



LEE DASSLER

A fisherman enjoying the Crooked River by Twin Bridges.

Protection for the Crooked River

ALMOST 60 YEARS AGO, ROBERT CARLSON'S FATHER-IN-LAW ASKED HIM TO WATCH OVER CLOSE TO 3,000 acres of forested land in the Crooked River watershed. Since that time, Carlson has taken special care of the properties and selectively harvested as needed under the guidance of forester Fred Huntress, but has never let windfall profits from potential development entice him to sell the land.

At the end of June, Carlson sold 790 acres in Harrison and Otisfield, Maine, including 3.5 miles of frontage along the Crooked River to Loon Echo Land Trust and Western Foothills Land Trust to conserve the land for future generations. Carlson offered the land trusts a bargain sale, donating the majority of the value associated with three of the five project parcels. "Someone has to look forward and not let everything be sold for the dollar. You have to look ahead and see that some things got to remain the same," said Carlson.

By conserving these properties, Loon Echo and Western Foothills land trusts are helping to protect wildlife habitat, trout and landlocked salmon fisheries and the water quality of the river and where it flows to, Sebago Lake, the public drinking source of 200,000 people in the greater Portland area. In addition, these properties provide outstanding recreational opportunities that include permanent public access for hunting, fishing, canoeing, trapping, walking/hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and

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CHRISTOPHER CROSBY, SUN JOURNAL

Robert Carlson at his home in Harrison.

"Someone has to look forward and not let everything be sold for the dollar. You have to look ahead and see that some things got to remain the same," said Carlson.



LOON ECHO
LAND TRUST

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Shed at Hacker's Hill built by juniors in the Lake Region Vocational Center's Construction Technologies program.

HACKER'S HILL EDUCATIONAL GRANT

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF THE PYLE FOUNDATION, Loon Echo is working on a number of projects to engage and educate youth at Hacker's Hill.

SUPPLY SHED

Juniors in the Lake Region Vocational Center's Construction Technologies program worked with Jon Evans to build a shed for holding educational and stewardship supplies at the Hill. It was delivered to the Hill this May with the help of J.M. Enterprise.

STAR PARTY

In collaboration with the Raymond and Casco Public Libraries, the second annual "Evening Star Party" will be held on August 12th. Children and youth will be engaged in identifying constellations and planets with telescopes, high powered binoculars and other information. The Hill's 360-degree dark night sky is a perfect location for this event. See the calendar of events on page 4 for more information on this event.

KITE MAKING AND FLYING

Loon Echo will partner with the Casco Recreation Department to offer a kite flying program on August 21st. Children will assemble their own kites and fly them on the Hill. The Town of Casco was generous in supporting the campaign to protect the Hill and we are happy to work with them to provide this unique experience on the Hill. For more information on this event, see the calendar of events on page 4 or check with the Casco Recreation Department (<http://www.cascomaine.org/recreation.htm>).

GEOLOGICAL GUIDE AND DISPLAY

Hacker's Hill has an amazing geologic story to tell. The Maine Geological Survey inventoried the rocks found at the Hill and now Loon Echo is developing a hands-on guide that will soon be available at the informational kiosk (and website) for use by children and families to discover the history right beneath their feet. Thanks to state geologist Robert G. Marvinney, Ph.D. and retired state geologist Walter Anderson for their help in developing this information.

We are also developing a three foot wide panoramic display to document the mountain ranges seen from the Hill. There will be mountains identified and interesting facts so visitors can match what they are observing to how the landscape was formed hundreds of thousands of years ago. Thanks to Dick Anderson and Earl Raymond for their help with the mountain range display that will be installed this fall.

FEATURED EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us for our 28th annual meeting at Camp Nashoba North in Raymond on Sunday, August 23 from 5:30 to 8pm. We will be featuring the Crooked River Forests Project, Raymond Community Forest and providing updates on other ongoing projects. We will also elect officers and review the financial report. Please RSVP by August 17th with your choice of vegetarian or non-vegetarian meal and payment either by mailing the enclosed form, calling (207) 647-4352 or emailing membership@lelt.org.

BRIDGTON VILLAGE FOLK FESTIVAL

Loon Echo plans to have a booth this year on Saturday at the Bridgton Village Folk Festival (www.facebook.com/villagefolkfest). The family friendly community event focusing on locally made products from food to crafts to music is on Friday, August 21 and Saturday, August 22 right outside the Loon Echo office on Depot Street in Bridgton. Stewardship Manager Jon Evans will be at the festival as well as leading a couple of historic hikes that day with the Bridgton Historical Society (see calendar of events on page 4). If you are interested in helping staff the Loon Echo booth for an hour, please contact Jon at jon@lelt.org.

BACK TO THE PAST AT SCRIBNERS MILL

Join Loon Echo and the Back to the Past event on Saturday, August 1st for our hosting of horse logging and portable saw mill demonstrations by John Plowden and family of Plowden Horse Logging of Stow, Maine (<http://www.plowdenhorselogging.com/>) and Brian Grady of Sebago Custom Sawing. The educational demonstrations will take place from 10 am to 4 pm at the recently purchased Intervale parcel on Scribners Mills Road in Harrison, located just west of the mill site. John and Brian will showcase and discuss historic and current horse logging and saw milling methods. Visitors are encouraged to also attend Back to the Past (\$8 admission for ages 13 and up; <http://www.scribnersmill.org/>) and ride the shuttle wagon to and from our Intervale property.

STAFF

Executive Director
Carrie Walia, carrie@lelt.org

Stewardship Manager
Jon Evans, jon@lelt.org

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

SPECIALISTS (NON-STAFF)

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PROJECT UPDATES



RAYMOND COMMUNITY FOREST

THIS SUMMER, VOLUNTEERS ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE for the campaign to protect the 350 acre Raymond Community Forest will be active within the area, promoting the project by visiting with local organizations and holding events. The project has a tremendous amount of community support due to the value it offers, including protection of water quality, conservation of plant and animal habitat, and the creation of new recreational opportunities. Organizations that have endorsed the project and have offered a helping hand include the Raymond Conservation Commission, Crescent Lake Watershed Association, Panther Pond Association, Raymond Waterways Association, and others.

This past spring, volunteers created a promotional video that can be viewed on our website (www.LELT.org). It provides a wonderful minute and a half visit to the top of Pismire Mountain, overlooking Crescent Lake and the more distant Sebago Lake. Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page this summer and fall for dates of scheduled hikes to the top of Pismire Mountain to see firsthand the entire area to be preserved. On August 22nd a big band jazz concert fundraiser on the shores of Crescent Lake at Camp Agawam will be held (see calendar of events on page 4 for more information).

While two-thirds of the budget has been raised for this project, a large portion of that is through a pledge from the Land for Maine's Future Program (LMF). Since 1987 LMF has offered grants to projects across the state for the conservation of forests, farmland, recreational areas, and working waterfront access points. The most recent two LMF bonds have been approved by the voters, but the issuing and payments have been held up by the Governor, leaving over 30 current projects uncertain of their ultimate fate.

Please know that Loon Echo is committed to purchasing this forest and mountain from Hancock Land Company. Keeping this land in an undeveloped state, and its recreational uses available to the public is our goal. It may take creative solutions and more contributions from the public to make it happen. To make a gift to this project,

please visit www.LELT.org (and click on the Raymond Forest link) or contact Carrie Walia, Executive Director (see page 2 for contact information).

PERLEY MILLS COMMUNITY FOREST RIBBON CUTTING

ON MAY 27TH, DESPITE THE THREAT OF A DOWNPOUR, TWO dozen people came out to celebrate the ribbon cutting for the Perley Mills Community Forest in Denmark. In April the Town of Denmark accepted the deed to 1,488 acres of land on Hancock Pond Road granted by Loon Echo Land Trust. Loon Echo reserved a perpetual conservation easement to ensure the property remains undeveloped and available to the public for a variety of recreational uses including hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, skiing, boating, swimming, hunting, fishing, trapping, snowmobiling and ATV'ing.

"The Town of Denmark is very pleased to partner with Loon Echo Land Trust in securing over 1,400 acres of conservation land for public use. The benefits to the public in recreational activities, including hunting and fishing, as well as natural resource protection, will be a long-term asset for our residents. We believe that this project, with assistance from the Town of Bridgton, will benefit residents of both communities for generations to come," said Denmark Town Manager Daniel J. Merhalski.



Perley Mills Ribbon Cutting.

Loon Echo would like to thank the Denmark Conservation Commission and the Denmark Board of Selectmen for their leadership in making this project a success. The project would also not have been possible without the more than 180 donors who contributed to the project—thank you! (The full donor list is on the Perley Mills page on our website—www.LELT.org.)

Be sure to get outside this summer and enjoy the 1,600 acre regional community forest project spanning Bridgton, Denmark and Sebago that includes three miles of the Narrow Gauge multi-use trail, Pickerel Pond and Willett Pond.

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JULY- DECEMBER 2015 EVENT CALENDAR

Understanding Sustainable Forestry Walk at Intervale Forest

July 18
Harrison

Would you like to know more about Maine's working forests? Loon Echo's forestry consultant Jeremy Stultz from Integrated Forest Management will be on hand to provide insight into our timber management goals from a long term perspective. The consideration given to animal habitat, forest composition, recreation and the environment will be discussed. Meet at the entrance to the Intervale Forest on Scribners Mills Road at 8:45 AM. Approximately 2 hours. *Moderate.*

Trail Work at Pleasant Mountain

July 25
Denmark

Come along with Loon Echo trail adopters and Maine Chapter AMC for a day of trail work on the popular Ledges Trail at Pleasant Mountain. Some tools will be provided but bring along a sturdy garden hoe or loppers if you have them. Work boots, pants and gloves are required. No experience necessary. Meet at the Ledges Trail at 7:45 AM. Approximately 5 hours. *Strenuous.*

Historic Demos at Intervale Forest

August 1
Harrison

Loon Echo, Plowden Horse Logging and Sebago Custom Sawing are hosting horse logging and portable saw milling demonstrations from 10 AM to 4 PM at our newly acquired Intervale property on the Crooked River as a

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. Bring a map, water and snacks with you.

part of Scribners Mill Back to the Past event. See article on page 2 for additional details.



Acoustic Sunset Fundraiser at Hacker's Hill

August 5 (rain date August 6)
Casco

Acoustic folk singer Helena Nash will perform a 1 1/2 hour set of music on top of Hacker's Hill while the sun sets beyond the White Mountains. Nash's musical inspirations spring from her diverse background, ranging from her college jazz and classical trumpet playing, to world music and Motown, to the great voices of folk and acoustic music. Helena's primary instrument is her voice: warm, rich and supple, expressing many styles of music with inventive improvisations that light up the corners of many of her songs. Her guitar-playing adds a rhythmic spirit to her sets. The themes Helena touches on in her music mirror her modern yet timeless sensibility, telling stories that might have resonated in a human heart at any period of history. Nash lives in Portland, Maine, where she follows her passions for music and eco-friendliness. There is a \$10 per person (\$5 for children) suggested donation at the "door" to benefit Hacker's Hill. Bring a picnic and a lawn chair. Music begins at 7PM. *Easy.*

Evening Star Party at Hacker's Hill

August 12 (rain date August 13)
Casco

Loon Echo along with Casco and Raymond Libraries, invite you to a relaxing evening under the summer sky, and if conditions allow, shooting stars! The Perseids Meteor Shower is always a favorite due to the warm summer temperatures. At its peak, this shower seems to originate from the constellation Perseus, giving rise to the name Perseids. In between shooting stars, gaze through telescopes and high powered binoculars and get familiar with "apps" for smart phones and tablets which make learning about the night sky even more fun! Be sure to bring a comfortable chair, bug spray and drinks. Meet at the summit at 9 PM (7:30 PM if you want to catch the sunset). Please park in the "Event Parking" area to the right of the summit. Approximately 3 hours. *Easy.*

Kite Day at Hacker's Hill

August 21
Casco

Come along on what will be a fun afternoon of kite making and flying at Hacker's Hill! Loon Echo, the Casco Recreation Department, and kite specialist John Martin will be on hand to help kids build, decorate and fly their own kites! Meet at the top of Hacker's Hill at 1:45 PM. This event is free to Casco residents (\$5 for non-Casco residents). Pre-registration required at recreation@cascomaine.org or 207-627-4187. *Easy.*

History Walk at Pondicherry Park

August 22
Bridgton

Loon Echo and the Bridgton Historical Society will team up to provide a history walk through Bridgton's Pondicherry Park as part of the Village Folk Festival. Participants will meet Moody Bridges and members of the fledgling community. This one hour journey will shed light on post colonial times in the new town of Bridgton. Meet at the park entrance in the municipal parking lot on Depot Street at 8:45 AM. The hike will be repeated at 10:30 AM. Sturdy shoes recommended. Approximately 1 hour. *Easy.*

Jazz Fundraiser for Raymond Community Forest

August 22
Raymond

The New England Jazz Band will present a benefit concert for the Raymond Community Forest project from 5 to 8 PM at Camp Agawam on the shores of Crescent Lake. The NEJB is based in Gray, Maine and features a 20 piece big band made up of music educators and former professional and non-professional musicians. Their repertoire draws from the Great American Songbook and music of the 1940s to 1960s. Please join us for what will prove to be a very special evening on the shores of Camp Agawam with excellent music, light refreshments and views of Pismire Mountain. \$25/person and additional donations encouraged. All proceeds go to completing the purchase of the 350 acres Raymond Community Forest project. Note, date and location are tentative; please check www.LELT.org or call (207) 647-4352 in early August to verify.

28th Annual Meeting

August 23
Raymond

Please join us for our 28th annual meeting at Camp Nashoba North in Raymond on Sunday, August 23 from 5:30-8 PM. We will be featuring the Crooked River Forests Project, Raymond Community Forest and providing updates on other ongoing projects. We will also elect officers and review the financial report. Please RSVP by August 17th with your choice of vegetarian or non-vegetarian meal and payment either by mailing the enclosed form, calling (207) 647-4352 or emailing membership@lelt.org.

Evening of Geology at Hacker's Hill

August 27
Casco

Spend an early evening with Geologists Robert Marvinney and Walter Anderson as we look back in time at the northern Sebago Lake region from a geological stand point. The land between the west shore of Sebago Lake and the White Mountains offers an interesting story of ancient ocean shorelines, glaciers and multiple ice ages. Hacker's Hill provides a great vantage point and signs of geological events past. Meet at 3:45 PM at the summit. Please park in the "Event Parking" area to the right of the summit. Feel free to bring a picnic and stay for the sunset (approximately 7:45 PM). Approximately 2 hours. *Easy*.

Hawk Migration at Hacker's Hill

September 12 (rain date
September 13)
Casco

Dick Anderson, former Director of the Maine Audubon, brings his enthusiasm for the southern hawk migration back to Hacker's Hill from 9 AM until noon. The ideal conditions for migrating hawks are a northwest breeze with clear skies. Bring your comfy chair, binoculars, water and snacks. In the past, many varieties of hawks have been observed along with bald eagles and osprey. *Easy*.

Loon Echo Trek

September 19
Pleasant Mountain in Bridgton

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 barbeque at the end. Cyclists can choose one of their favorite 25, 50, 75 or 100 mile courses. Hikers will have two routes up Pleasant Mountain to choose from. For information, see article below, visit www.loonechotrek.org or contact trek@lelt.org. *Moderate to Strenuous*.

Paddle on the Saco River

September 26
Brownfield

Join us for a fun day of paddling on the Saco River as part of the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend! The journey will begin at the Woodland Acres Campground

in Brownfield. Their crew will shuttle participants, canoes, kayaks and gear to Walkers Bridge in Fryeburg. Once on the water, we will float amongst scarlet swamp maples, sand bars and migratory birds on our way back to the campground. Meet at Woodland Acres at 8 AM for shuttle departure at 9 AM. Approximately 5 hours. The fee is \$25 for a canoe, single or double kayak rental up to two adults, which includes paddles, life preservers, parking and shuttle service. Space is limited! Please RSVP to Jon at jon@lelt.org by September 19. *Moderate*.

"Pate to the Pond" Foliage Hike

October 10
Bridgton

Strap on your hiking boots for this full day of hiking two of the area's most treasured preserves, Bald Pate Mountain and Holt Pond Preserve. Our Stewardship Manager Jon Evans will guide trekkers to the summit of Bald Pate Mountain and share stories of its history, diverse flora and fauna and management considerations. From there, Adam Perron, Director of Education at Lakes Environmental Association (LEA), will lead guests to Holt Pond Preserve to provide his expertise on this fascinating wetland ecosystem. Guests may do just the mountain portion (1.6 miles) or both portions (5+ miles). Vehicles will be left at Holt Pond to provide shuttle back to Bald Pate. Meet at Bald Pate's parking lot on Rte. 107 at 8 AM. Approximately 5 hours. *Moderate to Strenuous (due to length of hike)*.

Learning about the Perleys

November 13
Bridgton

Join Loon Echo, the Bridgton Historical Society and local author Caroline Grimm for what will be an interesting presentation about the life and lands of Enoch Perley. Mr. Perley was a dominant figure in the early days of "Pondicherry." Author Caroline Grimm will provide insight into this industrious man and his pioneering family. Many of his lands have been conserved by Loon Echo including the Perley Pond-Northwest River preserve in Sebago and the 1600 acre Perley Mills Community Forest in Bridgton, Denmark and Sebago. The 1770's Perley farm, now owned by the Gyger family, is also in permanent conservation. Meet at the fully accessible Loon Echo office on Depot Street for the 7 PM presentation. Approximately 90 minutes. *Easy*.

"Animal Sign Language" at Bald Pate Mountain

December 12
Bridgton

Join Loon Echo and Maine Master Naturalist Leigh Hayes as she guides participants in the art of animal tracking. Discover the clues of animal presence such as tracks, scat and other signs. December can be cold and dreary but Leigh always finds something interesting to learn about in our forests. All ages welcome! Meet at Bald Pate Mountain's parking lot on Rte. 107 at 10 AM. Approximately 3 hours. *Moderate*.

REGISTER FOR TREK BY JULY 19 FOR A CHANCE AT OXFORD HOUSE OVERNIGHT

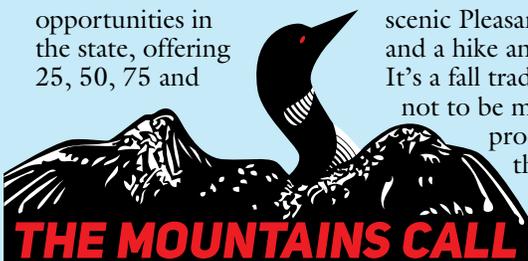
The Loon Echo Trek is one of 100-mile pedaling loops, the most iconic hike or bike a 4.5 and 6-mile hike up opportunities in scenic Pleasant Mountain, the state, offering and a hike and bike combo. 25, 50, 75 and It's a fall tradition that's not to be missed. All

proceeds support the important work of the

Loon Echo Land Trust. This year's date is Saturday, September 19th. Register today at www.loonechotrek.org or by calling (207) 647-4352! There will be a fun after party with barbeque, live music by the Crooked River Rough Cut and more.

NEW this year: Register before the early bird deadline of July 19 and get automatically entered into a drawing for a stay at The Oxford House, which includes an overnight in one of their inviting guest rooms, a three course

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NOTES FROM THE TRAIL



JON EVANS

Trail work on Pleasant Mountain.

SUMMER IS HERE AND TRAIL WORK HAS RESUMED ON THE BALD Peak Trail at Pleasant Mountain. Last fall, thanks to a donor and crews from the Appalachian Mountain Club, the route was flagged out and work began on a new route to allow Loon Echo to close off the 2/10 of a mile section of the trail that was eroded above the junction with Sue's Way. The next phase of trail work will focus on drainage, stone steps and trail hardening. The new section of the Bald Peak Trail will be opened over the summer.



JON EVANS

Woods road during timber harvest at Sebago Headwaters.

OVER THIS PAST WINTER, LETT HAD ITS FIRST TIMBER HARVEST since 2008 at the Sebago Headwaters Preserve in Bridgton. Under the planning of Integrated Forest Management Consulting Forester Jeremy Stultz, a "cut to length" operation was conducted by Khiel Logging of Denmark that will result in a healthy, diverse forest, rich in wildlife habitat, and well poised for a productive future. Only logs were harvested for market, therefore brush from the trees was scattered on the forest floor to decompose and feed the next generation of timber. The contractor also used a significant amount of brush to fill tracks in the logging roads, providing a barrier between the heavy equipment and the frozen soil, essentially eliminating rutting and soil disruption.

LOON ECHO IS GROWING AND WITH THAT COMES THE NEED for new volunteer land stewards. Vacancies include trail adoption, conservation easement monitors, and a morning gate keeper at Hacker's Hill. There are ample opportunities to give back in the seven communities Loon Echo serves. Please contact Jon Evans at jon@lelt.org to learn more.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

DON FOWLER



JON EVANS

Don Fowler and his lab Hal on Hacker's Hill.

Hometown: Windham, Maine

Hobbies: Canoeing, cross country skiing, hiking

Current volunteer roles: Maintaining Hacker's Hill Preserve

Why do you volunteer?

Don first visited the Hill when he was a child and living in Windham. After spending time serving in the Army and working out west, Don returned to Maine to care for his parents. Since he returned 21 years ago, he has been maintaining the

Hill. He worked closely with the former owners, Conrad and Jeff Hall, and then resumed the role as volunteer caretaker when Loon Echo purchased the 27 acre Hill in 2012. As Don explains it, being up on the Hill he feels a strong spiritual connection that helps guide his life. He volunteers his time so the public can enjoy the view from the Hill and possibly experience the spiritual connection that has transformed his life. His countless hours of mowing the fields, tending to the gardens and ensuring a positive visitor experience are priceless.

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dinner for two, and a full breakfast.

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FIVE FIELDS FARM
DELORME

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snowmobiling (on designated trails). After the land trusts conduct timber harvesting this fall and winter to help repay the loans that were necessary due to lack of LMF funds (see sidebar), recreational plans will be developed to include new loop trails and identified fishing access points.

Donations are still needed to help fund the stewardship reserve funds to effectively manage the land in perpetuity.

The Crooked River Forests project would not have been possible without the support of the following funders: Portland Water District, Open Space Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Anonymous foundation, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, Town of Otisfield, Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, and Fields Pond Foundation. Donations are still needed to help fund the stewardship reserve funds to effectively manage the land in perpetuity.

Information in this article was taken in part from Christopher Crosby's June 1, 2015 article in the Lewiston Sun Journal titled, "Crooked River conservation side-steps Augusta battle."

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THE NORTH PEAK OF PLEASANT MOUNTAIN

LOON ECHO IS ADVANCING THE PROJECT TO PROTECT THE LAST major peak on Pleasant Mountain's ridgeline. Earlier this year an agreement with Chet Homer of Shawnee Peak Ski Area was signed for the purchase of 160 acres, including the North Peak, and additional forested parcels to the west. Boundary survey work is underway to define the area to be conserved. The area will include large sections of the Sue's Way Trail and North Ridge Trail (7/10th of a mile in total); a rare Red Pine Woodland; and incredible views of the mountain ranges to the west. Loon Echo will be raising funds for this project over the next several years to meet the terms of the contract. For more information, or to make a gift, please contact Carrie Walia, Executive Director (see Page 2 for contact information).

Community Forests Concept: Victory of the Commons

In the late 1990's, a sea change in New England forest ownership was occurring: global market forces created a restructuring of the forest products industry, sparking the sale of millions of acres of forestland. New England towns saw treasured lands that had long been open—for hunting, fishing, camping and boating—closed off, divided and sold to distant landowners. A groundswell of concern spurred local stakeholders to revisit an

historic community land-use model of the 19th and 20th centuries in which the towns themselves own land for forestry, protecting water supply and recreation.

Now the community forests movement is marked by homegrown land conservation projects where citizens work together to protect an important landscape. Executed with citizens at the helm, the projects place management decisions in the hands of

Impacts from Land for Maine's Future Funds

The Crooked River Forests Project is still counting on significant financial commitments made by the Land for Maine's Future program, even though the closing was able to happen on June 30th because both land trusts moved quickly and put bridge loans in place. The Governor's unwillingness to release the funds has negatively impacted the project, including:

The **private landowner**, Bob Carlson of the C.L.T. Company, did not receive payment for his land on time.

The **cost of the project** went up by nearly \$10,000 because of excess legal costs due to the delay, and the land trusts had to negotiate

loans to fill in the gap created by the lack of LMF funds.

The **long-term reserve funds** intended to maintain the properties into the future are unavailable. The plan was to continue sustainably managed commercial harvests of the forest over many decades to provide funds for land stewardship and maintenance. Without the LMF commitment, the harvests may be accelerated to help pay down the loans instead.

The **trail development** and improved public access plans are on hold due to lack of funds, lessening the recreational opportunities into the foreseeable future.

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.



Source: Open Space Institute's (OSI) 2015 "Community Forest Fund," <http://tinyurl.com/pkw4u4b>.

The Perley Mills Community Forest was one out of 14 major projects across 20 New England towns that conserved a total of 30,000 acres. All of these projects were funded with help of OSI's Community Forest Fund.



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Address service requested



JON EVANS

Jeremy Stultz and Lake Region Middle School students at the 2015 Forestry Field day.

Mayberry Hill Forest Field Day

ON JUNE 3RD, 75 SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS from Lake Region Middle School participated in the Mayberry Hill Forest Field Day, which was funded by one of Loon Echo's environmental educational grants that are awarded yearly.

In partnership with Maine's Project Learning Tree, the Maine Forest Service, Portland Water District, Integrated Forest Management and the Wildlife Conservation Society, Loon Echo worked with the Lake Region Middle School Science Team Leader Andrea Capano to develop a specialized field curriculum at the 160-acre Mayberry Hill Preserve in Casco. The Mayberry Hill Preserve, donated in 1990 by the Gillis family for scientific study and educational purposes, is a perfect outdoor classroom due to its resources and easy access.

At the field day, the students studied the preserve's trees, soil and other vegetation and learned how to set up a plot study. There were eight different stations where students learned to apply everyday learning skills to forestry related topics, such as "Safety in the Outdoors," "Sebago Lake Watershed," and "Forest Inventory Growth." In addition, the students went down to Hancock Lumber's Jugtown Plains Forest and learned about the history of the land and land management.

This program benefits the children by providing a

unique setting for learning. As Andrea Capano from Lake Region Middle School explains, "Loon Echo's educational endowment has given the opportunity to so many groups of children to explore the great outdoors. The Mayberry Hill Preserve is the perfect host and brings alive the best of the Lakes Region by offering a majestic view into the eyes of the Maine forest. Jon Evans and all the guest instructors use their expertise to show students the power of the forest to provide resource to all inhabitants of Maine!"

In addition to the field day, Loon Echo awarded nine environmental educational grants totaling \$1,250 to local schools and libraries for their environmental programs. Selected libraries and schools include the Naples Public Library, Bridgton Public Library, Spaulding Memorial Library and Sebago Elementary and Harrison Elementary schools. This year the schools and libraries are using their grants for programs including wildlife, natural history and water resources. The students will come away with a better understanding of their natural world while having fun through the learning process.

To learn about the upcoming 2016 grant program and requirements visit www.LELT.org and click on the programs link. The application period is open from November 15, 2015 to January 15, 2016.

Loon Echo Land Trust 28th Annual Meeting

Please join us to celebrate 28 years of land conservation. We will enjoy a cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres followed by presentations and a camp-cooked dinner!

- ⇒ Unveil Crooked River Forests Project and Raymond Community Forest Project
- ⇒ Updates on other ongoing projects
- ⇒ Elect Officers and review Financial Report

When: Sunday, August 23rd 5:30-8:00 pm

Where: Camp Nashoba North, Raymond. From Route 302, turn onto Rt. 85/Webbs Mills Road in Raymond (at the Good Life Market). Drive approximately 3 miles and turn right onto Raymond Hill Road (just after the fire station). Drive approximately 2 miles, turn left onto Naomi Road and drive to the bottom of the road to the main camp lodge. For GPS directions, enter 198 Raymond Hill Road.

Price: \$25 per person

RSVP: By **Monday, August 17th** by calling 207-647-4352 or email membership@lelt.org. Please let us know if you prefer vegetarian or non-vegetarian for dinner.



Please detach and return to Loon Echo Land Trust, 8 Depot Street, Suite 4, Bridgton Maine 04009 by **August 17th**



28th Annual Meeting

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

How many will be attending _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Payment: Check Visa MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp Date _____

Or pay online by visiting www.lelt.org

Meal Choice Vegetarian Non-vegetarian