



DAVE DOWLER

A winter wonderland at Pismire Mountain and the Raymond Community Forest.

The Raymond Forest Extends, Closing in Sight

THE RAYMOND COMMUNITY FOREST PROJECT IS NEARING THE FINISH LINE AFTER A CHALLENGING but rewarding year. Kevin Hancock of Hancock Land Company recently signed a six month contract extension through June 30th so Loon Echo Land Trust and its partners could wait out Governor LePage and his hold on the Land for Maine's Future Program (LMF). The generous grant from LMF is vital to our campaign.

In early 2015, the Governor started a nearly year-long effort to withhold all \$12.5 million in LMF funds and bonds that were approved by Maine voters in 2010 and 2012. The bond language allows the Governor to withhold borrowing these funds for fiscal reasons. However, the Governor had made it clear that these LMF funds were being held up solely for political reasons, as leverage to secure passage of an unrelated bill in the legislature that attempted to increase timber harvesting on public

reserve lands beyond the constitutional limit. The conservation community, landowners, legislators and many citizens pushed against the Governor's actions, calling him out his disregard for public will and opinion.

In October 2015, Republican and Democratic polling firms joined together to complete a survey of 500 likely Maine voters. The results show that 74% of Maine voters wanted the Governor to release all the LMF bond funds, and that support for continued funding for the

The LMF saga and funding delay could be seen as a blessing in disguise for the Raymond Forest, as it has allowed additional time for the local campaign to spread its message to residents and visitors to further build public support and involvement.

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LOON ECHO
LAND TRUST

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STARTING DOWN THE PATH TO ACCREDITATION

IN 2013, LOON ECHO SET IN MOTION A NEW THREE YEAR strategic plan to guide the organization's evolution and the growth of its primary programs. One of the four major goals identified is for Loon Echo to become an accredited land trust. With grant support from the Maine Land Trust Network's Excellence Program and an anonymous foundation, the board and staff members have started the journey of preparing for accreditation.

Consultant Henrietta Jordan of Keene Valley, NY was hired last spring to oversee the year and a half process and offer support and guidance. Henri wrote much of the original land trust accreditation manual when she was employed with the Land Trust Alliance, a national conservation organization working to save the places people love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance publishes Land Trust Standards and Practices and selects the indicator practices that serve as the basis for the accreditation program.

In 2006 the Land Trust Accreditation Commission was incorporated as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance to operate an innovative program to build and recognize strong land trusts, foster public confidence in land conservation and help ensure the long-term protection of land. As of late 2015, there are 317 accredited land trusts in 46 U.S. states and territories, of which 23 are from Maine.

"Accreditation for Loon Echo is essential to maintaining the confidence of our contributors and communities and it is helping us improve our internal practices. We are revising record-keeping, documentation, and other policies and by September 2016 we expect to submit the extensive application in order to receive this seal of approval," said Eric Dibner, Loon Echo board member.

WELCOMING NEW DIRECTORS AND PERSONNEL

DIRECTORS SARAH AND JANET SEAWARD OF CAMP NASHOBA North in Raymond hosted Loon Echo's 28th Annual Meeting on August 23, 2015. The members present voted to elect a new director, Sheila Bourque of Raymond, and they renewed the terms of directors Jerry Holt of Sebago, Ed Friedman of Falmouth and Raymond, and Norm Nicholson of Bridgton, all for a three year term of service.

In addition Loon Echo has welcomed several changes to our board leadership and staff. Director and long time supporter, David Diller of North Bridgton was passed the torch as Loon Echo's new Board President. Kevin Wall of Marblehead, MA and Harrison took on a leadership role now serving as Vice-President of the Board.

We are also pleased to welcome Secretary, Sheila Bourque. No stranger to New England, Sheila has relocated to Raymond permanently after a 40 year hiatus

The 2015 year-end and annual fund drives were successful in **raising over \$100,000.**

In 2015 Loon Echo welcomed 189 new households and businesses. A total of 832 households and businesses supported the land trust in 2015 as members and donors to special projects such as the Raymond Community Forest campaign. **Thank you**—our supporters—all for your support in making last year so successful!



Sheila Bourque, Board Secretary



Kelli and Abby Shedd

in the Chicago area. With a strong background in human resources, information systems as well as leadership and volunteer expertise with non-profit organizations, Sheila has graced us with her talents on important projects such as the Raymond Community Forest Project and our efforts to become accredited with the Land Trust Alliance.

This past September we welcomed Kelli Shedd as our part-time Membership Manager. She will oversee our membership and communications efforts, as well as media and design. Kelli came to Loon Echo after 8 years of working for the Appalachian Mountain Club in a variety of roles, most recently as their Outreach Volunteer Coordinator. Kelli's background also includes several years working as a park ranger in Northeastern Connecticut with the D.E.E.P. alongside her career as a freelance illustrator and designer. In her spare time she enjoys hiking, drawing, and finger painting with her two-year-old daughter.

Heather Rorer, Conservation Outreach Manager has transitioned away from her work with membership to fully focus on conservation and mapping for Loon Echo. Pam Edwards has been working closely with Heather to pass on her knowledge and skills in GIS as Pam will be concluding

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STAFF

Executive Director
Carrie Walia, carrie@lelt.org

Stewardship Manager
Jon Evans, jon@lelt.org

Membership Manager
Kelli Shedd,
membership@lelt.org

Conservation Outreach Manager, Heather Rorer,
conservation@lelt.org

SPECIALISTS (NON-STAFF)

Cartographer
Pam Edwards
mapping@lelt.org

Trek Manager
Tracy Burk,
trek@lelt.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Diller, *President*
Kevin Wall, *Vice President*

Bob Gowdy, *Treasurer*
Sheila Bourque, *Secretary*

Connie Cross

Eric Dibner

Karen Eller

Allen Erler

Ed Friedman

Jerry Holt

Norm Nicholson

Carol Sudduth



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PROJECT UPDATES

CROOKED RIVER FOREST PROJECT AND HARVEST UPDATE

LOON ECHO GOT ITS FEET WET WITH ITS FIRST CROOKED RIVER land purchase on Scribners Mills Road in Harrison in June of 2015. The 300 acre Intervale parcel was welcomed into our portfolio after nearly four years of planning, discussions, grant writing and waiting for the release of a Land for Maine's Future Program (LMF) grant. The LMF grant payout was held up due to Governor LePage's interference, but this unnecessary hurdle was overcome thanks to a one year \$178,000 loan issued by the Norcross Wildlife Foundation.

Because of the uncertainty with the grant, and the short nature of the loan, Loon Echo immediately transitioned into forest management planning with the intent of using harvest income to pay down a portion of the loan. The property had previously been managed to encourage stands of healthy white pine, red pine and other species tolerant of dry, sandy soils. Thankfully the forest was well stocked allowing Loon Echo to carry seller Bob Carlson of C.L.T. Company's wishes forward to keep Intervale a working forest.

The fall timber harvest was led by our forester Jeremy Stultz of Integrated Forest Management and logger Glen Luce Logging and Chipping, both of Turner, Maine. A generous 300-foot, no-cut buffer was established along the Crooked River and 100-foot buffers were marked along streams and wetlands. Coarse sand deposits in the upland areas, unique to this region, were treated with minimal disturbance. The following overarching goals set the tone for the harvest.

- Protect soil and water quality with particular emphasis on maintaining a healthy Crooked River;
- Protect biological features including riparian zones and wetlands;
- Protect and enhance fisheries and wildlife habitat through natural forest diversity and structure;
- Maintain overall forest health with well-balanced management that provides sustainable growth and revenue;
- Maintain resilience of native biodiversity and ecosystem processes in the face of climate change; and
- Offer quality aesthetic and recreational opportunities to the community.

According to Stultz, this harvest is described as a "final entry, long shelterwood with reserves." This harvesting system is where an overstory of quality crop trees is managed in successive entries (10-20 years apart), which both improves the growing stock and regenerates the stand. As the overstory is thinned, younger trees in the understory grow and develop in the shelter of the larger trees above. A long shelterwood is generally completed in three harvests, with the final entry being one that removes much of the overstory, allowing a fully stocked stand of young trees to grow freely. It's called a final entry, but the overstory wasn't fully removed, leaving a reserve of evenly spaced mature crop trees in place to add structure and provide additional seed source for future seedling growth.

The harvest has now concluded, and in the spring of next year, two new culverts will be installed to handle snow-melt and storm water runoff, easing any concerns of erosion. Additionally, the woods roads and log landings



will be restored so that recreational uses such as horseback riding, walking and mountain biking can continue. Snowmobiling season is underway and Loon Echo is working with the Harrison Friendly Riders for use and grooming on designated trails.

When the Governor announced in late 2015 that he would authorize the LMF program funds to be spent and bonds to be issued, the harvest was two weeks away from being finished. Thankfully, now the harvest revenue can go where it was originally intended- to a stewardship reserve fund to cover costs associated with perpetual management and the payment of property taxes. The LMF grant is expected to be delivered sometime in early 2016, and will come from just over \$2 million in funds in the LMF checking account.

Loon Echo would like to thank the Maine Forest Service and Carol and David Hancock Charitable Trust for approving two grants post-closing to help cover costs associated with management plan creation and the loan. (A full list of project funders and partners was reported in our summer/fall 2015 issue and is available at www.LELT.org.)

See related article on page 5

Where do the wood products go after harvesting at Intervale?

The pine logs went to the Irving mill in Dixfield, where they are sawn, dried, planed and shipped to retailers up and down the eastern seaboard. The pulpwood has been divided amongst the mills in Jay and Rumford, where it's processed into various grades of paper. The spruce logs are trucked to a concentration yard and then shipped to Stratton Lumber (in Stratton, Maine) where they are sawn into dimension lumber for general construction, again dried and shipped throughout the eastern US. The biomass chips end up at a few different

power-plants, all in Maine. All of these products end up supporting Maine mills and Maine workers; the positive economic impact spreads far and wide.

A comprehensive report from 2011 showed that the Maine Forest Industry had a total economic impact of \$8 billion dollars. One dollar out of every \$16 in Maine's gross state product is associated with the forest products sector. <http://www.forestsformainefuture.org/fresh-from-the-woods-journal/maines-forest-economy-a-new-report.html>

JANUARY- JUNE 2016 EVENT CALENDAR

Snowshoe Hike at the Musers Bowl

January 23, Bridgton

Join Loon Echo and the Portland Water District for a snowshoe hike from Five Fields Farm to the summit of Bald Pate Mountain on Saturday January 23rd. Meet at the farm stand at 9:00 AM. Learn about land conservation in the Sebago Lake watershed and its impact on greater Portland residents. This event is in conjunction with the Downeast Sled Dog Club's, Musers Bowl Weekend at the farm. The hike and snowshoe rentals are free however there is a \$5 fee to enter the Musers Bowl. If the Musers Bowl is postponed, the hike will go on! Approximately 3 hours. *Moderate to strenuous*

Great Maine Outdoors Weekend

February 12-14, Bridgton

This weekend features a variety of great outdoors activities across the Northeast. Come along with Maine Master Naturalist Leigh Hayes to explore Pondicherry Park on snowshoe, Saturday February 13th. Meet at the main kiosk at the Dunning Memorial Bridge on Depot Street at 1:30 PM. After the hike, walk on over to the Depot Street Tap House for something to warm you up inside! Hot cocoa and cookies will be free to trekkers. (Snowshoes available upon reservation.) Approximately 2 hours. *Easy to moderate*

Welcome Spring Hike

March 20, Bridgton

Get up early and join Jon Evans for this very worthwhile annual hike to catch the first sunrise of spring from the summit of

All outdoor events are subject to weather conditions and/or date changes. Events will be cancelled when dangerous conditions or heavy weather are forecasted. For more information, please contact (207) 647-4352, jon@lelt.org or check our website at www.lelt.org for updates and additional activities. 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. Like us on Facebook for information on upcoming programs!

Bald Pate Mountain. Meet at the main parking area at 6:00 AM on Sunday March 20. Snowshoes, or traction devices recommended, water, snacks and a headlamp are encouraged. Conditions permitting, this is a special hike! In the event of snow or rain, the event will be canceled. Approximately 2 hours. *Moderate*

Earth Day Cleanup

April 22, Bridgton

Meet staff from Loon Echo and Lakes Environmental Association at the Bridgton Community center at 9 AM, Friday April 22 for a morning of cleaning up Bridgton streets. Work boots, gloves, bug spray, food and water recommended. Approximately 3 hours. *Moderate.*

Earth Day Hike

April 22, Bridgton

Join Loon Echo staff and friends as we make the trek to the rocky summit of Bald Pate on Friday April 22, at 3:00 PM. Feel free to share music, poems or stories that embody the spirit of the day. Sturdy hiking boots or shoes, water and snacks encouraged. After the hike, trekkers are invited to Brays Brew Pub in Naples for a pint of Bald Pate Preservation Rye! Since 1997, Brays has donated a portion of the proceeds from this special batch to the ongoing stewardship efforts at Bald Pate. Can't make the hike? Plan on Brays around 5:00 PM. *Moderate*



Paint the Town Fundraiser

April 21, Harrison

Enjoy a night of fun, friends

and art! Karen Schroeder Daniels will lead participants, step by step, through an artistic adventure where you will have the chance to create a beautiful work of art based on one of Karen's original works based on Bald Pate Mountain. No prior artistic experience or skill required! \$40 includes the artwork to take home, drinks and light appetizers. RSVP in advance to Karen's webpage (paintthetownwithme.com) or to Loon Echo at (207) 647-4352 or info@lelt.org to ensure a spot; space is limited.



Bald Peak trail reroute steps

Trail Work at Pleasant Mountain

April 23, Denmark

Interested in trail maintenance? Come along with Loon Echo and the Maine AMC chapter as we make our return to the Ledges Trail after the long winter, Saturday April 23 at 7:45 AM. Clearing drainage, building rock steps and removing brush will be on the agenda. Tools and training provided. Please meet at the Ledges Trail parking area. Appropriate work clothes and boots required, plenty of water and snacks always encouraged. Approximately 6 hours. *Strenuous*

Wildflower Walk

May 14, Denmark

May is time for a new beginning in the plant world. Join Loon Echo as we climb the Southwest Ridge Trail at Pleasant Mountain in search of Lady's Slippers, Wild Columbine and other interesting blooms, Saturday May 14, at 8:00 AM. Hikers should meet at the trail head on Denmark Road. Conditions can vary in May, so bring appropriate hiking boots or shoes, layers of clothing and of course food and plenty of water. Bug spray is important as ticks are heavy this time of year. Approximately 5 hours. *Moderate to strenuous*



An Evening of Theater Arts Fundraiser

May 21, Denmark

Join Loon Echo and the

Denmark Arts Center for a theatrical event featuring the talented story-actor, Paddy Lynn of Illinois, as she embodies the role of Harriet Beecher Stowe. In addition we will be hosting a reception prior to the event with a silent art auction of local works. Proceeds to benefit the D.A.C. and our Raymond Community Forest Project. Reception begins at 4:30pm and the performance begins at 5:30 pm. Performance approximately 60 minutes in length. \$15 suggested donation.

Explore Raymond Community Forest

June 17, Raymond

TGIF bushwhack hike up Pismire Mountain, Friday June 17 at 5:00 PM. The Raymond Community Forest is the newest land conservation project undertaken by Loon Echo and the Town of Raymond's Conservation Commission. Pismire Mountain looms over the 350 acre property, offering stunning southerly views of area lakes and ponds. Meet at the log landing on Conesca Road (look for event

signs). Sturdy hiking boots or shoes, water and snacks encouraged. Approximately 2 hours. *Moderate to strenuous*

Summer Solstice Hike

June 20th, Bridgton

Join us for the summer solstice hike up Bald Pate Mountain. Meet at the main parking lot at 3:00 PM. This annual trek has been a Loon Echo tradition for nearly 20 years, a fun way to welcome summer's arrival! Sturdy hiking boots or shoes, water and snacks are always encouraged. Approximately 2 hours. *Moderate*

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her time as our Cartographer this spring. Thank you, Pam for all you have contributed over the past eight years!

In January, Loon Echo signed a contract with Tracy Burk of Denmark to be our new Trek Manager. Tracy is an avid runner, hiker and cyclist, and has participated the Loon Echo Trek events with her husband Christopher and their children since relocating from Minnesota in 2009. As volunteers, Tracy and Christopher took over the management of the 2015 Trek event mid-way through the year. Through their commitment to the Trek, it was evident that Tracy's attention to detail and ability to work well with others would qualify her for the contract position.



Tracy Burk

CARRIE WALIA

the executive director before submitting an application (www.LELT.org, then click on "About Us" and "Job Vacancies"). Resumes will be accepted until February 15 or until the position is filled.

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REYNOLDS FAMILY DONATES ACCESS LOT

SMALL LOTS ARE NOT TYPICALLY ON THE LIST OF SOUGHT after properties for permanent conservation, but they are important when they serve a desired purpose or provide connectivity. This past September, Gordon Reynolds of the Reynolds Family Revocable Trust donated to Loon Echo a 2.4 acre parcel on Scribners Mills Road in Harrison. "Gordon and his family learned of our efforts to conserve the neighboring Intervale property, and soon after they contacted us. Our Board of Directors was more than happy to accept this lot as it offers superior and permanent access to Intervale, and it will allow us to build a small parking lot for public access," said Carrie Walia, executive director. When access to a public roadway can be owned in fee vs. controlled by an easement or right-of-way, the management is easier and clearer. A 50 x 150 foot area has been cleared of trees where approximately six cars and two trucks with horse trailers may be parked. Loon Echo will improve this parking area next summer, and with it, safer and secure public access for walking, horseback riding, fishing and hunting to the 300 acre Intervale forest and the Crooked River. In the future, the parking lot may be plowed if cross country skiing and snowmobile parking is desired by the community.

THE SEARCH IS ON FOR OUR NEXT LEADER

AFTER TWELVE YEARS OF WORKING FOR LOON ECHO, EXECUTIVE director Carrie Walia informed the Board of Directors that she'll be resigning from her position to move back home to Wisconsin later this summer. Carrie's anticipated departure has caused the organization to begin planning for the hiring of a new leader, and so an announcement has been posted to Loon Echo's website and various conservation and non-profit professional job boards across the nation.

Ideally the Board would like to have a three month overlap in leadership so that her institutional knowledge can be passed along, and additional time can be given toward preparing for the submission of the land trust accreditation application. "The next year will be difficult as we continue the accreditation process and execute a change over to a new executive director. This period will require additional time and effort from all Board members but could be beneficial in strengthening the Board as we move ahead over the next few years," said Norm Nicholson, director and past president.

On Loon Echo's website is a detailed job description for those interested. We are looking for candidates with experience in land conservation and non-profit leadership. Please read all about the responsibilities and roles of

LOON ECHO TREK 2015 STATS AND 2016 DATE

THANK YOU to all who participated and generously donated to make our biggest annual fundraiser a success!

- \$63,011 was raised from sponsorships, registrations and pledges (*Of which \$30,000 were in-kind donations*);
- 248 trekkers hiked up to six miles or biked up to 100 miles;
- 48 businesses sponsored;
- 67 community members volunteered.

SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

NOTES FROM THE TRAIL

THE 2015 HIKING SEASON SAW RECORD NUMBERS OF GUESTS on Loon Echo land due to great snowshoe opportunities extending into late March, followed by dry spring and summer days, concluding with marvelous fall and early winter conditions. Guests got to try out the new re-route on the Bald Peak Trail at Pleasant Mountain. Loon Echo reached out to the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) for guidance on repairing the badly eroded upper portion of the trail in the fall of 2014. Coincidentally, Steve and Betsy Corman had contacted AMC about making a donation to a major trail project. Betsy was an avid hiker and most fond of the mountains of Maine and New Hampshire and was battling cancer. The Cormans liked the Pleasant Mountain project and decided to fund it. The re-route was planned and built by the AMC over the summer of 2015 using a professional crew. The end result provided hikers with a more gradual ascent. Many new sets of wood and stone steps and water bars will reduce soil erosion into near-by streams that feed into Moose Pond. In conjunction with repairing the trail, providing guests with a safe place to park was a major consideration as there were numerous safety concerns with the road-side parking and its impact on neighbors. A portion of the major gift was earmarked for Bald Peak Trail parking and combined with generous donations from Mountain Road neighbors the parking area project was completed in early August. The parking area site work was done by Khiel Excavation of Denmark, and will be plowed this winter.

LAST SUMMER, EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE THOMAS CARROLL of Raymond spent hours “capping” the old sand pit area at the Perley Pond-Northwest River Preserve in Sebago as his Eagle Scout project. He applied sawdust, hay, wood chips, composted manure and other organic materials to the sandy surface that will in turn promote the germination of seeds on the baron sand, allowing the eventual return to a forested landscape. Several hours were spent beforehand picking up hundreds of shot gun shells, broken glass and other debris left over from when the pit was used for target practice. We would like to congratulate Thomas for receiving his Eagle rank on November 5, 2015!

THE CURIOUS NATURALIST: MOOSE DECLINE; TWO WORDS that unfortunately will be heard more often as our most lovable Maine creature has some very significant challenges facing it. To begin with, warmer and shorter winters have exasperated the winter tick impact first recognized in Maine in the 1930's. Ticks that used to jump off moose in April typically died in the snow. Now, they are falling onto bare ground too often and the population has exploded. An adult moose can be host to nearly 100,000 ticks, creating a domino effect of health issues. In 2014, 30 moose were collared by Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), to study calves or adults that die. Of those 30, all but 8 died. However, biologists believe there are other factors at play, not just winter tick. An already sick moose from winter tick is now more susceptible to parasites including lungworm which restricts lung function in moose. Additionally, climate change has led to the



DANIEL BERGERON, NGS

increase in the white tailed deer population which carries brain worm. Deer seem to live with brain worm but for the moose, it is terminal. The decline of our mighty moose is distressing and it will impact Maine's economy. In 2011, wildlife watching, including moose watching, contributed nearly \$800 million to the Maine economy, compared to \$200 million contributed by hunting. Let us hope that things turn around for these beloved gentle giants.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

ERIC DIBNER



JOHN EVANS

Eric Dibner at Mayberry Preserve in Casco

Hometown: Casco, ME

Hobbies: Reading books on paper for the feel of the volume and pages to turn; poetry as a part of the Mountain Poets Society in Oxford Hills; watercolor painting; and studying the fungi kingdom and the symbiotic relationship it creates with the earth, plants and animals.

Current LEIT volunteer rolls: Board of Directors, Lands Committee, Accreditation working committee

Why do you volunteer? “There is little time and many ways to spend it.” Other current volunteer endeavors include serving as chair on the Casco Open Space Commission and building ramps where there is a need and there is time, such as the ramp of the Matolcsy Center for the Arts in Norway, ME.

Eric has been involved with Loon Echo from its inception as a way to regenerate heritage and protect the future of what he loves, the open space of Maine. He and his wife, OmDevi, began learning about preserving lands while working with the Arcadia Conservation Trust and the Casco Conservation Commission in the mid to late eighties. At this time he and other founding members of Loon Echo began to work together creating our land trust. Much has been accomplished and many spaces protected in this time and while if pressed, his favorite Loon Echo conservation property would be North Peak of Pleasant Mountain, Eric's true favorite places are the ones we have yet to protect.

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grant program appears to be grounded in part in Maine's residents' continued belief that conserving land is beneficial for the economy. They view these efforts as so critical to the state that a growing 82 percent said that the state should "still find the money to invest in protecting Maine's land, water and wildlife...even when the state budget is tight." Voters certainly emailed and called their legislators regarding the matter, and several of the no-nonsense bills that have been introduced recently to help restore the LMF bonds have been watched closely by constituents. (Thanks to all Loon Echo members and friends who took action and contacted their legislators!)

In November 2015, \$6.47 million of LMF bond funds that were approved in 2010 expired because they were not borrowed within five years time. In mid-December, the Governor abruptly changed his position and said he intends to issue the \$5 million in available bonds. In his same announcement, he falsely accuses the LMF program of benefiting "rich landowners and well-funded conservation organizations." The Governor's announcement was a welcome turn-around of events, and we thank him for doing what is right for Maine's people, its outdoor heritage and way of life. Additional action is in motion by the legislature to renew the expired \$6.47 million in bonds so all approved land conservation projects can benefit.

The LMF saga and funding delay could be seen as a blessing in disguise for the Raymond Forest, as it has allowed additional time for the local campaign to spread its message to residents and visitors to further build public support and involvement. The total campaign goal is \$680,000, and it focuses on the acquisition of the property, and the associated steps that come with such a major land purchase. Today we are within \$25,000 of that goal. Recreational planning and construction will be the next phase of the project. Recently a grant request was sent to the Maine Recreational Trails Program to seek support to help start recreational development.

The campaign will continue this winter and spring, so if you haven't already contributed, please consider a

donation of any amount to the project. Gifts may be made by sending in a check with "Raymond Community Forest" in the memo, or by going online to www.LELT.org and click on the featured project page so the gift is attributed to the project. "Loon Echo has been fortunate to have over 225 households and ten partnering organizations and grant makers contribute so far, including the Town of Raymond. I'm confident that we'll close by this June, and in doing so, we will welcome a diverse forest and much of Pismire Mountain into permanent conservation," said Carrie Walia, executive director of Loon Echo.

The Sustainability Society

A special giving program of Loon Echo Land Trust



Loon Echo accepts recurring monthly, quarterly or annual donations as part of the Sustainability Society. Recurring donations from a checking account, savings account or credit card 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

Kelli Shedd at membership@lelt.org or 207-647-4352.

Thank you to the following members of our Sustainability Program that make recurring gifts to help grow and sustain our mission:

Norman and Eleanor Nicholson
Margaret Nation
Karen Eller
Paul and Lucia Woodruff
Frederica Baxter
Alan Sparks
Daniel and Betsy Crofts
Patricia Banks



John Rand of the New England Jazz Band (right) organized a fundraiser for the RCF bringing in \$4,500!

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 or call the office at 207-647-4352.





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Address service requested



JON EVANS

Sunset over snowy field.

The Bob Chase Legacy Society

WHEN ORGANIZATIONS TALK ABOUT PLANNED GIVING, WHAT DOES this make you think of? While this can be an immediate action, most often planned giving is the act of setting up a future gift to an organization that is specified in a will or trust. After taking care of family and other loved ones, many folks decide to bequest a gift for a specific use or to an organization. Planned giving to Loon Echo Land Trust allows you to leave a legacy of your own by helping to protect land in the northern Sebago Lake region of Maine for future generations. This can take shape in as stock, a percentage of your estate, fixed dollar amount or personal property like real estate.

Loon Echo formed the Bob Chase Legacy Society in 2009 to recognize those wishing to leave a lasting legacy through our mission of land conservation and stewardship. Bob Chase was a lover of the natural world and the primary public face of Loon Echo through the organization's first 15 years. Passionate and charismatic, Bob's vision and leadership were a driving force behind Loon Echo's initial

—
Long-time supporter Nancy Gillis died in 2010, but her legacy will live forever – both through the land she and her husband John donated in 1990 that became the Mayberry Hill Preserve, and later through a generous bequest.
—

formation and successes until his passing in 2005. In naming the Society after Bob we seek to honor his lifelong commitment to make the world a better place.

Loon Echo is interested in speaking with landowners with large forested, farmland or waterfront properties located in the Lake Region that may deserve permanent protection through a bequest. Planning for the proper management of open space should be an early consideration that a landowner makes in their estate planning. Such lands (or conservation easements) can be bequeathed for lasting, permanent protection through Loon Echo. Contact us to learn if your land qualifies for our guarantee of perpetual protection.

Anyone who makes a bequest or other planned gift to Loon Echo becomes a member of the Bob Chase Legacy Society. Regardless of your age, or the size of your bequest or planned gift, you're invited to join the Bob Chase Legacy Society. (If you prefer to remain anonymous, we will honor your wish; recognition is optional.) There is great satisfaction in knowing you've played a unique and long-lasting role in protecting our open spaces, natural resources, and rural character.

Be sure to consult with your attorney. If you have general questions, please contact us at 207-647-4352.