Downeast Lakes LAND TRUST ®

Winter 2017 Volume 11, Issue 2

Downeast Lakes Traditions

Forests and Lakes—For People—Forever ®

DLLT Hosts Community Forest Workshop

On June 24th, Downeast Lakes Land Trust was thrilled to host an exciting workshop, titled "Community Forests – Forests For People" in Grand Lake Stream. Organized by the Downeast Conservation Network (DCN), DLLT, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Northern Forest Center, and funded by the Jessie B. Cox Foundation, the day-long program focused on the successes and challenges of creating and managing the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. The program was part of a series of "Downeast Dialogues," organized by the DCN.

Anica Miller-Rushing, DCN Coordinator, welcomed everyone with opening remarks, and discussed the schedule of events. DLLT Executive Director David Montague kicked off the program with an overview and history of the Downeast Lakes Land Trust, followed by a panel discussion that featured three DLLT Board Members. Louis Cataldo, Lindsay Wheaton, and Lee Whitely all gave an in-depth look at the initial founding of the trust, the community vision of the land, and the benefits of forming a community forest. Following a short break, Northern Forest Center's Julie Renaud Evans gave a presentation on the community forest model, citing several examples of other community forests, and describing the challenges facing small, rural communities in Northern New England.

As the morning rains moved out and the skies cleared, participants piled into boats operated by local volunteers, and headed up West Grand Lake to get a sweeping view of the Downeast Lakes conservation landscape. Following a picnic lunch, a bus tour of the Downeast Lakes Community Forest highlighted the many aspects of DLLT's work, including sustainable timber harvests, stream habitat restoration, partnerships with local ATV and snowmobile clubs, education programs, and community use.

DLLT's David Montague at the new Grand Lake Brook arch culvert.

"We were thrilled to host this group of successful, talented land conservationists in Grand Lake Stream," said DLLT Executive Director David Montague. "There is a lot of great work in community forestry in Maine, and throughout New England. Having the chance to share DLLT's experience and learn from others was invaluable, and we are so grateful to the Downeast Conservation Network and the Jessie B. Cox Foundation for providing this opportunity."

Downeast Lakes Land Trust thanks all of the supporters and volunteers who made this unique program possible. The work happening locally in Grand Lake Stream is inspiring others to create or improve their own community forests, build and strengthen community relationships, and promote sustainable land stewardship.

The Passing of a Friend

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of former DLLT board member and longtime friend, Neil H. "Pete" Borden. A founding member of the board of directors, Pete was instrumental in the early success and growth of DLLT. His expertise in business management set DLLT on the right fiscal track, and he played a crucial role in guiding the trust through the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership, which led to the conservation of more than 370,000 acres in the Downeast Lakes region.

Pete fell in love with the Downeast Lakes region as a boy, summering with his grandfather at his family's camp at Gould's Landing. Pete continued his grandfather's tradition, hosting his own children and grandchildren, and instilling in them a deep passion and connection to the area. In 2014, Pete received the Downeast Lakes Conservation Award for his life-long commitment to conservation in the Downeast Lakes region.

"Downeast Lakes Land Trust would never have developed as it has without the able counsel and guidance of Pete Borden," said DLLT Board President Sydney Lea in 2014. "Drawing on his many years of experience in business management, Pete researched the needs of the community and tailored the trust's existence as a non-profit business entity with the region's best economic interests at heart."

Pete passed away at his home in Ft. Myers, Florida, on October 22 surrounded by family and friends. His hard work in service of the land and people of the Downeast Lakes region will long be remembered by his friends at DLLT.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Beautiful Fall

My wife Robin and I were lucky enough to spend a good portion of October in Grand Lake Stream. We have rarely seen so beautiful a fall; indeed, it may have been *too* beautiful: for all the splendors of fall foliage, the streams have in most cases been all but bone-dry, the lakes as low as I can remember in 65 years of visits, and the woods are loud with crackly leaves.

On a brighter note, and thanks in large measure to our Education and Outreach Manager Colin Brown, the wider community continues to enjoy DLLT's programs, both talks and field trips. My wife and I, for example, greatly enjoyed the presentation on upland game birds offered by Maine IF&W's game bird biologist Kelsey Sullivan, as well as the fascinating history of the "airline" road, presented by local historian John Dudley.

DLLT's staff persists in high quality work, but the trust's personnel and its board of directors confront some true challenges just now. The fact that the market for logs and pulp is quite low concerns us all, in that revenue from our well managed woodlands is key to proper stewardship of the community forest. I mention this principally, of course, because we are perhaps more than ever dependent on our supporters' generosity. Please continue to keep us in mind, and if possible, do consider an increase in your help.

I'll close by reminding readers from near and far that DLLT's territory need not be a warm-months destination. Our trails are ideal for snowmobiling, hiking, cross-country skiing and all manner of outdoor pursuits once the snow flies. The Pine Tree Store is always open, and you can reward yourself with hearty sustenance there!

Sincerely,

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Conservation in Perpetuity

We were all saddened by the loss of Pete Borden this fall. I admit that I only knew Pete in passing; I know of his work and conservation ethic primarily through his daughter, Kim Arnold, who serves on DLLT's board of directors currently and displays the same passion for the people and places of the Downeast Lakes that characterized Pete's tenure on the board. Nonetheless, this fall has seen many losses in the world of Maine conservation. In addition to our own loss at DLLT, two other leaders in Maine conservation passed away suddenly, and at the height of their careers. Like Pete, Alan Hutchinson, executive director of the Forest Society of Maine, and Jed Wright, a project leader with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Maine, left legacies of tremendous service and leadership in their communities and in the field of natural resources conservation. The list of successful conservation projects attributable, at least in part, to Jed and Alan is too long to detail in this brief space, but suffice it to say that if you love spending time in the Maine outdoors, as I do, you have likely benefitted directly from their work.

In conservation, we are accustomed to dealing with long time horizons. The land conserved in easements and community forest ownership is protected in perpetuity, so that when we speak of *Forests and Lakes, For People, Forever®*, we aren't simply spouting superlatives. Inevitably, land that is conserved forever will outlast our own short lives, and I find the generosity of those who give of their time, their wealth, and their energy to benefit the lives of unborn generations one of the most inspiring aspects of this line of work. We are all indebted to people like Pete, Alan, and Jed for their hard work conserving land and wildlife for the enjoyment of all. The products of their labors will benefit generations of Mainers long after their passing, and their examples challenge us to put our shoulders to the wheel for the sake of those future generations who will know, and love, the Downeast Lakes region.

Kind Regards,

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
- Moose Island Marine

Grand Laker ($250 +)

- Bailey's General Construction
- Davis Forestry Products, Inc.
- The First Bank
- Furbush-Roberts Printing Co.
- Grand Lake Canoe & Paddle
- H.C. Haynes, Inc.
- Leen's Lodge
- Old Town Canoe Co.
- Pack Baskets of Maine
- Pine Tree Store
- Princeton Food Mart
- Reny's
- Whitney Wreath

Photo credit: photosforclass.com

Downeast Nature Note

Brook Trout—*Salvelinus fontinalis*

Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) are native to Eastern North America, and are found throughout small rivers and streams in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. To thrive, they require high quality habitat with cold, clear, well-oxygenated water. Brook trout are well-known for their striking marks of marbled green and brown (vermiculation), yellow and red dots with blue halos on the flank, and red-orange bellies and lower fins. A fish prized by anglers for their hardiness and strength, their diet consists of a wide variety of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, crustaceans, amphibians, and smaller fish. Populations in their native range have decreased from many years of habitat destruction from industrialization, and the introduction of non-native species. Maine is home to 97 percent of the wild brook trout waters in the eastern U.S. (Trout Unlimited), making brook trout habitat a priority for local conservation efforts. DLLT has worked with agency and non-profit partners to complete more than 30 stream crossing projects to help restore aquatic habitat and improve fish passage for species such as brook trout in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest.

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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 28, 4-7 pm
Wreaths, holiday crafts, and much more

Conservation Film Screening—December 12, 6 pm
Mark Ireland's documentary at WCCC in Calais

GLS Christmas Bird Count—December 15
Join DLLT for a day of citizen science

Kids Animal Tracking Trek—January 11, 1 pm
Learn to use snowshoes on a hunt for tracks

Full Moon "Owl Prowl"—January 30, 5 pm
Join DLLT staff on an evening search for owls

Great Maine Outdoor Week—February 9 - 19
www.greatmaineoutdoorweekend.org

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 11-12, 2018

Community Events

Other great community events, such as the 24th 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.**

Community Conservation Film Screening in Calais

DLLT is partnering with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, MI Media, and Washington County Community College (WCCC) to present "Community Conservation: Finding the Balance Between Nature Culture," a documentary film by Mark Ireland that focuses on the work of four Maine land trusts, including DLLT. **The film will be screened on Tuesday, December 12, in the St. Croix Lecture Hall at WCCC at 6 pm.** Following the film, a panel discussion and Q+A session with area conservationists will open dialogue about community conservation in Maine. This event is free, and open to the public.

Follow DLLT on Instagram

In addition to Facebook and Twitter, you can now follow Downeast Lakes Land Trust on Instagram. Instagram is a photography-based social media website that allows users to post and interact with images. The Downeast Lakes region has more than it's fair share of beauty to be captured on film. Follow all of our photographs at www.instagram.com/downeastlakeslandtrust/.

The Annual DLLT Photo Contest Is Open!

The 2018 DLLT Photo Contest is officially underway. Show us your best photographs of the Downeast Lakes region. For official contest rules, please visit **www.downeastlakes.org.** All photographs submitted will be judged by a panel of DLLT Staff and Volunteers. All photographs must be in a digital format. Please email all submissions to: **photo@downeastlakes.org. The deadline for submission is April 15, 2018.**

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!

2017 Best In Show Winner - by Lee Crosson

DLLT Welcomes Two New Board Members

During the past year, Downeast Lakes Land Trust has welcomed two new directors to the Board. Jeffrey Pierce and Bruce Dubee each bring a unique set of invaluable skills to the team of dedicated, volunteer Board of Directors.

Jeff has a BA in English from the University of Montana and is currently a Residential Real Estate Broker for Mulkerin Real Estate in Portland, ME. As a young child, he was introduced to the wilds of hunting and fishing through his father and mother, who also have a passion for the outdoors. Jeff joined the Board in the summer of 2016.

Jeff Pierce

West Grand Lake holds a special place in his heart, which he explores from his remote camp. Jeff lives in Cumberland, ME with his wife and three children.

Bruce is the newest member of the DLLT Board of Directors. Born and raised in Rhode Island, he holds a B.S. in Natural Resources Management, specializing in soil science with a minor in forestry, from the University of Rhode Island.

Bruce Dubee

For over 30 years, Bruce worked as a soil scientist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Bruce has been coming to Grand Lake Stream for over 40 years, beginning when he met his wife, Gwen (Spooner) Dubee. They reside in Virginia, and spend half the year at the Spooner Camp Tree Farm on Big Lake. In his spare time, Bruce enjoys fishing, hunting, and hiking in Grand Lake Stream.

Community Forest Signage Partnership Benefits All

If you have taken a drive along the Fourth Lake Road, you may have noticed some new wooden road signs. DLLT has formed a local partnership with the technology education program at Calais High School to create some beautiful signage for the Downeast Lakes Community Forest.

Led by technology engineering teacher Brian Duffy, Calais students are learning to use computer-guided routing equipment on locally sawn wood, and selling the signs at a low cost to DLLT. These road signs will help emergency vehicles navigate winding backroads, while maintaining a rustic visual appeal. In addition to road signs, signage for new DLLT hiking trails, campsites, and boat launches are also part of this exciting project.

"The students have really enjoyed this project," said Duffy. "The money earned will help defray the cost of materials for student projects which includes ukuleles and a plywood skiff."

DLLT plans to bring Calais High School students to Grand Lake Stream this year to help install the next round of signs. This will allow students to see their hard work finally in place, while providing a valuable community service to their local land trust. Whether riding along in your vehicle, ATV, snowmobile, or your own two feet, keep your eyes peeled for these beautiful signs.

Where in the Community Forest?

Introducing the latest column of *Downeast Lakes Traditions*! "Where in the Community Forest" will feature a random location in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest that showcases a special feature of the landscape, a historic site, unique habitat, or a famous local spot. Do you think you know where the photo is taken? Send in your guesses to cbrown@downeastlakes.org. The first correct answer wins a DLLT orange hunting cap. We will reveal the answer and location in the following issue. Good luck!

This historic place is a local favorite with paddlers, and a beautiful spot in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. Do you know where it is? Email your guesses to cbrown@downeastlakes.org.

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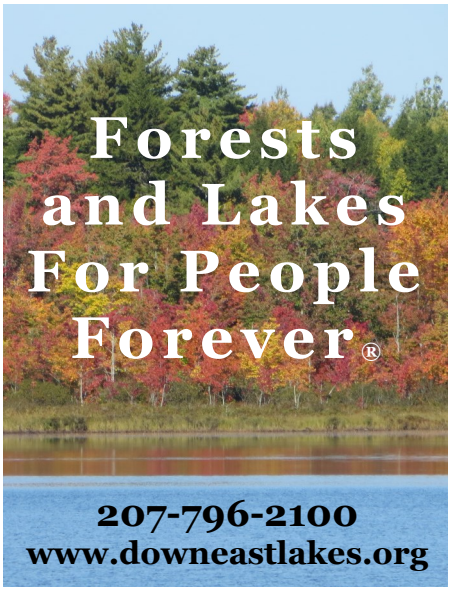
Grand Lake Stream, ME 04668



Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink
All photos by Downeast Lakes Land Trust

Former DLLT Board Member Accepts Conservation Award

The 2017 Downeast Lakes Conservation Award was presented to former DLLT Board Member Karin Tilberg by DLLT Board Member Edward McGrath and DLLT Executive Director David Montague at DLLT's annual meeting and picnic.

A longtime supporter and champion of conservation in Maine, Karin's expertise was crucial to the early success of DLLT. During the formation of DLLT, she offered invaluable advice that helped to frame DLLT's goals and vision for the conservation of the Downeast Lakes region. With her input, DLLT and partners launched the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership, resulting in the conservation of over 340,000 acres in 2008. Karin continues her work in land conservation, now serving as Interim Executive Director of the Forest Society of Maine.

"Karin's conscientious and thorough understanding of the complexities involved in conserving land for diverse interests has served DLLT and Maine's conservation community throughout her career," said DLLT Executive Director David Montague. "She truly embodies the DLLT commitment to 'Forests and Lakes, For People, Forever!'"

"This is such an honor," said Karin. "I'm very humbled and very grateful for this award."

In accepting the award, Karin reflected on the early days of the Downeast Lakes Land Trust, and noted how courageous local residents were in the face of a changing landscape and daunting challenge. "I've seen acts of courage in my professional life, but this was at the top. And it continues today."

Karin was awarded a white ash canoe paddle, handmade by local craftsman and DLLT Board Member Dale Tobey, and wood-burned by Michelle Burke, a Grand Lake Stream artist. The Downeast Lakes Conservation Award was created to honor those who have made extraordinary contributions toward the long-term economic and environmental well-being of the Downeast Lakes region of Maine.

DLLT Annual Meeting & Picnic

Benefit Auction on the shore of
West Grand Lake
Sunday ~ July 29, 2018 ~ 12 - 2 pm
16th Annual Meeting

Cookout lunch by Grand Lake Stream Guides
Lunch served at 12; By reservation—RSVP to:
info@downeastlakes.org
(207) 796—2100