



## East Grand Watershed Initiative

continued from page one)

This includes the possibility of Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands Ownership of the 6,000+ acre Monument Brook/Orient Forest, which encompasses an intact 1,750-acre deer wintering area that supports a healthy white-tailed deer population. Deer wintering areas are an increasingly rare habitat in Eastern and Northern Maine. The wetlands along Monument Brook also provide breeding habitat for several rare bird species (see article below).

The Trust and The Conservation Fund are assessing an adjacent property on East Grand Lake that could provide boat access, swimming, and picnicking for the residents of Orient and Weston and the general public. The Conservation Fund and the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust are very appreciative of the hard work and support of residents in both towns. The Conservation Fund intends to close on the

\$13,000,000 purchase of 12,013 acres in both towns by the end of the year.

Although we have received several start-up grants for funding of the East Grand Watershed Initiative, support from membership is critical at this time. Your generous donation will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, feel free to contact:



Stephen Keith  
Woodie Wheaton Land Trust  
2 Grove Road  
Forest City, ME 04413  
Office: 207 448-3250  
Home: 207 796-2216

Nancy Bell  
The Conservation Fund  
1331 Town Hill Road  
Shrewsbury, VT 05738  
Phone: 802 492-3368

## Preliminary Bird Survey of the Monument Brook/Orient Forest

Dave Evers of the Biodiversity Research Institute conducted field surveys July 29th and 30th, 2010 and June 8th and 9th, 2011. The areas of greatest interest were the mouth of Dead Stream, North Lake, Monument Brook and Skagrock Brook.

The survey identified sixty-six species. Thirteen of these are considered of conservation concern by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, including **olive-sided flycatcher, Canada warbler, merlin, northern harrier, and yellow-bellied flycatcher**. Although habitat suited black tern, least bittern, short-eared owl, and sedge wren, these species were not found during these surveys.

Water birds of regional interest found in the Monument Brook/Orient Forest include pied-billed grebe, common loon, American black duck, and American bittern. **An exemplary breeding population of the pied-billed**

**Grebe--a species that is threatened or endangered across New England was noted.**

A complete list of recorded findings of Dave Evers's survey is available at the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust Center.



olive-sided flycatcher female with young

## Greenland Island Update

Recent generous contributions of many supportive friends who believe in the exceptional importance of Greenland Island have helped us reduce our mortgage balance of \$36,076.69 to \$17,086.27.

Volunteers have chipped away at cleaning up Billy Springer's (the hermit of Greenland Island) old residence now a lunch site and respite for all that will be protected forever.

Thanks to WWLT Directors Andy Brooks, Bob Kay, Chris Madigan, Paul First (former Executive Director), and others, the clutter of discarded metal, cans, and miscellany were bagged and sent off to the Danforth landfill, bringing the grounds back to pristine condition. The lunch table and rock fire pit with "dingle stick" are being used by guides and picnickers. The front access channel is a nice historical reminder of Springer's handiwork.



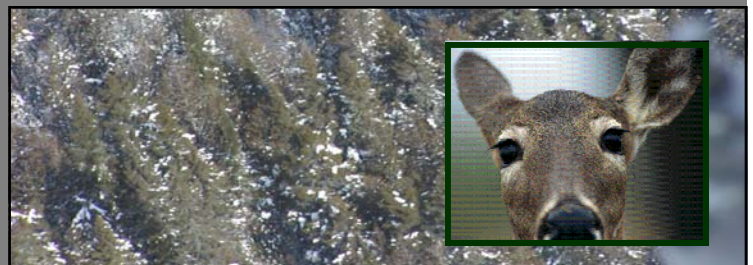
Greenland Island is the oasis of East Grand, a place to breath a sigh of relief from life's trials and tribulations, a place to lose your cares and concerns for the moment. We would be pleased to add your name to our growing list of donors, and we offer our sincere appreciation to those who have already given to this project.

## Guest Speaker:

Mark Caron, Regional Biologist with Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife



Come join us at the Land Trust Center in Forest City on Sunday, August 7th at 1 P.M. for a presentation on white-tailed deer in Eastern Maine. Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife regional biologist Mark Caron will present a talk that is relevant to the East Grand Watershed Initiative and the protection of deer wintering habitat in the Orient/Monument Brook Forest. We look forward to seeing you on August 7th!



white-tailed deer trails and cover in the deer wintering area of the Orient/Monument Brook Forest (E. Grand Watershed Initiative )

## The Woodie Wheaton Land Trust Endowment

Bob Hector died in July, 2008, leaving a generous bequest to WWLT to help protect the natural beauty of the lakes he loved. As the estate gradually transferred to the land trust, it became the unanimous desire of the Board of Directors to use his legacy wisely.

After careful and deliberate consideration, the Board approved the WWLT Endowment Fund Guiding Principles in October, 2009, and retained the investment services of Bangor Savings Bank as custodian later that year. The Endowment is managed conservatively with "the purpose of providing a continuing and long-term flow of income to support operations of the trust." These include recurring administrative expenses, staffing, taxes, insurance, overhead, maintenance, management, stewardship, and other normal operating costs of the organization or its assets.

The endowment is comprised of subordinate accounts earmarked for specific purposes--such as the stewardship of a particular property--or to honor a particular donor whose vision or generosity created the fund.

It is noteworthy that the Directors held a strong view toward protecting the corpus, stipulating that "the Endowment shall not be invaded to pay for specific projects, programs, activities, or acquisitions that occur from time to time, nor should be viewed as a readily available solution to fiscal crises." The guidance is clear.

The Finance Committee meets with investment advisors once or twice each year to review the balance and performance of the portfolio, determine an investment strategy, and affirm a distribution policy for the year ahead. The planned level of distributions is restrained by the goal of growing the real value of the fund in view of inflation, market swings, and variable returns.

As of June 30, 2011, the value of the Robert C. Hector Fund totaled \$1,221,921 and the WWLT

Center Endowment (to defray building expenses) totaled \$58,156, bringing the overall value to \$1,280,077. Annual distributions are \$36,000, or \$9,000 per quarter based on a 3% draw. While this income is a wonderful and reliable income source, it is far below our normal cost of operations.

Bob Hector's legacy cannot be measured in simple dollar terms. His generosity helped to create an organization with financial legitimacy and prospects for long-term survival. Together with the beautiful Woodie Wheaton Land Trust Center, which we all helped build, the land trust earned the necessary respect and credence essential to take on ambitious projects such as the one we now pursue on East Grand Lake.

Bob Hector's vision and subsequent gift will be, forever, a cornerstone in the conservation work of the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust to protect the Chiputneticook Lakes region, water quality, and the pristine nature of its surroundings. We often reflect on this gesture. It makes us think of what each of us might do in our own estate planning that will leave a legacy for our children and grandchildren, something that can impact positively the very place we hold dear.

Bob Hector did his part and hopefully others might consider a gift in their estate planning as well.



## **THANK YOU!**

We wish to thank our growing list of generous donors for their contributions in affection for the lands and waters we work so diligently to conserve.

For a list of supporters, please see pages 6 & 7 of this newsletter and our newly re-vamped website:

**[WWW.WOODIEWHEATON.ORG](http://WWW.WOODIEWHEATON.ORG)**



Above: "Green Side Down" workshop (how to build a Grand Laker given by Lance Wheaton July 16, 2011. (Speaker Series event)

Below: February 2011 field trip to Orient Deer Wintering Area led by IF&W biologists Mark Caron and Allen Starr.



Please join us for our Annual Meeting to be held at the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust Center on August 7th, 2011 at 1 P.M. Hors d'oeuvre's and beverages will be served.

## **A SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

The WWLT wishes to extend a sincere "Thank You" in appreciation of the many years of dedicated service given by William P. Walton III acting as our Treasurer and Membership Committee Chairman.

His attention to detail and concern for our finances led the way for much of the success we enjoy today. We are grateful for his hard work and dedication to the Trust and we wish him the best in any future endeavors he chooses to undertake.

Most Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of WWLT

# The Woodie Wheaton Land Trust Gratefully Acknowledges for Their Generous Financial Support

July 2010 -

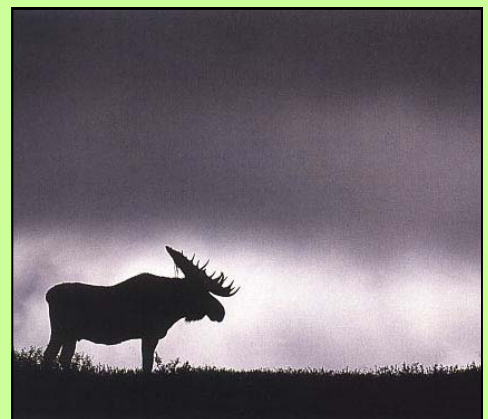
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## *Gram*

Ruth E. Wheaton (1916-2011) cut the ribbon August 2010 to celebrate the grand opening of the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust Center. We lost this grand lady January 12, 2011 after a courageous bout with pancreatic cancer.

"Gram" was the consummate indoor lady immersed in a family of outdoorsman. Fishing and hunting dominated conservation all summer and fall in the kitchen and porch of their homes in Grand Lake Stream and Wheaton's Lodge in the pine grove.

"How was your day?", she might ask of a returning fisherman, or "sport" as they were called. On one such day the sport responded "Ruthie, every day is a good day"...such sage advice guided her life.

She was a 1938 graduate of the Massachusetts College of Art, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education, and President of her college class. After graduation she taught at Somerville High School then fell for a Maine guide one summer. Years later, in 1993, she received a letter notifying her that she was to be awarded a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree and her written response said "Of course at my age the honor cannot especially help my resume, but it surely will look great on my obituary."

For much of her life she heard about, looked at, and dined on landlocked salmon, lake trout, smallmouth bass, and white perch. She canned venison, made venison mincemeat for her finest mincemeat pies, obediently plucked pin feathers out of ducks, cooked ducks and geese often to supplement a meager household budget. It was the life that had adopted her.

Woodie gave it a big effort to introduce this city girl to the hunting and fishing lifestyle. It was rural Maine living in the late 30's, 40's, and early 50's, to live Off the land and water. Venison was a staple and tasted exactly the same whether shot in or outside the legal season. Freshwater fish were also a part of the diet, and gill nets helped make it easier, with whitefish, salmon, or lake trout, baked, boiled, broiled, or smoked.

I asked her one day, "Mother, how come you did not hunt deer?"

"Oh, your father tried," she said.

"The first time he took me with him, he shot a deer. Woodie walked to the deer in order to dress it out, then called to me.

'I need some help' he said. 'I've got to hang this deer and I need help on the rope.' So I walked over and saw that awful mess on the ground. The smell and pile of guts made me sick. I couldn't do it, but somehow he convinced me to help string up that deer. It was awful."





"Another time I had to claim a deer. In those days it was common for a non-hunting wife to get a license in the event an "extra" deer was shot, and Woodie had gotten one for me. That day, Woodie wheeled the "extra" deer to the tagging station, which happened to be the local post office.

"May Colson (at Grand Lake Stream, their home) began to fill out the necessary information and turned to ask, 'Ruth, now where did you shoot the deer?' 'Right between the eyes', I responded and the whole waiting local populace roared with laughter. I felt so stupid because I was supposed to reveal the general location where the deer was taken. But how would I know? Woodie shot it somewhere."

In 1952 Mother and Dad opened Wheaton's Lodge and camps on East Grand Lake in Forest City, Maine with money borrowed from sports Woodie guided. They were scared to death, paid it all back, put three boys through school and retired after 23 years.



After her retirement from Wheaton's Lodge in 1976, she returned to her watercolors with well over 100 paintings finding special places on walls of family and friend's homes. She earned regional recognition from the Bangor Daily News in 1976 and was selected for a public exhibit at the Bangor Public Library in 2007 at the age of 90. She left a legacy of inspiration and generously donated land for the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust Center.

What you may not know about Gram is that in the early days she gave many hot covered meals to elderly Maudie and Jake Butterfield, Della Lydic, and Evelyn and Johnny Lawry. She donated to the Forest City N.B. Church, the Grand Lake Stream Congregational Church, and the Manna Food Kitchen in Bangor. Her donation of the land for the WWLT Center specified that it be used by all in the community, including our neighbors in Canada.

She spent nearly 21 years without Dad and we got to know mother in a whole new dimension. Her humor was infectious, she loved life large, and she loved her family, 8 grandchildren, and 13 greatgrandchildren. She crossed the great divide with dignity and grace. But when 7 P.M. rolls around now each evening, there's something missing. No more will she answer the phone sometimes saying "you're late (3 minutes after 7).

Mother became "Gram" to most everybody. You only get one mother, and all mothers are special you know, as was she!

## ***Art Wheaton***





Join us for our final Speakers' Forum  
and Field Trip on Saturday, August  
20th at noon.

Dale Wheaton will give a talk and  
lead a field trip on the  
**HISTORY OF THE FOREST  
CITY TANNERY**

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For those who already give, your continued  
support makes our conservation achievements  
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