



**Media Release**

**For Immediate Release**

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**News Contact:**

**Mark Berry, Downeast Lakes Land Trust, (207)796-2100, [downteaslakes01@earthlink.net](mailto:downteaslakes01@earthlink.net)**

**DOWNEAST LAKES LAND TRUST HISTORY & HERITAGE PRESENTATION ON  
TRADITIONAL SNOWSHOES BY BILL MACKOWSKI**

**Grand Lake Stream, ME – March 3, 2008:** As the most recent installment of its ongoing “History & Heritage” series of community events, Downeast Lakes Land Trust hosted Bill Mackowski for an informative and interesting discussion of traditional snowshoe designs from across North America on Thursday, February 28, 2008.

Bill Mackowski, of Milford, Maine, is a wildlife biologist, bush pilot, trapper, registered Maine Guide, and lifelong woodsman. Over the years, he has developed a deep appreciation for the “tools of his trade” – snowshoes and pack baskets. This appreciation eventually evolved into a passion not only for learning how to make them himself, but also for collecting and preserving the art.

To study the styles and crafting techniques of traditional snowshoes, Bill has traveled throughout northern Canada and Alaska, spending time with elders in remote villages and bush camps. As a result of his travels, Bill has the most extensive collection of native-crafted snowshoes in the country, possibly the world. He expresses a genuine gratitude for the many individuals who have been open and willing to share their skills and lives.

Bill exhibited examples of various snowshoe designs, including both shoes built by Native American craftsmen and reproductions he has created of unique designs found in museums. He described the evolution of snowshoe designs, and variation in designs across the continent. Examples of local design innovations and their value were paired with a few great stories of his travels and the craftspeople he met. The event drew 25 people to the Grand Lake Stream Town Building, all of whom left asking when Bill might come back to do another presentation. Before that happens, DLLT will be scheduling a presentation on river-driving for this spring.

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust is a nonprofit organization contributing 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 owns and manages the 27,080-acre Farm Cove Community Forest for wildlife habitat, forest products, and public recreation. As a member of the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership, DLLT has helped protect another 312,000 acres of timberland through conservation and public access easements, and it is currently working to conserve another 6,644 acres around Wabassus Lake.

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For more information, contact Mark Berry at 207-796-2100 or visit [www.downteaslakes.org](http://www.downteaslakes.org).