



# WATERSHED VIEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE KEZAR LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2019

## KLWA Celebrates 50th Anniversary

by JIM STONE, PRESIDENT

To the right are the August 28, 1969 minutes of the first meeting of the Kezar Lake Association, the forerunner of the KLWA. While we usually start our Newsletters with a photo from our beautiful watershed, it seemed fitting on our 50th Anniversary to show you the record of our beginning.

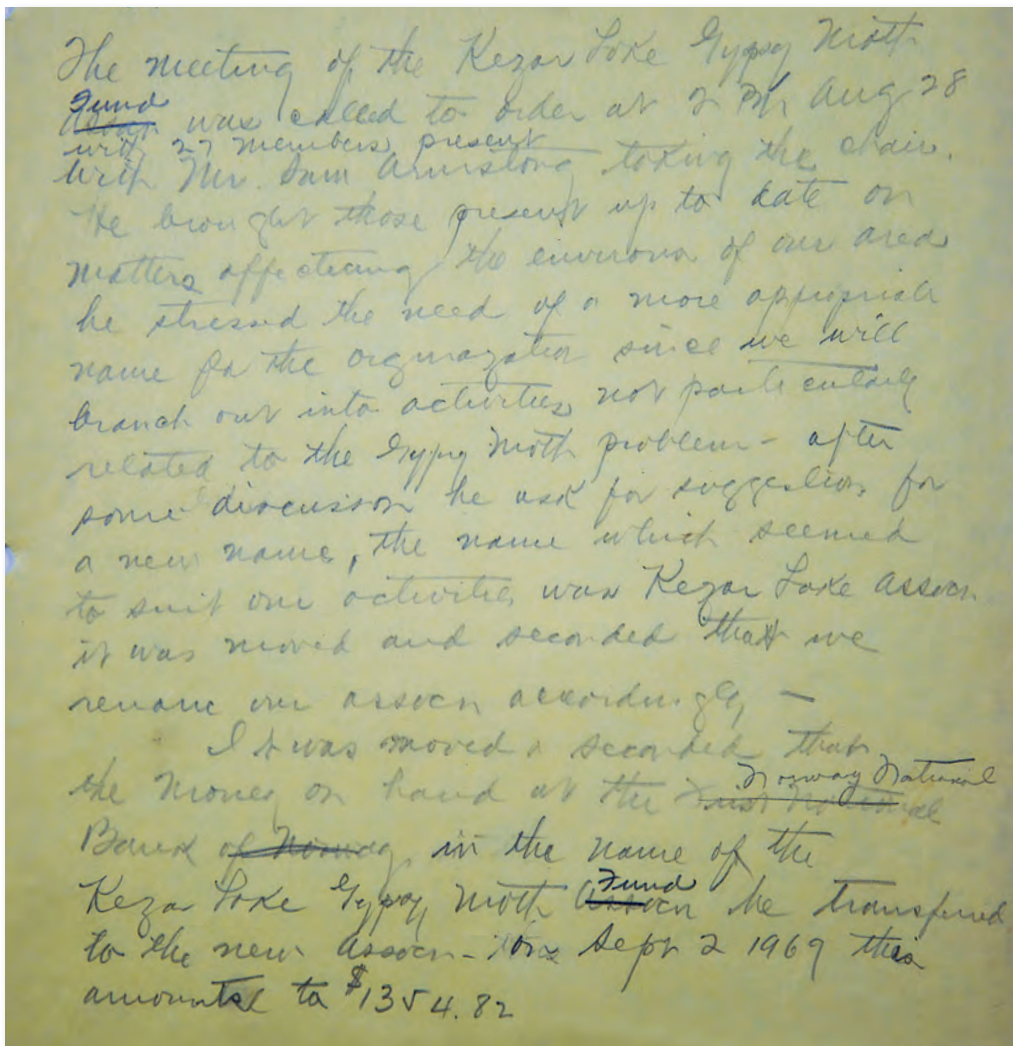
I have been taking time now and again to read the minutes of the early years of our Association. Not surprisingly, the organization started much smaller with only a handful of trustees and a very limited budget. They built the KLWA by rolling up their sleeves and working hard.

We have come a long way. We have a larger Board of Trustees and a much more sizable annual budget. What hasn't changed is the culture of personally rolling up our sleeves and getting the job done. Our 50th Anniversary is a time for celebration of all we've accomplished.

### Our Membership

As you will notice, we have inserted a page to acknowledge our members and other organizations who support us. On behalf of all of us who care so much about this place, we thank you. Your annual membership contributions are critical to our ability to fund programs to protect and preserve this unique environment.

I hope everyone received my annual membership renewal letter last month. If you haven't had the opportunity to send in your dues, please use the envelope included in this Newsletter. We hope we can again count on your help. Please also encourage friends and neighbors to do the same.

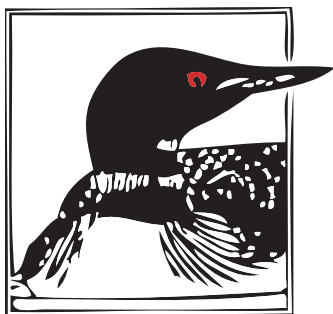


### Annual Meeting

Our annual membership meeting will be on July 13, 2019, at the VFW Hall starting at 8:30 AM. Our agenda will include some special 50th Anniversary presentations and an opportunity to purchase some outstanding photographs of our loons with all of the proceeds going to support our Loon Project. I look forward to seeing you there.

### Celebration Events

- Unique photos of Kezar's loons for sale at the KLWA Annual Meeting.
- 50th Anniversary Photo Contest to be announced at KLWA Annual Meeting.
- Lovell Old Home Days - KLWA will have a float and a sky-high profile at the parade.
- 50th Anniversary Mementos at the parade.
- Ice cream giveaways at pop-up events over the summer. ♡



## KLWA Officers

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Jim Stone,  
Pleasant Point

### VICE PRESIDENT

Rick Pilsbury,  
Upper Bay

### TREASURER

Marti Kinsel,  
Upper Bay

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Bob Winship,  
Bradley Pond

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Tom Gilmore, Lower Bay  
Don Griggs, Middle Bay  
Tom Hughes, Horseshoe Pond

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Wes Huntress, Middle Bay  
Ed Poliquin, Lower Bay  
Lynda Rasco, Lovell  
Laura Robinson, Middle Bay  
Cecily Stone, Pleasant Point  
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

# Water Quality Update

by HEINRICH WURM

**I**n line with our headline last fall, “Record Water Quality in Upper Bay,” 2018 was good to our lake and ponds and the 2018 Water Quality Report summarizing the efforts of our volunteers and paid consultants from FB Environmental reflects that:

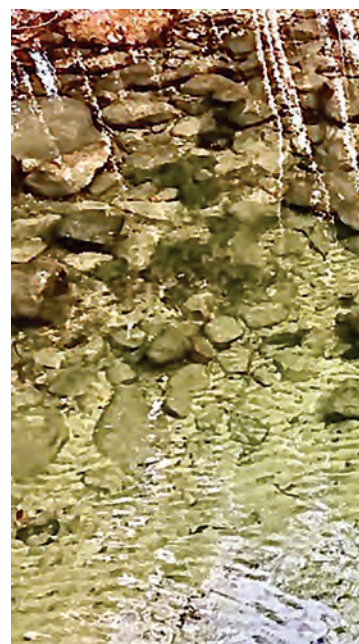
*“Kezar Lake remains one of Maine’s cleanest and clearest lakes, with above average water quality and clarity. Historically and in the current monitoring year, Kezar Lake’s trophic state indicators (water clarity, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll-a) have been better than both statewide and historic averages. Water clarity is statistically significantly improving in all three basins and chlorophyll-a is, statistically significantly improving in the upper basin. The water columns of all three basins of Kezar Lake were well-oxygenated, which helped cold-water fish species survive the warmest months of the year. pH in the lake in 2018 rebounded to near-historic median annual levels after a four-year degrading trend and record lows in 2015-2016...”*

I am particularly pleased to see our acidity levels recede as anticipated by our consulting scientists following two winters with heavy snow covers.

Concerns remain: phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels in two of our ponds, Farrington and Bradley, were higher than in previous years. While warm water fish like these conditions, warmer temperatures, particularly later in the season, may cause algae blooms to occur. Thankfully, the shoreline of these ponds is almost pristine. Most buildings are set back and shoreline vegetation provides an effective buffer during storm events and snow melt.

Responsible caretaking of these properties, including septic system maintenance, will be of great value as we face warmer summers. And yes, we can help with other preventive measures. After a winter full of discussions about shoreline management, we are all better educated on this topic. Anything we can do to minimize added nutrients from entering our lake or ponds will be beneficial. Atmospheric phosphorus and nitrogen can be filtered out by trees and shrubbery, by drywells and unpaved surfaces.

KLWA supports the idea of LakeSmart but we currently do not have enough volunteers to carry this program in the manner we believe it should be conducted. Stay tuned! 💧



RICK PILSBURY

## REGULATORY CHANGE AFFECTING SHORELINE OWNERS

In April, Maine Governor Janet Mills signed into law a Bill passed by the Legislature that will require a septic inspection on all properties in the ‘Shoreland Zone’ (250’) prior to any sale. A homebuyer would have one year to repair or replace a malfunctioning system. The law takes effect January 1, 2020.



HEINRICH WURM

Spring thaw on Kezar

## Loon Project Update

by HEINRICH WURM

**O**ur loon project, “Sustaining Loons in the Kezar Lake Watershed: A Community Response,” is entering its second season with great expectations. Ten nesting platforms will soon be out on Kezar Lake as well as Horseshoe, Cushman and Trout Ponds.

Lee Attix will again guide the Loon Rangers. We will identify banded loons returning to familiar territories, observe territorial disputes and, of course, early nesting attempts.

Trout and Cushman Ponds had multiple unsuccessful nesting attempts last year. We hope that the loons who choose to nest there will follow the example set by those on Horseshoe Pond where two healthy chicks fledged from a platform-based nest.

As citizen scientists, the Loon Rangers observe loons closely, record their behavior and take photographs. The question of our activity being disruptive to the birds arises with some frequency. Loons differ considerably in their willingness to tolerate intrusion and they will let you know by vocalizing, posturing or simply disappearing.

Experienced observers take their time approaching loons and let the birds decide what distance is within their comfort level. Some loons are curious and may come astonishingly close to a stationary watercraft. If this happens, stay still, enjoy the moment, and take a photograph.



LAURA ROBINSON

On another note, loons are exceedingly vulnerable to lead fishing tackle and discarded monofilament fishing line. Please help us spread the word. Despite laws in all New England states banning certain lead sinkers and jigs, lead poisoning remains a serious threat to loons as they instinctually swallow small pebbles to aid with their digestion. The ingestion of a single lead sinker, which are the same size of the desired pebbles, will kill a loon within days.

### Points of Interest:

- If you find a distressed loon or wish to report harassment of birds within the watershed, call the Maine Warden Service at 207.287.8000.
- Loon Ranger's Season Opener: Saturday, May 18th, TBD.
- The 2018 Loon Project Summary Report is available on our website, [klwa.us](http://klwa.us), at the office or the KLWA Annual Meeting on July 13 at the Lovell VFW Hall.
- Loon Photographs by Laura Robinson will be available for purchase at our Annual Meeting. All proceeds will go to future funding our Loon Project.
- End of Season Event: August 15 and 16 will be loon platform retrieval days. Several teams will collect and store the platforms and we will gather Saturday night for a season recap and 2020 planning event. Location to be announced.
- 2019 marks the final year of funding for our loon study project. We will apply for new grants and appeal to our friends for financial support of an ambitious but well-grounded three-year extension. Go *Gavia immer*! 💧

*If you find a distressed loon or wish to report harassment of birds within the watershed, call the Maine Warden Service at 207.287.8000.*

### 50TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTO CONTEST

Join the celebration and showcase your talent. Enter KLWA's 50th Anniversary photo contest. You can win prizes and help track Maine's *indicator species*: plants and animals that help us document the local effects of climate change.

Check out the 22 indicator species the University of Maine identified at <https://extension.umaine.edu/signs-of-the-seasons/> and the Maine Endangered and Threatened Species of Maine.

Take your best shots and submit up to five photos to be judged on subject clarity, scientific interest, and photographic merit.

The contest, which is sponsored by the KLWA and its Climate Change Observatory, kicks off at the KLWA Annual Meeting and takes place July 14 to August 15.

*For more information: contact Laura Robinson at [laurarobinson.studio@gmail.com](mailto:laurarobinson.studio@gmail.com).*

## Preserving Bass Fisheries

by LUCY LACASSE

As you may recall, there was concern last summer about the number of bass tournaments being held on Kezar Lake, with tournaments scheduled for five consecutive weekends in July and August and seven tournaments overall.

In the fall, representatives from KLWA and LIPPC met with Francis Brautigam, Director of Fisheries at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W), to discuss their concerns which included the increased risk of introducing invasive aquatic plants, the lack of adherence to tournament and basic boating rules, and the possible negative impact on the fisheries.

Brautigam has since met with DEP officials and national bass folks, all of whom agree that a more formal standardized CBI training program for tournament inspectors should be developed. He anticipates resolution of this concern through a standardized CBI certification process.

Regarding compliance with boating laws and permit conditions, both IF&W and the Maine Warden Service will work toward increased education and enforcement of the rules for 2019.

As for negative impacts on the quality of the fisheries, Brautigam feels that our concerns are speculative. If tournament participants maintain functioning live-well systems as required, the fisheries should be fine.

For 2019, six tournaments are scheduled on Kezar: May 5, June 6, July 27, August 3, August 4, and August 28. Any concerns or violations of boating laws should be reported to the Maine Warden Service.



LYNDA RASCO

KLWA is grateful for IF&W and the Maine Warden Service's efforts to preserve the bass fisheries and bass fishing culture in a sustainable way, with minimal negative impacts to the "host" bodies of water. ♡

## Albany South Update

by LUCY LACASSE

On December 6, 2018, representatives from KLWA traveled to Gorham, New Hampshire, and met with eight staff members from the White Mountain National Forest to discuss Albany South and ongoing monitoring projects relevant to that upcoming timber harvest activity.

Subsequent to that meeting and as a result of this winter's government shutdown, Albany South's implementation schedule was pushed back one year. A timber harvest contract will now be awarded no later than September 2021.

Throughout and beyond Albany South's implementation, KLWA and the WMNF will continue to collaborate and share information and expertise across many parameters, including water quality, climate change, and brook trout. KLWA is grateful for this constructive relationship with the White Mountain National For-



RICK PILSBURY

est, which is the largest landholder within the watershed.

The Forest Service is committed to providing quarterly updates to KLWA about Albany South and meeting annually throughout the Project period. The next annual meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2019. ♡

### BROOK TROUT REPORTS ON KLWA'S WEBSITE

Summary Reports of our three-year Brook Trout Survey have been posted on our website: [www.klwa.us](http://www.klwa.us). Jake Riley, KLWA's hired fisheries biologist from Stantec, and Mark Prout, the WMNF's fisheries biologist, have each prepared a comprehensive report of this collaborative effort. We hope you enjoy reading about the status of this iconic species in our watershed.

This important work contributed to the baseline data of Wild Brook Trout in Great and Beaver Brooks and will help us better understand the dynamics of their numbers in the face of climate change and habitat alterations. The WMNF will continue surveys at three of the sites throughout and two years beyond the Albany South Project.

## Kezar Lake Watershed Association 2018 Donors

The KLWA would like to take this opportunity to thank those individuals and organizations who contributed to our work. With these generous donations, KLWA is able to accomplish its goal to protect the waters of Kezar Lake and the surrounding ponds and streams.

Elizabeth Alden & Leo  
Dunn  
Kenneth Angell & Patricia  
Klosky  
Katherine Armstrong  
Lee Attix  
Esther Atwood  
Jim & Suerae Ballard  
Amy & Michael Bast  
James & Maryann Bast  
Robert Bast & Carolyn  
Kercsmar  
William Bast  
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Mellie & Chad Belmer  
Mark & Cathy Bennett  
Mark & Linda Bernfeld  
Elaine Bertwell  
Thomas & Brigid Bieber  
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Nancy Stockford  
Hunt & Margaret  
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Jim & Nancy Van Metre  
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Janet Westlund & Mark  
Palmer  
Martha Westlund-Kimball  
Jane White  
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Al & Phyllis Wilhelm  
Bob & Ann Williams  
Carol Williams  
Nell & David Wing  
Robert & Susan Winship  
Jane Woodbury & Wayne  
Hadlock  
David & Elizabeth Woods  
Heinrich & Linda Wurm  
George & Moira Yip  
Bruce Zabinsky & Bonny  
Boatman  
In memory of Janine

Greene  
In memory of Brad Lewis  
In honor of John  
Farquarson & Sally  
Davey  
In honor of Martha  
Steen

#### **ORGANIZATIONS**

Amica Companies  
Foundation  
Attenborough Family  
Gift Fund  
Camp Kezar  
Crowe Family Fund-  
Dundee Kezar Trust  
Eisenberg 2016 Charitable  
Lead Annuity Trust  
Enstine Family  
Foundation  
New York Community  
Trust  
Prescott Family  
Charitable Fund  
The Prospect Fund  
Raymond D. Sphire  
Trust  
Tedesco Family  
Charitable Fund  
University of Maine  
Foundation  
Wescustogo Foundation

#### **ROAD ASSOCIATIONS**

Boulder Brook Club  
Farrington Homeowners  
Association  
Palmer Lane Association  
Severance Lodge Club  
Timber Bay Shores  
Westways Maintenance  
Corp.

*If you contributed to the KLWA in 2018 and your name is absent from this list, or if there is a correction to your entry, please contact us so that we may include you in an update in our Fall, 2019 Newsletter.*

## Update on Boat Wakes

by DON GRIGGS

**A**s we've mentioned in previous Newsletters, there is a growing popularity of some new sports like wake boarding and wake surfing along with the wake boats designed to create larger waves. Larger waves can create environmental problems affecting shorelines and fish and wildlife habitat. They can also be dangerous to smaller watercraft such as canoes, kayaks and paddleboards.

To raise awareness of these issues, the KLWA is developing flyers and posters to encourage boaters to be 'mindful' of their wakes and if generating large wakes, to do so in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner. We are hoping to have these flyers and posters at key locations in the community this summer.

We are also in contact with other lake associations to share ideas and experiences on this important topic. ♡

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*KLWA is developing flyers and posters to encourage boaters to be 'mindful' of their wakes and if generating large wakes, to do so in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner*

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HEINRICH WURM

## Climate Change Observatory (CCO) News

by DON GRIGGS

### Interpreting Changes in Watershed Data

The CCO has been concerned with the marked increase of sediment in Kezar Lake since 1980 and sought a means of determining if this increase is likely due to direct human impact and/or climate change.

To assess this situation, CCO proposed a comparison study of Kezar Lake and the relatively undisturbed Horseshoe Pond. The CCO Steering Committee approved a project to take a sediment core in Horseshoe Pond and compare its scientifically robust paleolimnology record to that taken previously from Kezar Lake cores.

The project will be performed in collaboration with Plymouth State University, and supervised by Dr. Lisa Doner. Once PSU's analysis is completed, the records of the two waterbodies will be compared to see any differences in the sediment accumulation rate and reasons for any disparities.

### Accumulating Climate Data

The CCO-Kezar Lake Weather Station and web camera have been providing detailed weather data and images on the KLWA website for the past year. In addition to providing key data for water quality analysis, this feature has caused a great increase in the "hits" on the site. About 320 viewers access the site about 1,200 times a month. We are happy that so many people routinely enjoy checking in on what is happening on the lake.

The weather station and web camera are located just south of Boulder Brook. To view this online, simply search on the KLWA website (klwa.us) or on Weather Underground (www.wunderground.com and search KMELOVEL4). ♡



DON GRIGGS

Sediment captured in core sample



## Lake Patrol and Boating Safety

by TOM GILMORE

**I**t is a pleasure to announce the return of Turf Ramsden as Lake Patrol Boat Officer for 2019. Turf's friendly demeanor and calming presence were invaluable last year and we could not be happier that he has agreed to be with us once again. During the course of the season a total of 69 boat/swim assists were performed, 152 whistles were handed out, and 294 safety checks were conducted. Clearly these efforts contributed to boating safety on the lake. If you are approached on the water, remember it is probably just a friendly safety check and a chance for Turf to pass out a "KLWA" safety whistle or two.

This summer, the KLWA will again provide supplemental funding to Lovell for extra services on the lake, a contribution greatly appreciated by Maine Warden Kris Barboza. Kris continues to provide excellent coverage for Kezar Lake, especially on bass tournament days, and feels that lake residents respond favorably to warden presence. In fact, after one weekend assignment on Kezar, one of his wardens commented, "Boy, those people on Kezar sure know their boating rules." A compliment to us all.

Finally, it is worth reviewing some of Maine's most important boating laws:

### **Boats under 16'**

One life jacket per person, readily accessible, in good condition and the proper size. Children under 10 must wear a life jacket at all times.

### **Boats 16' to 40'**

All of the above plus a throwable flotation device.

### **Canoe, Kayak and Paddleboard**

One life jacket per person and a whistle.

### **Water Skiing and Tubing**

Must wear a life jacket.

Skiing and tubing are not permitted between one half hour after sunset and one half hour before sunrise.

Every boat must have a spotter on board at least 12 years old.

It is illegal to operate in the following situations:

- within 200 feet of shore unless picking up or dropping off a skier/tuber
- in a way that causes the skier/tuber to move within 200 feet of shore.

### **Alcohol and Drugs**

It is a criminal violation to operate a vessel while intoxicated. No one under 21 can drink and drive. If over 21 the legal limit is 0.08%, just like the on the road. You are required to complete a blood alcohol test if requested by a law enforcement officer.

### **Special Note**

Cottage renters are not exempt from the above and you, as the owner, can be held liable in the event of accident or injury.

### **In Emergency**

Call Maine State Police dispatch in Gray, Maine

**1-800-228-0857**

THINK SAFETY all the time. Remember your whistle. Check those running lights if operating at night: port red, starboard green and stern white.

Finally, a special "thank you in advance" to the key people who make Kezar safe: Lee Conary and the Kezar Lake Marina, Sgt. Kris Barboza and Officer Tim Coombs of the Maine Warden Service, and of course, Turf Ramsden. We look forward to seeing you all again this summer.

Here's to another wonderful boating season to all. 💧



# Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention Committee (LIPPC) Update

by DIANE CARACCILO

The ice is almost out and our inspectors are gearing up! Inspections will begin on weekends in May and go full swing from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Unfortunately two new infestations, European frogbit and Eurasian water milfoil, were found last summer on Cobbossee Lake in Augusta. The close proximity to our watershed reinforces the need for inspections and the importance of education.

*Powerboats, kayaks and canoes can all carry invasive aquatic plants from lake to lake. Please use our trained CBI people at the ramps when launching ALL boats.*

This summer we will continue to spread awareness of invasive plants through our renter awareness program, Science in the Sand, dock drops, and Lovell Old Home Days. We are planning a Plant Paddle for July, location and time will be forthcoming. Plant paddles are a fun, hands-on approach to learning about aquatic plants. Participants search the water for floating and submersed plants, which are then identified by a plant expert. All are welcome and encouraged to attend! Please check the KLWA and Town calendar for the date. The more educated members of our community become about our native plants, the better our chances are of detecting an invasive infestation early.

Our Steward program, one of the most impressive in the State (in my opinion), will be in full force patrolling every inch of the watershed shoreline this summer. The annual kickoff presentation for Stewards will be held in the beginning of July, and we'll continue the drop dock of information.

We urge everyone launching a boat to make sure it is inspected. Powerboats, kayaks and canoes can all carry invasive aquatic plants from lake to lake. Please use our trained CBI people at the ramps when launching ALL boats. We hope everyone has a fantastic, Invasive Free summer! ♡



European frogbit



Eurasian water milfoil

## GLLT Update

by JILL RUNDLE, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A year has gone by since the passing of Tom Henderson, our long-serving first Executive Director. I can only imagine how pleased he would be with the year we have had. With the help of our members, our dedicated volunteers, many friends and neighbors, and a small but remarkable interim staff—and propelled by the momentum of Tom's years of work—this has been a great year for the GLLT.

Our Associate Director, Aidan Black, and Stewardship and Systems Associate, Dakota Ward, have completed GPS mapping of all of the GLLT conserved lands, and they have been hard at work updating and scanning our records and files for scrutiny by the accreditation team at the Land Trust Alliance. Team outreach to other conservation organizations and our neighboring land trusts will be contributing to a collaborative network for the conservation work that will be critical to the resiliency of our environment and the quality of our water resources. We are nearing the end of our search for a new Executive Director, and expect to announce the person who will be taking that important

position in our GLLT Spring Newsletter. At the same time, we have accepted two new summer interns for 2019.

This summer we will provide a wonderful new schedule of events, walks, talks and community outreach. Last summer we set attendance records at many of our programs, and we have a full calendar for all ages planned for the months ahead. Be sure to join us to explore the natural world in woods and wetlands, count bird populations, explore beaver engineering sites, or take inspiration from the natural world through poetry and the arts. We also have live animals to meet when Chewonki returns to Lovell, health walks with Tai Chi or yoga on the trails, and summer camp programs for our school-age residents. And there is much more. Check the complete events calendar at [gllt.org](http://gllt.org).

Save the date for our annual meeting in the morning on August 10. That afternoon, we will also collaborate with Hewnoaks Artists Colony to create a very special arts and nature experience at their remarkable site on the shores of Kezar Lake.

We look forward to seeing you on the trails, at the programs, and welcome you to join us in our endeavors. Please visit [gllt.org](http://gllt.org) to become a member of the Greater Lovell Land Trust and support our work. ♡

## 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.

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