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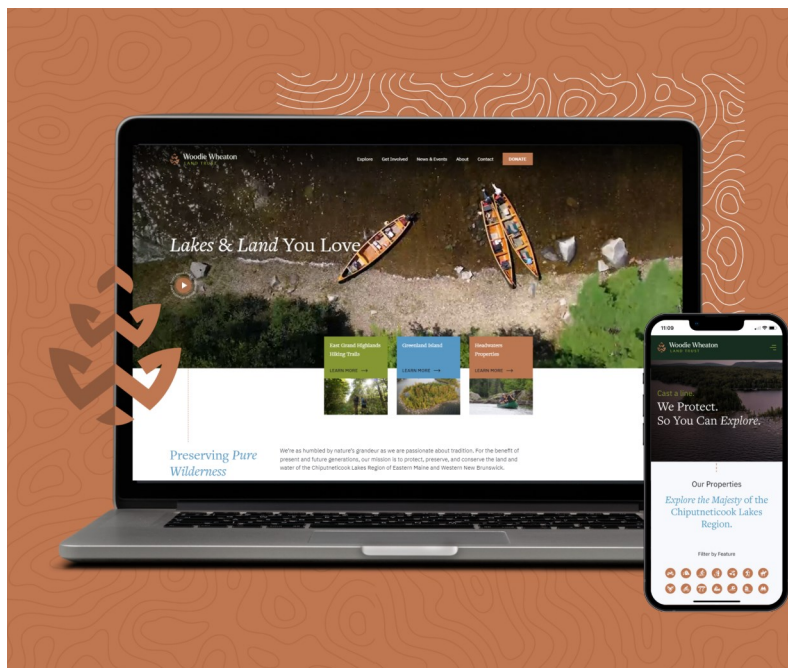
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You may have noticed that WWLT has a new logo and new website. The goal of the rebranding was to prepare WWLT for its next chapter of growth by crafting a sophisticated look and feel that matched the legacy of the organization. This unique landscape is active, alive, and rare, and we wanted to communicate that with a dynamic new logo and website.

We retired the original logo, which featured Woodie Wheaton’s signature and emphasized both the rusticism and traditionalism of the region. The new logo pays homage to the beloved Woodie Wheaton by incorporating his initials into a stylized pinecone, where the ideas of tradition, preservation, and a greener future can coexist. We retained the original illustration and transformed it into a seal as a nod to the past.

WWLT’s mission remains the same—to protect, preserve, and conserve this beautiful place. Thank you for continuing to be part of that mission.



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Our work would not be possible without the support and generosity of our donors. We are incredibly thankful.

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To promote conservation of the Chiputneticook Lakes



INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS REACH MAINE’S NORTHERN COUNTIES

by Roberta Hill, Lake Stewards of Maine

Big Lake, located in and around the town of Grand Lake Stream, is part of a sprawling and much larger (roughly 17,000 acres) system known for its remote wilderness beauty and extraordinary fishing. In October of 2019, the invasive aquatic plant, variable-leaf milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*), was found and confirmed in Big Lake’s Clifford Bay. This marked the first known occurrence of an invasive aquatic plant in Washington County (as well as the first find north of Bangor).

A survey of the immediate area determined that the infestation was well established and widespread throughout much of Clifford Bay, at the southeast corner of the lake. Plans were soon underway for an LSM-led team to conduct a complete level-3 survey of Big Lake during the summer of 2020. Though the COVID-19 pandemic brought the planned mobilization of this expert (largely volunteer) survey team to a halt, the response effort continued on in earnest.



Variable Water-Milfoil (Photo by Dennis Roberge, courtesy of Lake Stewards of Maine)

In 2020, warning buoys were placed in Clifford Bay to help boaters steer clear of known infested areas; several online informational meetings and webinars were offered free of charge to the local public; a Courtesy Boat Inspection program was implemented by Down East Lakes Land Trust at the Greenlaw Chopping Boat Launch; and a limited but dedicated search for more additional patches of invasive milfoil was undertaken by DEP staff, some local residents and a few adventuresome solo volunteers--trained through LSM’s Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) program. The small outlier patches identified through these surveys were removed by DEP divers. With funding from Maine DEP’s Lake and River Protection fund, professional divers with Maine-based New England Milfoil and their DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester) were engaged for five days to begin the removal of milfoil from Clifford Bay.

This was also the year that Downeast Lakes Land Trust began pulling together the Big Lake Milfoil Coalition, a stakeholder group that now includes: Downeast Lakes Land Trust, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township, Lake Stewards of Maine, Big Lake Camp Meeting Association, Big Lake Road Association, Grand Lake Stream Guides Association, Princeton Rod and Gun Club, Town of Grand Lake Stream and Woodland Pulp, LLC.

As the pandemic restrictions began to ease in 2021, the primary objectives shifted to: completing (to the degree possible) a comprehensive (Level 3) survey of Big Lake to determine the extent of the infestation within the lake; providing free training, and engaging locals in the work of prevention and early detection; and expanding of the milfoil control efforts. In order to

GUDIES CORNER

Featuring: The Village Camps

In March of 1969, Lance and Georgie Wheaton began their 53 year-long journey as owners of *The Village Camps* in Forest City. Initially, it may have been the attraction of the beautiful Maine woods & water that brought guests to their door, but for those who know them, know it was their passion for tradition, infectious love of the area, and undoubtedly Lance’s colorful storytelling that made East Grand a home away from home to so many.



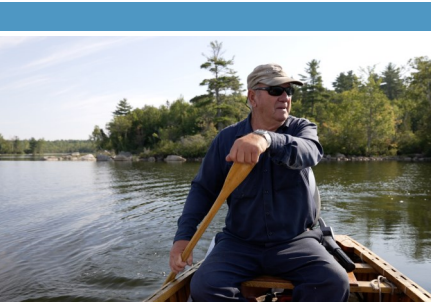
As *The Village Camps* transitions to new ownership this spring, the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust would like to express our sincere appreciation to Lance & Georgie Wheaton for their continuous support over the years. Their commitment to the conservation of the East Grand/ Spednic landscape continues to leave a lasting impact. Son of Woodie Wheaton, and founding Director of the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust, Lance was instrumental in many of the Trust’s conservation initiatives. Georgie often volunteered her time cooking for WWLT events, tending to the flower beds, and lending a hand wherever else was needed. Aside from volunteering their time, *The Village Camps* have donated lodging to many of our guest speakers, as well as countless hours of guiding and giving tours on the water.

Although we will miss seeing them at the camps, there is some good news. Forest City still has them hooked! Lance and Georgie will be enjoying their well-earned retirement on East Grand. Lance will also continue to guide his beloved sports and long-time clients in the place he loves the most — the stern of his Grand Laker.

Please join us in wishing them health and happiness in their upcoming retirement!



Recognizing the service of our local Maine Guides to the region, it’s only fitting that we introduce them to our membership for those who haven’t had the pleasure of sitting in their canoes. So make sure to keep an eye out for our upcoming newsletter series entitled “Guide’s Corner”, featuring a new guide with every edition.



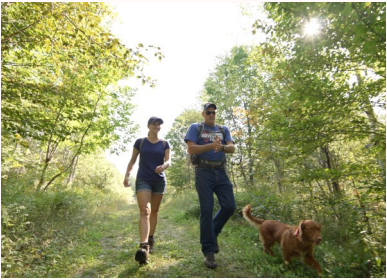
BEST WAYS TO PRESERVE NATURE WHILE HIKING

One of the healthiest things you can do for your body and your mind is to spend some time outside. Fresh air and sunshine are things that everyone needs to stay healthy. Walking outdoors is a fantastic full-body exercise that almost anyone can do, which is why there are so many people who love hiking. Last year alone more than 35 million people went hiking on both national and local trails. All that hiking is great for health, but not so great for the health of the environment. It’s important that hikers follow these simple steps to help preserve nature while hiking to keep the ecosystem healthy and thriving:



Don’t Leave Anything Behind

You should always pack some snacks when you go hiking. Hiking is a good workout and you will get hungry. But it’s essential that you take all your trash and food scraps with you when you leave the area. Even if you have natural snacks like veggies sticks, cut-up fruit, or fruits like oranges and apples that can be tossed in your bag, you still need to bag up your trash and take it with you. Never leave food scraps like apple cores, fruit seeds, or peels lying on the ground. It takes much longer than you’d think for those food items to start to break down and they can be a real problem for the environment.



Keep Your Dog On A Leash

Hiking with a dog is a lot of fun for both you and your dog. But if your dog isn’t under control, they could cause a lot of damage to the natural world around you. Dogs that aren’t leashed can rip up plants, chew the branches of trees, ruin the nests and dens of animals, and chase animals or other hikers. For the dog’s safety and for the safety of the natural world, keep your dog on a leash if you bring them hiking with you.

Stick To The Trail

Have you ever noticed that hiking trails tend to be pretty narrow? That’s part of the design. Hiking trails are designed for one person to walk on and they are narrow so that the person walking does the least possible damage to the natural world. If you’re walking next to the trail or if you and a friend are walking next to each other, you will start to widen the trail. That will cause soil erosion and hurt the environment.



No Shortcuts

Taking shortcuts can be just as bad for the environment as walking off the trail. Shortcuts create multiple paths through the environment and trample the roots of plants, kill grass, break branches off trees, and scare animals away from their homes. Hiking is all about the journey so don’t be in a rush to get to the end of the trail.

Photos Only Please

If you see a plant that you like, or some flowers, or a really cool rock, go ahead and take photos of all of those things. Post those photos on social media and share what you discovered on your hike. But leave the actual items where they are. If every hiker took a souvenir it would turn the natural world into a wasteland.

This article was provided by www.personalinjury-law.com, an organization dedicated to providing the public with information about personal injury and safety information. Nothing in this article should be construed as legal advice, and it is intended for informational use only.



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2021 Chiputneticook Circle

WWLT's Chiputneticook Circle program recognizes the commitment of our most generous members who makes gifts of \$1,000 or more during the course of a year. Chiputneticook Circle donors provide critical annual support that allows WWLT to continue to protect and preserve eastern Maine's and western New Brunswick's exceptional places. By contributing to WWLT as a Chiputneticook Circle member, donors show their commitment to significantly supporting WWLT now and into the future.

The Trust would like to express gratitude to the following
2021 Chiputneticook Circle members:

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Ms. Sarina Gwartzman – Honorary Lifetime Member
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Shine – Honorary Lifetime Member
Mr. and Mrs. David Snow Jr. – Honorary Lifetime Member

INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS REACH MAINE'S NORTHERN COUNTIES

Continued from Page 1

... accomplish these objectives as efficiently and effectively as possible, stakeholders and survey team members met regularly via Zoom to share updates, plan actions, discuss challenges, float ideas, and brainstorm solutions. These weekly team meetings, facilitated by LSM, have proven enormously helpful in strengthening the Coalition and keeping the coordinated effort moving forward.



More than a dozen volunteer Invasive Plant Patrollers "from away" came to the aid of Big Lake to help conduct the Level-3 survey. (Photo by Ross Wescott, courtesy of Lake Stewards of Maine.)

If courage is the ability to look ahead at a task that is difficult and challenging and then to roll up one's sleeves and get to work anyway, the community that has come together to address the Big Lake infestation challenge has this notable attribute in spades. It took courage for volunteer surveyors from all across the state to leave the comfort and safety of their homes during a pandemic to take part in the survey. It took courage for them to set off on their surveys day after day on an immense, unfamiliar lake and to spend long hours in a state of hypervigilance and (in some cases) diving in dark waters to get an even closer view. It took courage for local folks to answer the call for help and to ask what they could do, and more courage yet to follow through. It took courage for people to open their homes and tight-knit communities to the volunteers from away and especially to greet them with such abundant generosity.

Maine Warden and longtime Big Lake resident Brad Richard, the person who first noted something suspicious growing in Clifford Bay and sounded the alarm, recently summed things up this way: "I hope the Downeast boating community hears the message and heeds the call to protect Washington County waterways. Learn how to clean your boat; learn how to spot invasive milfoil. For mitigation efforts to succeed, early action is key. It literally takes only a one-inch piece of this plant to re-generate itself, and if you look at our area on a map, you'll see blue water everywhere. If this invasive plant is here on Big Lake, there's a really good chance that it is somewhere else in the region as well."

Variable milfoil spreads readily through fragmentation and vegetative propagation. The plant stems, which become more brittle as the season progresses, easily break apart, creating numerous viable fragments. Once a fragment, a clone of the parent plant, is set adrift in the waterbody, it is free to move about on currents or to catch a ride on moving objects such as boats or wildlife. The fragments quickly sprout roots, and if they land well, they will anchor into the sediments and establish a new colony. Once well-established in a waterbody, invasive aquatic plants can impact ecosystem health, recreation such as boating, swimming, and fishing, and the local economy.

Lake Stewards of Maine will be offering a live, in-person Invasive Plant Patrol training on East Grand Lake, hosted by WWLT, on August 6th. Please check out their Summer Speaker Series flyer for more information. LSM will also be offering several other live, in-person Invasive Plant Patrol trainings in Washington County, so please stay tuned.

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Did you know that you could be supporting the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust when you're shopping on Amazon?

By using AmazonSmile, a website operated by Amazon, a portion of your purchases will be donated to us, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile offers the same products, prices, and shopping features that Amazon.com does, but with the added bonus of the AmazonSmile Foundation donating 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to WWLT. It's a simple and automatic way for you to support the land and lakes you love.

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THE HEADWATERS FOREST

by Dale Wheaton

With our recent acquisition in November of a 421-acre forest tract (what we refer to as the "Clark Brook parcel"), our Headwaters Forest in Amity, Maine, has become one contiguous property totaling 4,393.5 acres! The forest, together with a large parcel of which WWLT helped procure in 2011 and is presently owned by the State of Maine, now conserves the *entire* U.S. side of Monument Brook and most of its feeder brooks upstream of North and East Grand Lakes.

The property features significant wetlands that adjoin what has been commercial forest, hosting a variety of rare upland and wading birds, a robust moose population, and high-value wintering yards for white-tailed deer. Many feeder brooks lace through the property: Glendenning, Greenleaf, Clark, William, and Daggett. But what were once storied brook trout waters have warmed due to heavy wood harvesting and the fishery has declined.

The healing process has now begun. WWLT's stewardship objectives and good management will allow the forest to grow back, providing natural filtration and shade to support our fish friends and supply high-quality water for the lake systems below. The lands themselves are remote and quiet, and the many animals living there seem grateful.

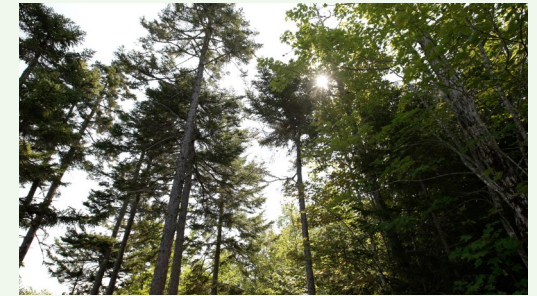
The lands are all open to the public for traditional uses—hunting, fishing, canoe trips, snowmobiling, etc. Hiking trails and several water access campsites are anticipated by the Trust, including a possible walking trail to historic Monument One. The 10-foot obelisk is buried



deep in the woods, an 1834 testament to the Webster-Ashburton Treaty that resolved the Aroostook War. It is rarely visited by humans because there is simply no way to get there other than by foot and compass through the deep woods. WWLT's land extends to within a hundred yards of Monument One.

The Clark Brook purchase came at us quickly, indeed. After nearly four years of wrangling over price, the landowner abruptly agreed to terms, on the condition that the transaction be executed promptly. With no time

for fundraising, WWLT reached into its savings to pay the purchase price, legal fees, appraisal, and all the other closing costs. We did it!



We also had some help on short notice. The Sam Shine Foundation directed the residual funds from a recent Headwaters Forest grant to

be applied to this purchase and followed that with \$25,357 to share half the acquisition expenses. Sam and Betty Shine, residents of Indiana, had a profound affection for the unspoiled landscape of eastern Maine. They knew many of the local fish on a first-name basis. The present Executive Director, C.J. Jackson, has also embraced our mission. We are grateful.

What's next?

Our immediate need is to create a stewardship fund to support future ownership and management of the Clark Brook parcel. Owning property, even when designated for conservation, carries the burden of local property tax, forest fire tax, forest and wildlife inventories, management planning, property line, road maintenance, etc. Our projected need for a sustaining stewardship fund is \$86,000. Sam Shine Foundation has pledged a challenge grant for half! *WWLT wishes to raise \$43,000 in calendar 2022 through grants and donations.*

Also, the Sam Shine Foundation has pledged a matching grant of up to \$50,000 to spur the creation of hiking trails. There is especial interest in a trail to Monument One, but we are respectful of property rights and must discuss options with the abutting landowner. A feasibility study will also address such things as terrain, distance, and a trailhead. An interesting and pleasant hike, with minimal impact to the forest, is desirable.

We need your help. Any donations received in 2022 will be matched dollar for dollar! We will establish a stewardship fund for the Clark Brook parcel, *plus*, have some fun and unique new outdoor experiences!

Kindly direct your donation to either **Headwaters Forest: Stewardship** or **Headwater Forest: Trails**. Together, we have accomplished many good things. Let us do some more. Thank you again.