



A day of renewal and celebration

“Three minutes to three o’clock and no one has shown up yet,” I thought with disappointment.

But as I pulled into the parking lot at the Bald Pate Mountain Preserve for the annual Earth Day hike, I discovered how much we have to celebrate.



Carrie Wafia
Executive Director

The parking lot was crowded with people, packs and a few dogs. The day was one of renewal because it was my first

trip up this special mountain as Loon Echo’s new executive director.

What made the day even more special was sharing the experience with 25 or so of Loon Echo’s friends, including Jon Evans, Loon Echo’s new steward-

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Why we care

Jack and Deborah Heffernan



Members:
Since 2004

Home:
Bridgton,
Maine

“We learned of Loon Echo’s Pleasant Mountain initiative through friends who are as committed to protecting the environment as we are. It was natural for us to support Loon Echo Land Trust’s mission because we believe that it is important to balance development with protected, open land where people can experience the restorative gifts of nature and where plants and animals can thrive as intended.”

LeMessurier land in Casco protected

Loon Echo Land Trust welcomed a new conservation property last December when Dorothy LeMessurier placed her 28-acres in Casco under LELT’s protection.

“We were so glad to have Loon Echo to work with us on the conservation easement,” Dorothy said. “I don’t know how we would have done it without them. Now this land will always be protected.”

The property is located very close to LELT’s 160-acre Mayberry Hill Preserve.

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What’s so great about Mayberry Hill?

By Eric Dibner

Loon Echo Vice President

Mayberry Hill Preserve in Casco is one of the gems in Loon Echo’s roster of protected lands.

The top of Mayberry Hill features a westerly view over Pleasant Lake to the Presidential Range in New Hampshire. This expansive view was shared by the donors of the

preserve when they arranged their gift of more than 130 acres in 1989, sharing with the community the appreciation they felt for Maine’s natural beauty and environment. Today, the preserve’s woods and streams are a legacy of that spirit we all can enjoy.

John and Nancy Gillis donated the Mayberry Hill property to LELT

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Connie Cross meets a Mayberry Hill porcupine.

Pondicherry Park focus turns to bridge, trails

By Carrie Walia and Peter Lowell
LELT and LEA Executive Directors

Pondicherry Park, in two quick years, has gone from a concept to terra firma. With 59 acres under Loon Echo's ownership, the focus has turned from securing the land to planning for its many recreational and educational uses.

Now we're transitioning from plans on paper to actual ground work. The park is achieving more dimension as community groups, contractors and citizens join in.

Although the rudimentary trails are in, there is significant work to do, including constructing and leveling walking trails, building numerous short segments of boardwalk and a 60-foot trestle-style covered bridge over Stevens Brook, the main entrance in the center of town behind the Magic Lantern Theatre.

Loon Echo and LEA always anticipated a signature foot bridge, but were blown away when presented with the Bob Dunning Memorial Bridge, designed by Andy Buck, Eve Abreu, Henry Banks and Greg Marston.

This is the most innovative project within the park, but is also meaningful because of the compassion and love that has gone into the concept and design. The bridge will serve as a memorial to Bob Dunning, who died suddenly in November 2007. Bob was a gifted Bridgton craftsman who built emotional bridges in this community through his work — restoring old buildings — and his environmental activism.

If fundraising goes well, the bridge pilings will be poured in the fall of 2008 and construction will begin in the spring of 2009. This in itself will be fun for all to witness as most of the bridge will be built on site by the areas top craftsmen.

The bridge will symbolize the integration of the park within its community and become a destination in itself.



Funds are now being raised for the Bob Dunning Memorial Bridge.

The Bob Dunning Memorial Bridge

*With your help and generosity, the bridge
will be a legacy for generations to come.*

Full Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

We/I are making a donation of \$ _____

Check Credit Card (Visa or MasterCard)

_____ Exp: _____

This gift is in honor / memory of:

Please make donations to:

Loon Echo Land Trust Pondicherry Park Fund

Memo: Dunning Bridge

1 Chase Street, Bridgton Maine 04009

(Also accepted at www.pondicherrypark.org)

A lot to celebrate

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ship and volunteer coordinator, and long-time president, Connie Cross.

I wish to thank each of you — our members and donors — for all you have done to support our organization and for your passion for protecting great places. I've met and worked with many of you since I came to Loon Echo as stewardship coor-

dinator in 2004. I'm proud of all we've accomplished together.

Today Loon Echo conserves 3,307 acres of land, a figure that will continue to grow. We will be challenged constantly to protect land in our seven-town service area as population increases and development creates new challenges. In the next few years, we will be identifying significant natural resources and habitats, farms

and forests, and recreational destinations with the ultimate goal of proactively protecting the quality of life we enjoy today.

After the Earth Day hike was over a few of us headed over to Bray's Brew Pub for a Bald Pate Celebration Ale. While the sun was setting I realized we all have a reason to celebrate every time an acre is set aside for the future. We will be doing a lot of celebrating in the years to come.

Crash can't keep cyclist from 'most beautiful ride in Maine'

Cyclist Mike Tetrault was happily training for the "most beautiful ride in Maine" May 6, 2007, when a hit-and-run driver left him lying in the road with his helmet looking "like an egg that was pushed in."

Yet even though Tetrault suffered a concussion, a bad case of "road rash" and had a bruise the size of a basketball, he still was determined to ride in the Loon Echo Hike n' Bike Trek. That's partly because he strongly supports Loon Echo's efforts

to conserve the special places in the Northern Sebago Lake Region. It's also because he enjoys the challenge and "all the great food, music and conversation" that comes with it.

"I fell in love with the Bike Trek," says Tetrault, a 46-year-old electrician from Standish. "I never thought about giving it up."

Registration has begun for the 2008 Hike n' Bike Trek on Sept. 20. The Trek combines Maine's most spectacular scenery and its biggest cycling challenge, Tetrault says. The climb and descent through Evans Notch makes it the toughest 100-mile ride in Maine.

For those who prefer a less challenging day, Loon Echo also offers scenic 25 and 50-mile rides and a family-friendly 6-mile hike up beautiful Pleasant Mountain. Entry fees and pledges support Loon Echo's conservation efforts.

"The century ride is the hardest thing you could ever do to your body," Tetrault says. "What keeps me going is I know when I'm done, I've done something most people don't even think of doing."

Last year it seemed unlikely Tetrault would ride at all. As he cycled on Route 114 west of Sebago Lake, the mirror of a passing vehicle slammed into his left side, somersaulting him off his bike.

"I landed on my butt and back, then got whiplashed back to the

pavement and cracked my head open on my helmet," Tetrault says. "I slid 10 feet and that's how I lost a lot of skin."

He also lost 12 hours of his life. He doesn't remember the crash or its aftermath. A woman driving by called 911. Rescue workers arrived quickly and so did his girlfriend Kimberly Tibbetts, who was six months pregnant with their daughter, Denali.

The hit-and-run driver was never caught, but Tetrault has no doubt he knew just what he'd done. A pedestrian reported that when the truck sped by, the driver "had his hand on the rear view mirror, trying to see what I was doing in the road," Tetrault says. Another person saw a vehicle traveling 70 or 80 mph on the Boundary Road.

Tetrault's injuries kept him out of work for a month. Still, at the request of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, he hobbled to the Maine Legislature to testify in favor of a law requiring motorists to give cyclists three feet of space.

"I showed them pictures of my body," Tetrault says. "And I believe that was one of the reasons they passed that law."

He wasn't as fit as usual last September, so he opted to ride 50 miles, instead of 100. But the 2007 Loon Echo Trek turned out to be his most memorable so far. His six-week-old daughter was waiting with her mother at the finish line. He rode well, too, especially for a guy who was lucky to be riding at all.

"I was the first one back out of the 50-milers," Tetrault says. "That made me feel good."



Mike, Kimberly and Denali.

2008 Sponsors

Platinum:

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And many more
supporters of the event!



This is your year to Hike or Bike!
Saturday, September 20th

Choose a 6-mile **Hike** to the summit
of Pleasant Mountain
or a 25, 50, or 100-mile **Bike Trek**
through gorgeous scenery.

For more information or to register visit www.letl.org.
"Early bird" discount ends July 1st!

Enjoy fields and woods at Mayberry Hill

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when we were a fledgling organization. Like many vacationers, the Gillis family had learned that this place “felt like home” and they wanted to keep it undeveloped and open. The property’s open fields and forested areas provide habitat and travel corridors for a broad range of mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, as well as scenic respite for the public. The preserve also protects watershed and fertile soils.

LELT worked with Woodlot Alternatives to develop a resource inventory and forestry plan. Then, with the help of Maine Conservation Corps, we cleared and extended the public trail through the interior.

Walking into the woods, we pass fence posts and stone walls reflective of previous generations of farming on the land. Logging trails are visible from long ago and from LELT’s recent timber harvest, consistent with the management plan and the donors’ intentions. LELT is practicing sustainable silviculture with the guidance of Integrated Forest Management (see Page 5 for more information on IFM).

Deeper in the woods, the birdsong marks the quiet. One stream rushes downhill toward Thompson Lake and joins with a lowland stream from the north. Before reaching the lake, these waters make into a bog on the adjoining Mayberry Highlands subdivision.

Once, the wooded hills were cleared for farmland. In 1790, the Mayberry house was built at the top of the road from the village. Scribner, Jordan, Bryant, and Edwards were the names along Mayberry Hill Road, which was then a stage route from Raymond and Webbs Mills through to Oxford. Horses and

Facts about Mayberry Hill

It was the first property donated to Loon Echo in 1990. There was an additional purchase from Hancock Land Company in 2001

Location: Casco

Acres: Approximately 160

Trail length: 1.2 miles. An easy, gradual slope (< 10%). Two benches

Directions: From Route 121 in Casco village, follow Mayberry Hill Road to the top. Turn left at the stop sign. The Preserve is at the bend of the road, on the right.

cattle grazed and farms spread across the hill for the next century. A one-room schoolhouse across the road served the hill’s children. (That field is now protected by a conservation easement given to LELT by the LeMessurier family in 2007. See story on Pages 1 and 6).

Much has changed, but open fields and healthy woodlands will be kept as they are by LELT. The pink lady slippers, purple fringed orchid, winged polygala, and trailing arbutus contrast with the old apple trees, quarried ledges, and the clay tennis court, now growing over. We can enjoy seeing a baby porcupine and a mother porcupine in a tree, hearing wood frogs in spring wetlands, identifying woodpecker, moose, deer, fox, and fisher sign. And we hope the retention of large open parcels encourages animals that need to range, such as the bobcat.

One favorite event was the walk with Maine Mycological Association, led by the late Sam Ristich. A score of mushroomers identified dozens of fungal species. We never got more than a couple of hundred yards down the trail!

The preserve is open for non-motorized daytime recreation. It is used by skiers in winter. The Casco organization, Momentum, has helped maintain the trail for several years. While some of the woods are recovering from logging, LELT is planning an educational trail to demonstrate stages of growth, selection for crop value and mast (acorns) species, and habitat diversity.

Visitors returning to the road can see the breadth of the seven towns where Loon Echo works, including Bald Pate and Pleasant Mountain backed by snow-capped Mount Washington crowning the horizon.

The preserve is nearly surrounded by residential parcels that divide up the lands that once were completely rural. Yet the neighborhood still retains its Acadian tranquility.



Dogs and dog lovers are welcome at Mayberry Hill.



A cool, green walk at Mayberry Hill Preserve.

2,500 acres in green certification

LELT's 2,500 acres of owned forestland is enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) green certification program. LELT is only one of two land trusts in the state with green certified forest conservation land.

Integrated Forest Management (IFM), a forest and natural resource management consulting firm located in Turner, Maine, manages Loon Echo's forests. IFM was founded in 2007 by former employees of the Hancock Land Company. They offer services to small and mid-sized landowners throughout New England with an emphasis on practices certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

LELT's forester, Jay Braunscheidel, oversaw the recent timber harvest at the Mayberry Hill Preserve in Casco. "IFM offers landowners a unique brand of forest management assistance with an emphasis on customer service and building relationships that will last generations," Braunscheidel says. "We have enjoyed working in partnership with LELT, helping them manage their resources according to the highest, internationally recognized standards available." For more information on FSC and IFM, visit www.fscus.org and www.ifmgt.com.

Good stewards do cut trees

By **Connie Cross**
Loon Echo President

"But Mom," I wailed, "we'll have to cut *trees* down!"

My mother had decided the driveway at our summer cottage had to be lengthened. As she grew older it was becoming harder each year to turn the car around in the small space. A circular driveway would make things easier.

I, on the other hand, did not want to see even one tree cut. A card-carrying member of Tree-huggers International (or I would have been had such an organization existed), I thought it a travesty to cut trees to make way for a mere driveway.

Mom, of course, prevailed. The driveway was constructed and the trees became firewood. I eventually agreed the new driveway was a big improvement. But more importantly, over time I learned that sometimes cutting trees will save the forest.

In southern Maine, land has become so valuable for building lots that trees are routinely sacrificed. What was once a forest becomes a shopping mall or a subdivision. It is only when trees have an economic value over and above the value of the land that they are allowed to continue growing. A company such as Hancock Lumber maintains its many acres of forested land because trees turned into lumber are profitable.

As Matt Hancock, former owner and CEO of Hancock Land Co., said, "There are not enough conservation dollars in the world to protect the forest in southern Maine." Matt helped me understand that by profiting from trees, the forest would be preserved. It was a hard lesson, but one I've taken to heart. When timber harvesting is done in a careful and sustainable manner, *both* the economy and the environment benefit.

Of course, there is another way that a forest is conserved, though usually the forest is much smaller in size. Individual land owners love their "back 40" enough to put it in Tree Growth and derive a small income every 20 to 30 years. They would no more cut down their woods than sell their children.

So what is Loon Echo's role? Put simply, our role is to do whatever we can. We have helped landowners protect their wooded lands through conservation easements. We have also purchased larger parcels, such as Bald Pate Mountain and Pleasant Mountain preserves. We've received as gifts the Sylvan Woods and Mayberry Hill Preserve and have harvested their trees. The income derived has helped our conservation work, and we are also providing jobs and contributing to the economy of southern Maine.

This, we believe, is all a part of good stewardship.

LeMessurier easement preserves rural character

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“Connecting conservation lands is always beneficial,” said Carrie Walia, LELT executive director. “Since the LeMessurier property is only one lot away from the Mayberry Hill Preserve, a wildlife corridor is preserved for safe travel to and from breeding and feeding areas. There is also greater potential to connect walking paths and snowmobile trails.”

Dorothy and her husband, Bill, who died at the age of 81 in June 2007, began protecting this property at the moment they bought it in 1985.

“We had to pay full price because there were some developers who bid just a little bit less,” Dorothy said. “It would have been developed if we hadn’t bought it.”

In their beautiful meadow, with a view of Mt. Washington, they built a house they had dreamed about for many years. To anyone familiar only with Bill’s professional background, their home’s style might be a bit of a surprise.

He was one of the top structural engineers in the nation and an expert on high-rise buildings. For example, he helped design the supporting skeleton of the Citicorp building in New York City, which at 900 feet, it is one of the tallest buildings in the world.

But when the LeMessuriers built their Maine home, they were trying for something very different. They wanted to make their land attractive to animals and birds. They wanted to be part of the natural setting. So their house was built to highlight the outdoors — to bring it inside.

“But we do have a roof,” Dorothy joked.

The LeMessuriers also were determined their house would fit into the neighborhood. “This was a very small crossroads community of four houses, all white, all



Dorothy LeMessurier’s house and the land LELT now protects in Casco.

more or less Greek Revival,” Bill told a Boston Globe reporter in 1997, shortly after the house was finished.

“Our house would be seen clearly by the neighbors, and it had to be respectful. It also had to be something Maine carpenters could build, and Maine carpenters know how to build gables. Of course, we painted it white. Everything around here is painted white.”

The Globe reporter described the house this way: “Nothing is high-tech. Outdoors, it’s a rambling white pile of gables and porches and chimneys. Indoors, it’s so full of windows looking out to the world beyond that you feel you’re in a pilot house, navigating across the landscape.”

In more than a decade since then, the house and the property have fulfilled Dorothy’s hopes. The beauty of the landscape is undiminished and wildlife abounds in the field and woodlands.

“You can hear the coyotes singing,” she said. “We have many birds, deer, wild

turkeys. I once saw a coyote coming past with a turkey in its mouth.”

While the details of the easement were being worked out, Dorothy was especially concerned that the path through the property remain open.

“This is like a park for our neighbors,” she said.

The LeMessurier family first began discussions with LELT in 2000 about protecting their meadow and woods. Seven years later, their vision became a reality.

Now the open field and woodlands as well as the town’s oldest schoolhouse foundation and cemetery will forever remain as they are today. The highly productive soils could, if farmed in the future, offer locally produced fruits and vegetables.

“LELT wishes to thank the LeMessuriers for their generous gift of a conservation easement,” Carrie said, “and for maintaining the rural and historic character of Casco.”

LELT Calendar of Events

Program	Description	Date, time, place
Little Explorers at Mayberry Hill Preserve	For ages 6-12. Identify trees and wildlife. Learn about stonewalls. Gentle terrain but sturdy shoes, bug spray, and lunch required. Contact: Jon Evans at jon@lelt.org or 647-4352	July 18, 10:30 a.m.- noon Mayberry Hill Preserve, Casco
Trail Maintenance at Pleasant Mountain	Join LELT and Maine Chapter AMC on the Ledges trail for a day of trail stabilization and leveling. No tools or experience needed. For more information contact LELT at info@lelt.org or 647-4352.	August 3, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Pleasant Mountain, Denmark
Hike on Pleasant Mountain	An active hike along the Southwest Ridge Trail to the summit of 2,006 feet. Hiking boots, water and energy rich snacks required. Bring your camera to capture the spectacular White Mountains and Saco River Valley. RSVP Required. Contact: Jon Evans at jon@lelt.org or 647-4352	August 15, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Pleasant Mountain, Denmark
Special Program on Wildlife	Keeping Track with Sue Morse. A \$5 donation will be collected at the door. Coffee and dessert to follow. Sponsored by Greater Lovell Land Trust, Lakes Environmental Association, and Loon Echo Land Trust. Contact: Bridie McGreavy, at bridie@lemaine.org or 647-8580	August 16, 6 - 9 p.m. Lakes Region High School, Naples
LELT's 21st Annual Meeting	A \$10 barbecue chicken dinner, organizational update and business meeting. (See enclosed registration form or call 647-4352)	August 24, 5 – 8 p.m. Camp Wohelo, Raymond
Connections: Conservation, Forestry and Economy	A casual walk and talk about forestland conservation and the links between forestry and the economy. Located at a 140-acre conservation easement property in Raymond. Refreshments will be served. Hosted by the Raymond Conservation Commission, Loon Echo Land Trust and the Maine Forest Service. Please sign up by calling LELT at 647-4352.	August 27, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Webbs Mill Road, Raymond
End Of Summer Hike on Bald Pate Mountain	An active hike to watch the sun set on the summer. Casual discussion of local history. Sturdy shoes or lightweight hiking boots required. Bring a camera! After the hike, all are invited to Bray's Brew Pub in Naples for an end-of-summer social. Contact: Jon Evans at jon@lelt.org or 647-4352	September 12, 5:30 - 7 p.m. Bald Pate Mountain, South Bridgton
Loon Echo Hike n' Bike Trek	Join us for a day of hiking on Pleasant Mountain or cycling through western Maine to raise money for land conservation! To learn more at www.lelt.org or call 647-4352. "Early Bird" rate ends July 1st!	September 20th Shawnee Peak Ski Area, Bridgton
Family Hike on Bald Pate Mountain	A casual hike to see the foliage and discuss local history. Sturdy shoes or lightweight hiking boots required. Bring your camera, water and a snack. Contact: Jon Evans at jon@lelt.org or 647-4352	October 11, noon - 2 p.m. Bald Pate Mtn, So. Bridgton
Environmental Educational Grants	Schools and libraries in Bridgton, Casco, Denmark, Harrison, Naples, Sebago and Raymond are encouraged to apply for a small grants to fund environmental education programs. Contact LELT for more information.	November 15, 2008- January 15, 2009
Snowshoe Hike on Bald Pate Mountain	Try out those new snowshoes Santa brought. (Snowshoes also available by advance request.) An active hike. Animal tracks will be identified. Proper clothing and energy rich snacks required. Great photo opportunities. Contact: Jon Evans at jon@lelt.org or 647-4352	December 27, 10 a.m.-noon Bald Pate Mountain, South Bridgton

For more information or to sign-up call 647-4352 or visit www.lelt.org

Please welcome LELT's stewardship and volunteer coordinator

Name: Jon D. Evans

Home: Bridgton

Duties: Management of land preserves, conservation easement monitoring and reporting; coordination of multifaceted volunteer program, and public outreach, including leading hikes.

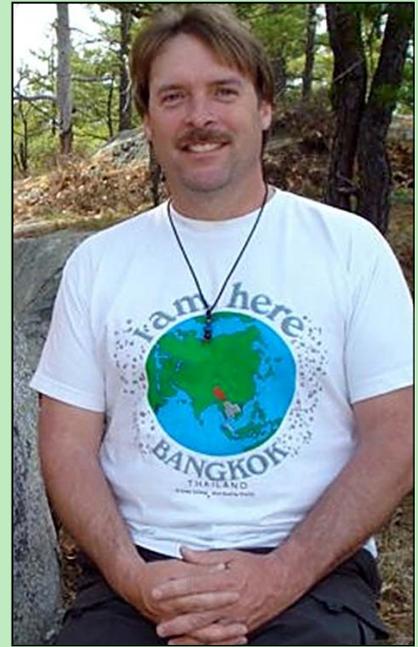
Contact information: jon@lelt.org, 647-4352

Personal: Born in Bridgton, one of five children. Attended local schools. With wife, Monica,

owned The Crafters Outlet, a successful arts and crafts supply store in Bridgton. Two children, Maxwell, 10, and Camille 12. Too many pets to list!

Leisure activities: Enjoys times spent with family; coaching youth sports and bass fishing.

Thoughts about Loon Echo: "Working with LELT is a unique opportunity. By preserving lands for our future we are preserving our past. I am passionate about both."



Jon Evans

Sign up for annual meeting and tell us what you think

Inside this edition of the Loon Echo News, you'll find two special inserts. One is a brief membership survey. We'd like to find out more about our members and what they value most. Please take a moment to let us know what you think.

You'll also find a registration form for LELT's annual meeting on Sunday, August 24, at Camp Wohelo in Raymond. The social hour begins at 5 p.m. and a BBQ chicken dinner (\$10) starts at 6 p.m. The meeting will follow. Just mail the form and payment to LELT, 1 Chase St., Bridgton ME 04009.

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