

The Sanctuary

Sometime in the early 1920's my grandmother bought this property of 600+ acres surrounding Willard Pond. She and her family had summered here since the mid 1880's, and she was in the process of relocating here permanently from the Boston area. At that time, she was divorced from her second husband, and decided to negate the entire experience by returning to her previous married name, and the last name of all but one of her children, Dedons dePierrefeu. The man who had this name, her first husband, and love of her life had died in WW1 while in transit to a meeting. He was engaged in negotiations for peace, having seen what the war was doing and being against it. After his death, she turned all her energies into promoting peace in any way she could think of. She was a vegetarian, she had correspondence with world leaders such as Gandhi and Eleanor Roosevelt. Her focus in life was to promote peaceful relations between countries, between people, and between people and animals. When she bought this land and built a modest house on it, now the Audubon cabin, she established it as a Sanctuary. For many years there was a sign on the border, a large tree which still stands by the road, stating the purpose of this place as

lot all year round, skiing, skating and snowshoeing. Schools bring children here to hike the trails and enjoy the tranquility and maybe see where and how most of the mammalian, avian and reptilian life spend their time. People come here *because* it is a rare and precious thing in this part of the world: an undeveloped, unpolluted, quiet and beautiful wilderness where their spirits may be renewed and they get a chance to be part of a natural world for a space in time before going back to the constant assault of cel phones and advertising, traffic and personal problems. People come here from far away for this. There are people who have moved to the area for this. There are many who have grown up around this lake, had some of their most romantic and important memories here. I have never heard anyone tell me about what a horrible time they had a Willard Pond. People have come to my door asking if I'd sell or rent to them. I can promise you that this will all come to an abrupt end if the wind turbines go through. There will be no more sense of uninterrupted nature here. For me personally, I will stay because I can't afford to leave, and can't replace my home. I am the 3rd generation here, my grandchildren have their birth trees planted on my land. My mother's ashes are here, my grandmother's

ashes as well. To be dismissed as NIMBY is easy. The trouble is, this isn't only my back yard.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ELSA TUDOR DE PIERREFEU
1878 — 1967

WHO PRESERVED THIS LAND
FOR PEACE AMONG ALL BEINGS

They shall not hurt nor destroy
in all my holy mountain:
for the earth shall be full
of the knowledge of the Lord,
as the waters cover the sea
Isaiah 11:9