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P.O. Box 833
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Conserving land
in Somerset
County since
1927

Summer

2019

The Challenge to Acquire Weston Woods is Nearly Complete!

Because so many of our friends have given and pledged to help us acquire Weston Woods, we are within sight of reaching our goal. THANK YOU! When we received the astoundingly good news that SWT had been chosen to receive a \$225,000 grant from the Community Forest Program (U.S. Forest Service), we knew it was time to start planning a party! Please see the inside panel of this newsletter for a report on funding and a list of our generous donors.

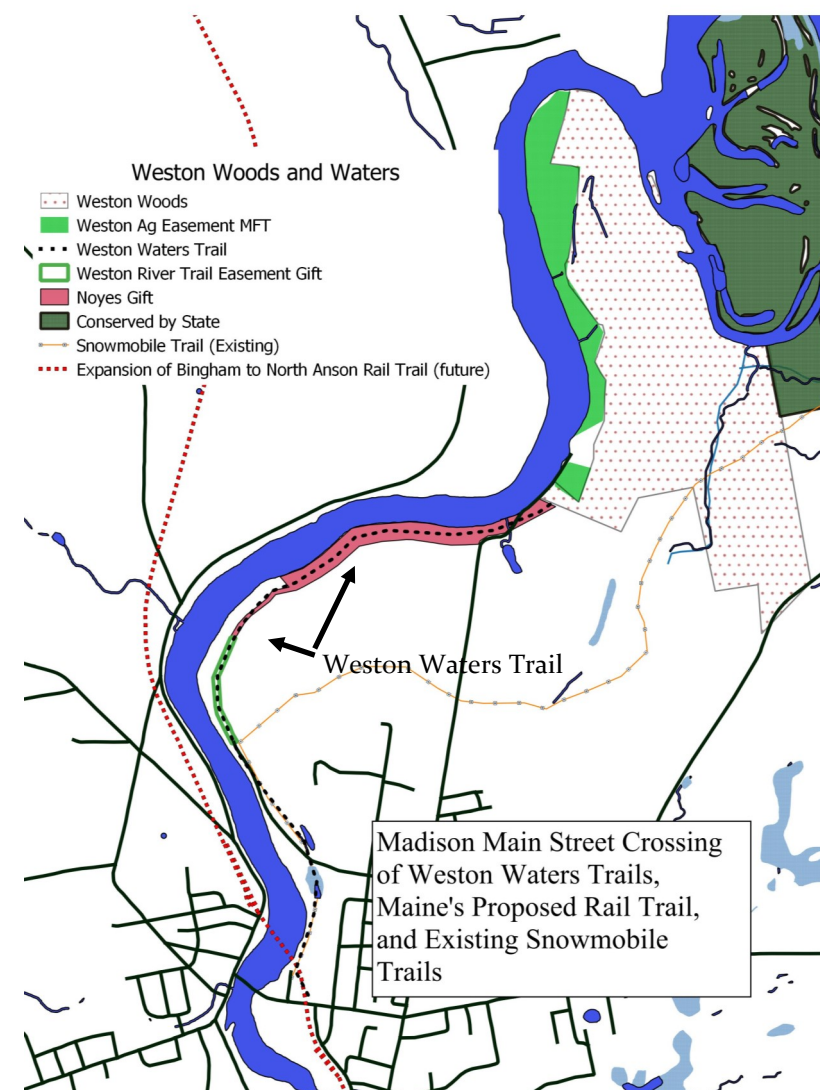
We are planning a celebration to “cut the cake” at Weston Homestead for **September 7th**. Please reserve that date in your calendar now!

To help us celebrate this largest acquisition in SWT’s history and to complete our fundraising, we are conducting a raffle of Weston-inspired art provided by three well-known and talented artists. See inside for more details.

The acquisition of Weston Woods inspired two members of the Weston family to gift land and an easement which will connect Weston Woods with a trail along the Kennebec to Main Street. Thank you, John Noyes and Tom Weston!

Two other trails may eventually intersect at the same point on Main Street as Weston: the State of Maine’s proposed expansion of the Bingham to North Anson rail trail and an existing snowmobile trail. These trail systems will permit the town to develop as a recreational hub for the region.

We hope to see you September 7th at the Weston Homestead. Please sign up for our emails by writing to somersetwoodstrustees@gmail.com to make sure you receive timely notifications.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A Walk in the Woods

Time passes so quickly! This winter and spring have been very busy for SWT as we worked to acquire the 275 acre Weston Woods with a mile of frontage on the Kennebec. Mission will be accomplished by the end of summer! We are to receive a \$225,000 grant through the Community Forest Program of the US Forest Service. That put us just over the purchase price of \$450,000. We hope to raise another \$60,000 for stewardship, trails, etc. Thanks to all of you who helped make this happen.

We are proud to protect the wonderful forest that the Westons have nurtured for over 200 years. Future generations will benefit by enjoying its many assets: recreational access, wildlife and forestry education, and historical prominence. I believe that there will be economic benefits that will be developed and felt by future generations.

This acquisition has been a milestone for SWT. We have now undertaken and succeeded in a very major land conservation project. SWT had never done this before and I am certain it will give us the confidence and knowledge to undertake another major acquisition in the future.

We will endeavor to conserve from development the most endangered and ecologically sensitive properties. The Kennebec has significant river frontage that is undeveloped and comparatively "wild", perhaps a legacy of the past use of the river for log drives and polluting industries.

I want to thank and pay tribute to our wonderful board of Trustees. They are an incredibly talented, dedicated and generous bunch of folks. I am honored to have been able to work beside them for so many years. Please give them a "thanks" when you see them.

And, again, thank you for your support of Somerset Woods Trustees.

ART FOR WESTON RAFFLE

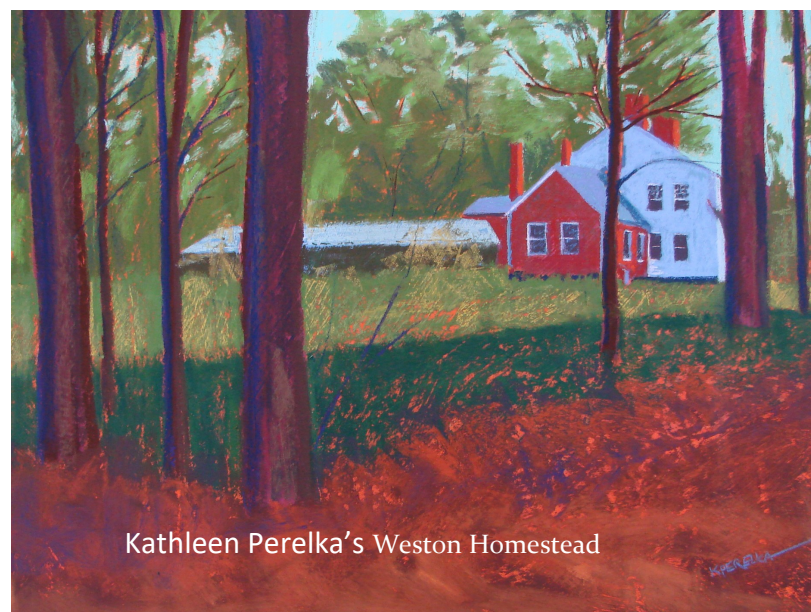
Want to join with us to acquire Weston Woods by taking a chance to win a beautiful piece of art? We hope to complete our fundraising goals with a raffle that will permit more people to support Weston.

Three well known artists will be providing their art for our raffle: Kathleen Perelka, John Alsop and Ryan Kohler. They will each provide one painting (or more) inspired by the scenery of Weston Woods. All three artists paint spectacular landscapes so we are excited to see the final products. If you don't know their art, all three have webpages with examples of their work.

You will be able to view the art on our website, Facebook page, emails, and at our events. Our website will have an online form where you will be able to participate in the raffle and pay for your tickets with PayPal. Please note that most of the artwork will have a reserved price so we will need to meet the reserve in order to draw the raffle.

We are grateful to our artists for providing their talent for this raffle and hope that you will participate to support Weston Woods.

Please send somersetwoodstrustees@gmail.com your email address so that you will receive updates on the raffle.



Kathleen Perelka's Weston Homestead

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY FOR WESTON WOODS

Skowhegan Womans Club	Michael & Elizabeth Hoffmann
Rodney & Lena Arno	Richard & Chudala Holden
Warren & Helen Balgooyen	Rebecca Ketchum
Davida Barter	Steve King
Dorothy & Chris Charity	Eric & Sue Lahti
Beeuwkes	Buzz Lamb
Bob's Cash Fuel	David & Susan Larkin
Margi & Kevin Browne	Daniel Lyman
Susan & David Cochran	Fred & Sheila Marshall
Ronald & Laurelle Currier	MCF : Roger N Heald Fund
Richard & Beverly Dane	MCF King & Jean Cummings
Davis Foundation	Charitable Fund
Norman & Pat Dickey	MCF Ram Island Conservation Fund
Greg and Donna Dore	Robert & Gloria Nicholson
Ann Dorney & David Axelman	Chris Perkins & Claire Theriault-Perkins
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Randy Franck & Patsy Miller	Warren & Jeanne Shay
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Haynes Forestry	Taylor Drug Store
Ruth Hadley	Peter Weston
Tom & Donna Hendricks	Barbara & Peter Whitkop
Barbara Henning	Georgiana & Bud Wright
Lou & Debbie Hight	Chris and Becky Young
Walter Hight	
Ernie & Gwen Hilton	

WHAT WILL WESTON WOODS COST?

EXPENSES

PRICE:	\$450,000
DUE DILIGENCE & STEWARDSHIP:	\$60,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST:	\$510,000

KNOWN OR ANTICIPATED REVENUES

GRANT:	\$225,000
FUNDS PLEDGED AS OF 6-23-2019:	\$249,875
TOTAL RAISED:	\$474,875
REMAINING TO COMPLETE PROJECT:	\$ 35,125

SUMMER & FALL EVENTS

Please note: To receive notices of and updates to our events, please send us your email and/or watch our Facebook page.

Saturday, July 27th: SWT will be at the Artisan Bread Fair – Maine Grain Alliance 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Skowhegan State Fairgrounds. Stop by to find maps for hiking and to view the *Art for Weston!*

Saturday, August 3rd Paddle the Wesserunsett at River Fest starting at Cleaver Landing Free. 9:30 AM

Saturday, August 3rd SWT Annual BBQ at Kennebec Picnic Park to help SWT maintain the park for the public. 11:30 AM *Art for Weston* will be displayed!

Saturday, September 7th Celebration of Weston Woods at the Weston Homestead. We'll be thanking all who helped to protect Weston. It's never too late to contribute and to buy tickets for the *Art for Weston* raffle.

Saturday, September 21st Paddle the Kennebec we will be leading a tour of the Kennebec islands again this year starting at the ever popular breakfast at Evergreens Campground in Solon. Breakfast at 8:00 AM; paddle on river begins around 9:00 AM. We'll also draw the winners of our *Art for Weston* raffle. Rain date September 22nd . Charge only for breakfast; tour is free!



Watch for our new signs at our preserves & trails