



JOSE AZEL

## Greenprint Unveils Vision for Lake Region Future

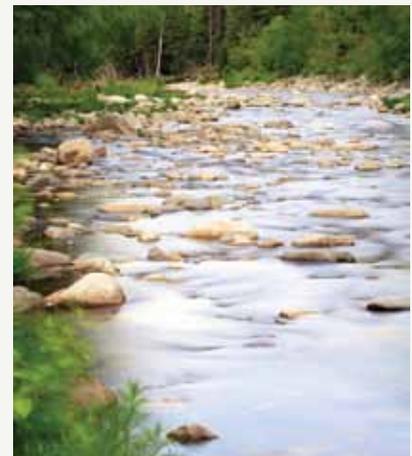
— The Trust for Public Land defines a Greenprint as the process for assessing regional land conservation opportunities, and that it's a comprehensive, community-driven planning process designed to articulate land use and open space goals across municipal and geographical borders. —

THE REPORT IS IN. After months of public and stakeholder meetings, interviews, town presentations, and surveys, a vision for maintaining the Lake Region's character and rich natural resources has emerged with the completion of the Lake Region Greenprint, a process Loon Echo Land Trust initiated with The Trust for Public Land (TPL) in 2009. We first told you about the Greenprint in the Winter 2009/2010 issue of Loon Echo News after we asked TPL to bring its comprehensive planning model to the seven towns we serve. We felt our region needed a strategic land conservation plan and none existed.

Now we're happy to report that the planning project is complete and a resourceful, web-based mapping program specific to this region has been developed for anyone to use, including municipalities and residents.

According to the Greenprint, here in the Lake Region people "enjoy a cherished sense of place, residing in historic Maine communities surrounded by stunning vistas, capacious outdoor space, and miles of lakes, rivers, and ponds." We're lucky to live, work and play here. The special places in our region help sustain our local economy and contribute to our overall satisfaction with life. Residents who participated in the Greenprint process expressed the need to maintain access to significant natural areas because people's livelihoods and quality of life depends on it. Additionally, four out of five people interviewed said they enjoy recreational activities within 20 miles of their home.

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### Lake Region residents' conservation goals:

- Protect water resources
- Preserve plant and animal habitat
- Preserve working farms and forests
- Protect scenic views
- Maintain small town character of the region's village centers
- Protect and enhance existing trails
- Provide recreation

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THIS YEAR LOON ECHO IS EXPERIENCING MANY POSITIVE changes that I want to share with you.

We've outgrown the office space that we've leased from the Lakes Environmental Association for the past decade. In August we hope to be packing up to move to a newly constructed office complex on Depot Street in Bridgton. Builder Justin McIver of Main Eco Properties has received Planning Board approval to construct a 3,000 square foot, energy-efficient building made of partially recycled materials next door to Reny's and across the road from the Bob Dunning Memorial Bridge, and we'll be one of his first tenants. An anonymous donor has provided Loon Echo with the funds to purchase new office equipment and furniture for a conference and public meeting space for our organizational activities. We'll send you our new mailing address once we're moved in so you can stop by and visit us.

The Loon Echo Trek is being infused with new energy under Cheryl Hamilton's direction. Cheryl was hired in late March as a contractor to grow our signature biking and hiking event and to work with the growing volunteer Trek Committee. Much of her work with us will involve marketing the Loon Echo Trek, and Cheryl's impressive background, including a position as Director of Communications for the Center for the Prevention of Hate, has prepared her to help grow our event. An avid hiker and adventurer-seeker, Cheryl says she was drawn to this position "because it combines my (her) interest in

event management, communications and environmental conservation." Check out the Loon Echo Trek announcement in this newsletter and the new event website at [www.loonechotrek.com](http://www.loonechotrek.com).

We say goodbye to Charlotte Nolan who has served as the Membership and Communications Coordinator since last August, and welcome Beth Phelps as our new coordinator. Beth served as the Program and Marketing Manager at the Girl Scouts of Maine since 2006 and the Program Manager at the Boston Natural Areas Network from 2001 to 2006. She is an avid recreationalist and owns Three River Sled Dog Kennel in Cornish with her husband and son. We were fortunate to have Charlotte's leadership in improving our communications, including this newsletter, and wish her well as she pursues her writing career.

We hope you've noticed that this edition of our newsletter has a brand new look. We've enlisted Dianne Lewis Design of Denmark to oversee layout and graphic design of our newsletter. Dianne serves on the Denmark Conservation Commission and is the graphic designer for the quarterly publication *Lake Living*.

There's so much happening at your local land trust, and you'll get a good sense of what we've been working on with this issue of Loon Echo News. Remember to set aside Sunday evening, August 28, to attend our 24th Annual Meeting at beautiful Wyonegonic Camps in Denmark. I hope to see you there!

*Carrie*



Eastern meadowlark

*One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself,*

*"What if I had never seen this before?"*

*What if I knew I would never see it again?"*

RACHEL CARSON



## Leave a Legacy of Conservation Join the Bob Chase Legacy Society

Loon Echo has pledged to forever care for the land that you help us conserve today. Together, we can save places that are important to you and your family. When you include Loon Echo in your estate planning, you'll keep making a difference for generations to come.

*For more information about making a donation, call us at (207) 647-4352.*

## LOON ECHO LAND TRUST

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*Stewardship & Volunteer  
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*Membership &  
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## PROJECT UPDATES

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### PLEASANT MOUNTAIN PHASE II

IN OUR LAST NEWSLETTER, we announced that we're concluding Phase II of the Pleasant Mountain Project to protect an additional 795 acres of mountain forestland. The final parcel to be purchased as a part of this campaign has been offered for sale – 190 acres on the north end of Beaver Pond in Denmark. The appraisal and due diligence are underway, and Loon Echo expects to take ownership of the property later this year pending final grant awards. The \$1.83 million project still needs \$12,000 in donations to complete the purchase of the Beaver Pond property and contribute to the stewardship endowment to forever care for the expanded Pleasant Mountain Preserve (please contact us to make a gift). Thanks to the 275 generous family and business donors, as well as the four private foundations and Land for Maine's Future Program, much more of this remarkable mountain is set aside for future generations to enjoy.



Beaver Pond

The Maine Office of Information Technology and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection are seeking approval from the Town of Denmark to construct a communications tower on Pleasant Mountain. The tower is proposed as part of state-wide public safety radio communications networks for border protection and all state public safety entities such as Maine State Police, Warden Service and Forest Service.

Initially, the State intended to locate the tower at the state-owned main summit, but there would be a great deal of site disturbance in order to bring power and improved access

to this peak. Loon Echo feels a better option would be to locate the tower immediately adjacent to an existing US Cellular communications tower, which already has a service road and electrical utility line installed. We feel that this location would minimize the impact to the viewshed, forest, plant and animal habitat. We've been guiding the state in selecting a location that would ensure the least amount of disturbance to the mountain's sensitive environment. If Denmark residents approve the communications tower, construction is scheduled to begin this fall.



JOSE AZEL

Spring emerges at Pondicherry Park

### PONDICHERRY PARK

AFTER SIX YEARS AND MORE THAN \$700,000 RAISED, Pondicherry Park is ready to be gifted to the town of Bridgton. There is just \$25,000 needed to complete the project. These funds will go towards finishing the informational displays at the four park entrances, surface materials on the trails along the Stevens and Willett Brooks, and an endowment to support Loon Echo's conservation easement monitoring and enforcement responsibilities. In addition, small bronze plaques will be installed on the benches, entrances and other locations to honor the major donors who contributed to this project.

When the park project began in 2006, Loon Echo and our partner, the Lakes Environmental Association, intended to develop a community-supported park complete with two miles of walking trails, footbridges and educational areas for the public to enjoy and then transfer it to the town of Bridgton. As we go to print with this newsletter, it appears that Bridgton Selectmen will pose a referendum question to Bridgton voters in November 2011 about accepting the gift. We urge Bridgton residents to support the town's acceptance of this treasure.

If voters agree, the transfer of the park property will occur after terms of the conservation easement, management plan, and volunteer committee charter are approved by Bridgton's Board of Selectmen. Loon Echo is committed to the park long-term, since we'll hold the conservation easement requiring annual monitoring of the terms intended to protect the conservation, recreational and educational qualities of the park. In addition, Loon Echo will appoint several representatives to serve on the volunteer stewardship committee to help carry out management activities.

To donate to Pondicherry Park, send your gift to Loon Echo Land Trust, 1 Chase Street, Bridgton, ME 04009 or go on-line to [www.pondicherrypark.org](http://www.pondicherrypark.org).

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### Your Membership Matters!

Thanks for protecting 3,785 acres of land in Maine's Lakes Region.

You can now make your membership gift online. Visit [www.lelt.org](http://www.lelt.org).

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All outdoor hikes and walks are subject to weather conditions and/or date changes. Please check our website for updates and additional activities at [www.lelt.org](http://www.lelt.org). Always wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather conditions and varied terrain. Bring water and snacks with you on the trail. Call (207) 647-4352 for more information.

## Summer Solstice Hike

Tuesday, June 21

Celebrate the first day of summer with a *moderate* hike up Bald Pate and also remember Bob Chase, one of Loon Echo's founders, who loved the mountain and its views of the surrounding ponds and lakes. Meet at Bald Pate parking lot at 5:00 pm. *Approximately 90 minutes.*

## Mayberry Hill Preserve Walk and Talk

Friday, July 8

An easy walk at one of our most peaceful preserves. We'll discuss sustainable forestry practices and learn about plant and wildlife communities that thrive in this 160-acre preserve. *Approximately 90 minutes. Meet at 9:00 am.*

## Yoga and Nature Hike on Pleasant Mountain

Sunday, July 31

Loon Echo and Nurture Through Nature join hands to raise money and awareness for our missions through a guided hike up Pleasant Mountain, yoga and meditation, followed by a picnic. Come take in the beauty that surrounds us and connect to our environment on this mindful hike up the Southwest Ridge Trail at 9 am. Bring your own lunch, plenty of water, yoga mat and blanket. Suggested donation:

\$25 and up. Registration required. Contact Nurture Through Nature at (207) 452-2929 or [getaway@ntnretreats.com](mailto:getaway@ntnretreats.com) to reserve your spot. *Find out more at [www.ntnretreats.com](http://www.ntnretreats.com).*

## Trail Maintenance at Pleasant Mountain Preserve

Saturday, August 6

Working with the Maine Chapter AMC, we'll make sure the popular Ledges Trail is in good condition for fall hikers. Expect a thorough workout during this 5-hour work day. *Moderate-difficult hike.* Some tools will be supplied. Wear work boots and bring gloves, water and plenty of energy-rich snacks. *Meet at the Ledges Trailhead on Mountain Road at 7:45 am.*

## Tree ID Walk at Pondicherry Park

Friday, August 19

Learn how to identify the different types of trees and shrubs at Pondicherry Park with Amy Witt, Horticulturist at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Ken Canfield, District Forester at the Maine Forest Service. *Meet at the Bob Dunning Memorial Bridge kiosk behind the Magic Lantern Theatre in Bridgton at 10 am for a 2 hour hike over easy terrain.*



## Loon Echo's 24th Annual Meeting

Sunday, August 28

At Wyonegonic Camps in Denmark, Maine. Save the date, and look for your invitation in the mail in August.

## Pondicherry Park Community Walk

Saturday, September 10

Get to know your neighbors and this unique park in the center of Bridgton as you enjoy an *easy* walk through the tall pines of Pondicherry Park. *Meet at the Bob Dunning Memorial Bridge kiosk behind the Magic Lantern Theatre at 9:00 am. Approximately 90 minutes.*

## 11th Annual Loon Echo Trek

Saturday, September 17

Show your support land conservation by hiking or riding in our Loon Echo Trek! Whether you choose a six-mile hike up Pleasant Mountain or a 25, 50 or 100-mile ride, you're sure to see some of Maine's most beautiful scenery. **Early bird rates, including team/family, through July 31st.** Visit [www.loonechotrek.com](http://www.loonechotrek.com) for more information.

## Fall Stroll at Mayberry Hill Preserve

Saturday, October 8

A guided, *easy* walk through our preserve in Casco to view spectacular fall foliage. Meet at the trail head on Mayberry Hill Road at 9:00 am. Parking is along roadside. *Approximately 90 minutes.*

## Historical Pondicherry Park Veteran's Day Hike

Friday, November 11

This *easy* walk will introduce you to some of the park's early settlers and the many Revolutionary War veterans that called Bridgton home. *Meet at the Bob Dunning Memorial Bridge kiosk behind the Magic Lantern Theatre at 9:00 am. Approximately 90 minutes.*

## Environmental Education Grants

Tuesday, November 15

Applications become available today for our 2012 grant awards. Each year, Loon Echo offers schools and libraries in Bridgton, Casco, Denmark, Harrison, Naples, Raymond and Sebago (our service area) small grants to provide programs that teach children about our natural world. *Deadline for submission is January 15, 2012. To request an application or more information visit [www.lelt.org](http://www.lelt.org).*

## Sunset-Moonrise Snowshoe Hike at Bald Pate Mountain

Saturday, December 10

From the summit of Bald Pate Mountain, we'll watch the western sun set while the bright moon rises to light our way down the mountain. Bring your snowshoes and flashlights or headlamps. Some snowshoes are available upon request. *Moderate. Meet at the Bald Pate parking lot at 3:00 pm.*



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The report lists seven conservation goals based on the Lake Region residents' preferences. We need to:

- Protect water resources
- Preserve plant and animal habitat
- Preserve working farms and forests
- Protect scenic views
- Maintain small town character of the region's village centers
- Protect and enhance existing trails
- Provide recreation

These are our shared values and goals. This is our shared vision.

The goals have been translated into a series of full color maps and a rich web-based mapping program. The maps show in bright red and orange the richest areas in the region that, if conserved, would result in the greatest benefit to society. The conservation of these natural resources, in turn, will attract new residents and businesses, broaden the employment base, and diversify our economy.

The Greenprint will be a useful tool as Loon Echo and its partners consider which properties to protect, with the support of willing landowners. Using these goals, we'll quickly be able to determine where the best opportunities exist. And there are many.

More than a quarter of all land in Maine has changed ownership in the past five years alone. Only 4.2% of land, or 8,548 acres, is currently conserved in the Lake Region, according to the Greenprint. Loon Echo lays claim to 3,785 acres and counting. But the pace and quality of conservation in our region should improve. Conservation state-wide has dramatically increased, far surpassing conservation in the Lake Region. In 2010, 16.8% of Maine's land (or 3.5 million acres) was conserved by the state as compared to just 5.4% in 1997. At just 4.2% of land conserved, there is much more conservation work to be done in the Lake Region.

Now that the report and maps are in, what's next? Implementing the focused action plan developed by the

stakeholders will take work. Loon Echo is committed to convening a group of stakeholders from municipal conservation commissions and other organizations to continue to work to achieve the goals. It will take all of us at all levels—individual, organizational, municipal, and

regional—to transform our vision into a reality. If we use the Greenprint in our decision making processes, it will protect our quality of life, the land base and regional economy, and increase the pace of quality conservation in the Lake Region. We like that idea.

The towns of the Lake Region have experienced substantial population growth. From 2000 to 2010, the population of the towns of the Lake Region Community Greenprint grew about 10%, on average. Harrison, Naples, and Sebago have grown between 18 and 20 percent, respectively, over the past ten years. Residents have described changes to their communities, such as increasing traffic associated with tourism and services built outside traditional downtowns.

“The Greenprint has brought focus to protecting the Lake Region's rich natural resources and identified the need for interconnected land use planning. The process motivated Loon Echo, the seven municipalities, and over 65 stakeholders representing all towns and 20 different organizations,

to sit back and think about what makes this place special and how “it” can be retained. Looking ahead, Loon Echo will chart its future course of proactive land conservation with a new set of tools, goals and action plans, knowing it has strong public support while conserving the region's landscape,” said Carrie Walia, Executive Director of Loon Echo.

To view the maps and the final report (including the action plan) visit our website at [www.let.org](http://www.let.org). To request the website, user name and password to access the mapping tool, please contact us at [info@let.org](mailto:info@let.org) or (207) 647-4352.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Greenprint!

All seven participating municipalities, Bridgton, Casco, Denmark, Harrison, Naples, Sebago, Raymond, contributed \$1 per capita to the Greenprint. Additional funders include the Environmental Funders Network, the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, the Horizon Foundation, the Maine Community Foundation, the Betterment Fund, and the Davis Conservation Foundation.



The region's richest land based resources are highlighted in bright red and orange after a year's worth of public input into the Greenprint project.

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## NOTES FROM THE TRAIL

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Hikers enjoy last winter sunrise.

DID YOU KNOW that we offer at least one walk or hike every month? A perennial favorite, our sunrise hike was spectacular this year. A jumbo, full moon guided a hardy group of hikers up the Bob Chase Trail to the summit of Bald Pate Mountain early on the morning of March 20. Venus stood guard in the east, holding court until the real star made its appearance – the last sunrise of winter. When the sun peeked over Rattlesnake Mountain and Hacker’s Hill, the hikers went quiet, in awe of the moment. But the chickadees danced a happy dance, announcing, “Spring is here!” “Spring is here!”

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A NEW STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE, chaired by board member Allen Erler, has been established. It will focus on long-term planning, considering the forestry, ecological and recreational needs of each preserve, as well as our many volunteer programs and the day-to-day tasks required at all protected properties. The group has developed a mission

statement, and is in the process of developing a stewardship “checklist” that will steer their work. Brian Grady and Peg Nation, both Bald Pate Mountain trail stewards, have joined the committee, and Loon Echo’s Stewardship and Volunteer Coordinator, Jon Evans, will guide the committee.

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KUDOS. KUDOS. KUDOS. Many thanks go to our creative volunteers Brian Grady, who designed and built a donation tube for the Bald Pate Mountain Preserve, and Ernie Kozun, who created all the trail signs and markers for Pondicherry Park’s trails. Brian is also crafting additional tubes for our Pleasant Mountain and Mayberry Hill Preserves so that visitors to all three preserves may offer donations. Ernie’s signs feature animals and trees. His most recent creation is the white tail deer trail marker for the new trail through the Keene field at Pondicherry Park. Thanks also to the loyal volunteers who helped with trail adoption and clean-up this spring.



JOSE AZEL

Early morning walk through the pines at the summit of Bald Pate Mtn.

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## IN MEMORIAM

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LOON ECHO’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF MOURN the recent loss of David T. Kearns and David G. Lubrano. Both men loved our region of Maine and were long-time supporters of land conservation and Loon Echo, particularly our Pleasant Mountain campaigns.

A business leader and champion of education reform as Secretary of Education under President George Bush, Mr. Kearns died at age 80 from complications related to sinus cancer.

David Lubrano, also 80, co-founded a kidney dialysis company and started his own venture firm, 21st Century Ventures. He died of mesothelioma.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the Kearns and Lubrano families.



## Loon Echo Land Trust’s 24th Annual Meeting

Sunday, August 28  
starting at 5 pm

Wyonegonic Camps, Denmark

*Look for your personal invitation in the mail.*

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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

BOARD MEMBER **CAROL SUDDUTH**

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CAROL SUDDUTH JOINED LOON ECHO'S BOARD of Directors in 2004. The owner of Wyonegonic Camps on Moose Pond in Denmark, Carol and her husband, the late George Sudduth, purchased the camp from its original owners, the Cobb family, in 1969. Founded in 1902, Wyonegonic Camps is the oldest continuously-run camp for girls in America, and every year, Carol, her son and daughter, Steve and Susie, and their staff welcome girls aged 8 to 18 to the camp's 700 acres and two miles of shoreline.

"I have always loved sharing the out-of-doors with others – skiing, hiking, camping," says Carol. "I am an educator, and when my husband and I purchased Wyonegonic Camps we were determined to teach our 200 campers each year the need to use sound environmental practices and preserve for the future. Loon Echo's mission fits nicely with what I feel is important to do today for the children of the future."



Hiking at Mount Eisenhower in New Hampshire's Presidential Mountain Range.

# TREK 2011

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2011**  
**SHAWNEE PEAK, BRIDGTON MAINE**

Hike or Bike to benefit the Loon Echo Land Trust

## BIKE

25, 50 or 100 mile ride. Toughest Century in Maine

## HIKE

6 mile taste trek across the ridge of Pleasant Mountain

### New in 2011

- New Website
- Training Rides
- Pre-trek Party
- 'Green' Swag Prizes

### Register

Visit [www.loonechotrek.com](http://www.loonechotrek.com)

### To Volunteer or For More Info

Email [trek@lelt.org](mailto:trek@lelt.org) or call (207) 647-4352



"There are many things I like about this trek. The route is spectacular! The volunteers are enthusiastic and everyone involved seems really invested in conserving land in Maine. I will be back next year!"

-2010 TREKKER

### SPONSORS



LOON ECHO LAND TRUST  
1 Chase Street  
Bridgton, Maine 04009  
*Address service requested*

## Hacker's Hill Under Agreement, Awaits Grant Award

HACKER'S HILL IN CASCO is located amid a scenic and historic area high in the central part of town and known for two centuries as Quaker Ridge. It offers scenic views that are unparalleled in the region and possibly all of Maine. This cherished hilltop has a long history of public use, and its accessibility is as important as the views that the hill offers.

For nearly a decade, Loon Echo has been working towards crafting a viable conservation project at Hacker's Hill. We were moved to take action when a groundswell of community support emerged after the owners listed the property for sale on the open market in 2009. With support from the Trust for Public Land, Loon has negotiated an option agreement with the Halls for the purchase of 27 acres at Hacker's Hill.

Since 1855, the Hall family has lived on Quaker Ridge, and they have owned the hill for more than a century. The late Hacker Hall made the hill what it is today – an inviting, accessible, open, grassy hilltop with stunning panoramic views and a peaceful recreational area for the public to enjoy. The 270-degree views looking out to the White Mountains, Sebago Lake, Portland, and the rolling Maine country-side is the dominant reason why thousands of visitors from near and far have made their way to the top of the hill.

There is a gate at the bottom of the hill that is open from dawn to dusk, five days a week from May to October. A paved roadway leads to the top of the hill that sits at 753 feet above sea level. There, you'll find more than 20 acres of open fields and amenities for activities like walking, kite flying, nature observation, picnicking, geocaching, sunset watching, photography and more.

The one-year option agreement will be exercised after several important pieces of the conservation project align. In order to conserve this precious property, the appraisal needs to confirm the sale price that has been negotiated. Next, the grant application submitted to the Land for Maine's Future Program (LMF), an essential component of the project budget, needs to be approved. In April Loon Echo submitted a \$350,000 request to LMF, and the grant awards will be announced in late-July. If we're successful in securing a LMF grant, we'll launch a capital campaign, asking community members to generously gift or make a pledge of support to the \$800,000 project. Loon Echo will close on the project and take fee ownership of the property if the funds are raised within one year.



BETH SHOREY

*A peaceful summer day atop Hacker's Hill in Casco, overlooking Sebago Lake.*

Simply stated, our goal is to protect Hacker's Hill in order to continue the traditional public access for the scenic viewing and recreational opportunities, as well as for the cultural, historical and economic purposes.

When Casco residents were asked (as a part of the most recent comprehensive and open space planning processes) what places were most notable for protecting rural character and natural resources, Quaker Ridge and Hacker's Hill were mentioned more often than any other place.

**Hacker's Hill offers scenic views that are unparalleled in the region and possibly all of Maine. Its long history of public use and the accessibility of the property are as important as the views that the hill offers.**

The economic importance of Hacker's Hill is captured by Greater Bridgton Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce's Executive Director, Jim Mains. "The full panoramic view of mountains, lakes and greenery (or fall foliage) is a prime tourist attraction that draws many visitors and serves to underscore our unique identity as "The Lake Region" of Maine," says Mains. "Hacker's Hill should be protected for public use not only because of its immense beauty, but also because it helps to define Western Maine to all of us—visitors and residents alike."

The Sebago Lake Region Chamber of Commerce's Sue Bonior adds, "We've recommended Hacker's Hill first and foremost to our visitors because of its magnificent view of our region and its accessibility to everyone. There is a direct economic link—more than any other landmark in our region."

Look for more announcements about this project after July. For more information, contact Loon Echo by calling (207) 647-4352 or emailing [info@lelt.org](mailto:info@lelt.org).