



PAW EDWARDS

Forested shoreline of the Tenny River in Raymond.

## Tenny River Easement Signed

LOON ECHO LAND TRUST WORKED WITH LOCAL LANDOWNERS AND THE PINE TREE COUNCIL of the Boy Scouts of America to protect a 28-acre property along the eastern shore of the Tenny River in Raymond. The conservation easement was signed with the Pine Tree Council (PTC) on December 18, 2014.

Just 45 minutes north of Portland, this lovely, tranquil river allows boaters to experience an undeveloped river habitat. The river is bookended at one end by Panther Pond and the PTC's Camp Hinds, and at the other by Route 85 and Crescent Lake. A public boat launch on the south end of Crescent Lake provides access for boaters; lake residents and visitors travel through the Tenny to enjoy its natural beauty and to explore the lakes on either end.

The protected land includes 660 feet along the river, as well as natural springs, several streams, wetlands and a snowmobile trail. The land and river provide important habitat for fish, reptiles and amphibians.

A group of Panther Pond landowners was instrumental in seeing the project through to completion. When the land was put up for sale in 2010, Anne Gass, William Hill, John Palmer and Katy Walker urged the PTC to add this property to their adjacent 280-acre Camp Hinds. The PTC agreed, and Loon Echo was asked to hold a perpetual conservation easement to ensure its protection.

The local landowners worked with the PTC and Loon Echo to raise the \$226,000 needed to purchase and conserve the land. Contributions came from local landowners and

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General location of the Tenny River project, shown in red.



**LOON ECHO**  
LAND TRUST

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**27TH ANNUAL MEETING RECAP AND  
WELCOMING NEW DIRECTORS**

DIRECTORS CAROL SUDDUTH AND STEVE SUDDUTH OF WYONEGONIC Camps in Denmark hosted Loon Echo's 27th Annual Meeting on August 24, 2014. President Karen Eller introduced two new candidates for the Loon Echo board of directors: David Diller, a long-time Bridgton resident and retired pharmacist; and Kevin Wall, a part-time Harrison resident and owner of a real estate practice focused on low-income and historic tax credit financed properties in Marblehead, MA. David and Kevin were voted in by the 70 members present for a three year term each. They have since been active directors serving in various roles from donor development to directing policy decisions. Directors voted in for additional three year terms included Eric Dibner of Casco and Mike McSally of Bridgton and Greenland, NH.

At the end of the evening Executive Director Carrie Wallia gave an organizational update demonstrating that Loon Echo is nearing its strategic goal of protecting 8,000 acres by the year 2017. Today the current protected lands and lands under contract for purchase total 6,700 acres. These high quality lands benefit residents and visitors, including providing guaranteed public access and safeguarding water quality by protecting the water ways that drain into Sebago Lake and the Saco River, the drinking water source for over 200,000 Maine residents.

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The 2014 year-end and annual fund drives were successful in raising over \$86,000. In 2014 Loon Echo welcomed 148 new households and businesses. A total of 655 households and businesses supported the land trust in 2014 as members. **Thank you—our supporters—you make the work of local land conservation and stewardship possible!**

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Kevin Wall (above left) and David Diller (above right), new to Loon Echo's Board of Directors.



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**STAFF UPDATES**

CAROL MEADER SERVED AS OUR TREK MANAGER FOR 3 1/2 years and for one of those years she wore an additional hat as our Membership and Public Relations Manager. Carol brought a great deal of enthusiasm and energy to Loon Echo, and especially to the Trek, as her family has been participating in the event since 2002. Her love of bicycling and children has taken her to Community Bicycle in Portland/Biddeford where she is now serving as their Development and Communications Director.

HEATHER RORER OF BRIDGTON has been welcomed as our part-time Conservation Outreach Manager in January. She will oversee our membership and communications efforts, as well as administer the baseline documentation and assist with mapping required for conservation easements. Heather has volunteered on Loon Echo's Lands Committee since 2011, and has served as the chair for the past year. Heather's past work experience has included Development Director for the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy in Ann Arbor, Michigan and most recently, as Partnership Coordinator for Sierra Club-Maine Chapter. In her spare time she enjoys skiing, hiking and boating—pretty much anything outdoors!



Heather Rorer, new Conservation Outreach Manager

**IN LOVING MEMORY**

WE ARE SADDENED BY THE LOSS OF STEVE WALKER OF Windham who passed away on August 14, 2014. Steve was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying hiking, canoeing, kayaking, skiing, and the open spaces of the Lake Region. We know he would be pleased that we received many donations in his memory.

**STAFF**

*Executive Director*  
Carrie Wallia, carrie@lelt.org  
*Stewardship Manager*  
Jon Evans, jon@lelt.org  
*Conservation Outreach Manager*, Heather Rorer, membership@lelt.org

**SPECIALISTS (NON-STAFF)**

*Cartographer*, Pam Edwards  
mapping@lelt.org

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Karen Eller, *President*  
Norm Nicholson, *Vice President*  
Bob Gowdy, *Treasurer*  
Mike McSally, *Secretary*  
Connie Cross  
Eric Dibner  
David Diller  
Ed Friedman  
Allen Erler  
Jerry Holt  
Carol Sudduth  
Kevin Wall



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## PROJECT UPDATES

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### RAYMOND COMMUNITY FOREST

LOON ECHO HAS COMMITTED TO PURCHASING 350 ACRES IN North Raymond by the end of 2015 by exercising the option agreement with seller Hancock Land Company. Loon Echo made this decision after a group of nine local residents enthusiastically joined a campaign steering committee to help spread the word and garner support, resulting in \$55,000 in gifts to-date from local residents, lake associations and summer camps. Donors have expressed support for this project as it will protect Crescent Lake's water quality, as well as Panther Pond and Sebago Lake. If the forest were to be developed into residential subdivisions as proposed in years past, the effects of phosphorus runoff to the lakes could have been detrimental.

This year the fundraising efforts will continue, as well as the recreational planning, including a trail up to Pismire Mountain. This summer (or possibly next) the Town of Raymond's residents will be asked if they wish to own the forest subject to a conservation easement with Loon Echo. Community forests across New England have demonstrated that municipal ownership of protected forestland is a good investment. Town ownership translates into local management and decision making, enhanced recreation and tourism opportunities, and income from sustainable timber management, all furthering economic development and comprehensive plan goals.

Loon Echo also wishes to acknowledge pledges of major grants and gifts from the Town of Raymond, Land for Maine's Future Program, Hancock Land Company, Portland Water District, G.L. Connolly Foundation and an anonymous foundation. For all of this, Loon Echo is truly grateful!

To make a gift to this project, please visit [WWW.LELT.ORG](http://WWW.LELT.ORG) (and click on the Raymond Forest link) or contact Carrie Walia, Executive Director (see page 2 for contact information).



*Pismire Mountain as seen from Crescent Lake.*

SHEILA BOURQUE



*Welcome signs at Perley Pond's hand carry boat launch.*

JON EVANS

### PERLEY POND – NORTHWEST RIVER

THE FEATURED STORY OF THE SUMMER/FALL 2014 *Loon Echo News* detailed the acquisition of 150 acres on Perley Pond and the Northwest River in Sebago. In it we suggested that the boat launch on the east side of the pond is public, but we were wrong and it is private. However, through the generosity of a local family, it has been made available for public use.

A year-long lead remediation project was just completed at the former sand pit. The one-acre former sand pit on Folly Road was found to contain a significant level of lead accumulation from decades of firearm use that posed a risk for human and wildlife if left untreated. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Brownfields Program offered Loon Echo a major grant, and along with their contractor CES Inc., they oversaw the planning and site remediation efforts at the pit. Loon Echo will now actively discourage firearm use at the pit, but encourages respectful hunting and fishing on the 150 acre property and abundant pond and river frontage. Please join us to further explore the property on February 14 (see Calendar of Events on page 4).

*UPDATES continued on page 5*



*Former sand pit along Northwest River.*

JON EVANS

## FEBRUARY- JUNE 2015 EVENT CALENDAR

All outdoor events are subject to cancellation and/or date changes. Events will be cancelled when dangerous conditions or heavy weather are forecasted. For more information and updates, please contact (207) 647-4352, [jon@lelt.org](mailto:jon@lelt.org) or check our website at [www.lelt.org](http://www.lelt.org). For hikes and work days, always wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather conditions and varied terrain. For winter programming, there are a small number of snowshoes available upon request. Bring a map, water and snacks with you.



January's snowshoe hike at the Crooked River Forests Project site in Otisfield. Hosted by Portland Water District in partnership with Loon Echo Land Trust and Western Foothills Land Trust.

### Snowshoe Hike at Perley Pond- Northwest River Preserve

February 14  
Sebago

Part of the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend. Meet on Folly Road at 9 AM. Snowshoes or traction devices, food and water recommended. Approximately 2 hours. *Easy to Moderate.*

### Sunrise Hike at Bald Pate Mountain Preserve

March 21  
So. Bridgton

Meet at the main parking lot on Rt. 107 at 6 AM. First sunrise of spring arrives at 6:46 AM. Snowshoes or traction devices, headlamps, food and water recommended. Approximately 2 hours. *Moderate.*

### Earth Day Cleanup

April 22  
Bridgton

Meet staff from Loon Echo Land Trust and LEA at the Bridgton Community center at 9 AM. Work boots, gloves, bug spray, food and water recommended. Approximately 3 hours. *Easy to Moderate.*

### Wildflower Walk at Pleasant Mountain

May 23  
Denmark

Meet at the Southwest Ridge Trail head at 9 AM. Hiking boots, camera, bug spray, food

and water recommended. Approximately 4 hours. *Moderate to Difficult.*

### Summer Solstice Family Picnic at Hacker's Hill

June 21  
Casco

Meet at the picnic area at 12 PM to celebrate summer's arrival. Loon Echo will supply the beverages. Picnic lunch, lawn chairs and lawn games recommended. Accessible by car. Approximately 2 hours. *Easy.*



Northern wood sorrel

## SAVE THE DATE!

# 9/19

Don't miss out on Maine's premier  
bicycling and hiking event!

The 15th annual Loon Echo Trek will be held on Saturday, September 19 at Shawnee Peak Ski Area in Bridgton and will offer premier cycling and hiking treks complete with rest stops along the way and a celebratory food and drink at the end. Cyclists can choose one of their favorite 25, 50,75 or 100 mile courses. Hikers will have two hikes to choose from, a 6 mile traverse over Pleasant Mountain or a shorter 4.5 mile option up the Ledges Trail. We expect on-line registration to begin on April 1st. For more information, visit [loonechotrek.org](http://loonechotrek.org) or contact us at (207) 647-4352 or [trek@lelt.org](mailto:trek@lelt.org).



MARY JEWETT

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their friends, the Fields Pond Foundation, Portland Water District, Davis Conservation Foundation, Burnham Trust, the Town of Raymond and an anonymous foundation.

Through the terms of the conservation easement Loon Echo will preserve the quality of the water resources, plant and animal habitat, and scenic character, and help provide for nature-based and outdoor-based educational and recreational opportunities through the PTC. Each summer, many campers at Camp Hinds will benefit from a wilderness-like experience during their stay.

Preserving this land was the first phase in a broader plan to protect the full Tenny River corridor, which will in turn protect the water quality of Panther Pond, Sebago Lake and the Casco Bay Watershed. PTC President Horace Horton is leading the effort to secure an adjacent parcel which will protect nearly the full length of the eastern side of the river.

Loon Echo will preserve the quality of the water resources, plant and animal habitat, and scenic character, and help provide for nature-based and outdoor-based educational and recreational opportunities.



RAY SIROIS

Tenny River in the winter.

continued from page 3



JON EVANS

The forest and wetland at Perley Mills.

### PERLEY MILLS COMMUNITY FOREST

ON JANUARY 15TH THE TOWN OF SEBAGO TOOK OWNERSHIP of the southern portion of the Perley Mills Community Forest. Loon Echo reserved a conservation easement on these 130 acres on both sides Swamp Road. The community forest model ensures community participation in setting management goals, and gives secure access to the value and benefits of the forest, such as public use of the land and trails and a long-term source of revenue from selective timber harvests. Sebago officials are exploring future possibilities for expanding public recreational opportunities at the property.

Next up, Loon Echo will convey the 1,460 acre Perley Mills property to the north to the Town of Denmark. The land includes a three mile section of Narrow Gauge Trail, the undeveloped Pickerel Pond and many local motorized trails.

Loon Echo's field team, led by Pam Edwards and Heather Rorer, spent considerable time documenting all of Perley Mills' conservation values to aid Loon Echo in properly monitoring and upholding the terms of the easements with the two municipalities.

### CROOKED RIVER FORESTS

THE CROOKED RIVER FORESTS PROJECT WILL PROTECT FIVE properties for a total of 790 acres and 3.5 miles of river frontage in Harrison and Otisfield when it's completed. Over the last twelve months Loon Echo and Western Foothills land trusts have made a strong case for the protection of this land and the river, and many grant makers have listened and pledged strong support. A positive response from funders has resulted in securing all of the funds needed to purchase the properties from the C.L.T. Company in early 2015.

The Open Space Institute's Resilient Landscapes Initiative, funded by the Doris Duke Foundation, recently awarded the land trusts a major grant for this project. The grant program is designed to help land trusts and public agencies across the eastern United States respond to climate change by protecting resilient landscapes. Resilient landscapes are places most likely to endure over the long term, even as the climate changes; the places where wildlife, including amphibians, reptiles and insects, can thrive in an unpredictable world. The Crooked River's floodplain and upland forests demonstrate that they will continue to support a variety of plants and animals even as our weather patterns change.

Donors interested in making a gift to the Crooked River Forests stewardship endowment for land management needs should contact Loon Echo. See page 2 for contact information. A feature story and full list of funders will be published in the summer *Loon Echo News*.



CARRIE WALIA

Crooked River blanketed in snow.

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## NOTES FROM THE TRAIL

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LAST FALL LOON ECHO REACHED OUT TO THE APPALACHIAN Mountain Club (AMC) for guidance on repair needs on the upper portion of the Bald Peak Trail at Pleasant Mountain. After an on-site evaluation by AMC, it was decided that a re-route of the badly eroded section of trail was in order. Shortly after the plan was developed, AMC received a request from a terminally ill local resident wishing to make a donation to one of AMC's trail projects. AMC pitched the Bald Peak Trail project and the individual agreed to fund this important work. A three man professional crew from AMC began roughing in the new section of trail in October of 2014 and will finish in late spring of this year. Once finished, Loon Echo will post an updated trail map to our website and pursue plans for a new parking area at the trailhead.

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR A TIMBER HARVEST ON A PORTION OF the Sebago Headwaters Preserve in Bridgton. Jeremy Stultz of Integrated Forest Management, Loon Echo's consulting forester, will oversee the logging operation this winter. A Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife biologist was consulted as the timber harvest will occur near a mapped Deer Wintering Area. This harvest will lay the ground work for a healthy, diverse and sustainable forest that will be better poised to adapt to a changing climate, while also enhancing animal habitat and improving infrastructure at log landings for future harvests.

THE SUMMIT PROJECT (TSP), A LIVING MEMORIAL AND 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was developed by Maine Soldier Major David Cote, USMC, to recognize Maine's fallen heroes since September 2001 through stories and unique carved stones chosen by surviving families. Volunteers learn about fallen heroes and hike with these stories and stones to summits around the world. Lake Region High School Teacher Carmel Collins suggested TSP visit Pleasant Mountain. In October, 25 students, teachers and family members participated in this unique program and hiked up the Ledges Trail to the summit of Pleasant Mountain and then down the Bald Peak Trail. The stones and stories are hiked up to the summit, shared amongst the participants and then hiked back down to continue their journey to new summits. Please visit [mainememorial.org](http://mainememorial.org) or their Facebook page for more information.



Memorial stones were placed at Pleasant Mountain Summit along with Maine and American flags, which were flown in Iraq.

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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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PAM EDWARDS



**Hometown:** Casco  
**Hobbies:** Gardening, hiking, reading, snowshoeing  
**First connected with Loon Echo:** Pleasant Mountain Phase I campaign in 2003  
**Past volunteer roles:** Lands Committee member, conservation easement monitor, regional conservation planning.

**Current volunteer roles:** Cartographer and baseline documentation.

**Why do you volunteer?** "I became interested in land conservation when I worked on Casco's Comprehensive Plan, seeing it as an important tool to help preserve the rural landscape. I particularly like doing the fieldwork – it gets me outdoors and gives me a chance to explore a new property...it's great seeing the way the fieldwork translates into the maps and the baseline documentation. I have been able to use a lot of my professional skills as a volunteer, and I think that, as well as working with Carrie, has contributed to my sense of satisfaction over the years. An organization whose mission I care about and skills I like using: what more could a volunteer ask for!"

"Pam has been working by my side since I first became executive director in 2008. Her attention to detail, mapping abilities, strategic thinking and weekly presence has benefited both Loon Echo and me personally," said Carrie Walia, Executive Director.

### Truck Needed

As Loon Echo's stewardship responsibilities grow, so does the need for a reliable work truck. Please consider donating your lightly used truck to Loon Echo to aid in the day-to-day land management tasks. A road worthy truck is essential. Please contact [jon@lelt.org](mailto:jon@lelt.org) if you are interested in making a donation.

### Apparel for Purchase

We offer t-shirts, polos and fleece vests that display our logo. You can represent your favorite regional conservation organization in style.

- T-shirts - \$12.00
- Polos - \$25.00
- Fleece Vests - \$35.00

Order apparel on-line at [www.loonecholandtrust.org](http://www.loonecholandtrust.org) or call the office at 207-647-4352.



# TREK 2014 STATS

- \$79,626 was raised from sponsorships, registrations and pledges (of which \$45,325 were in-kind donations),
- 296 trekkers hiked up to six miles or biked up to 100 miles
- 48 businesses sponsored
- 84 community members volunteered



BOB TRAVIS

## 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.

Longtime LETL member and animal lover Marilyn VanSaun of Bridgton died on August 28, 2014. Thanks to her generous bequest, Loon Echo was able to launch the North Peak Project to protect the last major peak on Pleasant Mountain.

Thank you to the Bob Chase Society members (\*deceased):

Helen Allen*	David Hursty
Connie Cross	Linda May
Florence A. Combes*	Norman Nicholson
Eric Dibner	David Stanley*
Nancy Gillis*	Marilyn VanSaun*

*For more information about making a planned gift, call us at (207) 647-4352 or [info@lelt.org](mailto:info@lelt.org).*



MARY JEWETT

2014 Loon Echo Trek bicyclists, hikers and cheerleaders.



LEIGH MACMILLLEN HAYES

Jon Evans leading a hike to Bald Pate Summit in January.

## The Sustainability Society

*A special giving program of Loon Echo Land Trust*

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Loon Echo is pleased to announce that we are now accepting recurring monthly or annual donations as part of the Sustainability Society. Recurring donations are the best way to provide steady support to Loon Echo year round. If you are interested in setting up a recurring gift, look for information in your annual fund renewal letter or contact Heather Rorer at [membership@lelt.org](mailto:membership@lelt.org) or 207-647-4352.



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*Address service requested*



JON EVANS

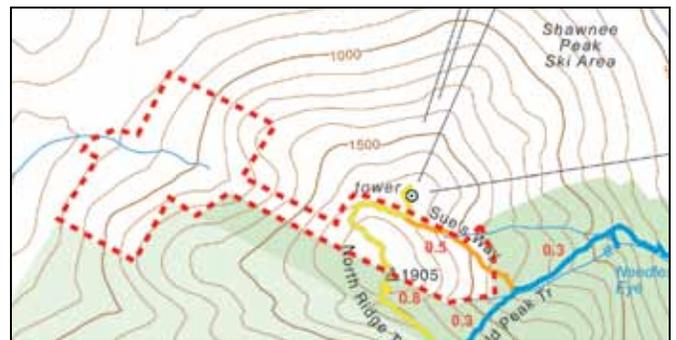
*Rare Red Pine Woodland and view of Mount Kearsarge from the North Peak.*

## The North Peak- Under Contract

THE LAST MAJOR PEAK ON PLEASANT MOUNTAIN'S RIDGELINE IS NOW UNDER CONTRACT FOR permanent protection. Loon Echo signed an agreement in January with Chet Homer of Shawnee Peak Ski Area for the purchase of 160 acres, including the North Peak, and additional forested parcels to the west.

Pleasant Mountain is currently Loon Echo's largest preserve. Since 2003, nearly 2,000 acres has been set aside on the mountain for the benefit of current and future generations, much in part due to over \$2 million in private gifts and state and foundation grants. Over the years hundreds of hours of volunteer time (mainly from the Appalachian Mountain Club) have been put into improving the 10 mile hiking trail system.

However, the majority of the North Peak had remained unprotected and on the land trust's high priority plan for conservation. The North Peak is unique in that it hosts a rare Red Pine Woodland designated by the State of Maine's Natural Areas Program. The woodland environment includes carpets of fresh blueberries, low shrubs and stark granite outcroppings under a healthy stand of red pine trees; and with it all, a fabulous view of the White



*Dotted outline is North Peak property under contract.*

Mountains. A comprehensive ecological plan commissioned by Loon Echo in 2011 identified three additional small, rare ecological areas of significance on the North Peak property.

Large sections of the Sue's Way Trail and North Ridge Trail (7/10th of a mile in total) will be protected as a result of this purchase. These two trails offer an interesting loop hike from the Bald Peak Trail to the top of the North Peak.

As with most of our projects, funds need to be raised! Loon Echo encourages tax-deductible donations to be given before **June 1st** to allow the first contract payment to be made. For more information, please contact Carrie Walia, Executive Director (see Page 2 for contact information).