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### Thayer Memorial Library

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JULY 7, 2015**

#### **Library Awarded \$7,800 from Greater Worcester Community Foundation's Rosemary Davis Memorial Fund Grant**

Think of live wolves visiting an indoor venue, and the name Thayer Memorial Library (TML) will perhaps pop into your head. Over the years, TML has hosted scores of nature, environmental, and wildlife programs complete with live wolves, birds of prey, and lots of rare and exotic animals. This association is especially true for folks living in Lancaster and surrounding communities. People travel to this small town to get up close and personal with animals that they might otherwise never see. As well, library members can visit nature attractions like Animal Adventures in Bolton, the Butterfly Place in Westford, Worcester's Ecotarium, or Southwick Zoo for free or at discount prices because of the passes and coupons TML makes available to the public.

How does Thayer Memorial Library do it? And how can the Town of Lancaster (population of approximately 8,000) provide the funding to make all of this available to people living in these Massachusetts communities? The reason all of this is possible is because of the late Lancaster resident Rosemary Davis and a foundation who believes in continuing Ms. Davis' legacy of wanting to educate people about nature and the environment.

In 1998, the Rosemary Davis Memorial Fund was established at the Greater Worcester Community Foundation to award grants to nonprofit organizations, libraries, and schools to protect animals and to educate Central Massachusetts residents on topics of wildlife, nature, and environmental science. Lancaster's Thayer Memorial Library has recently been awarded \$7,800 from this fund and will provide to the public a series of services which promote awareness of concerns Ms. Davis cared most about.

With this year's grant funds, citizens of Lancaster and surrounding communities will have opportunities to learn more about evolution, climate change, dinosaurs, honeybees, birds in New England, and living harmoniously with animals in nature and in our own backyards. As well, this year's grant enables Thayer Memorial Library to purchase museum and attraction passes providing residents access to a variety of nature venues (see those mentioned above), including Mass Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries. To enhance Ms. Davis' enduring legacy, the Library will add a variety of media to its Rosemary Davis Collection of items providing longer-term information that promote animal and environmental education for children and adults.

“It is Lancaster’s good fortune to be awarded this grant which is administered by the fine people at the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. In its mission as a citizen-led philanthropic enterprise, GWCF is a leader working with Worcester County communities to meet local long-term and future needs of their citizens,” said Library Director Joe Mulé. “Thayer Memorial Library is privileged to steward the significant legacy of Rosemary Davis by using this latest award to promote animal and environmental education for children and adults,” he added.

Originally from California, Rosemary Davis eventually moved to Lancaster after graduating from Texas A&M, Southern Methodist University, and the University of Southern California. Rosemary’s neighbors recall that she often carried biscuits in her pockets to feed pets or strays as she walked her neighborhood. As well, she contributed regularly to nature and wildlife protection causes. Davis’ reputation as a lover of animals and nature continues to impact Lancaster in a very positive way today, almost sixteen years after her death at age 66.

Thayer Memorial Library looks forward to offering another year of programs that honor the spirit of Rosemary Davis. Emily Rose, Chair of the library’s Board of Trustees said, “We are pleased to carry on the wish of Rosemary Davis to provide education about wildlife, nature, and environmental science. Understanding how we can protect animals and their habitats while preserving our environment is an important goal of the Rosemary Davis Grant. Thayer Memorial Library is honored to once again participate in this effort through this generous grant from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.”

Stay tuned to Thayer Memorial Library’s website ([www.thayermemoriallibrary.org](http://www.thayermemoriallibrary.org)) and Facebook Page to find out what’s happening next with the Rosemary Davis Series.

Karen Silverthorn, Thayer Memorial Library's Assistant Director/Adult Services Librarian, is the grant’s administrator.

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