we will find every invasive plant, but we can certainly help you take this first step. The good news is that many landowners may find they have nothing to worry about. To avail yourself of this service simply call Kevin Harding at 207-925-1205 or e-mail him at kharding55@earthlink.net. We will work with each landowner to make an appointment and conduct a survey. There's no obligation to take action if invasive plants are found. As with aquatic invasives, the concern is that terrestrial invasives spread to wild lands and cause problems for native plants and wildlife.

Another key step to take is to ask your local plant supplier or landscaper if the plants you are interested in for your property are native or exotic plants. Sadly, many invasives have been introduced through nurseries. Educated consumers can help by persuading nurseries not to stock these invasive plants.

A third step is to seek additional information. There are many valuable web sites that can help landowners identify and deal with this problem (see below). For example, if you are looking to replace an invasive plant, the New England Wildflower Society website has a comprehensive list of alternatives to consider.

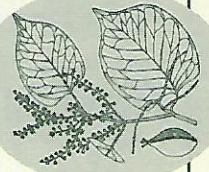
If you find you wish to eradicate invasive plants, there are several methods. Simply digging them up may be an option; cutting them down and covering them with black plastic can work in some cases; and there are herbicides that can be used safely with proper precautions. See your local nurseryman or go to the State of Maine invasive plant site for advice specific to the species in question.

Finally, for more information, please come and listen to Dr. Drew Barton from the University of Maine on **July 20th at 8:00 PM in the Charlotte Hobbs Library** and see us at the GLLT booth at Lovell Old Home Days and we will be glad to answer any of your questions.

SUGGESTED WEBSITES:

- New England Wildflower Society:
<http://www.newfs.org/conserve.htm>
- State of Maine aquatics:
<http://state.me.us/dep/blwg/topic/invasives.index.htm>
- State of Maine terrestrials:
<http://state.me.us/doc/nrimc/mnap/programs/invasives.htm>

—Kevin Harding



Here is a drawing of our most common invasive in the Lovell area: Japanese Knotweed or Mexican Bamboo (*Fallopia japonica*), a perennial shrub that is three to nine feet high with a large hollow stem and leaves two to six inches long. It spreads rapidly and is difficult to eradicate.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As many of you are aware, over the past several years because of the increased financial activity resulting from undertakings such as the Evergreen Valley Marina project in 2003 and the Middle Bay Defense litigation in the years subsequent to that, the Board of Directors of the GLLT has deemed it appropriate and prudent to have the GLLT financial statements examined by its independent accountants and auditors, Grondin & Chandel, P.A. of Bridgton, Maine. The Board has requested that such an examination be conducted at and for the GLLT fiscal year ended April 30, 2005 in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and that it be sufficient in scope to enable the auditors to report that the GLLT financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the GLLT as of April 30, 2005 and the changes in its net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. The independent

auditors have recently commenced this audit and expect it to be substantially completed by our Annual Meeting in August.

On an unaudited basis, contributions and dues received in our most recent fiscal year ended April 30, 2005 aggregated approximately \$132,000 including approximately \$83,000 from the GLLT/KLWA joint fundraising effort late last fall. Those funds plus another \$18,000 were restricted by the donors for very specific purposes and/or funds, principally the defense of the Middle Bay arising from the proposed development at Pleasant Point.

The balance of our contributions, approximating \$31,000, were unrestricted and were used to cover a portion of our general operating costs and program expenses for the year. Additional funding of current costs came from managed wood harvesting on land owned by the GLLT and from positive unrestricted fund balances that had been carried forward from prior years.

For those of our members that have a statistical bent, you will be interested in knowing that during the past year the GLLT received donations from 415 contributors, residing in 30 States, the District of Columbia and the UK. The individual contributions received ranged from \$5 to over \$28,000, with the average being approximately \$320 and the median \$60. Approximately 18 % of our contributors responded to more than one of our solicitations.

Also included in our receipts for the year was a \$5000 grant from the Davis Foundation for a study of invasive terrestrial plants in the Kezar Lake watershed area, which is more fully described in the article included elsewhere herein by Kevin Harding.

We appreciate your past financial support and the vote of confidence in the GLLT that your contributions represent. We need and look forward to your continued support.

Bill McCormick, Treasurer

Invitation

To All Residents of Lovell,
Stoneham, and Stow
from

**THE GREATER LOVELL
LAND TRUST
&
THE KEZAR LAKE
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

10 a.m., Saturday August 13, 2005
at New Suncook School, Lovell, Maine

The Greater Lovell Land Trust and the Kezar Lake Watershed Association invites you to their First Joint Summer Meeting. Together the GLLT will celebrate its 20th anniversary and 16th Annual Educational Program and KLWA will hold its annual August Meeting.

The GLLT is dedicating this meeting to **Juanita Perkins** who has done extensive trail development on our properties, and to **George Scala**, who has been Chairman of our Properties Committee. We hope you will come to honor these major contributors to our communities.

The program will also include (1) KLWA reports on its current programs; (2) an update on the current Pleasant Point litigation; (3) details of the Evergreen Valley Marina conservation easement; and (4) the GLLT adaptation to 21st century realities in the field of conservation presented by Tom Henderson, Executive Director.

Our principal and featured speaker will be Bill Hanson who is noted for his exciting photographic presentations entitled **LIFE HISTORIES OF LOONS AND EAGLES ON MAINE LAKES**. He is stationed in Lewiston and is Senior Biologist for FPL Energy, a Division of Florida Power and Light Co.

Please note: We also invite you to an informal wake-up breakfast at the New Suncook School from 8:45 to 10 a.m. immediately preceding our meeting.

All are welcome to join us for this gathering. Membership in the GLLT or KLWA is not required, although we welcome new members at any time.

Evergreen Valley Marina Conservation Easement

The GLLT was granted a conservation easement on the 148 acre Evergreen Valley Marina property in April of this year. The property is now in private hands but will remain a natural area and may serve as a site for future research. This easement includes 2000 feet of shorefront on Kezar Lake, plus 25 acres of wetlands, and extensive frontage along Great Brook.

The purpose of the agreement reads as follows: "This conservation easement is intended to provide a significant public benefit by protecting and preserving in perpetuity the natural, forested, open and substantially undeveloped character of the protected property, including its riparian, fisheries and wildlife habitat values, and the highly scenic character of the protected property as seen from Kezar Lake, Great Brook, and other public vantage points along their shores, while permitting limited non-profit governmental education and scientific use of one existing building that is currently located on the protected property."

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Pleasant Point Litigation Continues

The Pleasant Point Inn situation has not been resolved as yet. Litigation continues. In May, the Maine Superior Court ruled that the Lovell Board of Appeals **did not** have jurisdiction over the Conway Lake Resorts, Inc./Pleasant Point Realty Trust (CLRI/PPRT) application originally filed in 2003 and returned the matter to the town. The judge ruled that the application was for an expansion of use, not a change of use, and as such, was a matter for the Lovell Planning Board, not the Board of Appeals. The Town of Lovell and the GLLT and its partners, (the Kezar Lake Watershed Association, Quisisana, and the Farrington Homeowner's Association,) have appealed this decision to the Maine Supreme Court.

The Lovell Planning Board **turned down** a second application by the Pleasant Point group in November, 2004. This application sought permission to develop four bed and breakfast units on the property with 12 units in each. This ruling is being appealed by the Pleasant Point group in Maine Superior Court and briefs have been filed.

We remain hopeful that the Town of Lovell will prevail in these cases though this promises to be a third summer of hearings which are costly for the town and for the GLLT and its partners. The GLLT continues to seek contributions to its Middle Bay Defense Fund which supports our share of the litigation. Contributions can be sent to the GLLT, P.O. Box 181, Center Lovell, ME 04016.

An Update From "H₂O For ME" and The Water Referendum in Maine

Last summer, I was privileged to speak before the Board and the members of the Greater Lovell Land Trust about the situation in Maine concerning the bulk extraction of ground water. I asked the question at the time-"whose water is it?" I continue to ask it today. It is clear to me that Maine people believe they own the water. It also is clear to me that Maine people do own it but with limitations. The next important question is "who WILL control the groundwater of Maine?" It is clear to me that Maine people think they control the groundwater. It is also clear to me that they do not.

In Michigan, it was also clear to Governor Jennifer Granholm that the people of Michigan may not control their water. She had a simple solution. Stop all further water extraction development until the legislature enacts a water policy that protects the interests of Michigan citizens. By executive order, she halted all new or expanded bottled water operations. A Nestlé spokesperson charged that Governor Granholm had overstepped her bounds. The Governor has not backed down. We congratulate her for her courage and vision. These character traits are unfortunately lacking in Augusta.

Maine's leaders have proposed every kind of tax that one could imagine - from taxes on hiking and canoeing, to sales taxes on services, and increases in property taxes [because of the lack of full state funding for public education]--yet the tax on bulk water extractors is not discussed. Interesting, humh? Some of us are beginning to ask - why? The tax on bulk water extractions could raise all that is needed to make up this budget shortfall with little impact on the Maine consumer.

H₂O for ME has been working hard collecting signatures for the referendum while educating small groups of opinion leaders about the water issue throughout Maine. From farmers to teachers, nurses, small business owners, to senior citizens, we now have over 35,000 certified signatures. We need 22,000 more. It has not been easy. We didn't think it would be. Nestlé and their allies have nearly unlimited financial resources and people. Nestlé has reported spending an amount approaching \$200,000. We are working with volunteers and have raised under \$6,000. Our deadline is near. We have until the end of September to collect all the signatures required to bring this question to the voters of Maine.

Water is our most important natural resource. The public needs to protect it and to control it. Ownership of Maine's water should not be in the hands of large multinational corporations. This is not intelligent public policy. It is against the best interests of Maine citizens.

Please take a look at our web-site: www.h2oforme.com. If you think that we are working for the right cause, I sincerely ask for your support and help.

Thank you,
Jim Wilfong

Jim lives in Stow. He is a former State Legislator and is now Director of H₂O for ME, a grassroots citizens' group, which wants sustainability standards for our aquifers and a water dividend trust to fund economic development efforts in Maine.

Welcome to www.gllt.org

This is a good time to review your feelings about our website and what its future content might include. Currently our plans are to add the newsletter to the site in an easy downloadable document, which could then be printed. Many web users have discovered PayPal, an easy to use service that allows secure financial transactions over the web. The GLLT plans to use this service from our site for donations. Take a look today... ["www.gllt.org."](http://www.gllt.org)

If you have suggestions about how the site can grow and help service GLLT friends, please send your e-mail ideas to José Azel via his own e-mail: jazel@auroraphotos.com

- Educational Programs
- Lectures and Talks
- Guided Walks
- Trails and Preserves
- Volunteering to Help
- Activities and Programs
- Conservation, Current Projects
- Hikes, Where to Start
- Watershed Needs, Threats
- Officers, Plans and Goals