Downeast Lakes LAND TRUST ®

Summer 2013 Volume 7, Issue 2

Downeast Lakes Traditions

Forests and Lakes—For People—Forever ®

GRAND COMMUNITY VISION TAKING SHAPE

During the winter of 2013 Downeast Lakes Land Trust has been working to refine our vision for the planned West Grand Lake Community Forest. We've combined the expertise and local knowledge of our committee members and Directors with conservation science and ecological data.

The almost 22,000-acre project is an opportunity to expand local stewardship to a total of over 55,000 acres. There are important opportunities to protect and enhance wildlife habitats, including deer wintering areas and brook trout streams. We hope to protect unique ecological resources with an ecological reserve that will also allow for the development of old growth forests.

There are exciting opportunities for new hiking trails, near the village and in some of the wildest corners of the property. There are great places to add canoe campsites to the Downeast Lakes Water Trail. We're also interested in your ideas!

CARBON OFFSETS FOR CONSERVATION

Commitment to Maintain Timber Stocking Helps Downeast Lakes Land Trust Fund West Grand Lake Project

Downeast Lakes Land Trust is at the leading edge of using carbon offsets to fund forest conservation because of the urgency of the forest conservation opportunity around our village.

A carbon offset project on a portion of the Farm Cove Community Forest will bring over $1 million toward the purchase of the 21,870-acre West Grand Lake Community Forest. "We are asking our supporters to make extraordinary contributions toward the West Grand Lake Community Forest Project," said Executive Director Mark Berry, "We felt we needed to do everything we could do ourselves to support the purchase."

Purchase of the West Grand Lake Forest and expanding community-led forest stewardship to over 55,000 acres around Grand Lake Stream is essential to the Trust's vision of contributing to the long-term economic and environmental well-being of the Downeast Lakes region.

The project will also provide additional long-term protection for the Farm Cove property and guarantee environmental benefits through maintaining increased timber stocking.

The Trust partnered with Finite Carbon to develop the carbon offset project on 19,118 acres. It is an Improved Forest Management (IFM) project registered with the Climate Action Reserve (CAR) and listed as an Early Action project with the California Air Resources Board (ARB) greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program. IFM projects maintain or increase forest carbon stocks above the level expected under typical forest management.

The project received an initial issuance of nearly 200,000 carbon offsets from CAR in 2012. ARB is expected to issue this volume of offsets in May, upon completing its review of a third-party verification report. The Trust has negotiated a sale contract for these offsets.

What is a Carbon Offset?

A carbon offset, sometimes referred to as a carbon credit, is a term used to assign a value to a reduction or offset of greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to one ton of carbon dioxide. Carbon offsets and carbon markets are a component of attempts to mitigate the growth in concentrations of greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere. Carbon offsets can be used in regulatory or voluntary markets.

For more information about this carbon project, Finite Carbon, the Climate Action Reserve, and the California Air Resources Board, please visit downeastlakes.org, then click the links to "Conservation" and "Forest Carbon Offsets".

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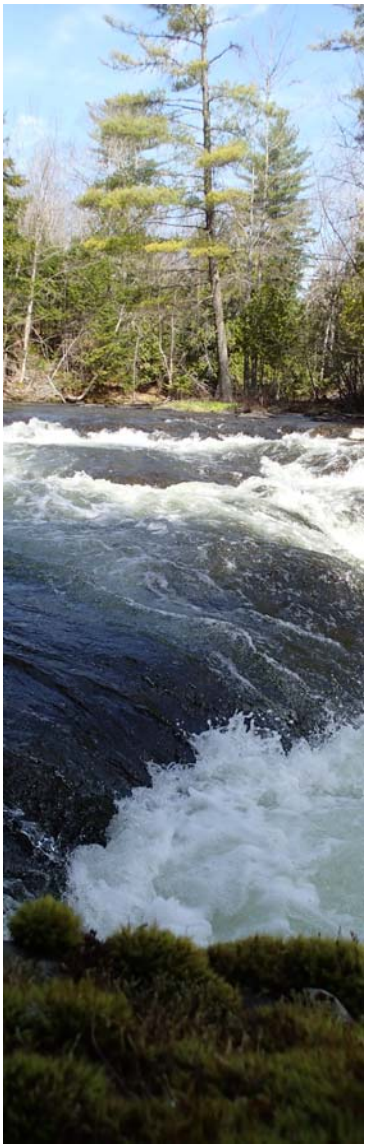

Big Falls, Grand Lake Stream.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Spring Renewal

Well, the ice is out, a few black flies are buzzing, and it does indeed look as though spring is here.

Spring is, of course, a season of renewal: new growth, new hopes. DLLT's staff has grown in one wonderful way with the hire of Tanya Rucosky, who will be charged with supervising and extending the trust's educational programs. I am immediately disposed to Tanya in a kindly way, in that she is a fellow poet, but her artistic skills are merely some among the many she brings to her new post (see page 6). We are very lucky to have found her, and I join fellow trustees and the community in offering her a cordial welcome.

As for new hopes, it is, needless to say, one of our fondest ones that we may raise the money still needed to purchase the land we have already conserved as the West Grand Lake Community Forest. Past experience indicates that the final funds are the hardest ones to obtain, so I do trust that all reading this will be as generous as they can in their support of our effort but also will seek to interest other prospective donors.

The West Grand Lake Community Forest, which will add 22,000 acres to land the trust already owns, is, to use a cliché, something special, something that is, in my view, unparalleled in the state of Maine and indeed in the nation: a very small grassroots organization has mustered the energy, shrewdness and dedication required to guarantee the health of miles of gorgeous lake shore; fabulous wetlands; productive and sustainable forests that will crucially contribute to the local economy; on and on.

The goal-line for the West Grand project is in sight. Together, our community–with all its wonderful human and natural resources– will cross that line. Let it be sooner rather than later!

Sincerely,

Syd Lea

Syd Lea

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 LAND TRUST ®

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"A Long Way from Anywhere"?

Many people think of Grand Lake Stream and Washington County as being "a long way from anywhere." There's also a common perception – based in reality, at least in part – that there are few jobs available in Downeast Maine.

More on these perceptions below – but first, they miss important realities. What Grand Lake Stream and Washington County offer, to visitors and residents alike, is outstanding quality of life, with small, livable communities set among great outdoor opportunities and natural beauty. The spectacular Downeast Lakes lie at the intersection of Maine's Saint Croix, East Machias, Machias, and Penobscot River watersheds. Definitely "the middle of somewhere"!

Downeast Lakes Land Trust, with your help, has protected a great natural environment for visitors and residents to enjoy. We are equally committed to the local economy, which depends on attracting visitors, making sustainable use of natural resources, and perhaps above all, continuing to attract the residents that keep our communities vibrant.

Grand Lake Stream is not a difficult place to reach. It's an easy 2 hour drive, with little traffic, away from I-95 and Bangor's good airport (an hour longer than the trip that throngs of people make to Acadia National Park each year). Many of the visitors that choose to come here fall in love with the place, then return every year.

Yes, in a way, Grand Lake Stream is "a long way from anywhere". Many people like it this way. As strip malls and subdivisions spread through many parts of the country, we enjoy the special attractions and vibrant communities of the Downeast Lakes. It's easy to visit a city, just as many people who live in cities travel to visit the outdoors.

The question of job opportunities is more difficult. There are jobs, but most can't expect to move here and find a job waiting. On the other hand, energetic and motivated people can find opportunities to succeed here, whether supported by the availability of high speed internet or abundant natural resources and year-round outdoor recreation.

Communities like Grand Lake Stream don't need hundreds of new jobs in order to thrive. They need to continually attract a few new people and families every year.

I believe people will always be attracted to these extraordinary lakes, beautiful rivers, and big woods, and choose to make their lives here. Downeast Lakes Land Trust, thanks to your support, will be here to welcome them for generations to come. Local community members will be hard at work caring for our forests, waters, and wildlife habitats, improving recreation opportunities, and keeping this a great place to live or visit.

Sincerely,

Mark Berry

Mark Berry

Red maple flower

Dale Tobey Honored by Guides Association

Congratulations to Dale Tobey, on his 2013 receipt of an Outstanding Service Award from the Maine Professional Guides Association "in appreciation of many years of unselfish and dedicated service".

Four Easy Ways You May Do More

IRA Rollover:

If you're at least $70^{1}/_{2}$ in 2013, you can transfer up to $100,000 from an IRA and the amount transferred will count toward the required minimum distribution and will not be included in taxable income.

Gifts of Stock:

You may avoid capital gains taxes by making a gift of appreciated securities. Please contact us first.

Bequests:

Consider updating your will and including a bequest to Downeast Lakes Land Trust. You keep control, but plan for the future.

Naming DLLT as a Beneficiary:

There are also estate advantages to naming us as beneficiary, or partial beneficiary, of your life insurance policy or retirement plan.

No matter how you give, you'll feel great satisfaction from supporting Downeast conservation!

Please Note:

<u>Mailing Address:</u>

Downeast Lakes Land Trust
3 Water St. PMB 75
Grand Lake Stream, ME **04668**
The USPS will soon return mail to you if it uses our old address!

DOWNEAST LAKES

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Get more information and keep up to date at

www.downeastlakes.org

Downeast Lakes LAND TRUST®

History & Heritage

Map, Compass & GPS Course Mon., Wed., Thu., May 13, 15, &16 (9 am- 3 pm) *Town Building.*

Monitoring Your Lake Watershed, Thu., Jun. 20, 7 pm, *Town Building.*

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) Workshop, Fri., Jun. 21, 9 am - 4 pm, *Town Building.*

Genealogy: Studying Your Family Tree with Ginny Graceffa, Thu., Jul. 18, 6:30 pm, *Town Building.*

Wild Mushrooms: A Forager's Dream, with Greg Marley: Fri., Aug. 23, 6:30 pm, *Free Evening Presentation at Town Building.*

Mushroom Identification Field Class, Sat., 9 am - 3 pm. *Limited to 20 participants, $30 fee, meet at Town Building.*

Book Discussion: "Backtrack" with V. Paul Reynolds, Mon., Aug. 26, 6:30 pm, *in partnership with GLS Historical Society, at Museum.*

Explorations & Adventures

Tuesdays, Jul. 9 - Aug. 20 9:30-12 noon.

Weekly educational activities for children ages 6-12 (all ages welcome). Rain or shine. Free. *Meet at Town Building.*

Jul 9: "Water and Wildlife" with staff from Chewonki Foundation

Jul 16: "Forestry in Maine" with Pat Mahoney, Project Learning Tree.

Jul 23: Passamaquoddy Activities, with George Neptune, Abbe Museum.

Jul 30: Pinhole Nature Photography, with Kate & Dan Shetterly

Aug 6: Wildlife of Vernal Pools, with Karen Holmes.

Aug 13: Little Mayberry Cove Trail Hike, with Tanya Rucosky.

Aug. 20: Birds and Bird Songs, with Bob Duchesne.

Introduction to Guiding: A GLS Tradition

Sat.-Sun., Jul. 13-14, 8 am - 4 pm.

Two day course for children (10 or older), each accompanied by an adult. Intro. to Guiding skills, activities, ethics, and safety, with Registered Maine Guides. *Limited to 6 children, $25 fee. Sponsored by DLLT & Maine Guides Education Fund.*

DLLT Annual Picnic

Sunday, Jul. 28, 12-2 pm.

11th Annual Meeting. Lunch served at 12. By reservation; RSVP to **info@downeastlakes.org.**

West Grand Lake Race

Sunday, Aug. 4 This will be the ninth annual race on West Grand Lake. Races for everyone, with awards and picnic lunch. Bring a canoe or kayak, and register before 10:15 am.

Community Events:

Sat., May 18, 7:00 am Fishermen, Family, & Friends Breakfast *GLS Historical Society, at Town Building.*

Sat. - Sun., Jun. 1-2, 4 am - 4 pm. Togue Tournament, West Grand & Pocumcus Lakes. *GLS Chamber and MDIFW.*

Thursday, Jul. 4, 7 am - 9 pm Grand Lake Stream, America Bigger and better every year. Food available all day. Many activities and games, incl. 3 mile **Race for Grand Lake Stream (9 am)** and **11 am Parade.** Get details at **www.downeastlakes.org.**

Wednesday, Jul. 10, 7 pm DLLT Community Meeting: Vision and Ideas for the West Grand Lake Community Forest, *at Town Building.*

Sat.-Sun., July 20-21, 8:00 am Tribes of the Dawn Land Cultural Heritage Days

Fri. & Sat., Jul. 26 & 27 Grand Lake Stream Guides Association Dinners

Sat. & Sun., Jul. 27 & 28 10 am – 5 pm. Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival. See **www.grandlakestreamfolkartfestival.com.**

Creating Early-Successional Habitat

Patch Cuts Create Habitat Benefitting Many Species

Wildlife habitat is a top priority for Downeast Lakes Land Trust in management of the Farm Cove Community Forest, closely aligned with our other priorities of public recreation and a sustainable timber economy.

Ruffed Grouse hen.

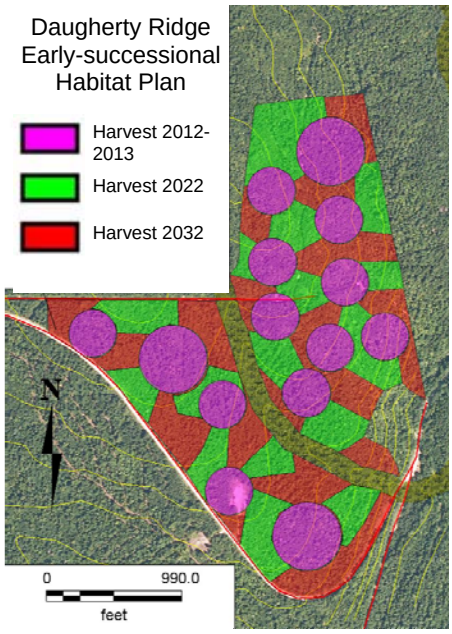
Our timber harvests are our primary habitat management tool - and our work to enhance habitats provides employment for local contractors. Improving habitat for wildlife benefits public recreation - from wildlife viewing to hunting.

Many local species rely on young forests - also known as early-successional forests - for part or all of their habitat needs, including songbirds, game birds, deer, and moose.

Male woodcock use clearings in the forest for their spring mating displays, which can often be seen and heard in the evening and early morning hours. Ruffed grouse and Woodcock achieve their greatest densities in early successional stage habitats when sapling to pole-size hardwoods dominate, and populations can be expected to increase five to ten years after harvest. Ideal habitat conditions occur when a variety of age classes are available nearby, because grouse need cover for breeding, nesting, brood rearing and winter protection, as well as an abundant winter food source.

Downeast Lakes Land Trust partnered with the Ruffed Grouse Society to design our latest early-successional habitat projects on Daugherty Ridge and east of Farm Cove. Patches of 2 to 5 acres were harvested by contractors Davis Forestry Products and Tide Mill Enterprises.

These harvests were in areas with no commercial timber harvest opportunity,



and funding support was also provided from the Wildlife Management Institute and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

An additional clearing, at the former Billy Brown field, was created by local community members, harvesting firewood with permits from the land trust. This win -win solution benefits local people while improving habitat at low cost.

This effort is part of the trust's long-term commitment to habitat on the Community Forest. After 10 and 20 years, new patches will be cut adjacent to the recent harvests to improve habitat diversity.

Board Member Profile: Lindsay Wheaton

Lindsay Wheaton owns and manages Grand Lake Lodge with her husband Chris. A year-round resident of Grand Lake Stream, she is part of the 5th generation of her family that has visited Grand Lake Stream. They first bought a camp here in 1905. Chris is a 3rd generation Grand Lake Stream Guide. Chris and Lindsay have one daughter, Ali, who is in the first grade at Princeton Elementary.

Lindsay has served on the Board of Downeast Lakes Land Trust since 2004, and was a member of the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership Leadership Committee. She served as the trust's second President, from 2007 to 2011. She currently chairs the Governance Committee and is on the Trails and Development Committees.

A graduate of American University in political science, she has a Master's Degree in clinical psychology and also works with children in local school systems. She is also President of the Grand Lake Stream School Board.

Downeast Lakes
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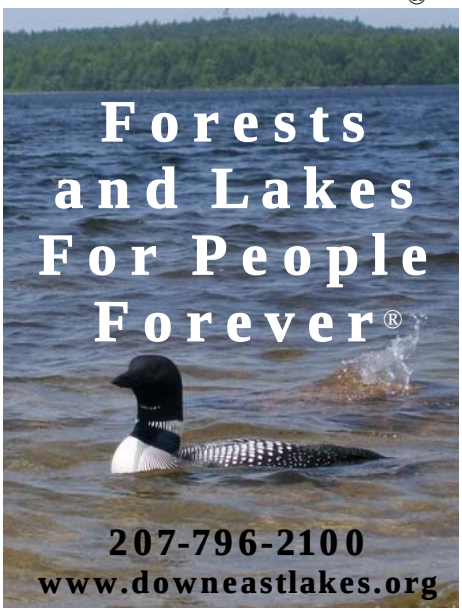

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TANYA RUCOSKY JOINS DLLT AS EDUCATION & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Downeast Lakes Land Trust is pleased to welcome Tanya Rucosky as our new Education and Communications Manager. A native of the northeast, and an experienced educator and leader, Tanya has traveled widely. She developed and led a water quality education, community outreach, and restoration program in a major watershed in Australia, where she literally "wrote the book": a K-12 curriculum and activity guide for teachers and natural resource managers.

Tanya will be a great addition to our organization, and will be working to build our education program through activities for residents and visitors, and strong relationships with local schools. We seek to build stronger connections between residents, visitors, and the natural resources that sustain the economy, while educating future generations and building their appreciation for the natural environment and sustainable use of forest resources.

Tanya is moving to Grand Lake Stream from Pennsylvania with her family. Please welcome Tanya, Bear, and their kids Adam (age 15) and Vivian (age 10). They are all eager to arrive and meet more people from the community.

VISIONARIES FILM AVAILABLE

The Visionaries profile of DLLT is now available at www.downeastlakes.org to view online. DVD copies are available to supporters by request.

The Visionaries documentary series for public television is hosted by Sam Waterston and highlights the stories of people all around the world that are working to make a positive difference in their community and beyond.