Downeast Lakes LAND TRUST

November 2010 Volume 4, Issue 2

Downeast Lakes Traditions

Forests and Lakes—For People—Forever

Downeast Lakes Conservation Award

Honoring and Thanking Extraordinary Supporters

Every donation or act of volunteering to DLLT makes a difference and contributes to the future of our region. We try to thank our supporters often. The DLLT annual picnic in July is our main event to celebrate each year's accomplishments and those who have made them possible.

This year at the picnic we started a new tradition. 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.

Bill Curran.

To inaugurate the award, we celebrated four individuals who devoted tremendous energies and resources to the 342,000 acre Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership. Steve Keith, Bill Curran, and Tim Ingraham were able to join us in Grand Lake Stream on July 25. Syd Lea and Mark Berry traveled to Boston to extend their personal thanks and to present Bayard Henry with his Downeast Lakes Conservation Award.

Grand Lake Stream Guide Dale Tobey hand-crafted the award canoe paddles of white ash harvested on the Farm Cove Community Forest, and West Branch Traders of Millinocket did the custom engraving.

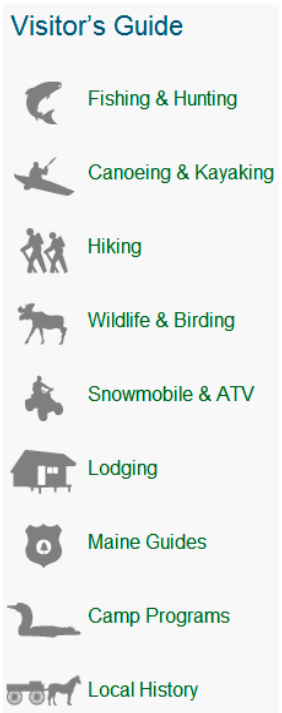
Without the leadership and dedication of Bayard, Bill, Steve, and Tim, there likely would not be a Farm Cove Community Forest today, and hundreds of miles of lakeshore and stream frontage would be at risk. Read more about their contributions by clicking the link to "Awards From Us" in the "About Us" section of **www.downeastlakes.org**.

Congratulations, and thank you Steve, Bill, Tim, & Bayard!

Bayard Henry.

New Visitor's Guide Launched

See www.downeastlakes.org for Visitor's Information, Events, and More



In its first ten years DLLT has led a remarkable effort that has guaranteed public recreational access to 350,000 acres around Grand Lake Stream. The Trust owns and manages the 33,708-acre Farm Cove Community Forest, and is working to protect another 21,700 acres around the village.

This effort is about conserving the natural resources that support an economy and a way of life. Grand Lake Stream has been a destination for sportsmen since Passamaquoddy guides led the first "sports" to its banks in the 1830s.

DLLT has updated a website to help everyone from local residents to first-time vacationers plan their outdoor recreation.

The Visitors Guide emphasizes ways to enjoy the Farm Cove Community Forest, but also includes information on the surrounding area (see an image of links to the left).

Area events are also highlighted. The "Grand Lake Stream, America" 4th of July celebrations, the Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival in July, and the West Grand Lake Race the first Sunday in August are some of the summer highlights.

The DLLT website is also now a better place to learn more about our conservation projects. DLLT worked on the site with Pica Design of Belfast, who also donated some of their services to join our Corporate Partners program.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Working Through a Challenging Economy

People in Grand Lake Stream have long been resourceful and good at coping with economic hardship. As the country has struggled through a recession over the last two years, Downeast Lakes Land Trust has been steadily working for a brighter future.

We have tightened our budget but have continued our commitment to protect and improve the resources. Our purchase of the Wabassus Lake Tract two years ago has allowed us to begin investing in recreational access roads and improving fish habitats on the property. This year alone, we've installed two bottomless arch culverts and improved several miles of road by installing ditches and culverts.

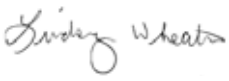
These investments – over $150,000 this year – will keep roads available for Guides, their clients, and the public to enjoy forests, lakes, and streams. We have improved habitat for brook trout and protected watersheds from erosion and sedimentation. Just as important during hard times, we have provided jobs for Washington County contractors.

Our forest management is our greatest immediate job producer. By working to improve the timber stands and wildlife habitats, we sustain jobs for foresters, logging contractors, truck drivers, and mill employees. These businesses sustain the region's economy.

All of this work provides jobs now, and confidence for the future. As the nation's economy improves, more and more people will seek what the Downeast Lakes have to offer. Friendly people and extraordinary lakes and forests make this a truly unique destination.

Thank you to the Board of Directors who rise to whatever challenge we face, the staff for their hard work and professionalism, and most of all thank you to our many supporters. Please keep in touch with us.

With my sincere thanks,



Lindsay Wheaton

CORPORATE PARTNERS

DLLT Corporate Partners share in our vision for the future of the Downeast Lakes Region.

As we go to press, the following businesses have made gifts to our annual fund in 2010. Their logos will be displayed at www.downeastlakes.org through 2011, along with any others that make a commitment of support before year end.

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

Brook Trout ($1,000 +)

Bangor Savings Bank
Hanscom Construction, Inc.
Macdonald Page & Co., LLC
Orion Timberlands, LLC

Grand Laker ($250+)

Davis Forestry Products
Furbush Roberts Printing Co.
Grand Lake Lodge
Machias Savings Bank
Oakhurst Dairy
Pica Design
Prock Marine Company
Robbins Lumber
Weatherby's Resort

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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Downeast Lakes
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Building Confidence

Uncertainty has long dominated conversations here. Will lakeshores get subdivided? Will the forest be closed to the public? Will the mill stay open? Will there be jobs here? Challenges remain, but there has been a lot of good news lately:

Investment in the Woodland Mill

Domtar announced the sale of the Baileyville mill and related assets on October 1st to Woodland Pulp, LLC, a new subsidiary of International Grand Investment Corporation that has a strategic interest in hardwood pulp. The $64 million investment is viewed as good news for mill employees and the economy.

Connection Available

Thanks to the town of Grand Lake Stream and Axiom Technologies, LLC of Machias, high speed internet is here. There is a free wireless hot spot at the Grand Lake Stream town office so anyone can access the internet easily, and residents can obtain service at their homes or camps. With internet access, visitors may choose to return or consider Grand Lake Stream as a future home.

Municipal Assets

Through Lyme Timber's acquisition of the West Grand Lake Forest, Grand Lake Stream Plantation acquired 182 acres in and around the village. These lands provide opportunities for entrepreneurs and the community.

Counting on the Forest

From wildlife to people, everything here depends on our forests and lakes. Thank you for helping to conserve them for the future while helping people now. We've ensured 350,000 acres of forests will remain undeveloped, open to the public, and available to support both the timber economy and the outdoor recreation economy.

Together we can do great things.

Sincerely,

Mark Berry

Mark Berry

WEST GRAND LAKE FOREST

The West Grand Lake Community Forest Project is the nation's #1 priority for the Forest Legacy Program for 2011. The grant award will be made when Congress funds the government for 2011. With the ranking as the best conservation opportunity in the country and strong support from Senators Snowe and Collins, and Representatives Michaud and Pingree, we are confident these funds will be awarded as soon as possible.

With the Forest Legacy grant, we have a matching challenge grant opportunity presented by the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts. Private commitments totaling $725,000 can now help us generate $1,375,000 in grant funds.

As we seek to raise $24 million, a leading Maine and international conservationist reminded us this summer, "there is no better place to invest" in conservation. We agree!

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE: LEE WHITELY

Elliot "Lee" Whitely has served on the DLLT Board of Directors since 2003 and has been lending a hand wherever and whenever needed since then. He serves on the Forestry, Finance, Governance and West Grand Lake Campaign Committees. He is very involved in the leadership of the land trust and is also frequently found in the woods: checking wildlife projects or planned harvests, helping with cleanup or road projects, or leading a tour.

He has a BS in Forestry and a Master's in Pulp and Paper Technology, both from the University of Maine. He is a Registered Maine Guide and has been on various nonprofit boards. Lee retired as the President of the Technical Papers Division and Director General of the Axhom Division of Lydall, Inc., and was on the corporation's Board of Directors for many years. His work took him all over the Northeast and he understands why Grand Lake Stream's forests, lakes and culture are worth protecting.

Lee is passionate about hunting, fishing, and being in the woods. He is firm in his support of providing recreational access to this land for traditional uses. Lee and his wife, Sue, are full time residents of Grand Lake Stream and own a camp on Fourth Machias Lake. They have two children and 4 grandchildren. The Land Trust and our community benefit tremendously from his efforts and knowledge.

Lee leading a workshop in the Community Forest

DOWNEAST LAKES

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

History & Heritage Series

"Tipping" Field Trip

Sunday, November 28, 1 pm

Learn how to harvest balsam fir "tips" on this trip into the Farm Cove Community Forest. Tips will be used at the wreath making workshop.

Wreath-making Workshop

Thursday, December 2, 6:30 pm

Join local wreath-makers for a workshop where you'll learn how to make your own holiday wreath — cocoa and cookies provided. Please sign up in advance, and consider joining us to gather "tips" on November 28.

Ice Harvesting (?)

Date to be Determined

If the weather cooperates, we may schedule an ice harvesting field trip. Let us know if you would like to learn how a local camp still gathers ice from West Grand Lake for use in their ice house all summer long. Watch www.downeastlakes.org for updates.

2011 Summer Events

Explorations & Adventures

Tuesdays, July – August 9:30-12 noon. (schedule for 2011 pending)

DLLT sponsors weekly educational activities for children ages 6-12, with all ages welcome to participate. Rain or shine.

History & Heritage Series

Book Discussion Events, *in partnership with GLS Historical Society*, will be scheduled. Other History & Heritage Series events may be scheduled.

4th of July Festivities

Monday, July 4

Grand Lake Stream, America! This community event is becoming bigger and better every year. It includes meals, the parade, games, contests, entertainment, and the:

2nd Annual "Race For Grand Lake Stream", (Time to be Determined) A 3 mile foot race from Big Lake landing to the ball field in Grand Lake Stream - for walkers and runners.

Folk Art Festival Weekend

Grand Lake Stream Guides Association Dinners

Friday & Saturday, July 29 & 30

Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival

Saturday-Sunday, July 30 & 31 . 10 am – 5 pm. See www.grandlakestreamfolkartfestival.com.

DLLT Annual Picnic

Sunday, July 31 , 12-2 pm.

8th Annual Meeting. Lunch served at 12. By reservation; look for the RSVP form in our summer newsletter or email info@downeastlakes.org.

West Grand Lake Race

Sunday, August 7 This will be the seventh annual race on West Grand Lake. Last year new records were set for each distance. Races for everyone, with awards and picnic lunch. Bring a canoe or kayak, and register before 10:30 am. Stay for a barbecue lunch. Don't miss it!

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Improving Access for People and Fish

DLLT continued to invest in improvements in recreational access for people and uninterrupted stream habitat for brook trout. We installed bottomless arch culverts on two streams on the Wabassus Lake Tract this fall. The undersized culverts installed under previous ownership had been chronically clogged by beavers, causing the streams to flow over the road, washing sand and gravel into the stream bed below. The new arches restore fish habitat.

We've now completed eight fish habitat restorations at road crossings of streams, and are seeking funding to complete more. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is a key partner, providing funding and engineering expertise. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Scott Craig reported this fall that water temperatures in a DLLT stream he monitored stayed cool all summer, providing the habitat brook trout need.

Installing a bottomless arch to benefit trout.

Visitors to the Wabassus Lake Tract will find two new trailhead signs on the Wabassus Lake Tract, making it easier for people to find and enjoy our newest trails: the 1/4 mile long path to Dawn Marie Beach and the 1 mile hike up Wabassus Mountain. Both are found on the Wabassus Mountain Rd, which is about 4 miles west of Grand Lake Stream and runs south from the Fourth Lake Rd.

Sign for path to beach on Wabassus Lake.

These new trails were supported with an access grant from the Land for Maine's Future Program, which also provided funding for DLLT to purchase the Wabassus Lake Tract. DLLT volunteers cleared the Dawn Marie Beach path and a crew from the Maine Conservation Corps constructed the Wabassus Mountain Trail.

DLLT also invested in drainage and erosion controls on roads that provide access between Grand Lake Stream and the Machias River Corridor with grant funding from the Washington County Unorganized Territories TIF fund. The Bureau of Parks and Lands is improving roads within the corridor that connect to Route 9.

Cooperation by Downeast Forest Managers

Continuing an effort to benefit wildlife across the Downeast landscape, in October the Bureau of Parks and Lands hosted the second annual Downeast Forest Managers Tour on the Duck Lake Unit Maine Public Reserved Lands. The first tour in 2009 was hosted by DLLT on the Farm Cove Community Forest.

Old growth along the Gassabias - Fourth Machias portage trail.

The Downeast Forest Managers gather to share and learn from one another, and to seek opportunities to enhance wildlife habitats on a landscape scale by working across ownership boundaries. The participants in this year's tour manage over a million acres of contiguous forest lands from the Penobscot River to the New Brunswick Border.

Examples of cross-boundary cooperation among the group include protection of deer wintering habitats and travel corridors and coordinated timing of harvests to maintain a continuous supply of browse for deer and moose and early successional habitat for grouse, woodcock, and other species.

On the Duck Lake Unit, BPL personnel provided valuable perspectives gained from their decades of experience managing the property. The tour included visits to old growth forest in an ecological reserve along with a variety of areas harvested between 1 and 50 years ago.

Forester George Ritz describes goals for a completed harvest.

This year's tour included representatives from American Forest Management, Downeast Lakes Land Trust, Lyme Timber, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, Maine Forest Service, Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, Orion Timberlands, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, and Wagner Forest Management. Passmaquoddy Tribal Forestry plans to host the tour in 2011.

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Our Mission

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All photos by Downeast Lakes Land Trust

Maine Votes to Invest in Conservation

On Nov. 2nd, 2010, Maine voters had the opportunity to invest in the lands that support Maine's economy, our wildlife, and our quality of life. They strongly supported investment in a $9.75 million bond for the Land for Maine's Future program and related conservation investments. From Grand Lake Stream to Portland, communities recognized that their economy, their quality of life, and their legacy to their children depend on conservation of the forests, lakes, streams, and coasts that make Maine special.

DLLT worked to help spread the word among Maine voters. Links are available on www.downeastlakes.org to a panel discussion on "State of the State" focused on the benefits of the Land for Maine's Future Program to Maine people and the Maine economy. Mark Berry discussed how the program has helped Grand Lake Stream – from Little Falls to the Farm Cove Community Forest – and is likely to be important to the $24 million capital campaign for the West Grand Lake Community Forest.

Seedlings in the Farm Cove Community Forest.

Your News, More Quickly

DLLT produces *Downeast Lakes Traditions* twice a year. But you no longer need to wait to get the latest news from DLLT and Grand Lake Stream.

Downeast Lakes Landings

Subscribe online, and we'll deliver our email newsletter up to 12 times a year.

Downeast Lakes Flow

We're also writing blog posts on www.downeastlakes.org. Add our RSS feed to your blog reader or email software, and you won't miss anything.

Facebook and Twitter

If you use Facebook or Twitter, connect with DLLT to follow our news and show your support. Find us by searching or follow the links from downeastlakes.org.

P.S. Please let us know if you no longer wish to receive a paper newsletter.