



Woodie Wheaton Land Trust

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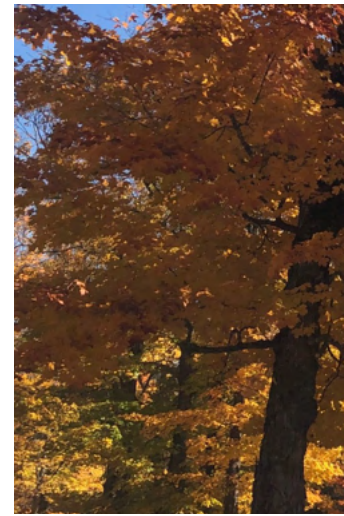
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“To promote the protection, preservation, and conservation of land and water in the Chiputneticook Lakes region of eastern Maine and western New Brunswick for the benefit of present and future generations.”



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To promote conservation of the Chiputneticook Lakes



WOODIE WHEATON LAND TRUST

CONSERVATION NOTES

Issue 18, Winter 2019

Continuing to Conserve the Headwaters of East Grand Lake

The Woodie Wheaton Land Trust is on the move again in fulfilling its mission of promoting the protection, preservation and conservation of land and water in the Chiputneticook lakes region. The Land Trust has been offered the opportunity to purchase 906 acres of land abutting two miles of the newly acquired Greenleaf property in Amity, Maine, previously conserved due largely in part to the generous support of Sam and Betty Shine. The protection of those lands significantly contributed to the long term protection of the headwaters that feed freshwater into North and East Grand Lake.

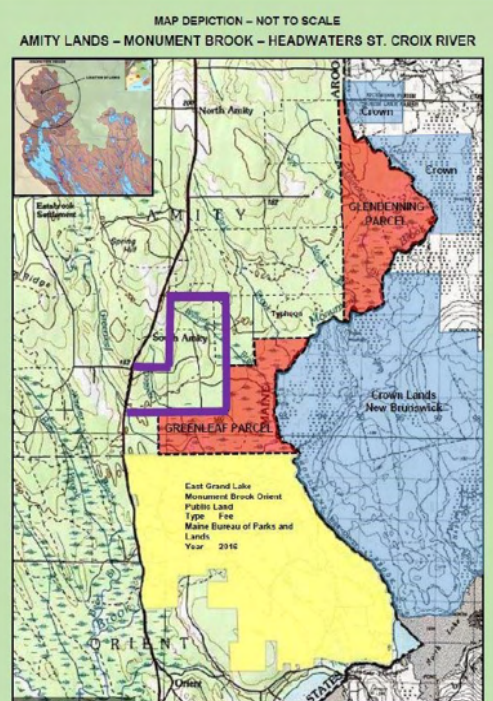
The special nature of this land and its proximity to the Greenleaf property offers further protections to the Headwaters, giving us the ability to control land access from Route 1 through these properties. In addition, the ecosystems found here have been undisturbed for many years, therefore considerably

productive with enormous biodiversity of both flora and fauna.

It is the goal of the Trust that the acquisition of this land will assure environmentally responsible and compatible land use on WWLT's previously conserved lands, while also enhancing its ecological integrity.

The WWLT Board of Directors was overwhelming in support of acquiring this property with the intent on raising the money through outside sources. Our preliminary efforts have rewarded us with enough private pledges to pursue this fundraising. To help do so, the Trust has contracted the

services of a grant writer to acquire additional monies by applying for grants through foundations. Finally, we would like you, our membership, to please consider giving a donation to this very important purchase. Let's come together and keep East Grand Lake....Grand!



A Warm Welcome to Colin Brown

WWLT's New Executive Director



The Board of the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust would like to introduce our new Executive Director, Colin Brown. Colin moved to Washington County in 2010, and is passionate about connecting people of all ages to the natural world. After graduating from the University of Connecticut in 2005, Colin spent several years working as an environmental educator and naturalist across southern New England. Prior to arriving at Woodie Wheaton Land Trust, he worked for the Sunrise County Economic Council in Machias, and previously spent four years with the Downeast Lakes Land Trust in Grand Lake Stream, serving as the Education and Outreach Manager and Deputy Director.

"I'm deeply committed to promoting the natural beauty of Downeast Maine, and conserving its natural resources for the enjoyment of future generations."

Colin lives on the banks of the Pennamaquan River in Pembroke, ME with his wife, Laura, and daughter, Nora. He enjoys hiking, fishing, paddling, photography, playing music, gardening, foraging, and anything else that gets him outdoors.

"I'm very excited to have the opportunity to work with the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust community, and I look forward to exploring the Chiputneticook Lakes region with my family." - Colin Brown

New Director, Reginald Simons



Reggie had been visiting Wheaton's Lodge for the last 25 years before purchasing a cabin in Forest City in 2015. It was during these visits that he developed his lifelong connection with the outdoors, conservation and the State of Maine. Reggie recently retired after working for 34 years at a concrete company in New Jersey where he resides with his wife, Joyce and daughter, Kaitlyn. He hopes to spend his free time fly tying, canoeing, reading, horseback riding and exploring new places and adventures. Reggie is looking forward to helping continue the important mission of the Trust and sharing his vision of preservation of the land and lakes in the region for future generations.

Update on the Forest City Dam

The State of Maine and the Province of New Brunswick have just submitted to FERC's Docket for the Forest City Dam the outline of a proposal regarding the future ownership and operation of the dam.

Governor Janet Mills of Maine and Premier Blaine Higgs of New Brunswick have proposed that the US and Canadian sides of the dam be owned and operated by an independent third party which will operate the dam to achieve fisheries, recreation, flood control and dam safety objectives while addressing FERC's concerns regarding the production of hydroelectric power at Woodland Pulp's facilities located downstream.

The State of Maine will work with a hydroelectric consulting firm which will study historic water flow and power generation data from the Forest City Dam and use that data to produce an operational plan that will satisfy FERC's concerns and ensure that the public policy benefits of the dam can continue.

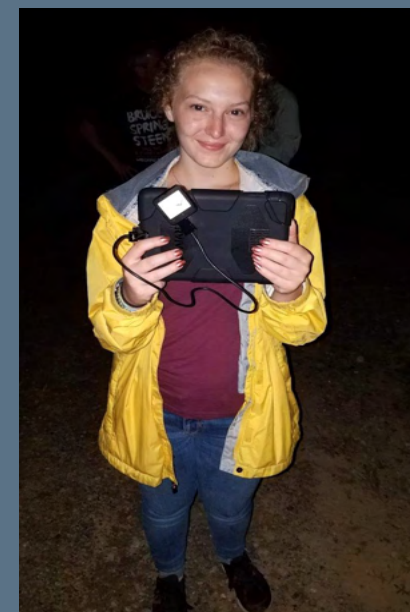


In response to the filing by these two governments, Woodland Pulp has just submitted a request to FERC asking that its license surrender proceeding and its rehearing request not be acted upon while the Province of New Brunswick and the State of Maine more fully develop their ownership and operational proposal for submission to the Commission. Woodland Pulp will assist the Province and State, as appropriate. It is anticipated that the details of this proposal will be submitted to FERC in March of next year.

These developments have good potential to produce a long-term solution for the Forest City Dam.

-David Townsend, President of the Chiputneticook Lakes International Conservancy (CLIC).
October, 2019

2019 Summer Internship Program



This past summer, with support from Maine Coast Heritage Trust, WWLT continued its Summer Internship Program, welcoming Kaia Williams to Forest City. Kaia is a student at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia where she is studying environmental sustainability and Spanish. She is currently spending her fall semester studying abroad in Mexico.

During her time with the Trust, Kaia helped with monitoring WWLT's properties and maintaining the East Grand Highlands Hiking Trails. Some of you might have also seen her at many of our summer events, greeting guests and assisting behind the scenes. She also was introduced to GIS mapping, creating a map of Spednic Lake and updating the Trust's online Interactive Visitor's Map.

We truly appreciated having Kaia here with us this summer and hope she enjoyed being a part of the conservation community in northern Maine. We wish her the best with her upcoming international adventures!

Meet the Faces of WWLT

Gwen Campos

WWLT Director
Outreach Committee Chair



Q: How did you come to discover Forest City?

"My parents have owned The Village Camps in Forest City for 50 years. I was raised in Forest City helping-out around the camps. My love and respect for the tiny slice of Heaven didn't emerge until I had children of my own and now, we can't wait to vacation there as a family."

Q: What is one of your fondest memories of the outdoors as a child?

"Do I have to mention just one? When I was a teenager, I helped restock Spednic Lake with bass caught on other lakes in the area. A large group of people from our area came together to save a lake and a way of life. We got to spend the entire day fishing with Maine Guides knowing that by having fun, we would also be saving Spednic."

Q: What can others do to support local conservation both in Forest City and in their own communities?

"I think that others can help by volunteering, getting involved in and sharing their love for our beautiful area. The more people that love and respect the beauty and traditions of our area, the more help we can get. We are always appreciative of our community volunteers that without them, we could not accomplish as much as we do."

Q: Why do you feel the mission of WWLT is important?

"I want my boys to enjoy life at the lake for the rest of their lives, and I want my grandchildren to do the same. I want our peaceful, quiet way of life to carry on in future generations. If our area is not conserved, I fear that will not be possible. The clean water to swim in, the pristine forest to hike through, the beautiful river to float on is what it is all about."

Q: What role do you believe Land Trusts should play in the community?

"I think a Land Trust should be a resource for a community, a way for educating community members. I feel it is part of our job to get people interested and caring about our mission. Our summer events that we host bring together neighbors and get our friends involved."

David Bianco

WWLT Director
Fundraising Committee Chair



Q: How did you come to discover Forest City?

"During the summer of 2009, I was introduced to Forest City by my friends Gwen and Randy Campos. I fell in love with the area when I caught my first small mouth bass, and have been coming back ever since."

Q: What is one of your fondest memories of the outdoors as a child?

"When I was growing up in southern Maine, the outdoors was where I spend most of my time. Either fishing with my dad, camping with my friends, or climbing the endless rocky coast near the beach. Spending the majority of my time outside was an important part of my life."

Q: What can others do to support local conservation both in Forest City and in their own communities?

"The best way to support local conservation is by getting involved, whether it's joining local conservation groups, volunteering or becoming a member. Any support people can offer will make a difference."

Q: Why do you feel the mission of WWLT is important?

"The importance of the WWLT mission cannot be understated. Protecting and conserving the environment for current and future generations should always be on forefront of people's minds. The members of the WWLT are these kinds of people. They understand the need to protect our natural resources."

Q: What role do you believe land trusts should play in the community?

"The role that land trusts should play in the community is one of protectors and educators. They should be places where people can gather to discuss their ideas about conservation, and to enact change. They give individuals a louder voice when they stand together."

A Glimpse of the Trust's Ongoing Efforts



Woodie Wheaton Land Trust is constantly working to pursue public benefit, although our efforts are often not apparent. Your Directors give generously of their own time to conserve lands and provide unique community services that would never be addressed by the government or the private sector. Here are a few projects and issues that we have been involved in recently...

- The Board has been actively pursuing permanent public access and use of the Spednic Lake boat landing in Forest City. Used by canoeists, anglers, and guides since about 1960, recent events have placed use of the boat landing in jeopardy. It was originally set aside for public use, but no legal instrument formally acknowledged such.
- In partnership with the East Grand Chamber of Commerce, WWLT provides much of the funding and labor to create and maintain the Highlands Trail overlooking East Grand Lake and along Sucker Lake in Danforth. This low-intensity hiking network is becoming popular among outdoor enthusiasts.
- WWLT's standing seat on the Spednic Lake/St. Croix River Stewardship Fund Committee has directed funding toward maintenance of Castle Road, reparations of bank erosion at Spruce Mountain Cove, and annual financial support for maintenance of campsites by the St. Croix International Waterway Commission. In 2019, a grant supported WWLT's Stewardship Day, where volunteers cleaned and maintained day-use sites along Spednic Lake.
- The Trust has been actively involved in shoreline conservation in Weston, particularly a plan developed by The Conservation Fund for large tracts. Proposed build-out of key parcels has been troubling. WWLT continues to work toward conservation of at-risk properties.
- The Forest City Shade Tree Project resulted in the removal of many dead and dying sugar maples (c. 1880s), and the replanting of 60 new trees in 2018 and 2019. WWLT Directors and local citizens worked hard to plant and nurture the trees. Financial help came from a grant from Project Canopy (State of Maine) and many private donations.
- Many events of community interest and need were hosted by WWLT in 2019, such as a CPR and First Aid course, a guided birdwatching walk, a Hunter Safety Course, and a biologist's presentation on Bats of Maine. The WWLT Center provides a venue for public meetings and private gatherings such as weddings or memorials.
- Greenland Island (East Grand Lake) and Dri-Ki Point (Spednic Lake) provide freely available public campsites on the lakes, and many properties are conserved for public benefit. All lands are monitored and maintained each summer, and that means time and effort.
- WWLT provides ongoing support for the East Grand Adventure Race held each spring in nearby Danforth, along with other youth programs.
- Our Lands Committee is constantly looking for conservation opportunities in the area. Many conversations take place regarding properties that hold potential public benefit. Sometimes it takes years to gain traction toward a project, and serious energy to complete one. Converting privately held land to responsibly managed conservation land for public benefit requires a commitment. Your directors and staff are constantly working toward this end.
- The Trust has long held a close working relationship with local Maine guides, and each June hosts a guides dinner at the WWLT Center as a show of appreciation.
- WWLT is on track to attain accreditation with the (national) Land Trust Alliance, having adopted many policies pursuant to good governance. In 2019, we have been developing a detailed Financial Management Policy. A recent review by Maine Coast Heritage Trust found our internal controls to be highly responsible and compliant with Federal guidelines.
- Our international lakes require a symbiosis of vision and effort from both countries. We communicate frequently with the Nature Trust of New Brunswick (such as with headwaters protection) and with many of our Canadian neighbors. The province's Premier is Blaine Higgs, who grew up in Forest City, NB, and who once served on the WWLT Board of Directors. Imagine that!
- The future of the Forest City dam has been in the news. It is a critical part of the lakes community. While WWLT has not led the effort to save the dam, we are publicly supportive of efforts to resolve FERC licensing issues on behalf of the many stakeholders.

**We are privileged to enjoy a special place, and take pride in keeping it that way.
Thank you for your continued support!**



Forest City Shade Tree Project Wrap-up

With support from the State of Maine's Urban & Community Forestry Program's Project Canopy Grant, as well as tremendous effort from the community, we have officially finished the last phase of our *Forest City Shade Tree Project*. Along the main street of Forest City now lie 60 newly planted sugar maple trees. These trees have been planted to restore the historical significance of the previously dead or aging shade trees that lined the roads of Forest City for nearly 100 years, dating back to the tannery days.

If you have the opportunity to visit Forest City, you will notice most of the newly planted trees have a unique plaque donated in honor or memory of a loved one. These trees were donated by WWLT members and project supporters. We want to thank everyone who supported this project. We hope these trees will be enjoyed by many generations to come!



Former Executive Director Joins Board of Directors



The Woodie Wheaton Land Trust announces the departure of Executive Director Anna Levitsky. Since joining WWLT 6 years ago as an intern, Anna has achieved many accomplishments from organizing land acquisitions and management to coordinating community events and everything in between. While directing the growth of this organization as a valued employee, Anna has consistently shown her dedication, professionalism, and commitment to the Trust and this community.

"Looking back on my time here I am fortunate to be able to say that I myself have been able to grow

alongside an organization that genuinely cares for this community and it's future, and I've been able to surround myself with neighbors who share a deep affection for this place. As my role as ED here at the Trust comes to an end, my hope is that with eyes wide open, the WWLT and Forest City community can continue to grow and work together as a family to ensure that this place will be treasured by many more generations to come." – Anna Levitsky

Anna will be missed by all around town and in her role as ED. We wish her the best success in her new endeavors.

But wait....not so fast! It is because of Anna's dedication and commitment to the WWLT, with great pleasure we also announce that Anna will transition from employee to Board of Director. She didn't really think she was going to get away, did she?

Bats of Maine

Exploring one of Maine's Misunderstood Residents

During the summer, the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust held a presentation and walk on bats in Maine. Shevenell Webb, a, Furbearer and Small Mammal Biologist from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shared her knowledge about bats with event attendees. Webb began with a short talk about what species of bats live in Maine, the calls they make, and the cause for their dwindling population. Bats communicate with their surroundings using a technique called echolocation. When using echolocation bats emit a series of high-frequency chirps that will bounce off nearby surfaces. Sound frequencies return back to the bats to let them know how far away an object is along with how big it is.

After finishing her talk, Webb took attendees out to a location that former director, Bob Shaw, picked out. At the site, everyone had the chance to use software that detects bats in the area. This software could turn the calls that bats use into a frequency that humans could hear and even decipher what species of bat was nearby based on the sound they made. During the walk, about five or six bats were seen and heard. Species seen and heard while out on the walk include little brown bats, silver-haired bats, and red bats.

The next morning, Webb gave more of an educational talk on bats. She shared information about the different species of bats in Maine. There are species of tree-bats and cave bats in Maine. Maine has three species of tree-bats. For tree-bats, there are hoary bats, silver-haired bats, and red bats. These bats migrate elsewhere in the winter and typically only have about one pup. After this, Shevenell talked about the five species of cave bats in Maine. There are little brown bats, big brown bats, eastern small-footed bats, northern long-eared bats, and tri-colored bats. Out of these five species, the little brown bat and the Eastern small-footed bat are both considered endangered species in Maine. Also, nation-wide the northern long-eared bat is a threatened species.

The population of cave bats have recently plummeted due to a disease called White-Nose Syndrome (WNS). WNS, a fungal disease that dwells in caves, is thought to have been

brought to the United States by a European tourist that possibly had the fungus on his/her shoes. When bats catch this disease, they wake up in the middle of hibernation and fly around which rapidly burns all their fat reserves making them unable to survive. Because of this disease, the little brown bat population has decreased between 95% to 98%. Other species of cave bats such as the big brown bat have had a better survival rate despite being infected by the disease, because they can afford to lose more fat without starving to death in the winter.

Thankfully the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and other organizations are doing all they can to make sure these bat populations can make a healthy recovery. There are three known caves in Maine bats are known to hibernate in. Thankfully, the Maine Department of Inland

Fisheries and Wildlife has put up bat gates and signs up to make sure the bats are not further disturbed during hibernation. Webb is hopeful that the little brown bat and other species of cave bats will soon make a recovery. Meantime, concerned citizens can put up bat boxes that provide shelter as well as leave any bats found inside houses in the winter. It is advised that if you do find a bat hibernating in your house wait till the summer to relocate it.

Overall, Webb's walk and talk was very successful and informative. Attendees to the walk saw quite a few bats which made coming out worth the while. It was amazing to hear people around saying how grateful they were to see bats, which they hadn't seen in years. Everyone was fascinated by the technology Webb brought and was amazed it could detect bats in the area. Webb shared a lot about the species of bats here in Maine and WNS which captivated the attention of the audience and provoked many questions. This event helped promote interest in the trust and share a greater knowledge about bats in Maine with the community.

- Kaia Williams, Summer Intern

