

# Help Conserve Camp Chenoa's Wildlands

**BACKGROUND:** When Camp Chenoa Girl Scout Camp on Gregg Lake in Antrim was put up for sale one year ago, the Harris Center offered to purchase the 184-acre undeveloped parcel if a potential buyer for the camp was interested only in the lakefront parcel with extensive camp facilities.

In June, to our great pleasure, that scenario came to be, and the Harris Center contracted to buy the undeveloped forested parcel.

**THE LAND:** Direct neighbor to New Hampshire Audubon's Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, the property also has 1,450 feet of frontage on Brimstone Corner Road. A 34-acre beaver pond with associated wetlands helps protect the quality of water flowing into Gregg Lake. It also provides wildlife habitat ranked as Tier I (the highest) in New Hampshire's Wildlife Action Plan. Existing trails to the pond and dramatic views of the Antrim Highlands on beyond will be open to the public.

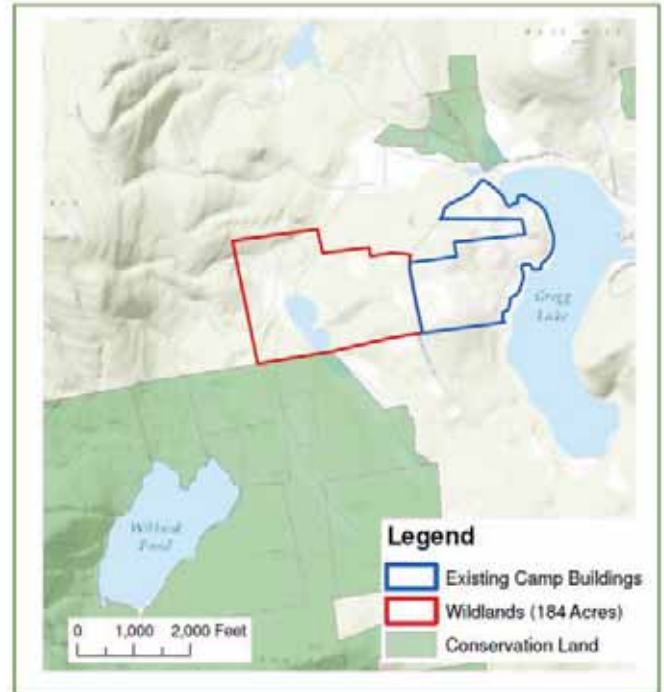
**THE CHALLENGE:** To raise funds to meet the purchase price, \$200,000. No small task.

**THE DEADLINE:** September 26, 2014. Soon.

The Harris Center is actively fundraising, but success will depend on the energy and assistance of many participants. To learn more, to join the effort, or to make a tax-deductible contribution, contact:

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*Since 1970, the Harris Center for Conservation Education has promoted understanding and respect for our natural environment through education and land protection. We are a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization. During the last three decades, the Harris Center has conserved over 21,000 acres across our seven-town focus area in the Monadnock Region.*



**HARRIS CENTER**  
FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION

## ANTRIM'S CAMP CHENOA: SOME HISTORY

Francie Von Mertens, Harris Center Honorary Trustee

The Harris Center for Conservation Education is piecing together history of the two land parcels of Camp Chenoa parcel, one on Gregg Lake and the other west of Brimstone Corner Road. The Center hopes to purchase and conserve the Brimstone parcel as permanent open space. We're eager to talk with people who know the land's history far better than we do.

What we do know is the land's great natural resource value, confirmed by the State's Wildlife Action Plan that prioritizes land for conservation with a focus on value for wildlife. Linkage with other conserved lands greatly adds to a property's conservation value. As Meade Cadot, longtime head of the Harris Center, often says, "Room to roam" is key for wildlife—as well as for people. The property links with a corridor of conserved lands stretching from MacDowell Reservoir in Peterborough all the way to the Stoddard Rocks.

A long-used trail accessed from Brimstone Corner Road crosses the property on the way to Balancing Rock on private land beyond. From there the trail leads to the top of Robb Mountain or forks left to the Tudor Trail on New Hampshire Audubon's Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, direct abutter to the south.

Boy Scout Camp Sachem opened in 1928. In the early years, there was no road around the north end of Gregg Lake, so the campers arrived and departed by ferry. The camp was put up for sale in the late 1980s, test pits for house lots were dug throughout the property, and concerned townspeople met and created a study committee. "Save Camp Sachem Forever" bumper stickers appeared on cars around town, a petition article in the 1989 Antrim Town Meeting to approve \$1 million for the Town to buy the land was defeated, but a vote to create Antrim's Rural Conservation District passed.

The Harris Center tried to find the right buyer for the camp, but the asking price was high. After many years on the market, the Girl Scouts bought the camp in 1991, and Camp Sachem became Camp Chenoa. Over the years the Girl Scouts made extensive upgrades to the facilities on the Gregg Lake parcel.

The 184-acre forested parcel west of Brimstone Corner Road remained undeveloped and was used by the two camps for hiking and camping. The land also has seen several timber harvests as well as gravel removal for camp roads.

Almost a year ago, the Girl Scouts put the two Camp Chenoa parcels up for sale. The Harris Center offered to purchase the undeveloped Brimstone parcel. In late spring, a purchaser came along that was interested in continuing to run a camp on the developed Gregg Lake parcel, but was not interested in the undeveloped property.

That brings the story of the land to the immediate present. We welcome the help of *Limrik* readers in fundraising that is ongoing with a deadline late this month. Details are in the flyer reproduced on page 6.

The Harris Center's history in Antrim includes helping expand N.H. Audubon's Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary and assisting the conservation easement that permanently conserved 887 acres of timberland on Willard Mountain and Robb Mountain.

Board and staff are very pleased to be adding to that history of land conservation, and to room to roam for wildlife and for people. \*



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