



## One bridge down and one to go



**Cheryl Turpin, principal of Stevens Brook Elementary School, helps a student cut the ribbon for the Ham Bridge.**

Children and teachers at the Stevens Brook Elementary School now have just a five-minute walk down a wooded path and over the new bridge into Pondicherry Park.

The Kendal C. and Anna Ham Foundation Bridge, a handsome 40-foot aluminum footbridge, invites easy access into the park's natural environment for science and other related lessons. The bridge was designed, welded and installed by Great Northern Docks of Naples.

Two events celebrated the completion of the bridge. Trustees from the Ham Foundation attended a bridge dedication with Loon Echo and LEA board and staff members. A bottle of bubbly symbolically expressed everyone's excitement—and gratitude to

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## You can speak out about Greenprint

Loon Echo members and residents of our seven town service area will have the opportunity to help shape the Lake Region Community Greenprint, a strategic plan based on local and regional priorities designed to meet open space, conservation, park and recreation goals.

Two public information and listening sessions held by Loon Echo and the Trust for Public Land are scheduled for:

- June 22 from 6-8:00 PM at the Crooked River Adult and Community Education Center in Casco (formerly the Crooked River Elementary School).
- June 23 from 6-8:00 PM at the Stevens Brook Elementary School in Bridgton.

At these sessions, people will identify the lands within seven

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**Best Trek Prizes ever! You could win a free European bicycling or walking vacation!  
See Page 3**



*Photo courtesy of VBT*

**Save the date: Annual Meeting on August 29 at Camp Winona!**

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towns in the Lake Region that are most important for conservation and recreation. These lands will be the focus for developing a series of interactive on-line maps that can be used to implement strategies for open space use and natural resource protection.

Maintaining the Lake Region's "quality of place" is the ultimate goal. Loon Echo expects that the project will significantly advance open space planning efforts in each of our seven towns, and we ourselves will use the Greenprint to guide our conservation projects and programs for years to come.

In addition to the two public informational sessions, there is a working stakeholder group, made of members from municipalities, businesses, chambers of commerce, snowmobile clubs, water districts, lake associations, and wildlife and fisheries departments, who will meet over the course of the next year to further move the Greenprint forward.

If you have an interest in becoming a stakeholder, please contact Carrie Walia at (207) 647-4352 or [carrie@lelt.org](mailto:carrie@lelt.org).

To learn more about the Lake Region Greenprint, view our website at [www.lelt.org](http://www.lelt.org). To learn more about the Trust for Public Land's Greenprinting services used in more than forty locations across the country, visit [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org).

## PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS!

Tuesday June 22, 6-8pm  
Crooked River Adult Community  
Education Center, Casco  
*(formerly Crooked River Elementary School)*



Wednesday June 23, 6-8pm  
Stevens Brook Elementary School,  
Bridgton

### GOALS:

- ♣ Protect the Lake Region's Unique Quality of Place
- ♣ Establish a Forum for Regional Cooperation
- ♣ Create a Region-wide Open Space Vision

### PARTNER COMMUNITIES:

Bridgton ♣ Casco  
Denmark ♣ Harrison  
Naples ♣ Raymond  
Sebago

### NON-PROFIT PARTNERS:

Loon Echo Land Trust  
Lakes Environmental Association  
Greater Bridgton Lakes Region and  
the Sebago Lake Region  
Chambers of Commerce  
Portland Water District  
Greater Portland  
Council of Governments  
The Trust for Public Land

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Program Director  
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## Join Us!

**We need your input, your dreams and your love of home...**

When you look at the landscape of the Lake Region,  
what do you want to see in 25 years? In 50?

When your towns and organizations think about planning for the future,  
what should they protect?

Come and share your priorities and your dreams at one of these public  
sessions; help us to shape a community vision for our landscape.

**Everyone's voice will be heard.**

Questions? For more information, please call  
Loon Echo Land Trust or The Trust for Public Land

## The Lake Region Greenprint: A Community Partnership

A project of  
The Maine CommunityScape Initiative:  
Open Space for a Changing Maine

# 10th Annual Hike n' Bike Trek registration is now open!

Saturday, September 18, 2010

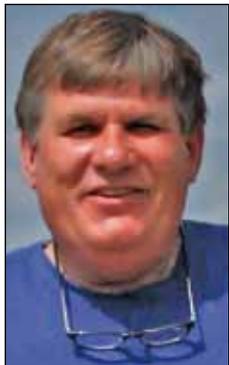
Bike 25, 50 or 100 miles or hike 6 miles. Families and teams are encouraged. Register today at [www.lelt.org](http://www.lelt.org) or 207-647-4352. Bigger and better prizes for our 10th anniversary! Raise pledges for conservation and win:



- A European bicycling or walking vacation donated by VBT
- A Shawnee Peak season ski pass
- An all-inclusive 2-night stay at Migis Lodge on Sebago Lake
- A weekend getaway at Camp Wigwam's retreat on Bear Pond
- A group sailing lesson with Sebago Sailing Inc.

## Special thanks to our generous major business sponsors

Dan Craffey, owner of Moose Landing Marina in Naples, is pleased to be this



**Dan Craffey,  
Moose Landing  
Marina**

year's Featured Business Sponsor of the Hike n' Bike Trek. "Local land conservation is vitally important to this area," says Dan. "We have so many beautiful natural wonders that we must ensure are here for years to come. I support the land trust because I strongly believe in protecting the natural beauty of the Lakes Region."

When we asked Dan how local businesses and conservation non-profits can work together to better their community and keep the economy strong, he responded, "Local businesses can help non-profits in two easy ways. Number one is by respecting the mission of the land trust in terms of the

business's impact on the environment. Secondly, a business can help the land trust by giving a donation. Moose Landing appreciates the opportunity to be involved with the Trek. Everyone here at the Marina is concerned with the conservation of the natural beauty of our region. We are happy that we can help!"

Moose Landing is the largest on-water facility in the Sebago Lake Region and offers close to 300 deep water slips, as well as new and pre-enjoyed boat sales, brokerage services, storage, service and parts, brand new pontoon boat rentals, fuel, a fully stocked ships store, and much more.

Visit Moose Landing Marina on Route 302 in Naples, or at [www.mooselandingmarina.com](http://www.mooselandingmarina.com).

Other major sponsors include:

### PLATINUM

Hancock Lumber  
Shawnee Peak Ski Area

### GOLD

93.5 WMWV  
98.9 WCLZ

Magic 104 FM  
Hannaford Supermarkets  
Migis Lodge  
VBT Bicycling and Walking Vacations

### SILVER

About Time Graphics  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
Camp Wigwam  
Moose Landing Marina  
The Bridgton News  
Yankee Amateur Radio

### BRONZE

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Bridgton Hospital  
Cardinal Printing  
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Ernie's Cycle Shop  
Krainin Real Estate  
Macdonald Motors  
Mountain View Dentistry  
Northeast Planning Associates, Inc.  
Portland Phoenix  
Richard Bader Physical Therapy  
Sebago Sailing Inc.

# Why We Care

## Al and Flonny Morrison

**Members since:** 2000

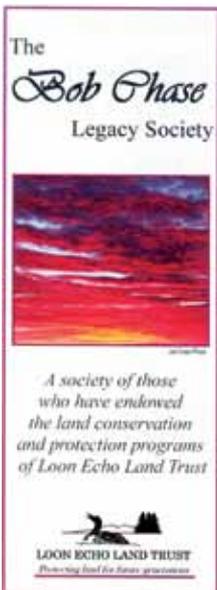
**Town:** Raymond

**Personal:** Retired teachers with both year-round home and family summer cottage on Panther Pond.

“Our family has enjoyed this beautiful Lakes Region ever since the 1890s. We today feel a personal responsibility to future generations



to continue whatever we can of this fragile ecosystem so that it remains the natural temple it has been for us. LEIT is the best means we know of toward that goal.”



## *Introducing the Bob Chase Legacy Society*

The Loon Echo Board of Directors is pleased to announce the establishment of the Bob Chase Legacy Society to recognize and honor those who have remembered Loon Echo in their estate planning. Anyone who makes a bequest or other planned gift to Loon Echo Land Trust becomes a member of the Society, unless they wish to remain anonymous.

If you would like more information on making a bequest to Loon Echo, please call the office at 207-647-4352. Supporters who have already provided for Loon Echo in their wills or estate plans are invited to complete the form in the brochure,

which is available by request. By acknowledging your bequest now, you help Loon Echo plan for the future, and allow us the opportunity to thank you and recognize your generosity.

Bob Chase was one of Loon Echo's founding members – a forester and nature lover who, when he became concerned about the rapid development of our region in the 1980's, organized a group of forward thinking community members and formed the Loon Echo Inland Trust. In naming the Legacy Society after Bob, we seek to honor his lifelong commitment to making the world a better place.

## Heidi leaves for her dream job

Heidi Schellenger, Loon Echo's Development Coordinator, has accepted a position as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State. She will be moving to Washington D.C. for several months of orientation before departing to a U.S. embassy.

During her year with Loon Echo Heidi helped the development committee to advance the membership and donor cultivation programs, form the Bob Chase Legacy Society, create our first a goal-oriented development plan, and expand the Trek event's pledge and sponsorship programs.

“I very much enjoyed getting to know Loon Echo's committed supporters, and deeply regret leaving after only one year. It has always been my dream to work overseas,” said Heidi. Thank you, Heidi, and best wishes with your new position!



**Heidi Schellenger**

# Ham Foundation Bridge is a reality at Pondicherry

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the Ham Foundation —that the bridge is finally a reality.

Later, all 300 students at Stevens Brook Elementary School and their teachers participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony. Once the ribbon was cut, the kids poured over the bridge to tour the Park and learn about its history and ecology. Connie Cross, Loon Echo president, acted as one of the guides for a fifth and a third grade class.

“I loved how enthusiastic the kids were about being in the Park,” she said. “They were especially fascinated by Kneeland Spring and the little wood frog that was availing himself of the pure waters there! We let the kids know that this was their Park and they were welcome there any time.”

The educational amphitheatre, which is located just beyond the Ham Foundation Bridge, is now being constructed to give the students a space to gather and learn. An educator’s platform has been attached to the chimney of the old Cook family cabin. Granite slabs



**Ham Foundation trustees dedicate the bridge with LELE and LEA staff.**

will be arranged for seating. Funded by the Carol and David Hancock Charitable Trust, the amphitheatre will be named in their honor.

One last major piece of the park needs to be finished — the 60-foot Bob Dunning Memorial Bridge, which will serve as the main entryway from downtown Bridgton into Pondicherry Park. Progress has been made. Hardypond Construction of Portland fabricated and installed the massive steel beams and pilings to support the snow load that the Dunning Bridge will have to carry in the wintertime.

Now that the steel infrastructure is in place, a community “barn-raising” will

be held to build the covered bridge designed by Andy Buck of Naples and a team of local artists.

Here is the bottom line: \$102,000 is needed to complete the Dunning Bridge, its pedestrian ramps, and the conservation easement to permanently protect the parkland. The park’s steering committee is encouraging community members to step forward and offer a gift so we can cut the final ribbon at the Bob Dunning Bridge.

Contact Loon Echo at (207) 647-4352 or visit [www.pondicherrypark.org](http://www.pondicherrypark.org) to learn more about Pondicherry Park and how to make a donation to this project.

## In Memoriam

### **Nancy Gillis: April 20, 1917 – February 13, 2010**

We were saddened to learn of the passing of long-time supporter Nancy P. Gillis. Mrs. Gillis and her husband, John, created a lasting legacy in 1995, when they donated 128 beautiful acres in Casco that formed the Mayberry Hill Preserve. Mrs. Gillis added to her legacy when she named Loon Echo as a beneficiary in her will with a gift to be used for the general purposes of the organization.

Mrs. Gillis always said that Maine was the most beautiful spot in the world – this from a woman who traveled extensively through Europe, Japan, and the United States.

“She had an abiding belief that we have an obligation to leave the world a better place,” remembers daughter The-

resa Gillis. “From the early 60s onward, she had all nine of us children recycling and re-using, long before it was fashionable. My parents loved the outdoors and the Mayberry Hill property. I think their happiest times in life were there.”

### **Lorraine Burtis Sheldon: February 10, 1914 – January 24, 2010**

The conservation community lost another supporter when long-time member Lorraine Sheldon passed away in January. Lorraine and her husband, Alexander Esleck Sheldon, Jr., owned and operated Camp Hawthorne on Panther Pond in Raymond for twenty years before retiring to Hilton Head Island, SC. Loon Echo was honored to be a beneficiary of memorial gifts made by her friends and family, and sincerely thanks those who contributed in Lorraine Sheldon’s memory.

# Pleasant Mountain's woodland communities

Please join me as we take a close look at the Oak-Pine Forest that covers much of the higher elevation slopes of Pleasant Mountain along the Southwest summit and over to the Bald Peak summit. While exploring this forest, I was struck by how still and peaceful it is. A hermit thrush kept me company as I walked while the mosquitoes kept me from resting in any spot for too long.

## Part 3: Oak-Pine Forest

The majority of Oak-Pine Forests in Maine are on land that was once cleared for pasture. Legend has it that Pleasant Mountain was covered with grazing sheep.

While researching this forest, I learned that the major difference between a “forest” and “woodland” is the percentage of canopy closure. The Oak-Pine Forest is a “closed canopy forest” with more than 75 percent closure in which red oak and white pine dominate. The small levels of sunlight that make it through to the sub-canopy support the growth of striped maple, hazelnut, black huckleberry and witch hazel, as well as low bush blueberry and mosses. Some rare plants are associated with this forest type, including American chestnut, mountain laurel, small whorled pogonia, variable sedge and wild indigo. The endangered rams head ladyslipper has been spotted in this forest but has not been seen for many years.

These forests are habitat for a number



Many Oak-Pine Forests are on land once cleared for pasture.



**Jon Evans**

*Stewardship  
and Volunteer  
Coordinator*

of birds including wood thrush, scarlet tanager, ovenbird and pine warbler. Mature stands within this community may offer good potential for cavity nesters and for rare moths and butterflies.

As discussed in previous articles, the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) classifies all the natural communities and plant species in the state. They are ranked by their state (S) and global (G) rarity. This ranking method is explained at the Department of Conservation website, the MNAP section ([www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap/](http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap/)).

The Oak-Pine Forest at Pleasant Mountain has a ranking of S4 (secure) which means it is an outstanding example of a common Maine forest type.

In the next newsletter we will visit the last natural community in our series, the Red Oak-Northern Hardwoods-White Pine Forest. But before then, we will take a hike to the Red Pine Woodland (discussed in the last newsletter) to see its unique characteristics first hand.

I hope you will join us as we visit this community on August 14, while we also consider the Saco River Valley's remarkable history and munch on a few wild blueberries (see calendar on Page 7). Until then, feel free to give me a call or email if you have questions about the series thus far. I can be reached at 207-647-4352 or [jon@lelt.org](mailto:jon@lelt.org).

## *Please support the LMF bond*

On November 9, Maine voters will have the opportunity to pass a \$9.75 million Land for Maine's Future (LMF) bond package. This is the fifth LMF bond to be offered since 1987, and all previous bonds passed by a 2:1 margin.

The LMF program has endured because Maine residents want to protect our state's largest economic asset, its natural resources. The LMF program is the largest source of

grant funding for local land conservation projects in the State of Maine. Loon Echo and its member communities have benefited from this program. It has funded the Sebago Headwaters Preserve Project (land between Bald Pate Mountain and Holt Pond) and the majority of the second phase of the Pleasant Mountain Project which is currently underway. Please offer your support to this very important program when voting this November!

To learn more, visit [www.maine.gov/spo/lmf/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/spo/lmf/index.htm) or [www.mainelandcoalition.org/about.htm](http://www.mainelandcoalition.org/about.htm).

# LELT Calendar of Events

Program	Description	Date
<b>Summer Solstice Hike at Bald Pate</b>	Celebrate the first day of summer with a traditional hike up Bald Pate to remember Bob Chase, a founder of Loon Echo. A 20-30 minute walk brings you to the summit. Bring a picnic supper. Meet at the Bald Pate parking lot on Route 107 at 5 p.m.	<b>Monday June 21</b>
<b>Pondicherry Park Walk</b>	Learn about Pondicherry on an easy, two-hour, kid-friendly walk through Bridgton's magical 66-acre park. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water, bug spray and a camera. Meet at the Willett Road entrance near the town garage behind Hannaford at 9 a.m.	<b>Friday July 9</b>
<b>Trail Maintenance at Pleasant Mountain</b>	Join Loon Echo and Appalachian Mountain Club's Maine Chapter for trail maintenance on the popular Ledges Trail. Bring work boots, gloves, plenty of water and snacks. Tools will be provided. Volunteers meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Ledges trail head on Mountain Road, three miles from Route 302.	<b>Saturday July 31</b>
<b>Red Pine Woodland Community Hike</b>	A moderate to difficult hike to the unique Red Pine Woodland near the North Peak of Pleasant Mountain for beautiful views of the White Mountains and the Saco River Valley. Bring hiking boots, appropriate clothing, water and snacks. Don't forget your camera! Hikers should meet at the Bald Peak trail head on Mountain Road at 8:45 a.m.	<b>Saturday August 14</b>
<b>23rd Annual Meeting</b>	Loon Echo's Annual Meeting at Camp Winona on Moose Pond in Bridgton at 5 p.m. The camp will provide a great dinner. Members will vote on directors and learn about the progress over the past year, including expansion of the Pleasant Mountain Preserve.	<b>Sunday August 29</b>
<b>Mushroom walk at Mayberry Hill Preserve</b>	Join Loon Echo and the Maine Mycological Society for a mushroom walk at the Mayberry Hill Preserve in Casco. Sturdy shoes, water, snacks, mushroom book and a camera are recommended. Meet at the parking area on Mayberry Hill Road at 9 a.m.	<b>Sunday September 5</b>
<b>10th Annual Loon Echo Hike n' Bike Trek</b>	Registration is open for the 10th Annual Trek event to benefit land conservation! Early bird rates, including team/family, through August 1. Choose a 25-, 50- or 100-mile bike trek or six-mile hike on Pleasant Mountain. Win a European biking or walking vacation! For more information, visit <a href="http://www.lelt.org">www.lelt.org</a> or call 647-4352.	<b>Saturday September 18</b>
<b>1st Annual Pate to the Pond Hike</b>	Hike to the summit of Bald Pate to take in the foliage and the pitch pine grove, and then take the Town Farm Brook Trail to Holt Pond to pass by the swamp maple and hemlock groves. Bring hiking boots, water and snacks. Meet at Bald Pate parking lot on Route 107 at 8:45 a.m.	<b>Saturday October 9</b>
<b>Historical Veteran's Day Hike through Pondicherry Park</b>	An easy to moderate walk through the tall pines of Pondicherry Park. Get to know the park's early settlers, the mills of Willett and Stevens Brook and the many Revolutionary War veterans that made Bridgton home. Hikers should dress warmly for the two hour history tour. Meet at the Chamber of Commerce building on Route 302 at 8:30 a.m.	<b>Thursday November 11</b>
<b>Environmental Educational Grants</b>	Every year Loon Echo offers schools and libraries in its service area (Bridgton, Casco, Denmark, Harrison, Naples, Sebago and Raymond) environmental educational grants. Applications will be available starting November 15 until the January 15 deadline. Please visit the grant web page at <a href="http://www.lelt.org">www.lelt.org</a> to download the grant application.	<b>November 2010 to January 2011</b>
<b>Forestry Snowshoe Hike at Mayberry Hill Preserve</b>	Hikers will get a unique perspective on sustainable forestry practices with forester Jay Braunscheidel of Integrated Forest Management. Bring snowshoes, appropriate clothing (no cotton), boots, water and snacks. Some snowshoes available upon request. Meet at the trail head on Mayberry Hill Road in Casco at 8:45 a.m.	<b>Saturday December 11</b>

All outdoor hikes and walks are subject to weather conditions. Additional activities will be posted to LELT's online program calendar at [www.lelt.org](http://www.lelt.org). Please contact Jon Evans at [jon@lelt.org](mailto:jon@lelt.org) or 207-647-4352 for more information.

# Loon Echo awards grant

Loon Echo has awarded a new “Mayberry Hill Forest Field Day” educational grant to the Lake Region High School’s Sophomore Team. The Sophomore Team is a program designed for students who may have academic difficulties and need additional assistance to get back on track. Many Sophomore Team students are not traditional learners and benefit greatly from a more hands-on program.

In partnership with Maine’s Project Learning Tree and the Maine Forest Service, Loon Echo worked with the Sophomore Team’s teachers to develop a specialized field curriculum for scientifically studying forest plots at the 160-acre Mayberry Hill Preserve in Casco. A five-hour training session developed by Project Learning Tree prepared six educators and Loon Echo staff member, Jon Evans, for this specialized teaching experience.

On May 14, 42 students studied the preserve’s soil, trees and other vegetation to learn how the forest grows and changes. The highlight of the day was using forester Ken Canfield’s clinometer, a special optical instrument to measure tree height.

“This program was extremely important as it brought everything together for the students,” said Brian Clark, Sophomore Team teacher. “Last fall, the students conducted a forest study at the school’s campus, including mapping of their plots. To be able to work with a forester and see how what we did last fall is used every day was a great way to connect what we learn in school to real life

Loon Echo Land Trust  
1 Chase Street  
Bridgton ME 04009  
*Address service requested*



**Ken Canfield of the Maine Forest Service works with the Sophomore Team from Lake Region High School at the Mayberry Hill Preserve.**

situations. Being able to work with Project Learning Tree, Maine Forest Service and Loon Echo Land Trust was a great help in developing school and community partnerships that we hope will continue in the years to come.”

In addition to the field day, Loon Echo awarded 10 educational grants totaling \$1,200 to local schools and libraries for their environmental programs. Selected libraries include the Bridgton Public Library, Raymond Village Library and Naples

Public Library. Selected schools include Harrison Elementary School, Songo Locks Elementary, Sebago Elementary, and Lake Region High School. Some of the programs funded by the grant include LEA’s Crooked River trout release and the “Hey You” cruise, the Chewonki Foundation’s traveling Bugmobile, and a maple sugaring field trip.

To learn about the 2011 grant program, visit [www.lelt.org](http://www.lelt.org) and click on the programs link. The application period is Nov. 15 to Jan. 15, 2011.

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