Downeast Lakes
LAND TRUST ®

Winter 2018 Volume 12, Issue 2

Downeast Lakes Traditions

Forests and Lakes—For People—Forever ®

Building A Firm Foundation In Grand Lake Stream

DLLT staff and board members are thrilled to announce plans for the future home of Downeast Lakes Land Trust! In October, DLLT purchased a parcel of land on Milford Road in Grand Lake Stream, and we are currently in the planning stages of creating a vibrant and interactive office headquarters that will showcase the natural and cultural history and splendor of the Downeast Lakes region.

In the 17 years since the founding of the Downeast Lakes Land Trust, we have outgrown our current office and have found the need for a more permanent home – one that will provide ample room to grow and a welcoming public space for visitors and residents to learn about community-led conservation in Grand Lake Stream.

Located across from the Grand Lake Stream cemetery, the 17-acre parcel will provide more space for visitor parking, and a larger footprint to build a suitable building. In addition, the land borders on the Downeast Lakes Community Forest, allowing for the potential to connect to DLLT's existing Tower Hill Trail and other existing resources. Late fall and winter will provide time to clear the site of the older building, and prepare the land for this exciting new venture. Bailey's General Construction, a DLLT corporate sponsor, will begin cleaning up the site this fall.

"It was very important to us to find a site near the center of town," said DLLT President David Montague, "At our current location, we get a lot of walk-in visitors who stop by when they're fishing or visiting The Pine Tree Store. We didn't want to lose that accessibility, and the land we've purchased remains centrally-located. We're excited to make a welcoming place that that will serve the community and our mission."

Your Voice in Downeast Conservation

During the summer and fall of 2017, DLLT conducted a survey of community members and other stakeholders to solicit feedback on our work, projects, and stakeholders' interests in our future trajectory. The survey was conducted in-person at public locations around Grand Lake Stream, and DLLT interns went door-to-door among camps along the lakes. In addition, surveys were mailed to every mailbox in our local area code, and an electronic version of the survey was distributed to the DLLT emailing list. In the end, we collected more than 400 survey responses through these efforts, providing helpful insights and constructive critiques to inform our work.

Twenty-five percent of respondents owned camps in the Downeast Lakes, and 17 percent lived locally year-round. The largest contingent of respondents were repeat visitors to the region, with 41 percent reporting they had visited the area two or more times. When asked what outdoor activities they enjoy in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest, 17 percent cited fishing, compared to 15 percent who enjoyed viewing and photographing wildlife and 14 percent who made use of DLLT's hiking trails. ATVing and snowmobiling were enjoyed by fifteen percent of respondents. Seventeen percent of survey-takers had attended DLLTs education programs and events, and one-fifth of respondents had donated to DLLT to support these programs and the other work of the land trust.

Encouragingly, the responses from this sample of stakeholders indicate continued, strong support for conservation in the Downeast Lakes: a majority of respondents cited "protecting shoreline from development" as more important than other

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Lapstrake Canoe Raffle

Downeast Lakes Land Trust is holding a special raffle, where all proceeds will directly contribute to the campaign to build the new DLLT Headquarters in Grand Lake Stream. The winning item is a 15' Lapstrake "Warden's" Canoe, with a single and a double-bladed paddle. This beautiful canoe has a removable carry thwart and backrest. Hand-built by renowned boat builder Geoff Burke of Chocorua Boatworks in Tamworth, NH, circa 1985. A proven design, built to allow wardens to silently and swiftly paddle up on suspects! This is a great solo boat, and can handle two lighter people. Copper-riveted construction features cedar, tamarack, cherry, ash, and oak. It has been stored indoors and is in excellent condition.

Tickets are $10 each, and only 1,000 tickets will be sold. Tickets can be directly purchased at the Pine Tree Store in Grand Lake Stream, or at the DLLT Office. If you are interested in purchasing tickets online, please head to www.downeastlakes.org's "Donate" page, make a donation in the amount of tickets you desire, and make a note in the form titled "Canoe Raffle Tickets."

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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President's Message

I always love Fall in the Downeast Lakes. Cooler days and beautiful changing foliage are a given, of course, but there's a certain eager anticipation as the days grow shorter and the nights grow colder that makes every sunny day and every tenuous leaf clinging to the branches seem especially precious. Apples ripen on the trees, salmon fisherman crowd the pools of Grand Lake Stream, and the morning air echoes with the familiar *ka-chunk!* of firewood splitting on chopping blocks around the neighborhood.

As I light the first fires of the season in the wood stove and brace myself for colder weather, I'm reminded of the gifts from the forests and lakes of our region that I'm all too often inclined to take for granted. My crooked old house in Grand Lake Stream is hardly an exemplar of heat efficiency, despite the modern insulation and argon-filled windows Roxzanna and I have installed in recent years. Without a fire in the wood stove, ours would be a particularly chilly winter, so I am grateful for the warmth provided by the community forest's maple and birch trees, freely given in exchange for a little sweat and exertion on our parts. I'm grateful, too, for the venison, bear, perch, and partridge in my freezer, as well as the jugs of apple cider and jars of raspberry jam, the dried chanterelles, and the frozen cranberries – all products of countless hours spent exploring the Downeast Lakes region. The memories of those hours are trophies that I cherish, each season's adventures added to the collection to be recalled in later seasons as being sunnier, more colorful, or more fruitful.

More often than not, I am fortunate to share these excursions with the many friends of DLLT whose passion for conserving and appreciating the Downeast Lakes is a constant source of inspiration to me. Their drive to preserve this way of life – one that draws physical and spiritual sustenance from the forests and lakes like sap from a sugar maple – reminds me of the vitally important connection between ourselves and the land: physical connections, like the easements that guarantee our access and permit us to cut firewood or pick berries; and personal connections, like the memories of friends who took us fishing or taught us to see the wonderful forest-in-miniature on the moss-covered rocks.

DLLT's friends continue to forge new, and deeper, connections by supporting our work to conserve land for traditional uses while offering environmental education to local schools and communities to ensure those connections extend to future generations. Beside my woodstove, with the coals of community forest firewood glowing brightly, I am reminded, physically, of how the forests and lakes affect my well-being, and how my life would be lessened if they, in turn, were not conserved and stewarded for the enjoyment of all. I know that hundreds of DLLT supporters share this sense of indebtedness to the Downeast Lakes region, and I am thankful for our supporters' firm commitment to its well-being for all time.

Wishing you a cozy winter,

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 2017, 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 their employees.

Brook Trout ($1,000 +)

- Bailey's General Construction
- Bangor Savings Bank
- Chet's Camps
- Finite Carbon
- Hanscom Construction
- Machias Savings Bank
- Moose Island Marine

Grand Laker ($250 +)

- Davis Forestry Products, Inc.
- The First Bank
- Furbush-Roberts Printing Co.
- Grand Lake Canoe & Paddle
- Grand Lake Lodge
- H.C. Haynes, Inc.
- Johnson's True Value
- Leen's Lodge
- Old Town Canoe Co.
- Owen Gray and Sons, Inc.
- Pack Baskets of Maine
- Pine Tree Store
- Princeton Food Mart
- Reny's
- True North Builders, LLC
- Whitney Wreath

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DOWNEAST LAKES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

History & Heritage

Free, year-round education programs that highlight the natural and cultural history of the Downeast Lakes region. All are welcome!

Tipping Field Trip— December 2, 1-3 pm
Venture into the DLCF for balsam fir tips

Evergreen Extravaganza— December 4, 4-7 pm
Wreaths, holiday crafts, and much more

GLS Christmas Bird Count—December 14
Join DLLT for a day of citizen science

Cross-country Skiing at Musquash—January 18
Glide along the Esker trail in mid-winter!

Great Maine Outdoor Week—February 8 - 17
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
- Mid-August 2019

Community Events

Other great community events, such as the 25th 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.**

Where in the Community Forest?

The latest installment of "Where in the Community Forest" features a local body of water from the air. 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 on DLLT's social media pages - Good luck!

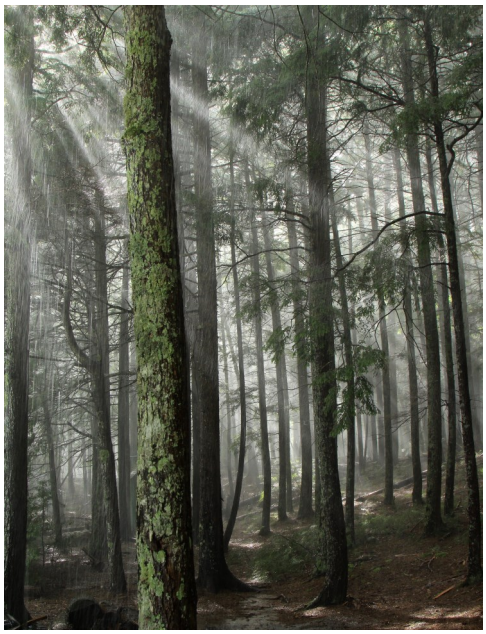
This "lake" is a gorgeous sight in autumn, and is located along a DLLT hiking trail. Do you know where it is? Email your guesses to cbrown@downeastlakes.org.

The Annual DLLT Photo Contest Is Open!

The 2019 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.**

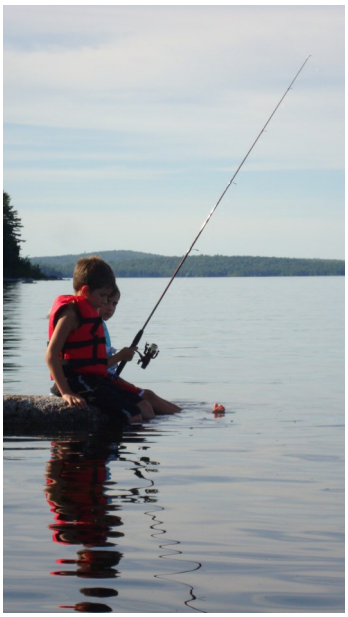
The deadline for submission is April 15, 2019.

Photos will be selected for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category. Winning entries will be featured in our summer newsletter. Good luck!



2018's "People's Choice" winner, selected at the Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival - by Grace Croonenberghs.

Your Voice, *continued from page 1*



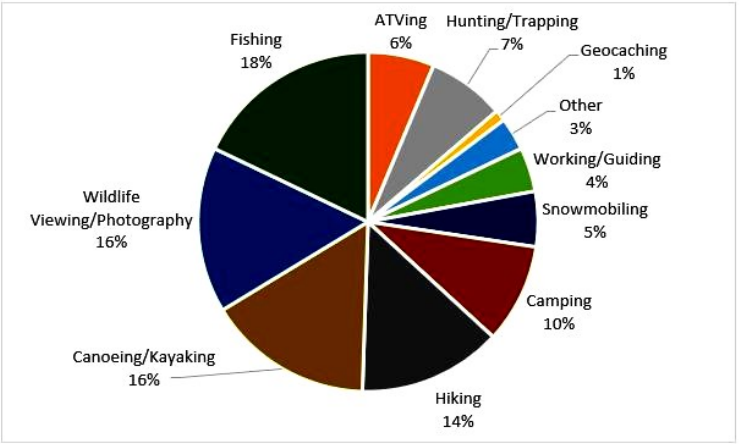
land trust activities such as supporting economic development or promoting outdoor recreation-based tourism. Seventy-four percent of those surveyed said they would like to see additional land conserved by working forest easements, and a 68 percent majority favored expansion of the community forest, a move that would give the community greater voice in local land management.

Since the purchase of the West Grand Tract of the community forest in 2016, DLLT has worked with partners to construct 4.6 miles of new hiking trails, and 64 percent of respondents said they would appreciate having even more hiking trails and campsites to explore in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. This interest in recreational opportunities extended to DLLT's public programs, as well. When presented with a selection of program offerings and asked to choose which they would most like to attend, a group outing such as a hiking or paddling excursion was the most popular choice, more popular, even, than presentations on local history topics like the well-attended recent discussions of the "Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery" and John Dudley's "History of the Airline Road".

Results also revealed a high rate of participation in our educational programs for children. Thirty-six percent of respondents who said they have children or grandchildren in the local area report that those children have attended at least one DLLT program. However, this figure revealed even more room for improvement, as 44 percent had heard of these programs, but their children had not attended them, and 20 percent said they had never heard of our children's programs! This is all the more reason to spread the word about these great, free opportunities to connect kids to the natural heritage of the Downeast Lakes!

The 2017 DLLT Public Outreach Survey offered a brief snapshot of our stakeholders' feelings about DLLT, what aspects of our work are succeeding, and where we can do better. Although some of the methods of delivery (and respondents' willingness to take the time to fill out the survey) imply a slight bias toward supporting DLLT, we also appreciated the feedback from those who expressed dissatisfaction with some aspects of our work. Their comments, pointed at times, raised some important questions and considerations for us to contemplate as we make plans for the future.

Above all, we are deeply grateful for the input of all of our survey respondents. We always appreciate hearing feedback and ideas from the community, whether by phone, email, stopping by our office in Grand Lake Stream, or joining us for coffee and eggs at The Pine Tree Store during the summer "Breakfasts with DLLT". Don't wait for the next DLLT survey; stay connected and share your thoughts with us about how DLLT can best serve the well-being of the Downeast Lakes region. We look forward to hearing from you!



Outdoor recreation activities enjoyed in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest by respondents to DLLT's 2017 Public Outreach Survey.

Downeast Nature Note

Meadow Vole — *Microtus pennsylvanicus*

Often referred to as the "field mouse," meadow voles are found across Canada, Alaska, and the northern United States. These small rodents are sometimes confused with mice, but voles are slightly larger, more stout, and have much shorter tail than most mice species. Growing 3-6 inches in length, they remain active throughout the year, feeding mostly at night. Voles are prolific breeders, producing 5-10 litters per year, with 3-6 young per litter. They are primarily herbivorous, feeding on grass, roots, stems, and leaves, but will occasionally feed on small insects and snails. In winter, meadow voles build subterranean burrows and vast networks of tunnels underneath deep snow. The bane of many farmers and agriculturists, meadow voles can wreak havoc by eating valuable crops and seedlings and ruining many different species of trees through "girdling," which is the act of gnawing all of the bark off a tree. This exposes the cambium layer, and leads to the death of the tree. A critical member of the food web, meadow voles are valuable prey for numerous species of raptors, mammals, and snakes. Whether in your dooryard, woodpile, or out in the community forest, keep an eye out for these rodents this winter!

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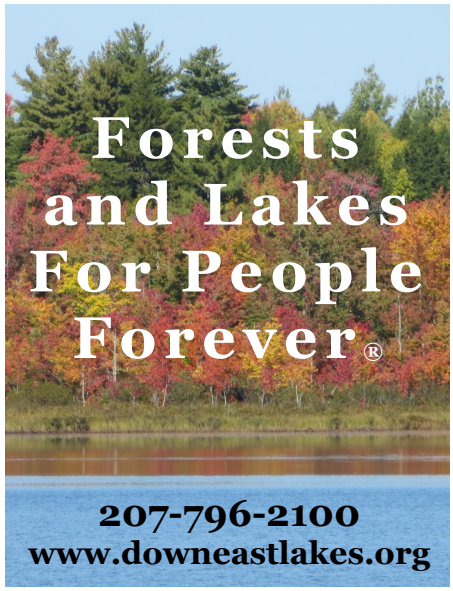

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All photos by Downeast Lakes Land Trust

From left to right: Lee Whitely, Jake Lea, and David Montague

DLLT Honors Former Campaign Chair

On Sunday, July 29th, Downeast Lakes Land Trust held its Annual Meeting and Picnic on the shore of West Grand Lake. Coupled with a benefit auction, this annual event also marks the announcement of the Downeast Lakes Conservation Award. This year's recipient is longtime DLLT supporter and volunteer, John "Jake" Lea. This award was created to honor those who have made extraordinary contributions toward the economic and environmental well-being of the Downeast Lakes region.

Jake has lifelong ties to the Grand Lake Stream area and has been an instrumental force for the work of DLLT since its inception in 2001. He first served as the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership (DLFP) leadership committee chair, which led to the conservation of more than 340,000 acres in the region and the DLLT purchase of 27,000 acres for the creation of what would become the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. Jake played a key role in negotiating and guiding this partnership between DLLT and the New England Forestry Foundation, which raised more than $30 million dollars for conservation in our region. After the success of the DLFP, Jake served on the fundraising committee for the subsequent Wabassus Lake Project and co chaired the West Grand Lake Community Forest Project.

"When DLLT ordered a feasibility study to assess fundraising potential for the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership, the results were underwhelming," notes DLLT Executive Director David Montague. "Estimates for funds that could be raised for such an ambitious campaign fell far below what was needed. It is to Jake's credit that he was undaunted by these disappointing figures; he put his nose to the grindstone and helped DLLT raise funds far surpassing the estimates. That took courage and a strong commitment to our mission – both qualities that are embodied by recipients of the Downeast Lakes Conservation Award."

DLLT Annual Meeting and Picnic

Benefit Auction on the shore of West Grand Lake
Sunday - July 28, 2019
17th Annual Meeting

Cookout lunch by Grand Lake Stream Guides. RSVP to:
info@downeastlakes.org
(207) 796—2100