Downeast Lakes Land Trust

Downeast Lakes Traditions

Forests and Lakes—For People—Forever November 2009 Volume 3, Issue 2

WEST GRAND LAKE FOREST

UNLIKELY CHANCE TO COMPLETE A DREAM

West Grand Lake and the village of Grand Lake Stream, Maine DLLT/Lighthawk Photo

NINE PAGES FOR THE FUTURE

It was an unlikely vision.

In 2001 the nine page "Downeast Lakes Conservation Proposal" laid out a strategy for the future that builds on traditions and renewable natural resources.

This wasn't just a plan that would sit on a shelf somewhere.

You believe in it.

The proposal mapped and described major tracts of woodlands and wetlands for permanent conservation protection with guaranteed public recreational access.

Energetic founders of Downeast Lakes Land Trust were determined to make it a reality.

You – and many partners – have helped DLLT succeed in protecting 350,000 acres of the forests, wildlife habitats, watersheds, and lakeshores that can sustain the region's future.

But the original vision is not complete. A top priority of the original plan has an uncertain future.

KEEPING IT TOGETHER

The key 21,700-acre parcel of remains at risk – and is necessary to keep the landscape whole.

Whether to sustain our business, provide our livelihood, or renew our spirit, we are all dependent on these woods and waters.

We've temporarily secured the property by purchasing an option to acquire the West Grand Lake Community Forest – and provide an intact landscape and vibrant community for our children and grandchildren.

The capital campaign to protect the West Grand Lake Community Forest is off to a good start and at the center of our efforts.

We'll need your help. This story is your story. Please share it with your friends and family.

Find time to get on the water or in the woods.

Remember why it's so important.

CROSS-BOUNDARY COOPERATION:

MANAGING HABITAT ON A LANDSCAPE SCALE

DLLT convened the first Downeast Forest Managers Tour in September. By working together, we can accomplish more for wildlife habitat than any landowner can alone. Improving wildlife habitats - and protecting the incredible habitat we already have - is critical to our vision for the future. Whether you're a guide, a hunter, a bird-watcher, a lodge owner, or all four, healthy wildlife

See "Forest Managers Tour" on page 5

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Your Support can Secure a Vibrant Future

We each have Downeast traditions that are important to us - perhaps the first fly cast in the spring, the quiet handshake when you see a favorite Guide again, a salmon leaping off the stern of the Grand Laker, a quiet moment watching the sun set across the lake, listening to the loons call, or seeing another generation of kids jumping off the dock. You've each been a part of Downeast Lakes Land Trust's efforts to ensure our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy these traditions in the future. Together, we've created the Farm Cove Community Forest and protected hundreds of miles of lake and stream shorelines. We've made great progress.

We started this tremendous effort after big changes were already underway. Our local timber companies had sold their land to investment ownership. More recently, land sales are putting great pressure on local camp and home owners, who in many cases have leased their properties for decades. Owners are faced with having to purchase the land at difficult prices during hard economic times. This is especially onerous for hard-working local families. The Domtar Mill was closed briefly this spring but fortunately is up and running again. Sporting camps find their properties worth more as real estate than as businesses.

In the face of these challenges, we are working to support both the local environment and the local economy. It is our view that we must protect the resources to encourage economic growth. Our economy depends on the entrepreneurs that build sustainable businesses using the abundant natural resources of our forests. Our Community Forest provides employment in the woods, for truckers, and at the mills, and benefits all the families who work in these industries plus the businesses they rely on. We're protecting lakeshores, improving wildlife habitats, and creating new recreation opportunities to support Lodging and Guiding opportunities. Our education programs and events are improving quality of life and building community.

As you know, we have begun a new campaign to acquire the West Grand Lake Community Forest which would adjoin the Farm Cove Community Forest, the surrounding easement lands, and the Grand Lake Stream municipal lands acquired by the town for future growth. This 21,700-acre forest is essential to securing our future and maintaining the unique character and culture of our region. Please join us in protecting such a special way of life.

Welcome to the Board, Syd!

On behalf of the Board, I'm delighted to welcome new Director Syd Lea, who joined us this summer. Syd played a leadership role in the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership and is now co-chairing the West Grand Lake Community Forest Committee with his brother, Jake Lea. We are so pleased to have him with us!

Please Stay in Touch

Please share your thoughts and ideas with us. Stop by our Grand Lake Stream office Monday-Friday, or write, call, email, or interact with our Facebook page. Thank you!

Thanks for all of your support. We wish you and your family a very happy and safe holiday season!

Lindsay Wheaton

Your support helped DLLT volunteers lead this kayaking trip on West Grand Lake DLLT Photo

DLLT CONNECTS PEOPLE TO PLACE

DLLT's volunteers lead great education programs in 2009. Our "Explorations and Adventures" summer 1/2 day programs for children ranged from kayaking to blueberry picking. Tom Seymour's presentation on Foraging for Wild Foods and Phil Osborne's program on White-tailed deer both drew enthusiastic crowds and were highlights of the History & Heritage Series.

The Project Learning Tree teachers tour visited our timber harvest operations on the Farm Cove Community Forest. The teachers will apply what they've learned about Maine forests to their students' curriculum. Darrow Wilderness Trip Camps brought young canoeists on the Downeast Lakes Water Trail in traditional cedar-canvas canoes.

Check the calendar on page 4 for our upcoming events!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Community Success: Wide Impact

Your support directly touches the lives of Downeast residents and visitors. You've helped us gain permanent protection of the natural resources that enrich our daily lives and support our economy. For many who don't make their home here, travels to Grand Lake Stream are treasured escapes from hectic lives and provide vital connections to the natural world.

Perhaps less obvious, we're finding our work has benefits that extend beyond our local region and our visitors. Other communities are seeking to learn from our experiences in community-based forest conservation. Community Forests are a resurgent strategy for investing in local resources. You have helped Downeast Lakes Land Trust become a leading example of local people standing up to protect and manage resources for the values we care about.

Our recent opportunities to host visits, lead tours, and present or participate in regional and national workshops and conferences have helped us gain exposure to a wider audience of supporters, while picking up new ideas and inspiring other communities to believe they, too, can seek a better future through investing in their natural resources.

> "...there is no way any of us could have appreciated the incredible story of the *Farm Cove Community Forest* in Grand Lake Stream, Maine if we had not experienced the people, the woods, and the traditions of that country…"
>
> Cherie Kearney
> Columbia Land Trust & Mt. Adams Resource Stewards, Glenwood, Washington

I traveled recently to attend a conference and work on our capital campaign. There's nothing quite as powerful as an aerial view of other parts of the country to reinforce how special the Downeast Lakes region is. Our opportunity to secure its permanent conservation is unique . The U.S. population is projected to increase from 310 to 435 million people by 2040. Too many places have lost their local character and their connection to natural places. As this trend continues, the value of Downeast Maine will only increase, as our region continues to offer outstanding quality of life.

You've helped us conserve forests on a scale that has national and global significance. These lands are part of an international wildlife habitat corridor stretching from Maine into New Brunswick, Canada.

Our forests and wetlands are important habitats for migratory birds that travel annually through the Western Hemisphere: the American Bird Conservancy has designating the Downeast Lakes region a Globally Important Bird Area.

Land conservation - keeping forests as forests - may also be the most efficient and effective response to global climate change. Maintaining habitat corridors gives wildlife opportunity to adapt.

Thank you for your support of Downeast Lakes Land Trust. We have great opportunities ahead that depend on your continued support. The benefits stretch from Maine across the globe, but our work is permanently rooted in local people and local places.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Berry

Mark Berry

FORESTER JOHN HARMON JOINS STAFF!

DLLT is very pleased to announce the hiring of John Harmon as our new Community Forest Program Manager. John holds a degree in Forest Management from the University of Maine, and is a graduate of Woodland High School and former employee of Georgia Pacific and Domtar in Baileyville. He is a licensed professional forester, consulting to private woodlot owners, and he and his wife own and manage Harmon Farm in Princeton. His skills include planning and overseeing timber harvests and forest road maintenance.

John is working with DLLT's Forestry Resources Committee and overseeing the work of Orion Timberlands' Foresters Mandy Farrar and Kyle Burdick (Kyle moved to Washington County to start his new position with Orion).

DLLT hired John as part of a restructuring of our small staff. His work, currently half-time, will allow Executive Director Mark Berry to focus more of his energy on the West Grand Lake Community Forest capital campaign.

In the same restructuring, DLLT phased out our Development Director position. We wish Bill Bayreuther success and thank him for his efforts on behalf of Downeast Lakes Land Trust.

DLLT now has an efficient and professional staff of two and a half full time positions, supporting the work of our Board of Directors and many volunteers.

DOWNEAST LAKES

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

History & Heritage Series

"Tipping" Field Trip

Sunday, November 29, 2 pm

Learn how to harvest balsam fir "tips" for wreath-making on this trip into the Farm Cove Community Forest, led by DLLT Directors David Tobey and Lee Whitely. Tips will be used at the wreath making workshop.

Wreath-making Workshop

Tuesday, December 1, 6 pm

Join local wreath-makers for a workshop where you'll learn how to make your own Christmas wreath — cocoa and cookies provided. Please sign up in advance, and consider joining us to gather "tips" on November 29.

Winter in the Woods

Saturday, February 6, 9 am

Walk, ski, or snowshoe and look for wildlife tracks and sign. Snowshoes available. Hot beef stew and biscuits for lunch. Watch website or Facebook for updates.

2010 Summer Events

Explorations & Adventures

Tuesdays, July – August 9:30-12 noon. (schedule for 2010 pending)

DLLT sponsors weekly educational activities for children ages 6-12, with all ages welcome to participate. Rain or shine, dress appropriately for the activity and the weather, bring water bottle, sun screen and bug spray. Snacks will be provided.

4th of July Festivities

Sunday, July 4

This community event is becoming bigger and better every year!

Grand Lake Stream Guides Association Dinners

Friday & Saturday, July 23 & 24

Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival

Saturday-Sunday, July 24 & 25 . 10 am – 5 pm, Across from the James Brite Schoolhouse. See www.glsfaf.org.

7th Annual Meeting Picnic

Sunday, July 25 , 12-2 pm.

Lunch will be served at 12. By reservation; look for the RSVP form in our summer newsletter or call DLLT at 207-796-2100.

6th Annual West Grand Lake Race

Sunday, August 1 Races for everyone, with awards and picnic lunch. Register before 10:30 am. Don't miss it!

For more information, including events yet to be scheduled, visit DLLT's web site at www.downeastlakes.org

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

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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Downeast Lakes LAND TRUST

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Participants from DLLT's 4th of July float enjoy the festivities.

ARE YOU THINKING LONG-TERM?

Downeast Lakes Land Trust is in the business of thinking about the future. We will be here to manage and care for our community forest lands for generations to come.

Consider a lasting investment in the future of the Downeast Lakes region. Leaving a legacy can be as easy as naming the Downeast Lakes Land Trust as a beneficiary in your will or estate plan.

We appreciate your consideration, and future generations will benefit from your foresight. Thank you!

WAR CANOES GO HEAD TO HEAD

It was a hot summer day for the 5th Annual West Grand Lake Race. With a steady headwind, paddlers urged their war canoes side by side toward the finish through the clear waters.

Two war canoes left the starting line side by side almost two hours earlier, pulling hard to the north toward Norway Point. The six person team in "Firewater" had local guide JR Mabee in the bow, and a team of Bill Deighan, Dan Jones, Laurie Stearns, Ander Thebaud, and Terry Wescott. They faced a challenge from a three man team of Ron Bomberger, Mike Sproul, and Mark Ranco.

Ten minutes later, competitors in the six mile race around Kole Kill Island set out, followed after another 10 minutes by boats opting for the four mile paddle around Munson Island. Then it was time for the "kids race", as families and children in a wide variety of paddle craft crossed the outlet of West Grand Lake to Grand Lake Lodge and back. The kids would complete their race in just a few minutes, and then head back to Grand Lake Lodge for a picnic.

War canoes leave the starting line in the 5th Annual West Grand Lake Race.

The four mile and six mile competitors joined the kids at the picnic lunch, and a few minutes later the two war canoes came into sight. With just a mile to go, the Firewater team had an obvious lead, but the second boat was gaining fast. Paddles were flashing in the sun as the two boats picked up their pace. The crowd gave a great cheer – it was hard to tell who had the lead.

The 12 mile race came down to the wire. Firewater crossed under the finish line in one hour, 57 minutes, and 23 seconds – just three seconds ahead of their challenger.

The next race will be August 1, 2010. Take up the challenge in a war canoe, or enjoy the lake at a more leisurely pace.

FOREST MANAGERS TOUR...

(continued from Page 1)

habitat directly benefits you.

The Passamaquoddy Tribe, Wagner Forest Management, Carl Davis Forestry Products, the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL), Forest Service, and Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife joined DLLT and Orion Timberlands for a half-day tour of timber harvest and wildlife habitat management projects.

The tour highlighted coordinated wildlife habitat management across the DLLT - BPL boundary. BPL will host the 2nd annual Downeast Forest Managers Tour in 2010.

Downeast Forest Managers Tour in a DLLT harvest. DLLT Photo

Downeast Lakes
LAND TRUST

Downeast Lakes Land Trust
P.O. Box 75
Grand Lake Stream, ME 04637

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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www.downeastlakes.org

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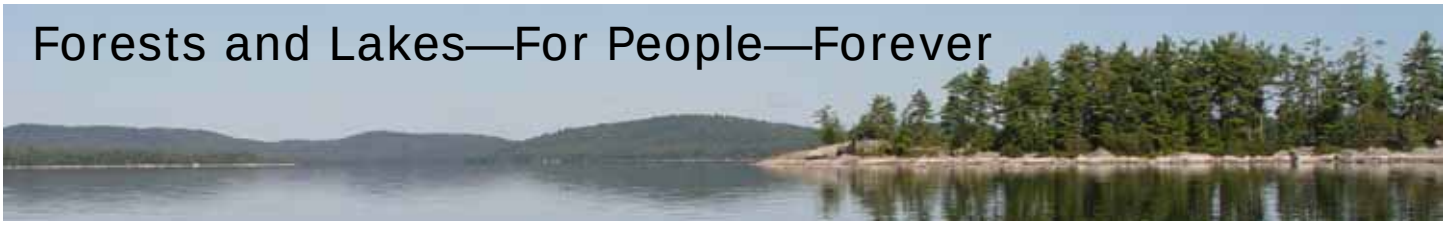

CORPORATE PARTNERS SUPPORT DLLT

DLLT's new Corporate Partners program provides a way for businesses to share in our vision for the long term economic and environmental well-being of the Downeast Lakes Region.

These businesses made gifts to our annual fund in 2009. We'll feature them on our website through 2010.

Please consider contacting us and becoming a DLLT Corporate Partner - and support these businesses that support Downeast conservation!

DLLT is also eligible to receive donations from **1% For the Planet**, a group of businesses that have committed to donate 1% of their annual revenues to environmental organizations. Donations will be highlighted through DLLT's Corporate Partners program.

Pine Tree ($2,000 +)

Bangor Savings Bank
You matter more.
Member FDIC

ORION TIMBERLANDS, LLC

Brook Trout ($1,000 +)

Oakhurst
The Natural Goodness of Maine

Grand Laker ($250 +)

Davis Forestry Products, Inc.

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Experienced People.....Exceptional Service

Weatherby's
Grand Lake Stream, Maine