Downeast Lakes
LAND TRUST ®

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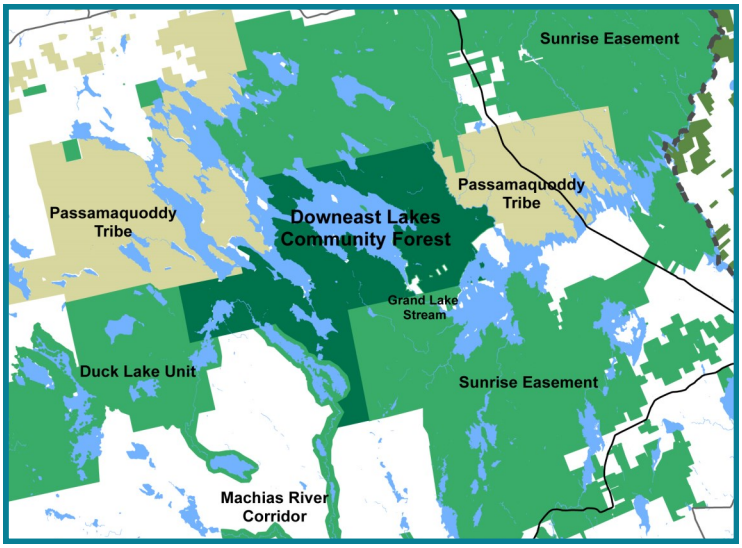
Downeast Lakes Traditions ®

Forests and Lakes—For People—Forever

DLLT Community Forests Renamed

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust has renamed the Farm Cove Community Forest (FCCF) and the West Grand Lake Community Forest (WGLCF). With the recent acquisition of the WGLCF adding an additional 21,780 acres of contiguous land, the two community forests have been combined and renamed the "Downeast Lakes Community Forest."

The newly-named Downeast Lakes Community Forest comprises more than 55,000 acres of land owned and managed by DLLT for wildlife habitat, public recreation, and sustainable forestry. DLLT will be updating all online media and physical signage on the property in the near future.



The Downeast Lakes Community Forest area map

"This new title for DLLT's fee lands reflects the commitment of the Downeast Lakes Land Trust to the people and environment of the entire Downeast Lakes region," said DLLT Executive Director David Montague. "Our goal of community-based leadership and management of the forest for economic and environmental well-being remains unchanged."

The FCCF was created in 2005 with the purchase of 27,080 acres from Georgia-Pacific as part of the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership. The FCCF was expanded in 2008 when the 6,628-acre Wabassus Lake Tract was purchased from International Paper. All land acquisitions by DLLT were supported by the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program, the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program, and numerous private foundations and donors.

Carbon Project Benefits Local Conservation

Downeast Lakes Land Trust recently completed a major sale of carbon offset credits, aiding in the purchase of the 21,870-acre property from Lyme Timber in July 2016. The acquisition was completed as part of an eight-year, $19.4 million campaign and helps fulfill a broader community-led effort to conserve 370,000 acres in the Downeast Lakes region.

The "Finite Carbon-Lyme Grand Lake Stream Improved Forest Management Project" has officially earned carbon offset credits for use in the California cap-and-trade market, allowing a revenue stream for DLLT to continue contributing to the local economy and environment of the Downeast Lakes region.

"The Finite Carbon – Lyme Grand Lake Stream IFM Project protects the ecological vitality of the forest, promotes native species and mixed age growth in the forest, and increases the carbon storage functionality of the forest significantly," stated Peter Stein, a Managing Director of The Lyme Timber Company. "We are proud to be part of a project that will enhance carbon storage and preserve forest values for generations."

In addition to benefits for the climate through greater carbon storage, the project achieves significant benefits for the forest ecosystem. Natural forest management practices support wildlife conservation, biological diversity, improved water quality and habitat restoration. The improved ecosystem will benefit the flora and fauna who call Grand Lake Stream home, including the moose, white-tailed deer, black bears, bobcats, 180 species of birds, native landlocked salmon, brook trout, and smallmouth bass. Forest protection is also appreciated by members of the community and visitors who visit the forest to hunt, fish, hike, camp, swim and participate in other recreational activities.

"The sale of carbon offsets has become a valuable tool in DLLT's fundraising strategy," said DLLT Executive Director David Montague.

What is a "Carbon Credit?"

A carbon credit, sometimes referred to as a carbon offset, is a term used to assign a value to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to one ton of carbon dioxide. Carbon credits and carbon markets are an attempt to mitigate the growth in concentrations of greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere.

For more information about this carbon project and others, please visit www.downeastlakes.org, click the link "What We Do" and then click on "Forest Carbon Offsets."

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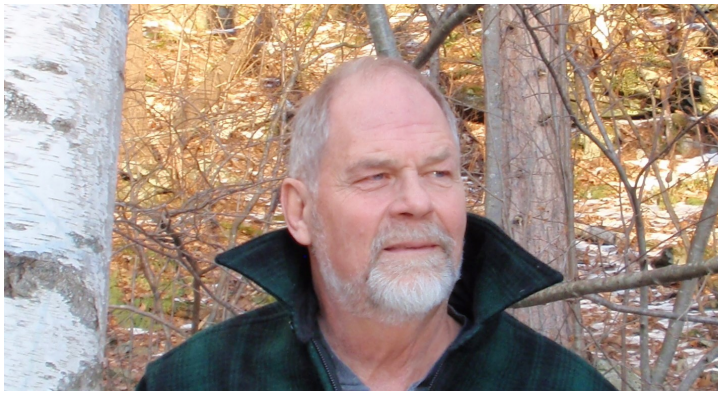
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Grateful For Support



I have just returned home to Vermont after a glorious week in Grand Lake Stream. I don't believe I have seen a more beautiful autumn there (or anywhere) than 2016's. My wife and I took a lot of hikes on trust land, and –now that the pressures and preoccupations of securing funds for the latest addition to DLLT's community forest are somewhat in the rear view– I've been all the more able to appreciate how wonderful it is that so much of our neighborhood has been conserved and will be managed with community input. Equally crucial, it will function as an economic force, and all because of the support we have received far and wide. For that support, I can find no adequate words of gratitude, and I know I speak for all members of DLLT's board, committees, and staff.

No doubt there will be further challenges to the trust in coming years, ones that are just now unforeseeable, but ones too, I am confident, that DLLT will meet with the same sort of devotion and the same benefits of community support that have characterized this great effort since 2001.

So do help spread the word about recreational and economic opportunities in the Downeast Lakes region, and, very importantly, help us to find the successors who will keep our enterprise vital and growing after the founders' generation has loosed the reins. In this spirit, we are thrilled to welcome our newest Board member, Jeffrey Piece, and believe that his experience will be a great asset to the trust.

If you are in the area, please enjoy the woods and waters we have secured, and do come by the office to visit.

Sincerely,

Sydney Lea

A Special Thank You

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust family gives special recognition to DLLT Administration Manager Laura Hunt. Laura was honored at this past summer's annual meeting and picnic for her 10 years of service to the trust.

"Laura is the first face you'll see upon entering the DLLT office, and no matter how busy she is, she is always ready to greet you with a smile," said Executive Director David Montague. "Laura serves a critical role at DLLT. She has a sharp wit and a wicked sense of humor that keeps us on our toes and helps make life around the office fun. Those of us who work with Laura on a daily basis consider ourselves very fortunate."

In honor of this achievement, she was presented with an engraved moose antler and a fishing creel, handmade by Bill Mackowski. Thank you Laura, for your dedication to DLLT!

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.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the primary pressures that occasioned the founding of the Downeast Lakes Land Trust was an immediate threat of losing access to the forests and lakes of this outstanding region. For generations, residents and visitors have enjoyed free, public access to vast swathes of private land. Once owned by lumber mills and later controlled by a series of paper companies and timber investment firms, the pace of turnover in the ownership of Maine forest land has quickened dramatically in recent decades. As the future ownership of Maine forests becomes increasingly uncertain, so too is the future of public access uncertain for recreation and for those who make their living working in the woods.

Community forests are distinct among conserved lands because they can be tailored to fit the needs of the local community. Just as no two communities have identical needs, so too is each community forest a unique response to the needs and desires of the community it serves. From the first, a cornerstone of DLLT's mission has been the preservation of time-honored access to the natural resources of the Downeast Lakes, a critical need of our community. As the cover article of this issue of *Traditions* notes, the newly-renamed "Downeast Lakes Community Forest" (DLCF) seeks to respond to the unique values and needs of the Downeast Lakes community. Nestled within the 312,000 acre Sunrise Easement, this 56,000 acre forest will forever remain accessible to those who appreciate its charms and simple pleasures.

This promise of perpetual access to the

land is a gift from today's generation to the generations of tomorrow. We are further enhancing access to the DLCF with the addition of new infrastructure such as the Tower Hill Trail, a 1.1 mile out-and-back hike detailed on page 4. Those who love to explore the many smaller lakes in our area can look forward to utilizing the new and improved public boat launch at Fourth Machias Lake next season. Surrounded by a designated ecological reserve, the lake is now more accessible with the creation of the new launch, the only trailered boat access on the lake, which features more room for parking, deeper water, and handicap accessibility. Finally, visitors driving the many miles of access roads through the DLCF may notice the increasing number of open-bottomed stream crossing structures. DLLT continued its stream habitat enhancement program with the installation of seven new stream crossings this fall, which not only improve habitat connectivity for fish, but which improve long-term road conditions and help more people get deep within the community forest.

Stop by the office on your next trip to Grand Lake Stream, and tell us about your favorite way to access and explore the forests and lakes.

See you then,

David Montague

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Corporate Partners support our vision for the economic and environmental well-being of Grand Lake Stream and the Downeast Lakes Region. These businesses made gifts in 2016, and are featured on downeastlakes.org.

Other businesses contribute to Downeast Lakes Land Trust through their employee matching grant programs. Thank you also to these companies, and to the donors who created the matching grant opportunities!

Brook Trout ($1,000 +)

- Bangor Savings Bank
- Chet's Camps
- Finite Carbon
- Grand Lake Lodge
- Hanscom Construction
- The Lyme Timber Company
- Machias Savings Bank
- Norton Insurance Agency

Grand Laker ($250 +)

- Bailey's General Construction
- Davis Forestry Products, Inc.
- Furbush Roberts Printing Co.
- Grand Lake Canoe & Paddle
- Leen's Lodge
- Old Town Canoe Co.
- Patagonia
- Pine Tree Store
- Prock Marine Company
- Weatherby's
- Whitney Wreath
- Princeton Food Mart

Fresh growth on a stand of Eastern Hemlock

DOWNEAST NATURE NOTE

Eastern Hemlock—*Tsuga canadensis*

This is a tree that needs no introduction to Grand Lake Stream. Eastern hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis*, is a mighty conifer that has been know to reach heights of 175 feet. Hemlock was incredibly important to the founding of Grand Lake Stream through the use of its bark in the tanning process, supplying one of the largest commercial tanneries in the world in the late 1800s. Hemlock comprises over 40% of the species of trees found in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest, providing excellent habitat and food for area wildlife. Dense stands of hemlock create excellent winter cover for white-tailed deer, snowshoe hare, ruffed grouse, and turkey. Numerous species of songbirds and raptors also depend on hemlock for nesting sites, food, and roosts. In some parts of its range, Eastern Hemlock is currently being threatened by a foreign invader, Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). An aphid-like insect native to East Asia, HWA feeds on the sap of hemlock and may inject toxins, leading to mortality. Entering a peaceful stand of hemlock in winter is an experience not to be missed!

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DOWNEAST LAKES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Get more information and keep up to date at
www.downeastlakes.org

History & Heritage

Evergreen Extravaganza—November 27, 1-4 pm
Wreaths, holiday crafts, and much more!

GLS Christmas Bird Count—December 16
Join DLLT for a day of citizen science

Snowshoeing & Cross-country Skiing—January 20
Explore the winter solitude of Musquash Esker

Great Maine Outdoor Weekend—February 3-6
www.greatmaineoutdoorweekend.org

Great Backyard Bird Count—February 17-20
A global birding initiative!

Family Ice Fishing Day—TBA
Fish the icy depths of West Grand Lake!

Looking Ahead

Explorations & Adventures
- Tuesdays, in July & August

Serious Skills for Boys and Girls
- Thursdays in July & August

Baxter Outdoors' Downeast Lakes 5-miler and the Annual West Grand Lake Race
- August 12-13, 2017

Community Events

Other great community events, such as the 23rd Annual Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival, Grand Lake Stream Guides Association dinners, Grand Lake Stream America 4th of July, and more, to appear in our summer newsletter and **www.downeastlakes.org.**

New Trail Opens In The Community Forest

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust celebrated the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend in September with a group hike along a newly-created trail in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. A group from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) built the trail this summer, along with clearing brush on other DLLT trails. Beginning near the historic Grand Lake Stream fire tower, the "Tower Hill Trail" meanders through mixed woodlands, travels up and over a hardwood ridge, and ends at Bonney Brook Road. The trail is an "out-and-back" trail, measuring 1.1 miles each way.

Parking for this trail is located at the Grand Lake Stream Dam. Hikers can cross the dam and follow the snowmobile trail east to the Grand Lake Stream fire tower. The trailhead is on the right, after passing the tower. In the future, DLLT plans to extend the Tower Hill Trail to create a loop that will include the shoreline of Bonney Brook Lake.

"The Tower Hill Trail explores a beautiful stretch of woods that is very accessible from Grand Lake Stream," said DLLT Education and Outreach Manager Colin Brown. "Opening this trail gives residents and visitors another option for great hiking in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest."

DLLT maintains several hiking trails in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. For more information about the Tower Hill Trail or others, please contact DLLT at (207) 796 – 2100 or email info@downeastlakes.org.

DLLT Photo Contest!

Back by popular demand, DLLT is pleased to announce this year's ***DLLT Photo Contest***. Show us your best photographs of the area! For official contest rules, please visit **www.downeastlakes.org.** All photographs submitted will be judged by a panel of DLLT Staff and Volunteers. Please email all submissions to: **photo@downeastlakes.org. The deadline for submission is April 15, 2017.**

Photos will be selected for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category and an overall "Best In Show" winner. Winning entries will be featured in our summer newsletter and as part of a DLLT photography show in Grand Lake Stream. Good luck!

2015's "Best In Show" winner—by Brooke Mercier

Promoting Stewardship— One Student At A Time

By Colin Brown

The creation of the 55,678-acre Downeast Lakes Community Forest (DLCF) is truly a major conservation success to be celebrated. With the growth of one of the largest community forests in the country comes a great responsibility to manage sustainably the land for the enjoyment of future generations. A key component of that responsibility is to ensure that the youth of the Downeast Lakes region feel connected to the land and passionate about conserving the natural world.

Preserving this connection to a community forest with local students creates future stewards of the land. Aside from the obvious developmental and physical benefits of exploring the outdoors, children who are introduced to the many wonders of the DLCF are more likely to place value in conserving their home.

Downeast Lakes Land Trust is working to further this educational outreach with the introduction of a new program. Beginning this fall, the **D**own**E**ast **E**nvironmental **R**esearchers (DEER, for short) program will bring three 6th grade classrooms to the Downeast Lakes Community Forest throughout the school year to explore the forests and waters, observe seasonal change, identify various species, conduct experiments, and practice nature journaling. Students from Indian Township, Princeton, and Woodland will spend five days practicing their observation skills, studying different ecosystems, and learning about the benefits of conserved land. Stay tuned for future updates from the DEER program!

Another exciting offering that was introduced this summer is DLLT's "Private Education Programs." Residents and visitors to Grand Lake Stream that aren't able to attend public programs due to busy schedules or other travel constraints now have the option of scheduling a private program. These programs can be tailored to fit different needs and may be scheduled by contacting me at (207) 796—2100 or cbrown@downeastlakes.org.

In addition to the growing number of school programs, DLLT continues to offer free, year-round public programs that highlight the natural and cultural history of the Downeast Lakes region. On November 27th, join DLLT staff and volunteers at the Grand Lake Stream School Building for an "Evergreen Extravaganza." Come enjoy this annual community gathering and get into the holiday spirit by learning to make wreaths, sprays, bows, and more!

Stay updated on the latest education program offerings at www.downeastlakes.org and follow us on Facebook! The natural world is always changing and there are endless learning opportunities to be discovered while exploring the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. Get out there and find your next adventure in Grand Lake Stream!

Community Forest Manager's "Words From The Woods"

By Brittany Mauricette

As many of you already know, I joined DLLT in June as the new Community Forest Manager. In addition to learning the landscape, forest types, and wildlife needs for over 55,000 acres, I've been busy with projects including culvert installations, road maintenance, and monitoring our summer timber harvest. Needless to say, it's a lot to take in after being an education forester for the last couple of years, but I'm loving every minute of my life here and am excited to get out in the woods as much as possible.

At this point, getting acquainted with the community forest is the most important part of my job. I have been helped in this effort by the volunteer members of DLLT's Forest Resources Committee, who include guides, foresters, biologists, and other community members. Their knowledge and oversight has helped me to transition smoothly into the role of Community Forest Manager. Knowing where specific forest types are located is key to managing forestland and wildlife habitat.

In a world where the forestry profession is becoming more and more technologically integrated, I have found that, while technology is a very important tool, it is still not a substitute for boots on the ground. Foresters tend to be visual people, and I am no exception. Going out on Friday afternoon explorations has been a great way for me to learn the ins and outs of the Downeast Lakes Community Forest and learn about the people in Grand Lake Stream. Seeing the forest up close and personal truly gives me a much better understanding of my surroundings, and it is great to see a forest that has been managed for a variety of uses. As a forester, my job is primarily to pay attention to trees, wildlife, and water so that I can determine where timber harvesting can be done sustainably to improve wildlife habitat for the future.

However, the forest offers so much more than just timber. Registered Maine Guides make a living providing hunting and fishing opportunities, families enjoy hiking and snowmobile/ATV trails, wreath-makers tip fir trees for holiday decorations, residents cut firewood for home heating, and canoe builders harvest craftwood. It's amazing to see how open use of the community forest benefits so many groups, while also balancing the needs of wildlife and sustainable forest management.

Expressing your needs, values, and input helps us to keep the community at the forefront of community forest management. We would not be able to contribute to the well-being of the Downeast Lakes region without you!

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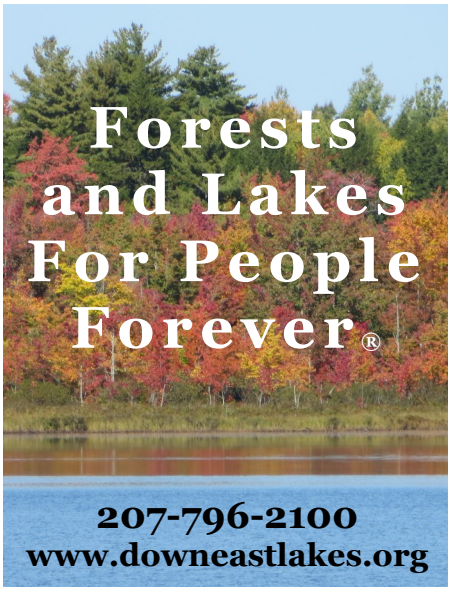

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All photos by Downeast Lakes Land Trust

Elmina B. Sewall Foundation Honored in Grand Lake Stream

The 2016 Downeast Lakes Conservation Award was presented to the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation at this summer's DLLT annual meeting. Elmina B. Sewall Foundation has been a long-time supporter of the Downeast Lakes Land Trust and has helped numerous conservation organizations in Maine. The award was presented by DLLT Board President Sydney Lea.

"From the launching of the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership in 2002, through the very recent acquisition of the West Grand Lake Community Forest, the late Mrs. Sewall and the Sewall Foundation have simply been essential," said Lea. "DLLT has had no better ally in our fifteen years of existence."

Lea went on to speak with special acknowledgement of Jay Espy, the foundation's Executive Director.

"We are especially grateful to Sewall's Executive Director, Jay Espy, who has long been our friend in every possible meaning of that term, freely granting us counsel, encouragement, and goodwill at every turn. He has long been as reliable and obliging a mentor as any institution could ever desire."

The Sewall Foundation has contributed to several DLLT campaigns, including the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership, the Wabassus Lake Project, and the West Grand Lake Community Forest Project. The foundation also provided generous support for the creation of DLLT's Forest Management Plan, a critical document for DLLT's sustainable forestry program. Sewall's *Healthy People, Healthy Places* program improves the well-being and prosperity of all Maine people and the environment in which they live. This grant program aligns with DLLT's mission and helps to further protect the natural and cultural history of the Downeast Lakes region.

"[Downeast Lakes Land Trust's conservation vision] was a project that Mrs. Sewall had personally known about and supported during her life," said Espy. "We were really delighted and honored to be given this conservation award and to work with such a well-led organization."

The award was a white ash canoe paddle, handmade by local craftsman Dale Tobey and wood-burned by Deb MacMichael, a Grand Lake Stream artist.

Founded by the late Elmina B. Sewall in 1982, the Sewall Foundation supports work in Maine to improve the well-being of people, animals and the environment while fostering relationships that strive for social equity and community resilience.

From left to right: Jay Espy, Laura Dover, and Megan Shore.