



MEDIA RELEASE

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Downeast Lakes Land Trust to Hold Drawing for Handmade Cedar Canoe at July 27th Annual Picnic

Grand Lake Stream, Maine: The Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) will draw the ticket of the lucky winner of a 15-foot hand-crafted cedar lapstrake canoe at its Annual Meeting and Picnic on July 27th. Traditional wooden boatbuilder Geoff Burke of Chocorua Boatworks in Tamworth, New Hampshire constructed this canoe of cedar, tamarack, cherry, ash, and oak around 1985, from a design created by Walt Simmons of Lincolnville Beach, Maine. Single- and double-bladed paddles and a removable carry thwart and backrest, all built by Mr. Burke, accompany the craft.

This canoe is a wonderful boat for solo paddling, even on larger lakes, and it can accommodate two lighter paddlers. It is in excellent condition; if built new today, it would be valued at \$7,000. Easton, New Hampshire resident Keith Kidder donated the canoe to the land trust this spring, inspired by DLLT's successful drawing last summer for a Grand Lake Canoe built in Grand Lake Stream by Ken Wheaton. The proceeds from ticket sales support DLLT's general operations.

Tickets are \$10 each; they can be purchased in Grand Lake Stream at the Pine Tree Store or at the Downeast Lakes Land Trust office at 4 Water Street, where the public is welcome to view the canoe during business hours. The canoe will also be on display during the Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival on Saturday, July 26th, and the morning of Sunday, July 27th.

The land trust will draw the winning ticket at the close of its annual meeting and picnic, which begins on Sunday, July 27th at noon. New supporters are welcome to attend this event, which

will include a celebration of the successful completion of the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership, an update on the Wabassus Lake land conservation project, and a benefit auction featuring a chair, fish creel, basket, and bench hand-crafted from local materials by traditional craftsman Bill Mackowski. Reservations must be made by July 18th. For more information about the canoe and the meeting, please call 207-796-2100 or visit DLLT's web site at www.downeastlakes.org.

About the Downeast Lakes Land Trust

In 2001 residents of interior Washington County formed the Downeast Lakes Land Trust to protect the unique natural resources and way of life of their region. DLLT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Grand Lake Stream, with a mission to contribute to the long-term economic and environmental well-being of the Downeast Lakes region through the conservation and exemplary management of its forests and waters. DLLT purchased its 27,080-acre Farm Cove Community Forest in 2005 through the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership, and it sustainably manages it for wildlife habitat, forest products, and public recreation, as described on its web site, www.downeastlakes.org. DLLT received *Down East Magazine's* prestigious Environmental Award in 2006, and was named a 2006 Landowner of the Year by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

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