



## Woodie Wheaton Land Trust

2 Grove Road, Forest City, ME 04413

www.woodiewheaton.org

207-448-3250

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## Changes to WWLT Summer Events and Programs



As you might have noticed, one thing that is missing from this edition of WWLT's *Conservation Notes* is the schedule for the Summer Speaker Series. Providing exciting and engaging educational opportunities is at the core of our community outreach efforts, as we strive to inspire and educate the next generation of environmental stewards in the Chiputneticook Lakes region. However, this summer, these "events" may look noticeably different.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and continued physical distancing guidelines, we will be assessing public program potential as health recommendations allow. In addition, the opening of the WWLT Center will be delayed until further notice. However, this provides exciting opportunities to create virtual content! We are working with presenters and volunteers to bring public programs "online," to enjoy from the comfort of your own home or camp. As these programs are evolving, please be sure to follow Woodie Wheaton Land Trust on Facebook and check [www.woodiewheaton.org](http://www.woodiewheaton.org), for the latest updates and new opportunities to learn (and be entertained!) this summer.

2 Grove Road, Forest City, ME 04413 · (207) 448-3250 · [info@woodiewheaton.org](mailto:info@woodiewheaton.org) · [www.woodiewheaton.org](http://www.woodiewheaton.org)



"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."



## LEAVING A CONSERVATION LEGACY

This past fall, the conservation world lost a true giant. On November 15, 2019, Sam Shine passed away at the age of 86.

Sam and his wife, Betty, were frequent visitors to the region, and were ardent supporters of WWLT. Sam and Betty founded the Sam Shine Foundation, whose mission was the "Long-term conservation, preservation, and restoration of natural ecosystems while focusing on maintaining and enhancing native wildlife habitats associated with unique lands and waters."

The Foundation's support of WWLT's mission will be long-lasting, as Sam and Betty's contributions were the driving force behind the conservation of the Headwaters. The entire WWLT community extends its sincerest condolences to the Shine family. Keeping with the family's wishes, oak seedlings will be planted in the Headwaters this spring.



Sam Shine  
Photo credit: Purdue Univ.



Promoting conservation in the Chiputneticook Lakes region



WOODIE WHEATON LAND TRUST

CONSERVATION NOTES

Issue 19, Spring 2020

## COMING TOGETHER FOR THE HEADWATERS

*A final push for land protection*

In February of 2018, when Woodie Wheaton Land Trust purchased more than 3,000 acres along Monument Brook with a generous gift from Sam and Betty Shine, it set in motion an exciting trajectory in WWLT's conservation efforts. This new path is focused on critical ecological protection and habitat restoration, while continuing to offer numerous public recreational benefits to the region. Monument Brook is the headwater stream of East Grand Lake and the entire St. Croix River Watershed, so this strategic location's importance cannot be overstated. Land conservation efforts in this area will have positive, long-lasting impacts on the downstream water quality of North and East Grand Lakes.



Building upon the success of 2018, WWLT is in the midst of a campaign to acquire an additional 906 acres in the region—The Headwaters Forest. This land, adjacent to the Greenleaf parcel, represents the upland counterpart to the land along Monument Brook. This parcel features important deer wintering habitat, and contains long stretches of two major feeder streams to Monument Brook - Williams and Daggett Brooks - which offer spawning habitat for Maine's iconic native eastern brook trout. In addition, The Headwaters Forest offers extensive frontage along Route 1, allowing WWLT to improve public access to these lands for recreation and traditional uses, such as fishing and hunting.

The WWLT Board of Directors' overwhelming support of this project has yielded numerous private pledges, and with the assistance of a grant writer, submitted several large applications for funding to regional foundations in pursuit of this essential conservation acquisition. WWLT has a purchase-and-sales agreement with the current landowner that requires closing on the property by October 1, 2020. With summer upon us, the time to make a final fundraising push is here.

We would like you, the WWLT network of friends and supporters, to please consider donating to this critical conservation project. Make your next donation to WWLT's Headwaters Forest project, and we will come together for the benefit of present and future generations of those who love this region!



*Moose in Monument Brook*



# Preserving Today for Tomorrow ~ with sincere appreciation to our 2019 donors

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## 2019 Chiputneticook Circle

WWLT's Chiputneticook Circle program recognizes the commitment of our most generous members who make 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 2019 Chiputneticook Circle members...

Mr. Leonard Ackerman  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Amberger  
Mr. James J. Baker  
Ms. Linda Bennett  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Benny  
Mr. Rodger Blye  
Mr. Jerry Bonnell  
Harold & Betty Cottle Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Crocker  
Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Epstein  
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Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Martin  
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Mr. Dominick Rutigliano  
Ms. Kay Serebrakian  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Shaw  
Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Simons  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wheaton  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Wheaton  
**Wheaton's Lodge**

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

## Executive Director's Note

Dear WWLT supporters,

Over the last couple of months, our lives have drastically changed in the face of COVID-19. Please rest assured that the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust team is closely **monitoring this evolving situation, and we're prepared to** follow the requirements outlined by state and federal authorities. Our top priority is a safe, healthy, and happy community.

As many of you know, spring and summer are special seasons in the Chiputneticook Lakes. Salmon and bass fishing are at their peak, lodges and sporting camps are filled, birds are singing from the treetops, and villages buzz with summer excitement. We all understand that this spring and summer will be markedly different from previous years. While these social changes may feel uncomfortable and foreign, they are designed to keep all of us safe and healthy. WWLT staff and directors will carefully follow state and federal guidance for physical distancing, large-group gatherings, and public interaction, and will make future decisions accordingly. We expect that some of our public events, fundraisers, and public interactions will be altered, and possibly canceled, but these changes will be made for what matters most: the health and safety of everyone.

This summer, one thing that will not change is our passion for the protection of land and water in the Chiputneticook Lakes region for the benefit of present and future generations. WWLT's conservation efforts and land protection projects are managed with an eye for the very distant future. While several months of drastic alterations to our daily lives might be upsetting, one summer is a mere blink of an eye for the life of an old maple tree, the changing landscape of a forest, or a winding trout stream. Our work will carry on, behind the scenes, as we continue to promote our mission. Be well, stay safe, and we hope to see you soon!

Best Wishes,



Colin Brown  
WWLT Executive Director



## Follow WWLT On Instagram

In order to improve communications with supporters, Woodie Wheaton Land Trust has expanded its outreach efforts on social media by joining Instagram. If you are new to the platform, Instagram is a free photo and video sharing application where users can upload and share content with friends and the general public.

The Chiputneticook Lakes region is a beautiful place that has incredible images to share with the world. We hope **you'll follow along!** To find WWLT, search for @woodiewheatonlandtrust, and start sharing your own images of the lakes, streams, forests, and people!

