



The Chocorua Lake Association

Spring Newsletter 2011

May 2011

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President's Letter

This winter has been grueling, tedious and too long for just about everyone, including turtles! (See article) Although the snowdrops have come and gone, spring does not seem to be right around the corner. Nonetheless, I hope this newsletter finds you all well and looking forward to a late spring and early summer.

Your CLA, CLCF and CMC Officers have been busy preparing for this upcoming season, (see CLA Calendar of Events). We have updated the website, which includes the activities of all three organizations. You can now find us at: www.chocorualakeassociation.com. Please note the slight recent change in our web name. We will also be sending out calendar updates through our email blasts from time to time. If your email has changed or you have a new one, please let us know so we can update the database. If you prefer to receive the CLA Newsletter by snail mail, please let us know that too. Again, below you will find your CLA Board Officers and Directors with emails or addresses. We urge you to contact any of us about questions, comments, or issues you might have. Becky Ver Planck, our Treasurer, is the keeper of the database so all email/address changes should go to her.

We will start off the season with the Chocorua Mountain Club trail clearing weekend, May 7 & 8th. It is always a lot of fun and includes a wonderful meal at the end of a long day's work Saturday evening. This spring, the work of clearing the trails has been packaged in such a way as to include all levels of enthusiasm and ability, (see note on Events Calendar). July 4th weekend will again involve a volunteer community endeavor with the trash clean up of Rt. 16 followed by a picnic at the Frybergers on Washington Hill Rd. - a new venue. Keep posted for times and the rest of the season with our Calendar of Events.

The continuing attention to and care of our property covenants (easements) will be an ongoing theme throughout this summer and several summers to come. I again include Peg Wheeler's article that was in our fall CLA newsletter for your perusal. Please read it so that you are familiar with what is happening and what needs to be done.

Lastly, please find on page 8 our 2011 member dues and donations form to send in with this year's essential contribution.

I look forward to seeing you all in the Chocorua Basin come this spring and summer.

Cordially,

Harriet P. Hofheinz, President

For the CLA Board of Directors

CLA Board Members

Harriet Hofheinz, President, hhofheinz@verizon.net
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UPDATE: Continuity in Perpetuity by Peg Wheeler

Chocorua Lake Association and Chocorua Lake Conservation Foundation

March 27, 2011

You may remember that CLA President Harriet Hofheinz and CLCF President John Watkins and Vice President Peg Wheeler returned from the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Hartford last fall with lots of 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 which 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 work with easement landowners to maintain the level of protection which has made the Chocorua basin such a special place:

- 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 visiting each landowner and easement ANNUALLY, to maintain communications and 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!



Tamworth Artist's Market

Tamworth Artist's Market – 2010

In the Spring of 2010, Myles Grinstead, Mary Beth Bliss and Peter VanderLaan came down with Spring Fever. After a sufficient amount of driveway brainstorming, they decided that it was time to start an experiment in the feasibility of developing a local, year-round market for local Artists. With the tireless support of Pat Farley from the Tamworth Economic Development Committee, the Tamworth Farmers' Market agreed to incubate a nascent Artists' market within the farmer's market. The artists' goals were simple:

- Raise public awareness by showcasing the remarkable extent and variety of beautiful work that is being made by Tamworth artists
- Provide a local venue for sales by local artists
- Gauge the potential for the establishment of a more permanent showcase for this venue.

- Hand out brochures and cards for local artists
- Become “too big for our britches” and have to set up a permanent venue as well as the tent.

The experiment was a remarkable success. Everyone loved the booth and admired the integrated display of paintings, fiber, pottery, blown glass, carved stone, photography, prints, books, botanical wreaths, jewelry and note cards. Over and over again people would express amazement that this beautiful work was drawn from only one tiny town. Sales were brisk. The logistics of setting up an art show once a week and then taking it down again after three hours were mastered. The group turned out to be unusually collegial.

With the chill of fall winds, the end of the Farmer’s Market found the artists enthusiastically preparing to set up a permanent venue. They found two: The Remick Museum Gift Store displays and sells the entire collection now. Drop in and see it. The Chocorua Village Pottery donated its entire downstairs to the cause. With the help of the Arts Council of Tamworth and Virginia Pratt Meyer, the artists applied for and got a \$2,500 grant from Home Depot to winterize the space. The pottery studio was moved upstairs, the building winterized and the downstairs refurbished as a gallery. The Arts Council of Tamworth now sponsors the group as its visual arts wing. The artists wintered over in their cozy new gallery and found, to their delight, that sales were more than sufficient to pay the costs of running a gallery and that all the artists were receiving income from an entirely new and entirely local source.

The gallery will move once again to expanded quarters at Chocorua View Farm on Route 16 in June of 2011. Susan and Larry Nickerson are hosting the gallery. The existing Antique store will continue, the gallery will be added and we hope to be serving espresso, tea and packaged pastries to our visitors. The renovated pottery will continue as a pottery and the renovated downstairs will continue to be a great source for kiln fresh pottery as well as a teaching/workshop space. Our first series of classes and workshops will start in the summer of 2011. Despite this heady sense of progress, we can never abandon our roots. We’re going to be at the Farmer’s Market in front of UU every Saturday morning with the Tamworth Farmers’ Market even if we do have a roof over our heads now.

Are you an artist who pays taxes or lives in Tamworth? Why not apply to join the Tamworth Artisans? Visit the gallery at the Chocorua Village Pottery right across from the Chocorua Library or contact Mary Beth Bliss at 323-7900 or Myles Grinstead at 323-5444 for more information.



The Painted Turtle’s Winter

After the experience of this winter, maybe the turtle’s way of coping in the cold has certain merit. An interesting article by Bill Amos in the Northern Woodlands magazine, winter 2010 edition (slightly edited), illustrates the wonder of our Chocorua lake’s Painted Turtle winter endeavors.

As true New Englanders, our turtles must contend with frigid winters. Unable to maintain the necessary body temperature to carry out essential metabolic activities in the late fall, the turtle settles down into the mud for a long winter’s nap. His/her heart rate slows to almost nothing, and his organ systems more or less shut down.

Finding food is not a problem, like all hibernators, a turtle lives on the rich body

fat that was stored in the previous summer's season of plenty. But finding oxygen with which to metabolize this fat is another thing. Wintering in an oxygen deficient environment for five months is a challenge. When fat is metabolized in the absence of oxygen, the process creates lactic acid, and when too much of this acid builds up (called acidosis), the resulting condition can be fatal. A lake turtle finds a remedy to this problem in its shell and skeleton, which together account for over a third of the turtle's weight. The shell has many purposes and is not just for protection. Being heavy it helps with buoyancy control by counteracting the air-filled lungs and additionally acting as a hydrofoil when the turtle swims which of course it's not doing in the winter.

For hibernating turtles, the shell is also vitally important in a chemical sense. It uses its shell and bone, composed of limy compounds, to release carbonates into its increasingly acidic body fluids as winter goes on. These carbonates buffer the acid build-up in a non-breathing turtle, when snoozing down in the oxygenless mud of the iced over pond, so that the deadly acidosis in the animal's tissues is prevented.

In effect, a hibernating turtle is a closed system independent of the environment, an extraordinary feat of biochemical juggling that allows the turtle's metabolism to continue throughout the winter and on into the new spring year when it once again swims in the lake's waters.



Wildlife Notes - Winter/Spring, 2011

The winter wildlife sightings in and around Chocorua seem to be mostly in shadowy paw prints found in the snow. Jean Tewksbury reports that she has seen all sorts of prints up her way on Washington Hill. She identified tracks from snowshoe hare, deer, squirrels, porcupine, turkeys, and an unidentified weasel. Snowshoe hare is a mammal that I was not aware came this far south from further north. It is the prime prey for lynx, which I don't believe have been verified in our region. But you never know, see Alice's comments below. The owl on the left margin is one that has been in Jean's neighbor's trees every winter for the past ten years. Jean photographed it in December and wondered if it travels over from the west side of the lake in the winter and goes back there in the spring to raise a family. Dave Farley also relates mammal activity at his feeder. Just in one night in January, he found tracks from a feral cat, a fox, a fisher, and a deer.

Although the common mergansers and loons haven't arrived yet, Alice Waylett has seen two hooded mergansers earlier in March and some deer. "But", she says "the big happening of the season was my being able to see a cat either a lynx or bobcat from 8 feet away. Last Halloween, early AM, I glanced out and saw a furry creature walking next to the deck steps. I did a double take and it paused long enough for me to see a bobbed tail and ear tufts. I must have been startled by the sight and moved as the cat spun its head to look at me and took off; amazing to stare directly into a wild creature's eyes. It was still too dark to pick out a true color but it seemed to be a tawny shade. This was the first time I had seen a cat in the wild. But as I was to find out later, it would not be the only sighting. Again, later after a 3 inch snowfall, I glanced out my kitchen door and saw a cat. This one seemed to be smaller than the original one. Also the ear tufts did not seem as pronounced as the previous sighting. There were definite cat tracks in the snow along the side of the house that disappeared beyond the plowed snow banks. Definitely a bobcat, I thought. A minute or so later, I looked out another window and there was another set of tracks only larger. I was certain that there were 2 cats



What gnome is living here?

at the same time, one on each side of the house. This was verified later, when I drove out my driveway and saw cat tracks side by side, one larger than the other. Could it be a mother and a juvenile? I wish I could be absolutely certain if they were lynx or bobcat! This was a once in a life time experience. I can't help wondering what I miss seeing when I am not fortunate enough to be glancing out a window!"

Now we look towards spring after a long winter. The ice is almost out of the lake and migrating ducks will be coming in on their way north. I am sure eagles and ospreys have already passed through. In a hurry to get to their breeding grounds and pick the best spots for their nests.

Late report just in, Mr. Loon has been sighted! He was first seen on April 15th exploring his old nest sight. Hopefully, Mrs. will show up soon.

Please contact me with sightings: hofheinz@verizon.net

CLA Upcoming Events - Spring and Summer 2011

May 7/ 8, Trail clearing weekend, Chocorua Mountain Club
Contact Ken Smith, smithkennethh@gmail.com

May 28/31st, Memorial Day weekend.
May 28th, CLA Board meeting, 9:00 am,
Becky's house, Washington Hill Rd.

June 18/ 19th, Thrush breeding bird survey
Contact Harriet Hofheinz, hofheinz@verizon.net

July 2nd, CLA, Rt. 16 trash pick-up, 9:00 am meet at Grove
Volunteers needed Contact: H.Hofheinz, hofheinz@verizon.net

July 2nd, CLA Community picnic, 12:00 noon
Fryberger's house, Washington Hill Rd.
Contact: fryberger@verizon.net

August 13th, CLA Board meeting, 9:00 am

August 13th, CLA Community picnic, 12:00 noon, Wheeler's field

August 20th, CLA Annual Meeting, 3:00 to 5:00 pm, Runnell's Hall
Community wine and cheese 5:00 on

September 3/5th, Labor Day festivities
Tennis Tournament

September 4th, Grove picnic and Festival of lights, at dusk

October 8/10th, Columbus Day weekend

October 8th, CLA Rt. 16 Trash pickup, 9:00 am meet at Grove
Volunteers needed, contact H. hofheinz@verizon.net

October Oct. 8th, CLA Board meeting, 11:00
Fryberger's house, Washington Hill Rd.

Treasurer's Note

Hello! Spring is starting its slow dance up here in the Chocorua Basin, the sun is strong, and the ebb and flow of snow and rain have begun. A great rainfall last week started to open up some of the freshets and streams, though cold nights are still with us. We have been out on the Bolles trails this winter in our snowshoes and found many, many blowdowns. A huge thanks to John Gotjen, Gary Jones, Ted VerPlanck and anyone else who have taken on many of the fallen trees, keeping the trails clear. There is a very large pine down just at the entrance to the trails from the Scott/Korson property, which will have to be tackled by more professional gear.

It's time to think about membership with the CLA. Be sure to fill out the form on the last page in this newsletter, so you can mail it in before summer expenses begin to accrue. While there is still plenty of snow, before we know it, the loons and port-a-potty's will return, sending a clear message that summer is approaching as our Lake Patrol team, Amanda and Jamie Mudgett keep things looking great.

I look forward to seeing you all return to this most beautiful spot on earth!

Becky VerPlanck

Treasurer/Membership



Elizabeth (Betty) Gill (1927-2011)

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#### **In Memory of Betty Gill**

It is with great sadness that the CLA community learned of Betty Gill's passing this past winter. We send heartfelt condolences to all her family.

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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 Membership Dues 2011

Member - \$30.00	\$ _____
Associate Member(s) -\$10.00	\$ _____
Lake Patrol - \$35.00	\$ _____
Additional Donation	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 Town _____
 State _____ Phone _____
 Zip Code _____ E-Mail _____

Summer Address (if different) _____
 Summer Phone _____

List Names and addresses of additional Associate Members

Make Checks Payable to: **Chocorua Lake Association**
Becky VerPlanck, CLA Treasurer
PO Box 105
Chocorua, NH 03817

Due by July 4, 2011, and thanks so much! - CLA Board

***** Please tear off this page and mail the form in with your dues *****



Chocorua Lake Association
 PO Box 105
 Chocorua, NH 03817

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To: