President’s Letter

Summer came swiftly to the Basin, June hotter than usual, July also hot and humid without much rain and in August finally, we were blessed with some stunning weekends. All to say, a great summer passed too quickly! Our CLA opening picnic on the July 4th weekend was a success. Held at the Bowditch House, close to 60 folks showed up! Ken and Annemarie Smith manned the barbeque and tendered out a good fare of hotdogs, hamburgers and cheeseburgers. Our second picnic in August held in the Wheeler’s field, was attended by close to 70 people. Again, we were blessed with superb weather. Thanks to Mieke van der Wansem and Steve Lanou for manning a delicious barbeque this time. Additionally that day, we offered a new endeavor. Ken Smith led a group of willing souls up Black Cap Mountain in the morning. In the afternoon after the picnic, Jim Bowditch led a group of 17 or so on an adventure to find all the old cellar holes in the Chocorua Basin. (See the accompanying article in this Newsletter)

The CLA also worked two Rt. 16 trash pickup mornings: one on July 4th weekend and the other on Columbus Day weekend. We fielded about 22 volunteers for each pickup and gathered about 45 bags of trash each time. Many thanks to all that participated including our leaders, Jamie and Amada Muggett. With so many of you helping, we managed to finish our stretches along Rt. 16 in short order.

On August 21st we hosted our CLA Annual meeting at Runnell’s Hall. After a brief business meeting, we were entertained with a talk from Carolyn Neville of the Ellen Connor Wildlife Center. She gave a fascinating talk about their work receiving and tending to wounded or abandoned wildlife. She even brought along a prime example of what good work they do: a Broad Winged Hawk now 7 years with the Center. He cannot be released back into the wild as his wing has been too badly damaged. He played his part very well. After this entertainment, we all enjoyed a wine and cheese gathering provided by Nancy Fryberger and Diane Bailey.

Labor Day weekend was filled with festive parties and the usual tennis tournament. Except this year for the first time, it was presented as a Round Robin (see the accompanying article by Alex Moot). The Grove picnic and the Festival of Lights was our closing social event on Sunday evening. Tish McIlwaith did the honors of leading the parade around the Big Lake and into the Small Lake. It was a wonderful sight.

Below, you will see your CLA Board members’ names with their email and/or addresses. We encourage you to contact any of them with your questions or comments. The CLA Board meets four times a year and also meets twice annually with the CLCF Board. The two organizations are working much more closely together now as we move forward and face new challenges in the future. Peg Wheeler reports on one of these upcoming challenges in a following article.
We wish you all a good and healthy winter and look forward to seeing you again next spring.

Sincerely,
Harriet Hofheinz, President
Jim Bowditch, Vice-President

CLA Board Members
Harriet Hofheinz, President, hhofheinz@verizon.net
Jim Bowditch, Vice-President, jrbowditch@yahoo.com
Becky Ver Planck, Treasurer, becky_verplanck@yahoo.com
Penny Wheeler-Abbott, Secretary, pwa@maine.rr.com
Steve Lanou, slanou@mit.edu
John Roberts, j.e.r4nh@gmail.com
Ken Smith, ksmith@smithenergyco.com
Ellen Keith, 1131 Cleveland Hill Rd., Tamworth, NH 03386
Tish McIrlwraith, tishfish@earthlink.net
Diana Bailey, diana.bailey@tufts.edu
Nancy Fryberger, fryberger@verizon.net
Townd Zwart, gtzwart@gmail.com
Ed Roaf, erroaf@yahoo.com
Larry Nickerson, PO Box176, Chocorua, NH 03817

Continuity in Perpetuity by Peg Wheeler

The pristine quality of the Chocorua Lake basin is the result of generations of cooperative conservation planning.

CLA President Harriet Hofheinz and CLCF President John Watkins and Vice President Peg Wheeler are just back from spending three days with 1700 good land conservation friends at the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Hartford. The gathering featured good food, good company, and lots of inspiring messages, as well as cautionary tales and concrete “how-to’s” related to PERPETUITY of conservation easements, or “Covenants” as we in Chocorua have always called them.

The experience of land trusts across the country now shows that the risk of violation of an easement increases as property changes hands and with the passage of time since the creation of the easement. This happens for one or more reasons:

- New owners are not well informed about the requirements of the easement;
- New owners are less committed to the purposes for which the easement was created;
- Property values and financial circumstances change over time, and/or
- The easement has not been re-recorded or referenced in a deed recorded within the period required for searching marketable title.

Although our easements are among the oldest in the country, we in Chocorua have been very lucky because most properties subject to the easements remain in the hands of the families that agreed to the original easements, and because new members of the community are equally committed to preserving the values which make this such a special place. However, we must anticipate that challenges to the easements will arise in the future. We learned at Rally that, over the next 5 years, we MUST take certain administrative steps in order to put ourselves in the best possible position to defend our easements:

- Create a “baseline documentation report” for each easement, showing the present condition of the property as it relates to the terms of the easement on that property;
- Create, implement, and document a system of “monitoring” each easement ANNUALLY, to verify that no violation of the easement has occurred;
- Rerecord the easements, in order to assure that they will be found by persons searching marketable title on behalf of buyers of properties subject to the easements or their mortgage lenders.

Assuring the future security of our easements is important to everyone who cares about the scenic beauty and natural resources of the Chocorua Basin. However, it is a very large task, and requires that we take a number of important steps:

- Meet individually with the owner(s) of each property subject to an easement, to answer questions, learn about plans for the future of the property, and discuss the importance to the owner of maintaining the integrity of our network of conservation easements.
- Develop a plan for carrying out the administrative tasks described above, either on our own or in collaboration with other organizations facing the same challenges.
- Find/raise/create the financial and human resources to carry out these tasks and to support their “continuity in perpetuity.”

Over the coming year, the leadership of the CLA and the CLCF will put before their Boards of Directors/Trustees a package of proposals to accomplish these steps. Watch this space for developments!

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**August Rock-N-Roll in Chocorua** by Anne Marie Biernacki-Smith

As autumn begins and we look back on notable events of the summer, we wanted to make special note of the CLA seminar outing that happened on August 14 – the “Rock-N-Roll” tour of cellar holes and stone walls. Jim Bowditch dutifully led the tour – he was accompanied by an enthusiastic team of explorers that included Bob Seston, Susan Kuhnhardt, Peter Lewis, David Little, Lydia Smith, Ken Smith, Anne Marie Biernacki-Smith, Ellen Moot, Amey Moot, Kem Stewart, and Harriet Hofheinz. The first stop was at an enigmatic site off Route 16 on the Brown Lot, which was obviously a small-scale quarry or worksite. The combination of a cellar
hole with the quarry site led to much animated discussion. You could clearly see
the wing wedges used for splitting the rock – see them in the picture here in a line
toward the right side of the rock, still in place in this majestic glacial erratic.
Permission from the CLCF to investigate the site further has been granted.

The next stop was the Nickerson Mill on Scott Road, purchased by CP Bowditch in 1912 and torn down by him to prevent pollution of the lake. A great deal of the
impressive stonework remains, as well as a part of the water wheel assembly still
visible in the river.

The next stop was across the lake, just above the junction of Chocorua Lake Road and Philbrick Neighborhood Road: the cellar hole for an old school house. Beyond
this was the Engleman house and barn further along Fowlers Mill Road. This
formerly grand estate is now gone, but a good deal of the house foundations and
rock garden wall and well remain. Across the road is the most impressive cellar
hole in the area, which was for a huge barn edged with massive granite slabs and a
fascinating series of stone walls likely to have to have enclosed livestock.

The next stop was along Philbrick Neighborhood Road – where our intrepid
adventurers bypassed three cellar holes – one on a hill behind the Cannon House,
another at one end of the Loring property on Loring Road, and the cellar hole
adjacent to the Loring House that is now being used as a sunken rock garden – to
investigate the last site at the end of Runnells Lane.

The first irregular hole was just off Philbrick Neighborhood Road, the second was
just up Runnels Lane, and the third was an interesting complex of cellar hole and
radiating stone walls. We know no details about this site. There are certainly more
cellar holes and stone walls to be explored in the area – comment here and let us
know your favorite, or tell us about one we missed!

How to Raise Foxes by Rosemarie Lamb Deane

I have brought up two children, and partly raised one god daughter. Now I am
helping out with my first two grandchildren (twins), so I like to think I am
somewhat experienced in raising young.

Nothing, however, prepared me for raising little foxes, after we found a den close
to the house this summer.

At first I thought I was hallucinating when a large grey fox slipped past me in the
shadows one evening. Foxes are crepuscular creatures and the grey fox is
considered the most primitive of “canids”, as they climb trees.

We saw a great deal more of her, and discovered she had three delightfully funny,
romping, wiggling offspring, known as “kits”.

It must have been a late litter, as they were still small and young, nursing
whenever they could. They grew fatter as their mother grew thinner.

It turned out our place was ideal for raising foxes. There was a dry, comfortable
space under our dilapidated garage, where they could slip in and out between the
gaps in the stone foundation.

We had multiple bird feeders, which attracted birds, chipmunks and other small
rodents; in other words, breakfast, lunch and dinner were always available.
And we had a bird bath full of water, suitable for drinking and bathing in the summer heat wave. Watching a baby fox climb into the bird bath was priceless!

I had heard stories of a fox den at the Wheeler Conni Sauti home close to Route 16. Maybe one of the Wheeler fox offspring decided to move up to Heavenly Hill for quieter quarters.

We were enjoying being fox foster parents, until our daughter told us she would not come to visit with the grandchildren, unless the foxes were removed.

We were horrified. But to learn how we did it, without a drop of blood being shed, read the full story in the Tamworth Civic News, published on November 1st.

To find out, pick up a copy of Tamworth Civic News. PO Box 402, Tamworth, NH 03886 or email annieriecken@gmail.com.

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**Columbus Day Weekend Rt. 16 Trash Pickup**

Twenty-two folks showed up for our second annual Rt. 16 trash pickup. Thanks to the coordination of Jamie and Amada Mugett, we picked up about 45 bags of assorted trash along the highway and the Grove/Island area. Our pick up area consists of both sides of Rt. 16 from the top of the hill above the Bowditch’s all the way down to the Korson’s driveway, probably about a mile and half stretch.

We also, again, did it in record time. No particularly interesting treasures were found though, just the usual auto parts, plastic and paper cups, bottles, cans, political signs, paper towels, and plastic bags. This fall for the first time, we had an additional team attacking the knotweed explosion near the Grove entrance.

Diana Bailey has been in charge of this effort. Cutting the knotweed way back this fall and next spring before it flowers and goes to seed, she hopes to eradicate this alien invasive plant species before it progresses to the Grove and the new plantings. All in all, we had a great turn out. Thank you John Wheeler, Steve Weld, Neely Lanou, Mary Rubel, Nancy and Dick Fryberger, Peter Rubel, Ed Roaf, Bob Sexton, Dave Farley, Steve Lanou, Anne Zwart, Anne Twitchell, Peg Wheeler, Harriet Hofheinz, Jim Bowditch, Diana Bailey, Kate Lanou, Martha and Claude Whitner and Jamie and Amanda! Hope I haven’t forgotten anyone.

Anyway, it was a good morning and many thanks! Harriet Hofheinz.

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**Japanese Knotweed Update** by Diana Bailey

On Saturday, October 9, four of us cut down and bagged the three patches of Japanese Knotweed located at the entrance to the Grove. About eight bags were gathered and were sent to the dump. They will not go in the chipping area where plant material is chipped and spread as mulch because cuttings of knotweed are extremely hardy and will re-root after several weeks.

It was decided not to use an herbicide at this juncture because of the proximity to the lake. One clump is right on the edge of the Little Lake. We plan to cut these clumps zealously for about five years - or until they disappear. If we don't have success in that time, we will resort to an herbicide.

The next cuttings will be May 28th after the CLA Board Meeting and during the July 2 clean-up. The July cutting is particularly important because the knotweed...
develops its flowers in August and spreads its seeds in September. Many thanks to Nancy and Dick Fryberger, and Jim Bowditch for wielding machetes and loppers. The same team will be hacking away next year.

Where the Great Man Lived by Bob Bradford


When William James, Harvard’s pre-eminent and iconoclastic 19th-century pioneering psychologist, philosopher, and scholar of religion, was dying in the summer of 1910, one of his last heart-felt desires was to return to his beloved family summer residence, “Stonewall,” up on Heavenly Hill in New Hampshire’s then-remote and still bucolic Chocorua valley.

Upon arrival, he exclaimed, “It’s so good to be home!”

So, how fitting it is, in this Granite state whose motto reads “Live Free or Die,” that a 100th anniversary to commemorate the death of this philosophical giant of Free Will thinking was organized last August. This was an extraordinary four-day conference-symposium, convened and coordinated by dynamic William James Society’s president and university professor, Paul Croce, and co-sponsored by the Chocorua Community Association, spearheaded by tireless Rev. Kent Schneider of the Chocorua Community Church. A final day of the conference concluded back in Cambridge at Harvard University’s Houghton Library and James’s home stomping grounds around and about the Crimson’s campus.

This long weekend symposium, charging a $100 registration fee, was titled “In The Footsteps of William James,” and designed to honor James’s spirit for some 130 international academics, Jamesian scholars, college students, and also just plain interested philosophy neophytes, congregating in little Chocorua village from locations as far away as Oxford University, Moscow, Bologna, and Tokyo. The whole idea was to become immersed in Jamesiana, exploring places where James lived, and attending a diverse range of lecture presentations, seminars, interactive workshops, casual Socratic discussions, all with the hope of reflecting on James’s ability to encounter experience afresh and approach problems creatively.

People also were provided ample opportunity to explore the philosopher’s natural settings, hear folk singing and cornet band performances of period music, listen to storytellers recounting James-related anecdotes, canoe and swim in his still-pristine nearby lake, and even hike up the very mountain trails that had inspired and played such an essential role in formulating a Jamesian intellectual ethos.

“The intention was for this to be a public event that could bring academics and regular citizens together to hear about William James’s life and theories, and evaluate continuing uses of his ideas for our time,” explains conference coordinator Professor Paul Croce, speaking from his Stetson University American Studies offices down in Florida.

“To me, two of James’s most important teachings for today is, first, his deep commitment to liberal arts education as a key essential to democracy---in other words providing a mental map of learning as a key to good citizenship. Secondly, he had a simply remarkable mediating mind that presents key ways to cope with
extreme polarizations in our society, including truly listening to others and grasping different points of view.

“Bottom line is he was an incredibly wise dude,” Croce emphasizes, “and whatever he’s singing about, we’d do well to listen up, today.”

Croce adds enthusiastically that, according to just about everyone who attended the symposium, Chocorua did indeed live up to highest expectations as “the perfect place” for this conference.

“What we were trying to achieve with this was to let James’s thinking resonate out to communities at large, well beyond academic circles. And here everyone found a locale with great charm, unpretentious warm and accommodating places for lodging and meals like the Lazy Dog, Riverbend Inn, Gilman Tavern, Whittier House, everything so welcoming and friendly. There was also a true appeal for both mind and body throughout the whole weekend, as well. It’s exactly the way James himself would have wanted it. I can’t tell you how many people were just raving about the whole laid-back informality of it all, how persuasive it all was, how refreshing and lovely the entire community experience.”

Agrees Harvard Magazine associate editor-feature writer, Craig Lambert, who journeyed up from Cambridge for the weekend, “Academic conferences are too often confined to airless rooms where participants engage the subject at hand on a purely intellectual, cerebral basis. William James was not that kind of scholar, and this was in no way that kind of an encounter.

“We were able to enjoy the lake and the mountains that meant so much to him, and get a feel for the village where he passed so many happy summer months, and even, thanks to the current owners, to tour the inside of his dwelling, as well as his barn and surrounding property. We listened to James music, stories, saw galleries of historic photographs and memorabilia from the James era. What I came away with was a much more rounded sense of who William James was, not only as a philosopher and psychologist, but as a man.”

Internationally celebrated Harvard astrophysicist-turned-teacher of philosophy, Robert Doyle, echoes Lambert’s thought. Doyle was one of the showcase speakers up for the symposium, championing James theories about Free Will and changeable destiny vs. the staunch beliefs in hide-bound determinism, where everything in life is already scripted and never subject to chance.

“It was the location factor for this conference that had the greatest impact on my psyche,” Doyle says. “I’m an historically oriented thinker, and I can’t tell you the number of philosophers I’ve studied going back before Aristotle, and studied them in 12 different languages” he observes. “So, visiting this intimate home site venue has provided me a profound new James connection.

“In the spirit of hermeneutics, I guess you could call me a ‘hermenaut,’” he goes on, with a dry chuckle. A what, we ask? Doyle laughs and explains this is a kind of word-play he coined on the space exploration astronaut idea, “only my hermenaut is an explorer who’s traveling backwards in time to literally put himself back into the environment of a given philosopher. You’ve almost got to put on those same shoes the thinker was wearing to understand his work.

“So, in this case, here was William James in the later 19th century,” Doyle continues, “when determinism was the order of the day, everything in God’s hands, neatly programmed, pre-ordained, so very Victorian. But this great man was able to break free from all that. Somehow, he had the independence of mind and courage to break away. He was the first, if not the only, philosopher of his era
to do so.”

Consider the grasp of this phenomenal achievement. And here we are in Chocorua, the very dead-center of where so much of this unprecedented, ground-breaking, independent philosophic freedom of thought was really created, Doyle emphasizes. Maybe it was a brain storm that occurred while swimming on his back, floating free, suspended and weightless, gazing up at that ruggedly independent, majestic granite peak, as Doyle himself had just done this morning. Maybe major inspirations took shape while gazing at these White Mountain silhouettes of the whole Sandwich range during a long, lingering, glorious Chocorua sunset, like the spectacular free-form, ever-changing color show Doyle had witnessed just last night.

“Who knows exactly what all the inspirations were?” Doyle muses aloud. “But being here and experiencing James’s Chocorua firsthand has been indescribably exciting for a hermenaut like me.”

Camp Ultimate Peace by Katherine Landesman

In July of 2010, Chocorua summer resident Jeff Landesman and his daughter Katherine experienced a life-changing event. Together, they spent a week in Acco, Israel teaching peace through the sport of ultimate Frisbee. Camp Ultimate Peace brought together 150 kids ages 10-15 from Arab Israeli, Jewish Israeli, and Palestinian villages in an attempt to teach peace.

The foundation of Ultimate Frisbee is “Spirit of the Game”. No referees or umpires are used. In this way, conflict resolution and sportsmanship are built into the game. There is no better vehicle for teaching peace. The camp began with clinics for local Arab, Israeli, and Palestinian coaches. After 2 days of skill drills, scrimmages, and clinics the coaches went back to their villages to gather up the kids.

The morning of the kid’s arrival was hectic and amazingly emotional. Watching kids from three cultures helping each other make nametags was incredible. In the next 4 days the children learned to respect each other, to become friends, and to play ultimate. Ultimate skill clinics were mixed with arts and crafts, slip-n-slide, and other fun games. The final night had kids and coaches participating in a talent show. When it was time for the kids to go back to their villages everyone felt like one big family.

One of the biggest highlights for the Landesman’s came after camp was over. The following day Ultimate Peace coaches went to different Arab villages to continue ultimate lessons with the kids and local coaches. It was amazing for them to be greeted like celebrities and treated like royalty in the villages of Tuba and Arrabe. As the night wore on it was clear that nobody wanted Ultimate Peace to end, and everyone was looking forward to Ultimate Peace Camp 2011.

To learn more about this incredible, ongoing event please visit www.ultimatepeace.org.
Labor Day Tennis by Alex Moot

Risking over 100 years of tournament tradition, this year’s Labor Day Mixed Doubles and Men’s Doubles tennis tournaments utilized a “round robin” format for the first round. Despite predictions of a wet visit from Hurricane Earl, the players awoke Saturday morning of Labor Day weekend to bright sunshine and damp but playable tennis courts. Two dozen players rendezvoused at 9am at the Balch Court for the Mixed Doubles first round, split into three, four-team round robin groups, and spent the next 3+ hours playing one-set matches against the three other teams in their group on the Balch, Helm and Weld courts. In the afternoon, the Men’s Doubles teams played their round robin first round. The dirt road between the courts was packed all day with parked cars and dozens of players (and fans!) walking between courts. Altogether, 36 sets of tennis were played on Saturday across three courts. Everyone seemed to enjoy the round robin format, and there was strong consensus that the round robin format should be utilized again next year.

It was the largest turnout for either tournament in many years, with a dozen doubles teams entering each tournament. In all, forty tennis players from Chocorua, Tamworth and neighboring towns played. As usual, all ages were represented on the court, from 87-year old Bill Helm to his 10-year old grandson William, and more than half the doubles teams were “family affairs”.

On Sunday, the winners and runners up of each round robin group played quarterfinals matches in a traditional, best-of-three-sets format. In the Mixed Doubles, defending champions Warren Steele and Karin Nelson breezed to the finals, defeating George Abbott and Penny Wheeler-Abbott in the semifinals. On the other semifinal match, Carolyn Hemingway and her son Chris Keyes squeaked past Emilie Smith and her son Nick Caruso. In the top half of the Men’s Doubles draw, Geoff Gill and Rick Carey (a last second sub for Bob Bradford, who was unable to play) entertained the crowds with thrilling back-to-back upsets, defeating first Kent Hemingway and Chris Keyes and then twins Aaron and Brendan King, to reach the finals. On the other half of the Men’s draw, Warren Steele and Jere Burrows cruised to the finals, defeating George Epstein and Jim Torpey in the semifinals.

On Monday morning, 40-50 people descended upon the Helm court and watched two high quality finals matches. After the red dust cleared, Warren Steele and Karin Nelson had successfully defended their Mixed Doubles title, defeating Carolyn Hemingway and Chris Keyes in two sets. After a five minute break, Warren jumped back on the court to play the Men’s Doubles finals, in which Warren and Jere Burrows defeated Geoff Gill and Rick Carey in two sets. It was the second consecutive title for Jere, who also won the Men’s Doubles in 2009 with Kent Hemingway. Andrew McIlwraith umpired the Mixed Doubles, and Kent Hemingway umpired the Men’s Doubles, and Bill Helm presided over the trophy presentations. The two tournaments donated a healthy $433 to the Tamworth Caregivers from player entry fees.

The organizers would like to extend their best wishes for a speedy recovery to double-champion Warren Steele, who underwent a stem cell transplant in mid-September. We understand the procedure went well. The organizers would like to thank Janet Cooke (Wonalancet) who helped with dozens of phone calls to recruit additional teams into the tournament.
Playing in the tournament were: Penny Wheeler-Abbott & George Abbott; Jere Burrows (Sandwich); Rick Carey (Sandwich); Roddy Cooke (Wonalancet); Hugh & Rosemarie Deane; George Epstein (Madison); Anne Foley; Bill Gast & Tory Gast Shobe; Geoff Gill; Lloyd Hadden; Bill & Nella Helm; Lloyd & William Helm; Harriet Hofheinz; Aaron & Brendan King; Neely Lanou; Steve Lanou & Mieke van der Wansem; Andrew McIlwraith & Tisha Robbins McIlwraith; Jeff Meller (houseguest); Alex & Ellis Moot; Karin Nelson (Moultonboro); Michael Purves (Wonalancet); Michael Robbins; Bob Rotberg (Madison); Emilie Smith & Nick Caruso; Warren Steele (Sandwich); Jim Torpey (Madison); Jim & Mary Ann Watt; and John Wheeler.

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**Restoration of the Restoration** by Dwight Baldwin

**Ongoing Maintenance Needs in the Grove and Island**

As hard as it is to believe, it has been approximately 2½ years since work began to restore the shoreline and picnic area that had suffered significant deterioration due to years of visitor foot traffic. Final restoration work was completed in the spring of 2009.

Since that time we have been monitoring how the work has held up to the ever-increasing number of people who stop to picnic, swim, fish or simply to revel in the beauty of the spot. Already certain of the restoration steps that were taken are showing signs of wear. In places, the Filtrexx socks are showing wear and tear because people have been stepping on them to get down to the water’s edge. In addition, the native herbaceous plants have not had a chance to establish themselves in the Filtrexx mulch because of the foot traffic. In other places away from the shore, new plantings have either died because of lack of moisture (despite our attempts to water) or have either been broken or pulled up by visitors. Wood chips spread on the ground to protect the root systems of the tall pines have rapidly deteriorated and decomposed.

To address these issues, members of the CLCF and CLA boards have met with Peter Hoag of P.C. Hoag & Co., a firm specializing in tree and landscape work. A short and long-term plan has been developed to address these problems of wear and tear not only in the Grove but also on the Island. New wood chips have been spread, new large stones will be placed to better delineate areas that should not be walked upon, new stepping rocks will be placed along the shore to give visitors a place to get down to the water without stepping on the Filtrexx socks, waterbars will be placed in strategic locations to direct runoff from flowing directly into the lake and new plant materials will be planted.

It has thus become clear over the past year that the CLA and CLCF are going to have to budget between $5,000 and $10,000 each year for this ongoing maintenance effort. To this end, new signage shall be erected in both the Grove and Island requesting contributions from visitors. It is hoped that a portion of this yearly financial burden can be covered in these donations.
Wildlife Notes – Fall 2010 by Harriet Hofheinz

In mid-June, we completed our 17th annual Breeding Thrush Survey here in the Chocorua Basin. We were blessed with another two weekends of pretty perfect weather that always makes the thrushes sing! In terms of the count, this year was a good one as was last year. We logged in over an approximate 5 mile area, 62 Hermits, 14 Veerys, and 5 Wood Thrushes. Although not in our official count, we also tallied 1 Swainson’s Thrush. On these sweeps, we have from time to time recorded Swaison's singing almost always near Blackie’s Flats. This is a species that usually nests at a higher elevation than we have in the Basin.

What does all this mean in the bigger picture? It means that our population of thrushes is holding steady at the moment. We have seen some pretty severe drops in numbers of the Veery and particularly the Wood Thrush in the past, so maintaining our current base line is encouraging.

Thanks goes to our wonderful volunteers who endure getting up at 4:15 am, mosquitoes and black flies, and of course, good company. They are: John Watkins, Steve Weld, David Farley (in absentia this year), Mike Todd, Amar Imir, Bob Bradford and myself, Harriet Hofheinz.

Over the summer, we have had the usual sightings of Broad Wing Hawks, Osprey, Turkey Vultures, and Eagles coming through in late August. Also, a family of Barred Owls at the Balch Big House and a possible Red Shoulder Hawk in our woods. No loons were in evidence Columbus Day weekend.

Mammals have been more visible than usual this summer. A fox den with 3 frisky cubs up at the Deans; a smallish bear spotted by a number of people, and a moose family has been both seen and heard in and around Watkin’s Way all summer. A photo if you can make it out, has been included of Mama moose with her two yearlings. The male moose was resting further to the left, up the hill. After awhile, he actually lay down and took a snooze.

As always, please contact me with your sightings, Harriet - hhofheinz@verizon.net

In Memory of Richard T. Gill - Dick passed away in October of this year. There have been two extensive obituaries, one in The Boston Globe and one in The New York Times. In Chocorua, we will fondly remember him leading us all in song, particularly at the Grove picnic and the Festival of Lights, with his rich, resonant basso voice singing On the Road to Mandalay. Our condolences go out to Betty, his 3 sons, and 8 grandchildren.
Get Connected via E-Mail

If you would like to receive this newsletter and other CLA news and announcements via e-mail, please be sure to send your e-mail address, along with any other updates to your address and contact information to Becky VerPlanck at becky_verplanck@yahoo.com.

Chocorua Lake Association
PO Box 105
Chocorua, NH 03817

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To: