Downeast Lakes LAND TRUST

# Downeast Lakes Traditions

Forests and Lakes—For People—Forever June 2009 Volume 3, Issue 1

# DLLT Takes Bold Leap

## Buys Option for 21,700-acre West Grand Lake Community Forest Project

It had to happen. The opportunity had never existed before, and would never have come again.

The Webber family had owned 22,000 acres around Grand Lake Stream for over a century. Now they were selling, and subdivisions and "Posted: No Trespassing" signs could have been next. Instead, they sought a buyer that would work with the land trust and the community. Lyme Timber was interested in the opportunity.

But, if DLLT didn't make a major investment and commitment, the deal would die. This is the last key parcel to protect the landscape surrounding Grand Lake Stream and West Grand Lake. We had to find a way.

In late 2008, we negotiated an option agreement with Lyme to purchase conservation easements on 21,700 acres and 17 miles of lakefront, and ultimately to buy the land to create a West Grand Lake Community Forest.

Grand Lake Stream citizens unanimously voted in November to contribute $40,000 toward permanent conservation of the West Grand Lake Forest, and the Grand Lake Stream Guides Association donated $5,000. We had only six weeks to come up with a $2 million option consideration! We

*Continued on Page 4…..*

DLLT/Lighthawk Photo

## Grand Lake Stream Seeks Secure Future

The sale of the West Grand Lake Forest provided a unique opportunity. Lyme Timber worked with Sustainable Forest Futures (subsidiary of the Northern Forest Center), Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Bangor Savings Bank, and U.S. Bancorp to secure New Markets Tax Credit financing. Grand Lake Stream established a public process to identify appropriate lands for future growth. Lyme Timber is donating 132 acres and selling another 50 acres to the municipality for sustainable development of affordable housing, infrastructure, and business. The village citizens voted unanimously to support the transactions.

# Three Lakes Now Protected!

## Wabassus Lake Added to Community Forest

In December DLLT purchased the Wabassus Lake Tract, adding 6,628 acres to the Farm Cove Community Forest. This parcel completes permanent conservation of the Wabassus and Upper and Lower Getchell Lake shorelines. We are grateful to everyone who helped make it possible. See the calendar on Page 4 for information on an August walking tour and picnic on Dawn Marie Beach, one of the outstanding recreational destinations on our new acquisition!

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:
## Advancing a Bold Vision in Lean Times, with Your Help

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust has had an ambitious agenda since we started in 2001. When the seven-year Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership was nearly complete, we leapt into the Wabassus Lake Project. This was a compelling opportunity to permanently protect an adjacent property important to our community. With help from many of you, we completed our second land conservation project.

Now we're excited to embark on the West Grand Lake Community Forest Project (see the lead story on the cover). At a cost of $24 million, this effort promises to complete our vision of permanently conserved lands surrounding the village and West Grand and Big Lakes. Although we have no illusions about raising this kind of money in the midst of a financial downturn, we have one opportunity and are pursuing it with diligence. Each of you can serve as an ambassador for this effort by sharing your enthusiasm!

We must also focus on the vital day-to-day needs that support our community and keep DLLT strong. We're continuing our sustainable management of the Farm Cove Community Forest and our habitat restoration, education, research, and recreation programs. We soon will send letters to our supporters, seeking general operating contributions. Your financial support has made all of our work possible and we couldn't do these exciting endeavors without you.

***Welcome to the Board, Kim and Bill!***

On behalf of the Board, I'm delighted to welcome new Directors Kimberly Arnold and Bill Mackowski, whom we elected in March. A fourth-generation summer resident and the daughter of former DLLT Director Pete Borden, Kim is an independent marketing consultant who resides in London, England. A wildlife biologist by training and a craftsman by inclination, Bill has spent decades studying traditional snowshoe design and construction; *Downeast* Magazine profiled him as "The Snowshoe Detective" in February. Many of you know him from his incredible donations to our annual picnic auction.

***Please Communicate With Us and Visit When You are in the Neighborhood***

We hope that you will let us know what you think of our work. Please call, email, write, or stop by our Grand Lake Stream office, which is open Monday through Friday year-round from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We want to hear from you.

Thanks for your support!

Lindsay Wheaton

Phil Osborne will bring this replica of the extraordinary buck Louie Cataldo's grandfather Hill Gould harvested to Grand Lake Stream on June 18th. (See the calendar on page 4)

**DOWNEAST LAKES LAND TRUST**
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207-796-2100 · downeastlakes@earthlink.net · www.downeastlakes.org

**MISSION**

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust will contribute 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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# *Here For You:*

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This Memorial Day weekend started for me with a Friday afternoon walk from our office in the village to visit a family at their camp on the stream and learn more about their love for the area. The next morning, my father joined me for the third year in a row to lead a hike on DLLT's Farm Cove Community Forest as part of the Downeast Spring Birding Festival. We flushed a ruffed grouse and stopped for a pair of woodcock in the road, and we saw and (mostly) heard 46 species of birds that morning. Our guests commented on how peaceful Pocumcus Lake was on Memorial Day weekend, a time when many other lakes in Maine and the northeast can be buzzing with boats.

The next morning, we took a short family trip down to the Washington County coast, where we honored the Memorial Day holiday and visited family gravestones at cemeteries in Lubec and Machiasport. We learned about places that were important to my father's childhood, and heard stories of his grandparents. Our son Asa (he's two and a half) had a great time at the cemeteries, but we took him to Jasper Beach to fly a kite, too. This weekend reminded me how special these family connections to places can be.

I also want to learn your stories. I've enjoyed meeting many of you over the last few years, but there are many more of you I've not had a chance to sit down with over a cup of coffee or in a canoe. How did you connect to Grand Lake Stream or DLLT? What's most important to you about our traditions or our environment? I would be happy to meet at the office, at your home, or better yet, let's get out in the woods or on the water together.

On behalf of everyone at DLLT, I want to thank you for helping to protect the special places around Grand Lake Stream. Whether you've already been bringing your grandchildren to Grand Lake Stream for years, or first came here with your parents or grandparents, or haven't yet started to imagine having kids of your own: we all want our children and grandchildren to have the chance to catch a salmon, paddle a canoe, and hear a loon. Your commitment and support show that you want to see Grand Lake Stream remain a vibrant community, where your grandchildren will make lifelong friends. This is our future, and you're helping us get there together. Thank you for your steady support. Everything DLLT is accomplishing is made possible by you.

Sincerely,

Mark Berry

Mark Berry

# CELEBRATE WITH US!

## 7th ANNUAL DLLT MEETING AND PICNIC

**12:00 to 2:00 PM, Sunday, July 26, 2009**

**(Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival weekend)**

New supporters are welcome! Please attend and consider bringing friends.

***See Reverse Side to Reserve Your Spot!***

**Benefit Auction will include:**
**Canoe Pack, Paddle, and Boot Bench all handcrafted by Bill Mackowski, and other great items!**

# DOWNEAST LAKES 2009 SUMMER CALENDAR

**Thursday, June 18 6:30 PM. DLLT History & Heritage Series: *Whitetail Deer, Maine's Sporting Past & Future,*** Phil Osborne will present antlers from his collections, including a replica of the legendary Hill Gould Buck, and information on habitat & management.

**June 21-August 7 Weekly conservation education camps at Greenland Point Center**. Visit www.greenlandpoint.com for information.

**Saturday, July 4 Grand Lake Stream 4th of July Festivities: 7:30 AM-9:15 PM.** Featuring parade, contests, concerts, and meals. For more information call Dave at 796-2286.

**Tuesdays, July 7 – August 11 Nature Brigade: Youth Explorations and Adventures, 9:30 AM-Noon**. DLLT sponsors weekly educational activities for children ages 6-12, with all ages welcome to participate. Dress appropriately for the activity and the weather, bring a water bottle, sun screen and bug spray. DLLT provides snacks! See details below.

**Tuesday, July 7 Nature Brigade *Fly Fishing,*** Barry & Patty Weeks.

**Tuesday, July 14 Nature Brigade *Wildlife Tracks and Signs,*** Dave Tobey.

**Friday, July 17 Loons in Downeast Maine -** Co-sponsored with Woodie Wheaton Land Trust - in Forest City, ME. Daytime tour and 7:00 PM program.

**Tuesday, July 21 Nature Brigade *Forestry Show and Tell,*** Ernest Carle.

**Friday & Saturday, July 24 & 25 Grand Lake Stream Guides Association Dinners.** Purchase tickets in advance at Pine Tree Store. Held on east side of the West Grand Lake dam.

**Saturday-Sunday, July 25 & 26 Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival. 10 AM – 5 PM,** Across from the James Brite Schoolhouse. See www.glsfaf.org.

**Sunday, July 26 DLLT 7th Annual Meeting, Picnic, and Benefit Auction Noon-2 PM,** Lunch will be served from 12-12:45. By reservation; see RSVP form on page 6 or call DLLT at 207-796-2100.

**Tuesday, July 28 Nature Brigade *Kayaking and Outdoor Safety*,** Steve & Laura Schaefer.

**Sunday, August 2 5th Annual West Grand Lake Race. Registration 9:30-10:30 AM; Pre-race Meeting 10:45; Race starts at 11.** Canoe & kayak race to benefit DLLT. For everyone, from families to professional racers. Awards ceremony and barbecue afterward at Grand Lake Lodge. Registration materials available at www.downeastlakes.org and at DLLT office; lower entry fee for early registration (before July 17).

**Tuesday, August 4 Nature Brigade *Blueberry Celebration,*** Sue LaPlante.

**Tuesday, August 11 Nature Brigade *Dawn Marie Beach Walk & Picnic*,** Lee & Sue Whitely.

**For more information on DLLT events, including those yet to be scheduled, visit our web site at www.downeastlakes.org**

***All events held at the James Brite Schoolhouse on Water Street in Grand Lake Stream unless noted ***

# DLLT Takes Bold Leap (continued from Page 1)

made our deadline. In an ongoing partnership with The Conservation Fund (TCF), we were greatly aided by a $1 million grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, loans from the Open Space Institute and others, and leadership gifts from friends of DLLT.

To finish the West Grand Lake Community Forest Project, we need to raise the balance of the $24 million total project cost!

For more information on the project, which will conserve 17 miles of shoreline on West Grand, Lower Oxbrook, and Big Lakes, 3,000 acres of wetlands, including those along 9 miles of Big Musquash Stream, Amazon Mountain and the Pineo Mountains, 42 miles of interior streams, and deer wintering yards, please visit our web site or give us a call. This is a keystone parcel in the center of 1.4 million acres of contiguous international conservation lands.

*Fishing for landlocked salmon at Big Falls, Grand Lake Stream.*

# HELPING A HOLIDAY TRADITION: "TIPPING" AND WREATH MAKING

*Linda Curtis with an arm-load of balsam fir tips*

DLLT Directors David Tobey and Lee Whitely led a balsam fir "tipping" field trip on the Farm Cove Community Forest in late November, and Sue Whitely coordinated a public wreath making workshop. Local wreath makers Ellen Williams, Heather Tobey Sockabasin, and Angel Yates taught community members how to make their own holiday wreaths using the gathered tips. Hot cocoa and fresh cookies added to the festive atmosphere. DLLT plans to make these workshops an annual event, so watch for news of the 2009 tipping and wreath-making sessions!

As a service to our community, DLLT issues permits for cutting fir tips in the Community Forest for an annual fee, subject to guidelines developed to protect the health of timber stands and wildlife habitat. In 2008 we issued nine permits to local residents who continue the cottage industry tradition of wreath making in Grand Lake Stream.

# WILD FOODS ATTRACT A CROWD

Tom Seymour, author of *Foraging New England* had an enthusiastic reception for a DLLT History & Heritage Series workshop on May 21st in Grand Lake Stream. He brought examples of edible wild plants, and gave a talk and DVD presentation at the town building before bringing the group out onto the Farm Cove Community Forest to find more wild edibles. In addition to learning about wild plants, the group learned that some of the plants they've been pulling out of their gardens could have been traveling to the kitchen instead of the compost heap!

*Tom Seymour describes foods in the town building, and shows a wild sarsaparilla root on the Community Forest*

# CAN'T BE HERE? STAY CONNECTED!

This *Downeast Lakes Traditions* newsletter has served DLLT well for communicating with our supporters since the spring of 2003. But receiving a newsletter twice a year can't do a thorough job of keeping you in touch with events and milestones for Downeast Lakes Land Trust, or Grand Lake Stream.

Our website - www.downeastlakes.org - is your "always open" destination for basic information about DLLT, including our projects, programs, and events. We're planning to renovate the site to make it more efficient to update and make it easier for users to find whatever information they're looking for. We have already installed a "Donate Now" button on our web page, making it easy for anyone to easily and safely contribute online whenever they wish, or to schedule a regular monthly contribution.

Are you using Facebook? Find our new Downeast Lakes Land Trust page, and join over 120 "fans" that have already connected with us online. If you're using Facebook, you know it's a great way to connect to friends old and new. Becoming a fan of DLLT, and regularly interacting with our page, is an easy way to share your connection with Grand Lake Stream with all of your friends and family. We'll post our events on the Facebook page, and it includes a link to the Downeast Lakes Flickr (www.flickr.com) group page, where you can post your photos from the Grand Lake Stream region and share them with friends and family.

We're also planning to begin using an electronic newsletter (or "e-newsletter") that we will send via email to our supporters and colleagues when we have breaking news to share or invitations to deliver. We will continue to publish *Traditions* on paper. However, you can choose if you'd rather read it online or download it as a .pdf file, thereby reducing our paper usage and mailing expenses. If so, just send us an email with "no paper traditions" in the subject line, and include your name and mailing address. We'll send you an email alert when each *Traditions* issue goes online.

We will never sell or trade your contact information, and we will give e-newsletter recipients an unsubscribe option in each communication. If you make sure that we have your current email address, we'll stay connected!

Downeast Lakes
LAND TRUST

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*Temp. - Return Service Requested*

## *Our Mission*

***The Downeast Lakes Land Trust will contribute 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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# YES! WE'LL BE THERE!

## 7th ANNUAL DLLT MEETING AND PICNIC

***Get together for a cookout by Grand Lake Stream Guides, Benefit Auction, and DLLT news.***

**12:00 to 2:00 PM, Sunday, July 26, 2009**

**(During the Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival)**

In Grand Lake Stream, on the east side of the dam at the outlet of West Grand Lake
New supporters are welcome! Please attend and consider bringing a friend.
***Reservations required by July 17. Seating is limited!***

☐ Yes, I (we) would like to attend. _____ Number of people for lunch (free of charge)

Name(s) _____ Phone _____
Please contact: Laura Hunt, Office Manager, P.O. Box 75, Grand Lake Stream, ME 04637
Phone: 207-796-2100 · Email: downeastlakes@earthlink.net

***See Reverse Side for More Information!***