

# WATERSHED VIEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE KEZAR LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

FALL 2019



## KLWA Celebrates Nature's Beauty

by LAURA ROBINSON

In celebration of our 50th Anniversary, KLWA sponsored a photo contest featuring Maine's Climate Change Indicator Species. Photographers of all ages contributed to a stunning array of entries.

Each photo depicted one of the plants or animals currently being monitored by the University of Maine's Signs of the Seasons Program. By getting close to these climate-affected species, photographers captured often overlooked moments, broadening awareness of the natural beauty in our watershed.

First prize went to Moira Yip's tiny spring peeper atop an array of hosta leaves. Ingrid Johnson's colorful "chicken of the woods" not only landed her second prize, but when sautéed in butter, provided a tasty meal. High school senior Anna Gerner earned third prize with her majestic photo of eastern white pines.

Other notable entries, which are featured in this newsletter, included a red lacquer mushroom photographed by seven-year-old Mason Doll, a lady's slipper seedpod captured by Linda Wurm, and Brittany Williams' orange-belted bumblebee foraging in a stand of goldenrod. Monarchs were the most popular subject, with all stages represented including caterpillar close-ups, foraging and mating butterflies, and a single, gleaming and daintily ridged, monarch egg.

While the contest is now over, there is still plenty of time to become involved in the Signs of the Seasons program. Volunteers from our watershed and surrounding area are needed to record seasonal observations of the Climate Change Indicator plants and animals. Data gathered by volunteers throughout the state are contributing to a detailed record of seasonal change that is allowing scientists to better track and predict the effects of climate change.

Volunteers begin by choosing a convenient plot for observation that can be as small as a single dandelion plant, or as large as a nearby acre of mixed habitat. Observers watch over their plot to see what happens, recording phenomena such as bud



**First place:** Moira Yip's tiny spring peeper on hosta leaves

MOIRA YIP

break and fruiting in plants, and nesting, feeding, and parenting of animals.

You can start small, with a single plant or animal and add species at any time. If you are interested in learning more about this program, including information about free training sessions for volunteers, please visit: <https://extension.umaine.edu/signs-of-the-seasons/>.

We hope the process of taking photographs, as well as viewing the stunning images, has inspired interest in the Signs of the Seasons program.

Congratulations and many thanks to all who contributed to the wide spectrum of entries. We also wish to thank the generous businesses that donated prizes, including Kezar Lake Marina, Harvest Gold Gallery, and the Inn at Pleasant Point. We appreciate your enthusiasm, intriguing photos, and your help to make KLWA's 50th anniversary a memorable summer. ♡



### KLWA Officers

**PRESIDENT**  
Rick Pilsbury,  
*Upper Bay*

**TREASURER**  
Shelley Pilsbury,  
*Upper Bay*

**SECRETARY**  
Steve Lewis,  
*Horseshoe Pond*

### Trustees

Eric Ernst, *Middle Bay*  
Tom Gilmore, *Lower Bay*  
Don Griggs, *Middle Bay*  
Lucy LaCasse, *Stoneham*  
Wes Huntress, *Middle Bay*  
Ed Poliquin, *Lower Bay*  
Lynda Rasco, *Lovell*  
Laura Robinson, *Middle Bay*  
Heinrich Wurm, *Lower Bay*

### GLLT Representative

Heinrich Wurm, *Lower Bay*

### Kezar Lake Watershed Association

P.O. Box 88  
Lovell, Maine 04051  
(207) 925-8020  
www.klwa.us



RICK PILSBURY

## President's Message

by RICK PILSBURY

**A**s we close out our 50th anniversary year, the KLWA Board offers a special thank you to all who joined us to look back and remember from whence we came and what, with your support, we accomplished together. The KLWA mission to “preserve, protect and maintain” is a journey, not a destination and calls for constant diligence. So, now it’s time to regroup, refocus and get going on the next 50 years and beyond.

There were some changes to your board this year with the addition of Laura Robinson and Shelley Pilsbury and the retirements of Jim and Cecily Stone, and treasurer Marti Kinsel. As president for seven years, Jim grew the KLWA and successfully

met unexpected challenges with vision and strength. I am fortunate and honored to follow his lead and build on his accomplishments. Thank you, Jim, Cecily, and Marti.

I’m happy to report overall Kezar Lake water quality continues to be good. This includes the Lower Bay, which during a dry summer like this one becomes an area of concern and the focus of future study.

A record eight loon chicks fledged this summer, possibly due to greater acceptance of our loon nesting platforms. The KLWA Lake Patrol was active conducting 21 boat and 17 swimmer assists. See more in the Lake Patrol articles on page 5.

Our 50th Anniversary Photo Contest had many great en-

tries as you’ll see throughout this newsletter. Thanks to Don and Joan Griggs, and Laura Robinson for managing what may be the first of many contests to come. In addition, the KLWA Wake Education project kicked off this year with distribution of posters and leaflets. Other lake associations heard about it and requested materials, which we gladly provided.

And congratulations to all involved in helping the Cushman Pond Team accomplish their first year of invasive-plant-free status. You can read about this on page 7.

Of course our progress is possible only because of the hard work of our board and the generosity of our members. Please keep the KLWA in mind as you do your year-end giving.



INGRID JOHNSON

Second place: Ingrid Johnson’s Chicken of the Woods fungi

# All Kezar Loons Returned—Loyal to Each Other and Home Nests

by HEINRICH WURM

The 2019 Common Loon season got off to a great start when we found that all the adult loons we banded in prior years returned to the same territories and mated with the same partners. Several of those pairs were again successful with nesting efforts: Great Brook led the way using our platform for the second year in a row, as did the pair on Horseshoe Pond a few days later. We again had two successful nests on Lower Bay, one in Alaska Bay and one on Trout Pond. Those efforts resulted in eight healthy chicks—now juveniles who soon will fly toward the Gulf of Maine.

There were several nest failures: abandoned eggs due to black fly infestation early in the season and egg predation by raccoons or other mammals. Only one chick went missing in Great Brook basin this year.

KLWA's "Sustaining the Common Loon in the Kezar Lake Watershed: A Community Project," funded by the Stephen and Tabitha Kind Foundation, has now completed its initial two years. The preliminary results, including field observations, are summarized in the table below.

We banded 18 loons (13 adults and five chicks) to allow tracking and identification of the local population over time. Part of the banding mission was to obtain blood and feather samples to test for lead and mercury. Those results will be included in the summary report available on our website, [klwa.us](http://klwa.us), later this year.

We plan to continue our project for an additional three years under the guidance of Lee Attix of Loon Conservation Associates, South Portland, ME.

We succeeded in recruiting and training an impassioned volunteer base to engage the local community, reduce cost and lay a foundation for a "citizen science" led project after the initial study concludes. Not surprisingly, the project has drawn interest and participation from lake associations throughout the region.

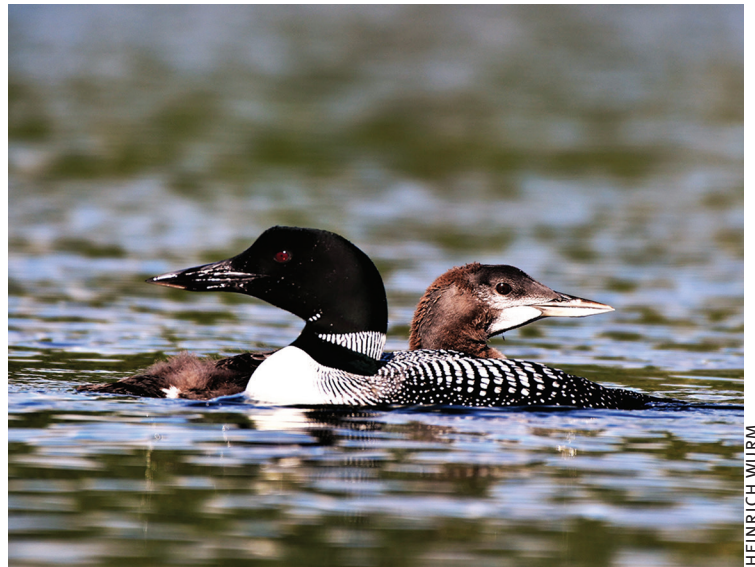
## SUMMARY RESULTS OF THE KEZAR LAKE WATERSHED LOON PROJECT 2018-2019

Population	Territorial Pairs	Nesting Pairs	Chicks Hatched	Chicks Survived
2018	15	13	10	5
2019	17	12	10	8
Reproductive Success	Nesting Frequency	Hatching Success	Chick Survivorships	Overall Productivity
2018	.87	.77	.80	.33
2019	.70	.83	.50	.47



HEINRICH WURM

*Great Brook led the way using our platform for the second year in a row, as did the pair on Horseshoe Pond a few days later. We again had two successful nests on Lower Bay, one in Alaska Bay and one on Trout Pond.*



HEINRICH WURM

*We succeeded in recruiting and training an impassioned volunteer base to engage the local community, reduce cost and lay a foundation for a "citizen science" led project after the initial study concludes.*

# It Was a Good Summer for Water Quality

by HEINRICH WURM

**W**e are awaiting the official results of our water testing efforts for 2019, but we know we had a good summer. Yes, there was a late ice-out, a wet spring, lots of turbidity from pine pollen sludge in June, and the usual accumulation of metaphyton, the filamentous algae that becomes entangled in the stems of rooted aquatic plants. But there were no harmful blue-green algae blooms, no coliforms causing public beach closures, and no low oxygen conditions reported by our electronic measuring stations.

Several KLWA board members recently met with our scientific partners to discuss future activities. The discussion covered a host of projects geared toward obtaining more information and a better understanding of the threats to the health of our watershed.

While we are free of many of the common threats affecting water quality, our unique location at the foot of the White Mountain National Forest does raise some issues. The Albany South timber harvest is about to begin, and Evergreen Valley remains a focus of concern. ♠

*While we are free of many of the common threats affecting water quality, our location at the foot of the White Mountain National Forest does raise some issues.*



LEIGH MACMILLEN HAYES

Dr Kallin showing off the Secchi disk used to determine turbidity

## HELP YOURSELF. HELP THE KLWA.

Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA to the KLWA and avoid taxes. If you are age 70½ or older, you're required to take minimum distributions (RMDs) each year from your tax-deferred retirement accounts. Normally, taxable as income, the amount is tax-free if donated directly to qualified non-profit organizations such as KLWA, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit. Roth IRAs are not qualified. If you are interested in making a QCD to the KLWA, contact the firm that manages your IRA. Thank you for your support.



ANNA GERNER

Third place: Anna Gerner's Eastern White Pine

# KLWA Lake Patrol to team with State on Navigation Project

by TOM GILMORE

**A**fter a four-year pilot test, the “State of Maine Inspection Assistance” program is rolling out to Kezar Lake. KLWA’s Lake Patrol will assist the State in inspecting the location and condition of navigational aid markers. This will help ease the State’s task of inspecting over 2,400 buoys in 40 lakes with only two boats, which takes about six weeks and brings new requests annually.

This program falls squarely within the KLWA Lake Patrol mandate and includes top priority response should we ever need assistance with any of our buoys.

More on this topic will be coming in future newsletters as we become full participants and gain experience. For now, however, suffice it to say we see only upside in working with the State on this project.

Please be aware, you can’t place a buoy on your own. Buoy placement is determined and regulated by the State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

The maine.gov website states the following: “The Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands shall decide when, in his/her opinion, hazards to navigation exist and mark the waters of the State, within the resources and funds available. No city, county or person shall mark the waters of this State in any manner conflicting with the marking system prescribed by the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands.”



RICK PILSBURY

# It Was An Active Summer for the Lake Patrol

**S**ummer 2019 was again a banner year for the Lake Patrol. We passed out 120 whistles, conducted 21 boat and 17 swimmer assists, held 11 meetings with the Maine Warden Service and performed 322 routine boat inspections. There’s no question these activities contributed to a safer lake. Thanks again to Turf Ramsden, our Lake Patrol Officer, who will return next year.



BRITTANY WILLIAMS

Contest Entry: Orange-belted Bumblebee on golden rod



MASON DOLL

Contest Entry: Red-lacquered Hemlock Varnish Shelf Mushrooms

# Climate Change Observatory (CCO) News

by DON GRIGGS

## Communicating with the Community

During the past six months the CCO focused on collecting and analyzing data and delivering the information in its Annual Report to the Lovell Planning Board and Selectmen as well as to KLWA members and our collaborating partners.

Key recommendations in the report are the following: incorporate climate change considerations in developing the new Lovell Comprehensive Plan; replace failing culverts; conduct shoreline survey to identify conduits of stormwater runoff; and advocate the merits of achieving LakeSmart certification.

Overall, the trends for most criteria remain steady with no alarming conditions noted. The CCO Annual Report is available to everyone at [klwa.us](http://klwa.us) under Current Reports.

## Taking a Sediment Core in Horseshoe Pond

The CCO has been concerned with the marked increase in sediment accumulation in Kezar Lake since 1980. We sought to determine whether this increase is likely due to human activity, climate change, or both. To assess the causes, CCO proposed comparing sediment samples of the relatively undisturbed Horseshoe Pond with those of Kezar Lake.

A team of KLWA volunteers took a sediment core from Horseshoe Pond on July 18 in collaboration with Plymouth State University. Supervised by Dr. Lisa Doner, PSU is conducting a paleolimnology study of the Horseshoe Pond core and comparing results to their analyses of Kezar's core samples. Noting differences between the two may help us better understand the increasing sediment accumulation rate and whether we can mitigate the increase.

## Update on Boat Wakes

KLWA continues to be concerned about these harmful effects from large boat wakes and slow speed boating:

- Eroding the shore line and stirring up phosphorus
- Threatening the safety of kayaks, paddle boards and canoes
- Damaging docks and moored boats
- Endangering fish, loons and other wildlife

To address these issues, KLWA established voluntary guidelines to urge slow speed boating 500 feet from shorelines and in water over 20 feet deep.

For more information about the impact of large boat wakes visit the KLWA website, [klwa.us](http://klwa.us). In addition, flyers and posters with a lake map identifying the area where slow speed boating is recommended are available at various Lovell locations. See the yellow area on the lake graphic above. ♡



Core sample on Horseshoe Pond

DON GRIGGS



Contest Entry: Lady's Slipper seed pod

LINDA WURM

# Cushman Pond Is Now Free of Invasive Plants

by DIANE CARACCILO, CHAIRPERSON LOVELL INVASIVE PLANT PROTECTION COMMITTEE (LIPPC)

Great news from the Cushman Pond Dive Team: they recorded the first year of invasive plant-free status. Three consecutive years are needed to be cleared by the DEP. Many thanks to all who volunteered time over the last 20+ years in this effort. Let's hope for two more years of the same status.

The Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) season closed October 14, 2019. Thanks to all our supporters, we have the longest running program in the State. Total inspections for the season were 3,315, slightly lower than our record high in 2018. Inspectors found 45 plants on boats entering or leaving the ramps in the watershed and six additional plants were turned in by concerned citizens.

Thanks to our stewards, LIPPC surveyed the entire shoreline of the watershed. In addition, we retained Lake & Watershed Resource Management Associates (LWRMA) to complete a professional survey of one third of the watershed each year. This fall, the entire Lower Bay, Heald Pond, and the ramps at the Narrows, Upper Bay and Horseshoe Pond were surveyed and no invasive plants were discovered.

*This fall, the entire Lower Bay, Heald Pond, and the ramps at the Narrows, Upper Bay and Horseshoe Pond were surveyed and no invasive plants were found.*



RICK PILSBURY

Cushman Pond

A huge thank you to our Education Committee and the shoreline stewards who helped spread awareness of invasive plants to the community. Our outreach extended to many different age groups and facets of the community. We hosted an Invasive Plant Paddle (IPP) on Kezar's Lower Bay, a float in the Lovell Old Home Days parade, a science lesson during Lovell Recreation swim lessons and an information table at the Lovell Historical Society's summer auction.

We are grateful for another invasive-free year in the Kezar Lake Watershed. Thank you to all who support our program. ♡

## Notes from the Greater Lovell Land Trust

by JILL RUNDLE, PRESIDENT

The year's biggest news is the arrival of Erika Rowland, who joined the GLLT in July, as our second Executive Director in the 34 years of land conservation in the Greater Lovell area. Erika brings us over 20 years of experience in lands

and climate issues across the country, and a PhD from the University of Maine in Forest Resources. She knows our area and will be a major contributor to our efforts at collaboration with the towns and conservation-minded organizations that work to protect the environment and the water quality in the local watersheds. Erika is busy working on land projects in the service area, getting to know our members, and joining our education and work outings, but the office is often open, so stop in to say hello.

Our two Associates have departed for their next adventures: Aidan Black to the Peace Corps, and Dakota Ward to complete his college degree. Before they left, they handed off the all-volunteer Groundhogs trail crew to leaders Bob Katz and Ryan Schutt. This remarkable team welcomes anyone who enjoys a bit of time in the woods, some great camaraderie, and the satisfaction of making public trails and properties even better. Send your email address to bob.katz@gllt.org if you want alerts on where to join us for workdays in the field.

This past summer, an outstanding pair of interns, Kaylin Delaney and Vanny Nelson, worked on trail maintenance, led Lovell Rec campers on nature hikes, and gave us a great head start on preparing for accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance. Check our website in late winter to see when internship applications will be accepted for next summer.

Finally, it was another record-breaking attendance year for the Environmental Education program provided by our volunteer team of docents under the leadership of Education Director Leigh Macmillen Hayes. The programs keep expanding, and the next generation of conservation-minded friends learning about the natural world are growing with us. The schedule is full for the winter, too, so come out and join us on the trails. Check the calendar on our website, gllt.org, for coming events. ♡



MOIRA YIP

Contest Entry: Monarchs mating

## Corporate Sponsors

The KLWA has enjoyed a long tradition of partnership with local business. Each of these Corporate Sponsors has made a much-valued contribution to the financial stability of our organization and to the programs that we support. We are most grateful for their continued commitment and for their recognition of the many benefits that a vibrant and sustainable watershed brings to our community.

### B&L OIL AND PROPANE

389 Portland Street  
Fryeburg, ME 04037-1611  
Telephone: (207) 935.2064

### CENTER LOVELL MARKET

1007 Main Street  
Lovell, ME 04051  
Telephone: (207) 925.1051

### CHALMERS INSURANCE GROUP

100 Main Street  
Bridgton, ME 04009  
Telephone: (207) 647.3311

### CROWELL CONSTRUCTION

34 Housely Road  
Harrison, ME 04040  
Telephone: (207) 583.6450

### EBENEZER'S RESTAURANT & PUB

44 Allen Road  
Lovell, ME 04051  
Telephone: (207) 925.3200

### FB ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATES

97A Exchange Street  
Portland, ME 04101  
Telephone: (207) 221.6716

### HARVEST GOLD GALLERY

Main Street  
Center Lovell, ME 04016  
Telephone: (207) 925.6502

### KEZAR REALTY

224 Main Street  
Lovell, ME 04051  
Telephone: (207) 925.1500

### NORWAY SAVINGS BANK

261 Main Street  
Norway, ME 04268  
Telephone: (207) 743.7986

### OXFORD HOUSE INN

548 Main Street  
Fryeburg, ME 04037  
Telephone: (207) 935.3442

### QUISISANA RESORT

42 Quisisana Drive  
Center Lovell, ME 04016  
Telephone: (207) 925.3500



HEINRICH WURM

Kezar Lake  
Watershed Association  
P.O. Box 88  
Lovell, Maine 04051



NON-PROFIT  
PRESORT AUTO  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
N. CONWAY, NH  
03860  
PERMIT #160