

Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund 2012 Appeal
White Oak Pond Watershed Association
PO Box 565, Holderness, NH 03245

December 2012,

Dear Members of the White Oak Pond Watershed Community,

The Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund was established in 2008 by the White Oak Pond Watershed Association (WOPWA) to broaden the support for conservation in the White Oak Pond Watershed by providing material assistance to land owners contemplating taking this important step. The Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS) serves as Fiscal Agent of the Fund, and gifts to the Fund are tax-deductible.

The October 31, 2012 balance of the Mary Perry Fund is \$11,801. The Fund is conceived to grow over a five year period until it reaches \$25,000, at which time further fund drives will be used to bring the balance back to that level as conservation projects are completed. If fifty families in the Watershed contribute \$100 per year, we will reach our five-year goal.

Last year, the Fund reimbursed Robert Haskell for costs associated with the conservation easement that now protects 4,800 feet of White Oak Pond shoreline. This year (2012), we formally recognize and congratulate Herb, Will, and Peter Brown for the completion of the Brown Preserve easement which protects 57 acres adjacent to the Haskell conservation land. The Mary H Perry Conservation Fund disbursed \$2,500 to match the Brown's contribution into a stewardship fund that insures the terms of the easement and the land's permanent protection.

We write you this fall to ask for your (continued) support for this project. Amidst the many appeals you receive, we hope you appreciate that this one allows you to act locally and directly helps protect the quality of our natural environment for generations to come. Some of you helped with a sizable gift in the first year and we thank you for your generosity. A gift at this time of any size will broaden participation as we seek to protect our special pond and watershed.

If you have questions about conservation easements, you may contact Roger Larochelle at SLCS (roger@squamlakes.com). He has years of experience in helping people understand how the process can work. His number is 603-968-7900.

Anyone new to WOPWA can learn more by visiting: www.wopwa.org.

Thank you for your consideration of WOPWA's efforts to support a long-term view of our environment.

Best Regards,

Bob Maloney, President

On behalf of the Board of Directors of White Oak Pond Watershed Association

(For information on WOPWA's strategy for supporting land conservation in the watershed, see other side of this page.)

Conservation Easements--Some Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Why would a landowner consider a donation of development rights to a conservation society or trust?

A: To, in effect, insure that the land one owns will be protected from circumstances that might force or tempt a future owner to develop the land for profit, rather than preserve it as part of the natural landscape and ecology.

Q: Why has WOPWA created the Mary H. Perry Fund?

A: There are costs associated with conserving land; things like surveys, transfer fees, drafting of legal documents, and contributions to stewardship funds so the conserving organization can fulfill its commitment to protect the land in perpetuity. WOPWA believes it can play a role by materially supporting those landowners by helping defray a portion of these costs. WOPWA wishes to vigorously show appreciation to those landowners who take this initiative. WOPWA feels that White Oak Pond watershed is an unusually wild and attractive part of the NH landscape that merits efforts made toward its protection.

Q: When one donates a conservation easement, what rights does the landowner retain?

A: The landowner crafts the easement to suit the landowner's vision of how the property shall be used in the future. However, the landowner retains ownership and can pass on the ownership to heirs, subject to the limitations of the easement.

Q: Are there financial advantages to donating a conservation easement.

A: The Federal Government recognizes conservation easements as contributions to the public good and confers charitable tax deductibility for these donations. Additionally, a conservation easement can lower the estate value of the land that has been put into conservation easement, and lower the value of land for property assessment purposes. (All tax matters should involve consultation with a tax professional.)

Q: What is the Squam Lakes Conservation Society's (SLCS) role?

A: SLCS offers a mechanism by which donations to the Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund become charitable donations for tax purposes. SLCS acts as fiscal agent for the fund and disburses the payments made to cover expenses associated with making the easement. SLCS considers conservation in the White Oak Pond Watershed part of the Squam Lakes Conservation Society mission.

Q: How much may the Fund offer to support an easement?

A: Qualified expenses may be paid for, up to 20% of the balance of the Fund on December 31st of the previous year, limited to a maximum total of \$5000 per easement.