



Vermont Youth Conservation Corps improves Greensboro nature trails

In September 2008 a team from the VYCC spent four days working on trails on The Nature Conservancy's Barr Hill and Long Pond preserves. (Photo shows the group on Barr Hill.) They also built a foot bridge across the stream at the entrance to Long Pond Road.

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GLT to sponsor summer paddle on Flagg Pond

All are invited to a summer paddle on Flagg Pond, just over the Greensboro border in Wheelock. This large, undeveloped pond is bordered by a 70-acre Northern White Cedar swamp, one of the finest in Vermont, some of whose trees are at least 150 years old. The pond features

five Vermont-rare plant species and an abundance of wildlife. In 2008 The Nature Conservancy purchased 100 acres bordering the pond and adjoining shorefront of the Wheelock Mt. Farm, conserved by the VLT in 2000, just in time to prevent it from being lumbered.

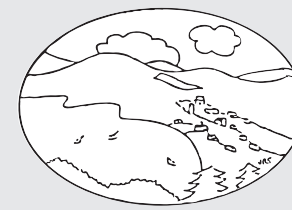
The paddle will start at **10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 28**, and will also be announced in the Greensboro Association calendar and by posters. The GLT will provide sufficient watercraft for 20 persons. Others are welcome to bring their own. The launch site is easily accessible. Paddlers are invited to reserve space with Clive Gray, 533-7723.



Sawmill Brook, No. Greensboro, with Nature Conservancy's Long Pond Preserve on the left and Lewis & Nancy Hill parcel, conserved with GLT in 2004, on the right.



GLT Stewardship chair, Rolf Muentner (r), monitoring David & Nick Edsall (l & c) property on Cook Hill, GLT's first easement (1995), in September 2008.



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Visit our website at www.greensborolandtrust.org

2009

GLT Annual Meeting, Monday, July 27

Everyone is invited to the GLT's annual meeting on **Monday, July 27, at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.** Following a short GLT business meeting, **Gil Livingston**, who succeeded our long-time friend Darby Bradley in 2007 as **president of the Vermont Land Trust**, will talk about the current status of land conservation in Vermont, with particular attention to issues posed by the current economic climate. A lawyer, Gil joined the VLT in 1990, serving several years as vice-president for land conservation before assuming the presidency.

Great News!

GLT Wins National Accreditation

On February 25 the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the national Land Trust Alliance (LTA), announced it had accredited the Greensboro Land Trust as meeting national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands. Thus far, 53 of the nation's nearly 1,700 land trusts have been accredited since the program started in 2007. The GLT is one of only two all-volunteer bodies in the group, and by far the smallest. It is the second land trust in Vermont to gain accreditation, following the Lake Champlain Land Trust.

The LTA accreditation program started in response to a Senate investigation of the land trust movement, touched off by a series of *Washington Post* articles in 2003. Last June Senator Grassley, who led the investigation, said, "I want to thank the LTA for their leadership in setting standards... At a time when... a shadow [was cast] on all land conservation organizations, the Alliance took the bull by the horns. Instead of waiting to see what the legislative outcome might be, they decided to proactively pursue the path of self-regulation." Accreditation was not easy to achieve. It required many hours of work, completing reams of material, adoption of new policy statements and an increase in our stewardship endowment, but the board believes the process has strengthened the GLT and will increase local interest in conservation.

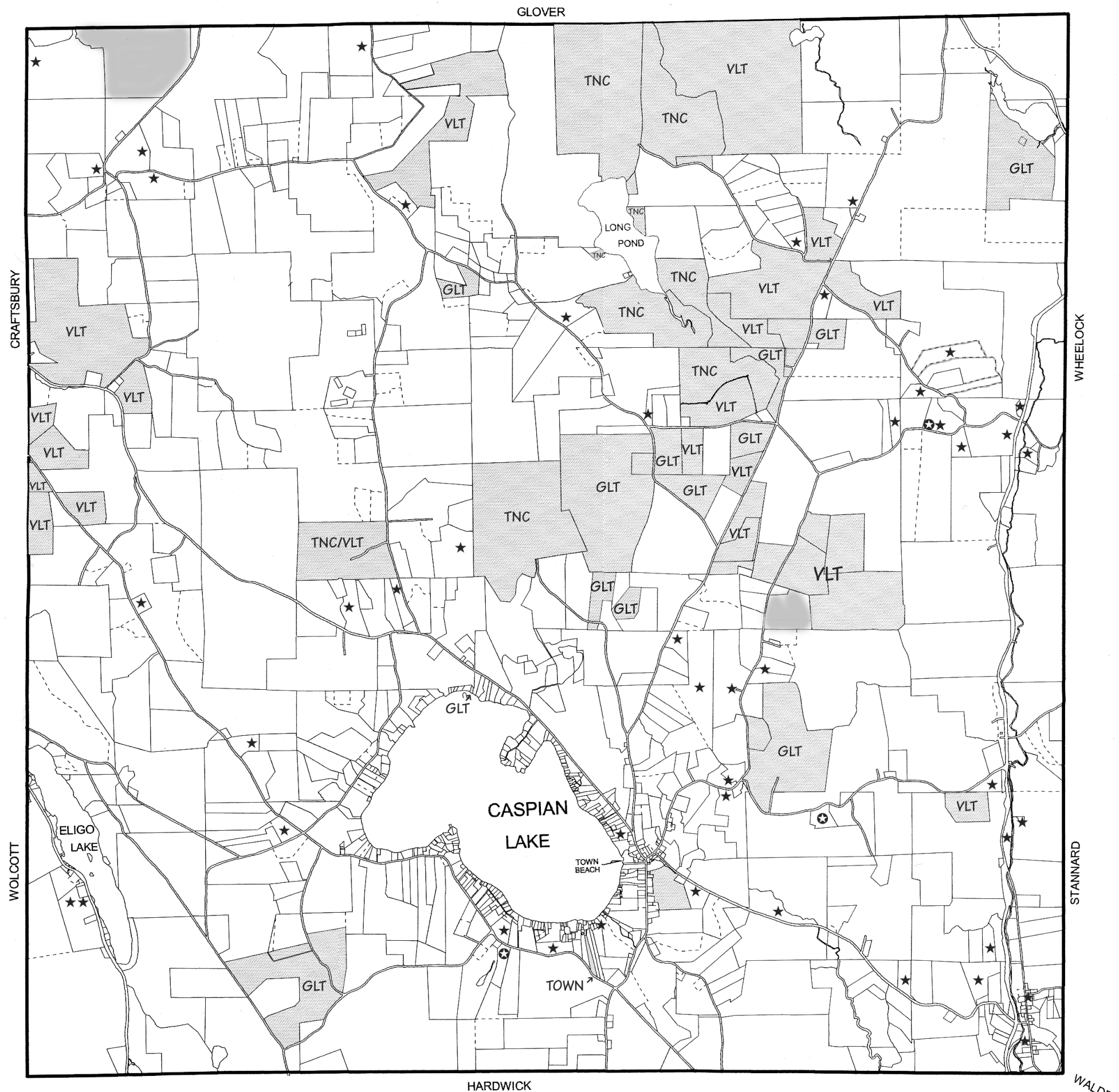
GLT and Greensboro town help conserve Lowell Urie Farm

Last fall the Vermont Land Trust (VLT), with GLT and Town support, conserved a 603-acre dairy farm straddling Glover and Greensboro townships. Westview Farm, operated by Lowell Urie and five preceding generations of his family, has 145 acres of hayfield, forest and water courses (notably Whitney Brook) in Greensboro. While financing most of the cost of the conservation easement, the Freeman Foundation sought local participation. The GLT contributed \$20,000 and the Selectboard voted \$2,000 from the Greensboro Conservation Fund, the very first use of that resource.

The Urie farm contains a stunning mix of open and wooded lands and impressive views in many directions (see above photo). The farm includes a 50-acre, high-quality white cedar swamp. Its open lands contain 110 acres of prime agricultural soil and 154 acres of statewide important soil (as ranked by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service). The surrounding properties are likewise actively farmed. The VLT easement is designed to keep the Urie property in permanent agricultural use.



GLT team inspects Urie farm, May 16, 2008



VLT conserves addition to Kehlers' Jasper Hill Farm

In 2008 Mateo and Andy Kehler, whose cheeses have achieved national prominence, purchased a 37-acre parcel abutting their Jasper Hill Farm and donated a conservation easement on it to the Vermont Land Trust. "Working with the Vermont Land Trust represented a great opportunity to meet our mission of keeping the working landscape viable," said Mateo. "This land purchase makes our farm and its land base viable forever." The Castanea Foundation assisted in the transaction.

Added to 145 acres from the Lowell Urie farm, the Kehlers' action raises total conserved land in Greensboro by 5%, to 16.1% of the town's area.

About GLT

The GLT is a partnership of Greensboro-area people working together to ensure that, as Vermont steadily changes, important land in Greensboro is not lost to development forever. We help farm families conserve productive agricultural land for future generations, preserving not only our heritage but also our economic future. We protect forestland that supports a healthy wood products industry and sustains habitat critical for black bear, songbirds, deer, and other wildlife. We help to permanently protect irreplaceable fields, woods, and shoreline in Greensboro essential for recreation and scenic enjoyment. All this is done while recognizing the need for town planning that allocates portions of the landscape to residential and commercial uses.

Town of Greensboro, Vermont

Our map of Greensboro illustrates the lands conserved by the Greensboro Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, the Vermont Land Trust, and the Town of Greensboro. It shows all residences constructed in the past ten years, and highlights three constructed in the past year.

Map key

Conserved areas, shaded green, comprise the following 33 parcels. Total conserved area amounts to 5.9 square miles (= 3,780 acres), or 16.1% of total town area of 36.7 mi².

1. GLT's 13 easements, totaling 900 acres: Barton/Folino, Buckley, Dean, Edsall (2 easements), Mann, Shaun & Darren Hill, Lewis & Nancy Hill, Kehler, McGrath, Perham, Pinkney, and St. Louis. In 2006-08 Scott Dean, Scott Mann, the Kehlers and Perhams acquired parcels conserved by previous owners with the GLT.
2. Long Pond Natural Area (767 acres) and Barr Hill Nature Preserve (254 acres), owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC).
3. 30-acre "Greensboro Green", 362-acre ex-Murdock property on Glover town line, and 30-acre ex-Brassknocker parcel on Craftsbury Road, owned by Vermont Land Trust (VLT).
4. Four VLT easements to which GLT contributed: York farm (260 acres); Shaun & Darren Hill farm (73 acres); Murdock homestead (150 acres), and Lowell Urie farm (145 acres in Greensboro).
5. Eight other VLT easements: Shatney farm (313 acres); Shatney hayfield in Greensboro Bend (34 acres); York homestead (85 acres); five ex-Brassknocker parcels on Craftsbury town line, totaling 323 acres, and part of Jasper Hill farm (37 acres).
6. Barton Homestead Trust on Gebbie Road (VLT and TNC—121 acres); and
7. A 3.5-acre strip owned by the Town of Greensboro on Lake Shore Road, donated by Currier & Dill.

...Conserved land

★
 Residence constructed in past 10 years

⊛
 ...In 2008

Conserving your land

Using legal tools called "conservation easements" or "grants of development rights," we help landowners to voluntarily limit development while keeping the land open for forestry, farming, and recreation. The property remains in private ownership and the landowner has peace of mind, knowing that the land is protected now and in perpetuity. S/he decides whether to allow public access.

Easement donations qualify as charitable contributions for federal income and estate tax purposes, but do not normally reduce property taxes.

We work with landowners who love their land and want to see it conserved. The GLT buys and accepts gifts of development rights. Sometimes we share a project with the Vermont Land Trust, which receives funding from The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Freeman Foundation, and private donors. But mainly we rely on funds raised from residents and friends of Greensboro.

We talk regularly with potential conservators, and incur expenses for appraisals, surveys, purchase of easements, and monitoring. You can help by sending your tax-deductible contribution to **GLT, PO Box 135, Greensboro, VT 05841**.

Feel free to call any trustee or Advisory Committee member with questions. Our website provides details and photos of conserved land, along with GLT's annual financial report go to www.greensborolandtrust.org.