Downeast Lakes
LAND TRUST®

Winter 2024 Volume 18, Issue 2

Downeast Lakes Traditions

Forests and Lakes—For People—Forever®

Bear Trap Landing Timber Harvest

Employing Cut-To-Length Harvesting Techniques

Under the supervision of our forester, Ernest Carle, a team from Gardner Logging Services has begun Cut-To-Length (CTL) timber harvesting operations on DLLT's Bear Trap Landing 220-acre harvest site. CTL is a mechanized harvesting system in which trees are delimbed and cut to length directly at the stump. It is recognized internationally as an environmentally friendly timber harvesting method used in flat and gently slopping terrain. This is DLLT's first harvest utilizing only CTL techniques. Environmental benefits include less soil disturbance than in skidding operations, no slash dumped at the landing, and higher retention of nutrients within the harvested area. For the harvester, the benefit is cleaner wood since the logs are not skidded on the ground to the landing.

Cut 8 foot logs at the landing site

Three machines are involved. A Feller Buncher cuts and lays trees down on the trail. A Processer limbs, then uses computer calculations to measure and cut the tree to length. Finally, a Forwarder uses GPS data to retrieve, transport, and stack the cut trees at the landing. When the entire process is done, you have several different stacks of logs, all cut to maximize the value of the tree.

Processer stripping limbs before cutting an 8 foot log

The flat terrain of this year's harvest sites is ideal for CTL methods. They will also be used at DLLT's approved Whitney Cove 900 acre harvest site and at its 160 acre Dark Cove Mountain harvest site. Total harvest amounts will fall within DLLT's yearly maximum allowable cut of 4,000 cords of wood. All these cuts are being "Focus Species" managed to protect and maintain the habitat needs of the focal wildlife species found in the community forest.

DLLT contract forester Ernest Carle notes that the disturbed space needed at the landing for the cut timber is much less than needed when felling and hauling full-length trees. DLLT Interim Executive Director Ken Grant observed how the selective cutting process is leaving numerous standing seed trees, preserving standing deadwood for wildlife, and leaving the forest with future high value tree species.

IN THIS ISSUE

2 Conservation Hero Award
3 President's Message
4 Planned Giving
5 & 6 Fall Highlights
7 Community Calendar
8 New Board Member

Honoring Ed McGrath

2024 Downeast Lakes Trust Conservation Hero

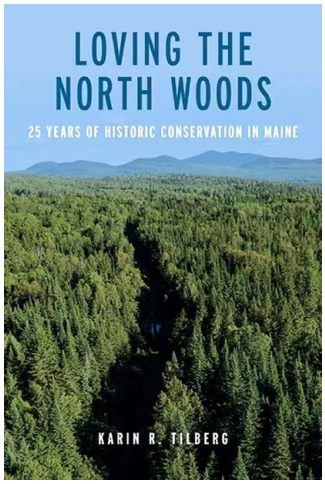
By Emertis Board Member Syd Lea

It is an honor to present the Downeast Lakes Land Trust's conservation hero award for 2024 to Edward McGrath.

I came to know Ed, other than by reputation, at the very birth of the trust. He was on the campaign committee that my brother Jake and I co-chaired when –against all odds and in fact against the counsel of so called experts– we set out to buy nearly 30,000 acres of community forest and to protect an additional 220,000 or so from development, all the while assuring public access to the land. As our motto indicates, we wanted to guarantee "forests and lakes for people forever." Ed also served on the campaign committee for the subsequent West Grand Lake Community Forest, which grew our community forest to more than 60,000 acres and assured the same access.

Ed has been a board member for as long as anyone, maybe including him, can remember. I have no idea how many committees he may have served on. I do know that for many years he chaired the trust's forestry committee, overseeing timber operations and greatly assisting in negotiations for carbon credits, which have proved crucial to the financial sustenance of our organization.

I've merely skimmed the surface here in the interest of time, but let me use that reference to carbon credits as a segue into an important generality. I know from personal experience that whenever I've needed a lawyer, not the one I married but a third party, I have encountered none with the expertise and character of Ed McGrath. Having nonetheless paid what seemed exorbitant amounts of money to each, I feel confident in declaring that the *pro bono* legal work Ed has done for the trust has saved us hundreds of thousands of dollars.



A Must Read…

Forest Society of Maine President Karin Tilberg is a DLLT advocate, a former Board member, and the 2017 recipient of our Conservation Award. In October 2024, she published a must read for the DLLT enthusiast. The book, titled *Loving the North Woods*, chronicles the difficult challenges that led to tremendous conservation achievements between 1990 and 2015 in the North Woods of Maine. She explores how peoples love of place and action brought about historic steps in Maine forest conservation. Of note, Chapter 11 (What Courage Looks Like: The Downeast Lakes, 2005) chronicles the remarkable story and achievements of DLLT. Proceeds from the sale of her book are going to Maine woods conservation groups including DLLT.

Downeast Lakes
LAND TRUST®

137 Milford Road, Grand Lake Stream, ME 04668
207-796-2100
www.downeastlakes.org

President's Message

By Lindsay Wheaton, President, Board of Directors

As the Trust comes to the end of our 23rd year, we are in the process of reflecting, reevaluating and rebalancing. We have had such wonderful successes in our history, and want to reaffirm our mission to strengthen ourselves moving into the future.

We are concentrating our efforts on our 57,000 -acre property and that management standards are exemplary in both science and experience. At the core is our mission - to have a healthy and replenishing forest, fertile wildlife habitat, clean lakes to support the traditional uses of the abundant resources this land offers; to provide the landscape by which others can enjoy or earn a living.

We are reaffirming and strengthening our relationships with the local community and reinforcing our local partnerships to jointly manage the many uses on the community forest. We appreciate all the efforts of the guides, ATV and snowmobile clubs, fire department, historical society, lodges, Pine Tree Store, road associations and community members. We look forward to continuing our work together.

We are also strengthening partnerships with our neighbors and the wider conservation community in Washington County, statewide, nationally and even internationally. Efforts to enhance fish and wildlife, forestry and well-maintained roads defy boundaries, and we appreciate cooperative efforts with our neighboring landowners.

Our Board of Directors is reinvigorated with these efforts and even more committed to this important mission and place. I hope you will continue to stay involved, and watch closely for the developments and results over the next year as we reset and strengthen our commitment to the mission.

A special thank you to Danielle Daggett, our Administrative Manager, and our forester, Ernest Carle, for your hard work on behalf of the Trust. Thank you to all of our many supporters. Please reach out to the office or me anytime. We look forward to staying in touch.

Corporate Sponsors

Corporate Sponsors support our vision for the economic and environmental well-being of Grand Lake Stream and the Downeast Lakes Region. Businesses also contribute to Downeast Lakes Land Trust by incentivizing employee volunteer hours. Thank you to these companies, organizations and donors who chose to use their time for DLLT causes!

Brook Trout ($1,000 +)

- Fallen Hallow LLC
- Grand Lake Stream ATV Club
- Indian Township Tribal Gov.
- Machias Savings Bank
- Maine DACF & NRCS
- Maine Guides Education Fund
- Maine Community Foundation
- Maine TREE Foundation
- Momentum Conservation
- Mt. Jefferson Backcountry Riders
- Ruffed Grouse Society
- Small Corporation
- Yamaha Motor Corporation

Grand Laker ($250 +)

- Bailey's General Construction
- Emily Landecker Foundation
- Furbush Roberts Printing Co.
- Lakeville Camp Owners Assoc.
- Lakeville Town
- Maine Dept. of Agriculture
- Quad Co. Snowmobile Club
- T. Worster Logging

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so all donations are tax deductible.

MISSION

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

Lindsay P. Wheaton, President
Dale Tobey, VP
Kimberly Arnold, Treasurer
Ken Grant, Secretary
Josh Kuester
Edward J. McGrath, Esq.
Hans Peterson, Esq.
Jeffery Pierce
Logan Johnson

STAFF

Ken Grant, Interim Executive Director
kengrant@downeastlakes.org

Lindsay P. Wheaton, Interim Managing Director
lindsaywheaton@downeastlakes.org

Danielle Daggett, Administration Manager
ddaggett@downeastlakes.org

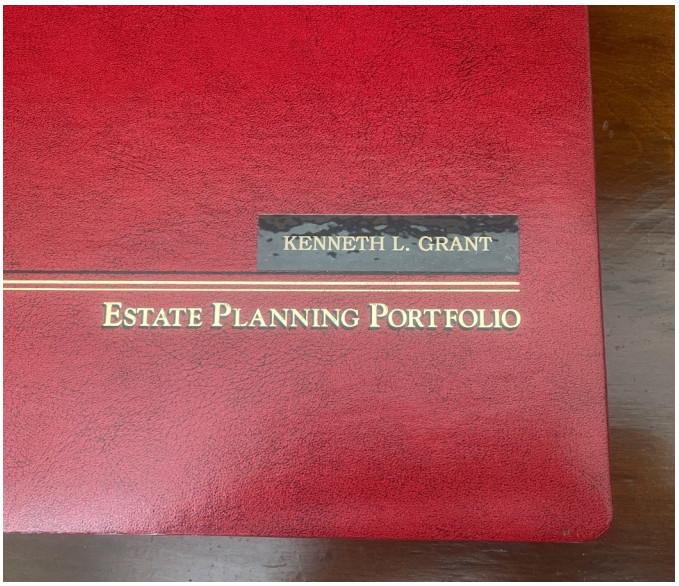
Planned Giving

Leaving a Legacy for the Next Generation

By Ken Grant, Interim Executive Director, DLLT

Story 1:

Sally Mayer has been a longtime Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) supporter and enthusiast. In fact, she gave the first-ever gift to the Trust back in 2003. While she was recently assessing her estate plans, her daughters reached out to encourage her to create a charitable bequest and give her camp and property on Bonny Brook Road in Grand Lake Stream to DLLT. They felt that such a gift would be a very meaningful legacy for Sally and her love of the GLS area. With that encouragement, she made a charitable bequest that conveys her property to DLLT with instructions to sell it and have the proceeds benefit DLLT's endowment. In addition, Sally has added in her bequest to DLLT the donation of her set of Arthur Smith signed bird chainsaw carvings. With these generous gifts, her legacy as a supporter will live on.



Story 2:

Several weeks ago, I signed onto a webinar titled *Prospecting for Planned Gifts*. The opening question asked by the moderator was, "What's the best age to solicit a planned gift… is it 50 or 70?" I was the first to respond. *"My wife and I made our first planned gift back in 1979 when I was 25."* I could see that the webinar participants attention was sparked as I explained how the boarding school my wife and I worked for paid to have a will drafted. The business manager there encouraged us to create a will, and he threw out to us the notion of leaving something to deserving organizations that had become special parts of our lives. So we did. That spirit of charity has continued right through to the family trust we had drafted this past spring. DLLT is in our trust.

There are other DLLT planned giving stories as well. We hope you'll be among them. We want to add your story.

Your planned gifts make a major impact on conservation efforts in the Downeast Lakes region and support the success and long-term viability of DLLT. In addition, they can have numerous, substantial tax benefits for you and your heirs. If you are interested in a conversation about planning your future giving to Downeast Lakes Land Trust, please contact us at (207) 796-2100, or email kengrant@downeastlakes.org. We can direct you to resources that will help you explore your options and choose a method of giving that's right for you, and you'll be helping to secure the future of Forests and Lakes, For People, Forever!®

A Glance at DLLT Fall Highlights

Fisher and Martin Monitoring

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is entering its third year of a long-term monitoring study on the presence of fisher and American marten throughout the state. They will once again be gathering data from two DLLT forest sites by deploying baited camera stations. They have made available a summary report of findings thus far.

DLLT is Being Featured by...

The US Forest Service: The USFS is compiling a book with case studies of 18 community forests (including DLLT) and their impact on rural economies and conservation.

Finite Carbon: They have recently launched a new website that includes a high-level portfolio overview of their Downeast Lakes Land Trust projects.

Community Forest Fun Facts

- 57,703 total acres of wildlife, forestry and recreational land
- 91 miles of protected shoreline
- 2 Ecological Reserves
- 17 miles of hiking trails
- 11 water access campsites
- 84 miles of maintained ATV trails
- 70 miles of groomed snowmobile trails
- 80 miles of recreational roads
- 2 LifeFlight helipads

Milfoil Mitigation Progress

The Big Lake Milfoil Coalition spent a number of weeks again this fall mapping and employing diver-assisted suction harvesting of milfoil from Big Lake. There is good news. It has been reported that these fall remediation efforts on Big Lake have been successful in reducing the spread of this invasive species in the lake. DLLT provides support and funding for these prevention, surveying, and mitigation efforts.

Taming the Wild Teaberry Workshop

Long-time DLLT volunteer Wayne Curtis presented a workshop on the teaberry plant found throughout Maine's forests. The leaves of teaberry are filled with a fragrant wintergreen oil that can be made into an oleo-sacharum — a flavored sugar popular in the 19th century. Participants first headed into the community forest to harvested these leaves. Then using sugar and a simple Mason jar, participants learned how to extract the oils for use in making teaberry soda or teaberry ice cream. Samples of the soda were served to all.

A Glance at DLLT Fall Highlights (con't)

Build a Duck House Workshop

DLLT's *Build a Duck House* public workshop took place on October 14th. Workshop host April Dow began by sharing stories, pictures, video, and information about Goldeneye behavior, gestation, and nesting. Participants then moved to the headquarters' workshop where they assembled their own duck house.

DLLT Fall Work Party a Success

DLLT's fall work party took place on Saturday October 12. Projects included trail work, fall grounds cleanup, final construction of the handicap entry ramp to the headquarters, and winterization of the headquarters. An appreciation cookout for participants followed. Many thanks to Sue and Al LaPlante for organizing this event.

Storm Damage Salvage Report

Hundreds of hours of volunteer and contracted labor was focused this summer on clean-up and salvage operations from the December 2023 storm. Priority clean-up areas included DLLT roads and trails. Salvage operations this fall have continued on DLLT property along the Bonnie Brook Road. Additional salvage operations will take place on Shaw Street Extension, Sonny's Lane, and Meadowbrook (Chets Camp Road).

To date, these salvage operations have brought to market commercially valuable wood, reduced the potential fire hazard, helped prevent insect and fungi infestation, and allowed for the healthy regeneration of new trees .

THANK YOU STEWARDS!!!

To the volunteer Trail and Campsite stewards who helped maintain eight hiking trails and eleven campsites this summer, please accept our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible time and effort you put into keeping these DLLT recreational areas in tip-top shape.

Chris White
Steve & Laura Schaefer
Wayne Curtis
Josh Kuester
Bruce & Gwen Dubee
Jane Lanham
Arthur Durity
Tom Bridges
Roman Hycrun
Tici & Gary Conant
Susan Linscott & Lee Academy
Maeryn Mercier
Kay & Jay Thomas
Sue & Al LaPlante

Downeast Lakes
LAND TRUST®

DOWNEAST LAKES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

December Wreath Making

Come and learn to make your own wreath! Sunday, December 15th, 11:00 am –1:00 pm. Location will be the GLS schoolhouse. Wreaths will be made with balsam tips from the Community Forest. Supplies and instructions are provided along with light refreshments. Please RSVP to info@downeastlakes.org, or call (207) 796-2100. See you there!

DLLT Photo Contest

The 2025 DLLT Photo Contest is beginning. Show us your best photographs of the area! For official contest rules and this year's categories, please visit www.downeastlakes.org. Winning photos are included in the summer newsletter and displayed on the DLLT website. Email all submissions to:

photo@downeastlakes.org

The deadline for submission is April 15, 2025.

Photo by Nikki Brown, 2024 People's Choice winner

Commemorative Chair Program

Your Last Chance...

DLLT's commemorative chair program will end December 31st of this year. Take the opportunity this holiday season to purchase a green L.L. Bean outdoor Adirondack, patio, or porch rocker in memory or in honor of that special person you would like to recognize. Three options to choose from are as follows:

Waterfall Adirondack Chair $340

Patio Chair $340

Porch Rocker $425

Your chair will be placed on the outside deck of the DLLT headquarters with an attached plaque honoring your special person.

Order one today! Fill out the order form by using the QR code or emailing the office at info@downeastlakes.org.

Downeast Lakes
LAND TRUST®

Downeast Lakes Land Trust
137 Milford Rd.
Grand Lake Stream, ME 04668

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

Welcome New Board Member Logan Johnson

The Board of Directors welcomes Logan Johnson. Logan is the Executive Director of the Maine Tree Foundation, which advances understanding of Maine's forest resources through educational programs and initiatives that promote sustainable forest management and stewardship. He is also the founder and owner of Red Beach Conservation, LLC which provides program administration, project management, and technical service support to organizations interested in promoting and enhancing community conservation efforts. Logan has a both a B.S. in Biology and a Master's in Forestry from the University of Maine in Orono. He has local roots, having grown up in Calais and having been a conservation intern with DLLT in the summers of 2016 and 2017. He and his wife Sarah live in Westbrook, ME. His experience in forestry and the administration of land trusts will be of tremendous value.

Join us in welcoming Logan to the Board.