SUMMER TRAIL CREW TO EXPAND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

With the addition of nearly 22,000 acres in 2016, the Downeast Lakes Community Forest (DLCF) has grown to 55,678 acres that is managed for wildlife habitat, public recreation, and a sustainable forest economy. Outdoor recreation is a growing industry, and one that has helped sustain Grand Lake Stream for decades. In addition to the fantastic guided fishing and hunting opportunities, boating, and motor sports, the Downeast Lakes region has something else to offer visitors to the DLCF: hiking trails.

Across the country, hiking is rapidly gaining popularity, and proving to be a major economic driver for outdoor recreation destinations. In support of the natural environment and local economy, Downeast Lakes Land Trust staff and all-volunteer Trails Committee is busy creating new hiking opportunities in and around Grand Lake Stream. Expanding the hiking trail network in the region offers visitors and residents new opportunities to explore different locations and habitats of the community forest.

In the summer of 2016, DLLT hosted a crew from the Student Conservation Association that constructed the first 1.1 miles of the Tower Hill Trail. This summer, DLLT is pleased to welcome a trail crew from the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) to build and improve upon three trails in the DLCF. Their four weeks of work will include improvements to the existing Musquash Esker Trail, extending the newly-created Tower Hill Trail, and building the Trail to Tomorrow – an interpretive trail at the end of Tough End.

Musquash Esker is a narrow, glacial ribbon to the immediate west of Big Musquash Stream. A favorite among locals for its wide variety of habitats, Musquash Esker measures approximately 1.5 miles in total distance, and ends at Big Musquash Stream, offering open views of the surrounding wetlands and Amazon Mountain. Tower Hill Trail begins near the historic Grand Lake Stream fire tower, winding 1.1 miles through forested wetlands and hardwood ridges, before descending to Bonney Brook Road. This summer, the trail will be extended along the shore of Bonney Brook Lake, crossing back over the road and connecting to Pappy’s Way. This will create a 2.5 mile loop trail that is in close proximity to town. Trail to Tomorrow is a planned 0.6 mile interpretive loop that will leave from Tough End. Inspired by a 1957 essay from John R. Schaefer, Trail to Tomorrow will be a valuable educational trail for local residents, seasonal visitors, and school groups. With grant funding from the Ed Meadows Conservation Fund, interpretive signage will be installed that highlights the many forest habitats and the flora and fauna of the Downeast Lakes region. Parking for the Tower Hill Trail and Trail to Tomorrow will be located at the West Grand Lake Dam. In addition to DLLT’s four trails that lie west of town, these new trails will create several hiking options that are very accessible from the village of Grand Lake Stream, highlight unique natural features of the landscape, and provide visitors with educational insight to the natural and cultural history of the Downeast Lakes region.

DLLT will soon release an updated, comprehensive visitor’s guide which will include hiking trails, water-access campsites, and many more outdoor recreation opportunities in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. Improving local outdoor infrastructure for tourism and public recreation is vital to the success of our region’s traditional economy. Be sure to keep an eye out for upcoming DLLT programs on these trails, and if you see the MCC crew around town, please welcome them to Grand Lake Stream!
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

After a winter of extremes—record snowfall now, record high temperature next, and back and forth—as of this writing, spring is finally arriving in Grand Lake Stream and environs. It was not long ago that the ice went out of West Grand, but now the foliage is taking hold, and it won’t be long before many summer visitors and camp owners will be returning. We directors and staff members at the trust, along with members of our local community, owe a goodly number of these people a real debt; they have been faithful supporters and have helped us to complete the latest campaign, the West Grand Lake Community Forest, in an enterprise that has gained national recognition. With the recent acquisition of these 22,000 acres, which will be added to the 34,000 already owned by DLLT, we now have a community forest of real significance, one that we will manage sustainably, with a particular eye to good habitat for fish and wildlife.

It is important to remember that challenges will endure for DLLT to face. Whether or not, soon or into the future, we launch further efforts at land acquisition and/or conservation, there is a great deal that goes into the stewardship of trust property already belonging to us, not least the maintenance of a vast network of roads. We will also continue to need support for the extraordinary educational outreach that has been engineered by DLLT staff and volunteer Education Committee members.

One problem for the moment is that timber prices are not robust. So it is more important than ever to push persistently for financial support from all possible quarters. Please bear DLLT in mind as you consider your charitable giving in 2017; assist us if you can in finding the successor donors and volunteers who will maintain and grow the benefits established by the trust’s founders. In due course, the founders’ generation will have to cede to younger successors. Finally, do aid us in bringing the remarkable recreational and economic opportunities here in the Downeast Lakes region to the widest possible range of people.

If you are in the area, please enjoy the woodlands, lakes and streams that we have protected forever, and if you’d like, drop by the office and introduce yourselves.

Best Wishes,

Sydney Lea

MISSION

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust contributes 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.
Tomah mayfly  
*Siphlonisca aerodromia*

The Tomah mayfly is believed to have been discovered in upstate New York in the early 1900s, but a dam project extirpated this population. It was officially discovered in 1978 at Tomah Stream in nearby Codyville, ME by a University of Maine research team. The Tomah mayfly is often referred to as a “living fossil,” as it bears wing-like flanges as a nymph and small bumps on the thorax—very similar to fossilized mayflies from the Carboniferous period. They inhabit small rivers and streams bordered by extensive areas of seasonally flooded sedge meadows, areas that provide shelter, bottom surface, and an abundant food supply. Tomah mayflies complete their life cycle in one year, laying their eggs in June with nymphs hatching in November or December. The nymphs are predaceous, feeding on other mayflies and invertebrates—a highly unusual trait for mayflies. No known populations exist in the community forest, but suitable habitat conditions are present.
We are proud to present the winning entries of the second DLLT Photo Contest, highlighting the natural beauty and the cultural history of the Downeast Lakes region. Winning entries were selected by Downeast Lakes Land Trust staff and the decisions were made with great difficulty. We would like to thank everyone who sent in their best shots, and wish they could all be featured!

If you would like to see these photographs, up-close and in-person, DLLT is hosting a Photography Show and Community Meeting on Friday, July 14th, in the Grand Lake Stream School Building. The photos will be on display through the Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival, so be sure to stop by and see these beautiful shots up close. Congratulations to all of the winners!

Community

First Place—Audrey Ammerman
Second Place—John Redington
Third Place—Sue Whitely

Forests

First Place—Steve Takach
Second Place—Sue Whitely
Third Place—Trudy Runyan

Waterways

First Place—Lee Crosson
Second Place—Kate Talbert
Third Place—Sue Whitely

“PHOTOGRAPHS OPEN DOORS INTO THE PAST, BUT THEY ALSO ALLOW A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE.”
- PHOTOGRAPHER SALLY MANN
Traditions

First Place—Emily Freeman
Second Place—Ernest Carle
Third Place—Tobias Freeman

Sunrise—Sunset

First Place—Chris Chabla
Second Place—Steve Norris
Third Place—John Redington

Wildlife

First Place—Audrey Ammerman
Second Place—Tobey Woodward
Third Place—Emily Freeman

Honorable Mentions—Clockwise from upper left: E. Carle, E. Freeman, T. Freeman, S. Takach, Jim Harris, Lori Millner
## History & Heritage

**June 22—Atlantic Salmon Restoration Efforts**, with Ernie Atkinson, Department of Marine Resources. 6 pm

**June 30—History of Maine Fire Towers**, with Bill Cobb. 5 pm

**July 8—Moonlight Paddle on Big Musquash Stream** 7:30 pm, Meet at Musquash Bridge, Milford Road

**July 14—DLLT Photography Show and Community Meeting** Celebrating photo contest winners, followed by a DLLT Community Meeting. 6 pm

**August 6—Mushroom ID & Foraging Class**, with Greg Marley. 9 - 2 pm

**August 29—Rare Ecosystems of the Downeast Lakes Region**, with Andrew Cutko, Maine Natural Areas Program. 6 pm

*All programs will meet at the GLS School Building unless otherwise noted.*

## Explorations and Adventures

**Tuesdays, 9:30—Noon**

Free weekly educational activities for children ages 6-10 (all ages welcome). Rain or shine!

- **July 4**: Tubing Down GLS 1:30 pm
- **July 11**: Herpetology Hike
- **July 18**: Wonderful Wildflowers
- **July 25**: Build your own Terrarium

**Aug. 1**: Tower Hill Trail Hike
**Aug. 8**: Rocks & Minerals
**Aug. 15**: Nature Photography

## Serious Skills for Boys and Girls

**Thursdays, 9:30—Noon**

Free weekly educational activities for children ages 10-16 (all ages welcome). Rain or shine!

- **July 6**: Shelter Building
- **July 13**: Little River Canoe Trip (9:30 - 3 pm)
- **July 20**: Trail Construction
- **July 27**: Fly Fishing GLS
- **Aug. 3**: Cordage, Rope, & Knots
- **Aug. 10**: Introduction to Trapping
- **Aug. 17**: Overnight Backpacking Trip (Call for details)

## Races

**Tuesday—July 4**

**Race For Grand Lake Stream** 3 mile run/walk. Register 8-8:30 am DLLT lawn. 9 am

**Saturday—August 12**

**Baxter Outdoors Downeast Lakes 5-Miler** Register 8:30-9:30 am Shaw Street. 10 am

**Sunday—August 13**

**13th Annual West Grand Lake Race**—Canoe/kayak race for all ages and skills. Register 9:15 am on Shaw Street. Barbeque lunch to follow at Grand Lake Lodge.

## Community Events

**Princeton Farmers’ Market**—open weekly every Thursday from 3-5 pm, June—October. West St.

**July 4th—Grand Lake Stream, America** 8 am-5 pm.

**July 15 & 16—Indian Township Dawnland Ceremonial Days.**

**July 29 & 30—Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival.** 10 am-5 pm GLS Ballfield

## GLS Guides Association Dinners

**DLLT Annual Meeting & Picnic**

**Sunday, July 30—12-2 pm**

15th Annual Meeting

Cookout lunch and benefit auction. All are welcome by reservation. RSVP to info@downeastlakes.org or call (207) 796—2100.
DEER PROGRAM FINISHES A SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

By Colin Brown

The 2016-17 school year saw the launch of a pilot outdoor education program for local 6th grade students. DownEast Environmental Researchers (DEER, for short) is a year-long, experiential program that brings students to four different locations in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest to conduct ecological studies and raise awareness of the many different ecosystems and forest types located in and around Grand Lake Stream.

Partnering with Indian Township, Princeton, and Woodland Elementary Schools, each student was equipped with a personal field journal to record naturalist observations, monitor seasonal changes, and document plant and animal life. Students were introduced to the concept of a “sit spot,” an awareness exercise designed to immerse an individual in a natural setting. Building off sit spot exercises and nature journaling prompts, students were led on trail hikes, learning how to identify trees, birds, and animal tracks. In addition, environmental education lessons from Project WILD and Project Learning Tree have focused students’ attention to larger ecological concepts such as food webs, forest succession, and sustainable land use.

At the end of the school year, a fifth and final meeting is planned to bring all three classrooms together in Grand Lake Stream to finalize their journal observations, celebrate their accomplishments, and form new friendships.

SUMMER 2017

With school letting out in mid-June, DLLT is getting ready for an exciting schedule of summer programs. “Explorations & Adventures” and “Serious Skills for Boys and Girls” are back, with seven weeks of exciting topics, and will meet at the Grand Lake Stream School Building. Explorations & Adventures meets on Tuesday mornings and Serious Skills meets on Thursday mornings at 9:30 am, beginning on July 4th and 6th, respectively. To view a full list of weekly topics, check out the community calendar on page 6.

This summer, DLLT’s “History & Heritage” series has something for everyone. On June 22nd, we welcome Ernie Atkinson, Dept. of Marine Resources, to discuss new Atlantic salmon habitat restoration techniques. On June 30th, Bill Cobb, from the Forest Fire Lookout Association, will present “History of Maine Fire Towers.” After the talk, we will take a short hike up to the famous Grand Lake Stream fire tower. The annual “Moonlight Paddle” will be held on Saturday, July 8th, on Big Musquash Stream. On Sunday, August 6th, DLLT welcomes back mushroom expert Greg Marley for a day-long workshop on fungi identification, collection, and processing. Wrapping up the summer, on August 29th, DLLT is pleased to welcome Andrew Cutko from the Maine Natural Areas Program, presenting “Rare Ecosystems of the Downeast Lakes Region.” For full details of each program, please visit www.downeastlakes.org.

COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGER’S WORDS FROM THE WOODS

By Brittany Mauricette

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust is committed to providing access for all forms of outdoor recreation in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. Among the resources available to visitors in our area, several miles of ATV and snowmobile trails crisscross the community forest. These trails are built and maintained by the dedicated volunteers from our local clubs: the Grand Lake Snowmobile Club, the Grand Lake Stream ATV Club, and the Crossroads Snowmobile Club. In my first year with DLLT, I’ve been fortunate to have many opportunities to work with, and get to know, the members of these clubs.

My husband and I were invited to join the Grand Lake Snowmobile Club this past winter. As a new member, I was fortunate to get a first-hand look at how the club is organized and how it maintains the snowmobile trails in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. I was also able to help build a website for the club, which provides information for visitors such as trail conditions, special events, clubhouse hours, and contact information.

Weekend after weekend, club members spend countless hours cleaning up trails and grooming. With the addition of a Snow Rabbit Groomer, funded in part by a grant from the State of Maine, productivity increased greatly and saved a lot of time getting the trails ready for riders from all over Maine and beyond. This past spring, the club also purchased a new snowmobile to add to the club’s fleet. With the new equipment and website, the club is all ready to welcome community forest visitors next winter!

With winter passed and summer fast approaching, the Grand Lake Stream ATV Club is gearing up for the season. The ATV Club’s members have been working hard on trail improvements as part of a Recreational Trails Program grant from the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands. On Saturday, June 3rd, the ATV Club and DLLT are co-sponsoring the annual “Community and Forest Clean-up.” Held at the Grand Lake Stream School Building, club members and community members will head out into the woods to help clean up trash, and will be treated to a delicious lunch made by the Pine Tree Store.

DLLT works hard to foster relationships with numerous local organizations to make your community forest the best it can be. I’m grateful for the chance to work with these fantastic clubs, and we all owe a lot to the volunteers who work collaboratively with DLLT to promote recreational access. I invite anyone interested in Grand Lake Snowmobile or Grand Lake Stream ATV Clubs to contact them to learn more about motorized recreational opportunities in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest.
NEW DLLT DONATION
THANK YOU GIFTS!

Since 2001, your support has enabled the Downeast Lakes Land Trust to conserve more than 370,000 acres in the Downeast Lakes region, including the 55,678-acre Downeast Lakes Community Forest. Protecting public access and improving wildlife habitat is only possible with generous donations from our nationwide network of supporters. As DLLT continues to contribute to the economic and environmental well-being of the Downeast Lakes region, we are offering new gifts to thank you for making tax-deductible donations in support of our mission.

We are now offering tan-colored DLLT T-shirts (sizes S, M, L, and XL) for a new $25 donation. These high-quality, 50/50 blend tees were embroidered and printed by Cabin Fever Embroidery, a locally-run business based in Calais, ME. In addition, we are now offering a blaze orange version of the ever-popular classic DLLT hat, perfect for hunting season! A donation of $25 or more entitles you to your choice of either a T-shirt or hat.

For donations of $200 or more, we are offering DLLT fleeces! They are full-zip and forest green (of course!), with an embroidered DLLT logo in white. Whether you’re paddling across Big Lake, cruising down the Amazon Road, or relaxing at The Pine Tree Store, we hope you will wear your DLLT apparel with pride!

INTRODUCING “FRIENDS OF THE COMMUNITY FOREST”

With the Downeast Lakes Community Forest now growing to encompass over 55,000 acres, maintaining the same level of exemplary management is more important than ever. DLLT is pleased to announce a new volunteer initiative - “Friends of the Community Forest.”

The “Friends” will be a group of community members who have an eagerness to help maintain the trails, campsites, roads, and other important sites in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. Volunteer work might range from cleaning up trash, recovering trail log books, clearing brush, or building fire pits. An active group of volunteers is essential to the success and overall well-being of any community forest. We hope that you will consider contributing to this exciting initiative!

If you are interested in signing up for this project, please contact DLLT at (207) 796 - 2100, or email info@downeastlakes.org. Over the summer, DLLT will generate a list of volunteer email contacts. Throughout the year, we will be organizing “work parties” to complete outdoor projects, clean up trails and campsites, and build recreation infrastructure in the community forest.

A great way to become involved in your community forest and learn more about this project is at the annual “Community and Forest Clean-up,” held on Saturday, June 3rd, and co-hosted by the Grand Lake Stream ATV Club and DLLT. Interested participants should meet at the Grand Lake Stream School Building at 8:30 am.