Greetings DLLT Community,

Our *2024 Annual Report* summarizes the activity, financial performance, and giving history of the Downeast Lakes Land Trust between January 1, 2024, and December 30, 2024. Thanks to the dedicated support from so many of you, DLLT continues to deliver on its mission to 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. As we near DLLT's 25th anniversary, we hope you will remain an important part of the trust's future.

Here's Some of What We Did in 2024

- Completed 1.5 miles of resurfacing along the 4th Lake Road.
- Cleared significant blowdown damage from the December 2023 storm along our roads, trails, and campsites.
- Closed on our latest purchase of 503 acres in Meddybemps and began our partnership with the Meddybemps Lakes Land Trust.
- Increased our outreach and communications efforts by publishing *Traditions, Landings* and *Hatch;* by attending ATV Club, Snowmobile Club, Guides meetings; and through one-on-one outreach.
- Concluded necessary improvements to the new headquarters.
- Hosted several well attended workshops including a canoe shop tour and a teaberry activity.
- Continued our Big Lake milfoil remediation efforts.
- Streamlined the trust's committee structures to better serve its mission.
- Conducted 300 acres of environmentally responsible cut-to-length timber harvesting at Bear Trap Landing.
- Brought aboard two new board members and three new committee members with a focus on "the next generation".
- Completed our Forest Stewardship Certification.
- Thanked our volunteers who logged in 1,942 hours of important and helpful activity.
- Hosted the Motus tower on Farm Cove Mountain used to track migrating birds.
- Participated in a loon nesting survey and a saw-whet owl nesting box survey.
- Hosted various natural history research projects: Tick research, Small Mammal study, Old Growth Forest study, and Domed Bog research.

Letter from Lindsay Wheaton Board President

DLLT Friends,

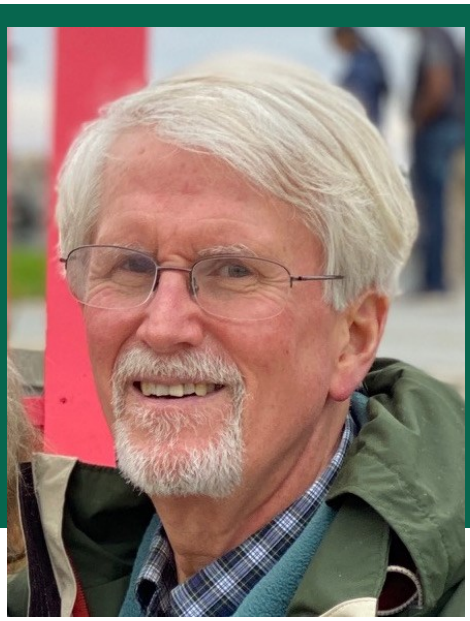
It has been my privilege to serve as President of the DLLT Board.

2024 has been a wonderfully successful year of reflection and re-evaluation for DLLT. We have strengthened our programs, values, vision, and commitment to the 58,203 acre Community Forest. The Board of Directors is re-energized with our streamlined efforts moving our organization into its next stage. Please continue to watch closely as results from this effort emerge.

Thank you for your continued interest, support, and commitment to this special effort and place in the world. We appreciate our staff, supporters, partners, and the town of Grand Lake Stream where we are so fortunate to be.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Wheaton



Letter from Ken Grant Interim Executive Director

DLLT Community,

It has been my privilege to serve as the Downeast Lakes Land Trust interim executive director since late September 2024. DLLT has been at the forefront of land trust conservation for nearly 25 years and is more relevant today than ever. None of our growth would be possible without the commitment of the DLLT community.

First, I would like to thank my fellow Board Directors (both past and present) who have dedicated their time, talents, and financial resources. Because of them, DLLT has had the stability and flexibility to meet challenges and seize opportunities this past year. The dedication and generosity of all our friends and supporters continue to inspire both me and my fellow Directors. And of course, I thank our amazing staff and volunteers who have motivated us with their commitment and belief in our mission.

We are grateful for your trust and support and look forward to the future!

With deepest gratitude,

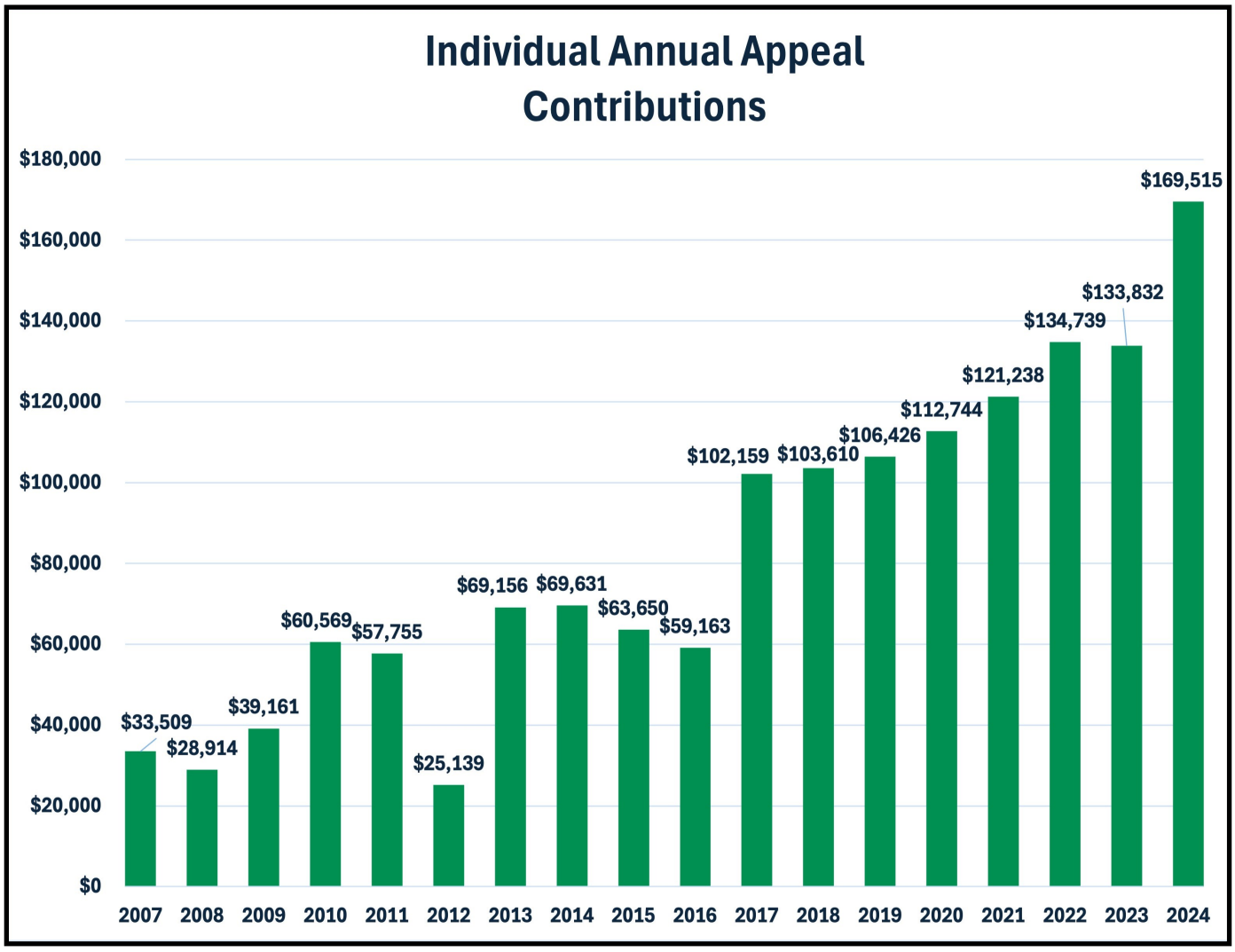
Ken Grant

What Does the Downeast Lakes Land Trust Value?

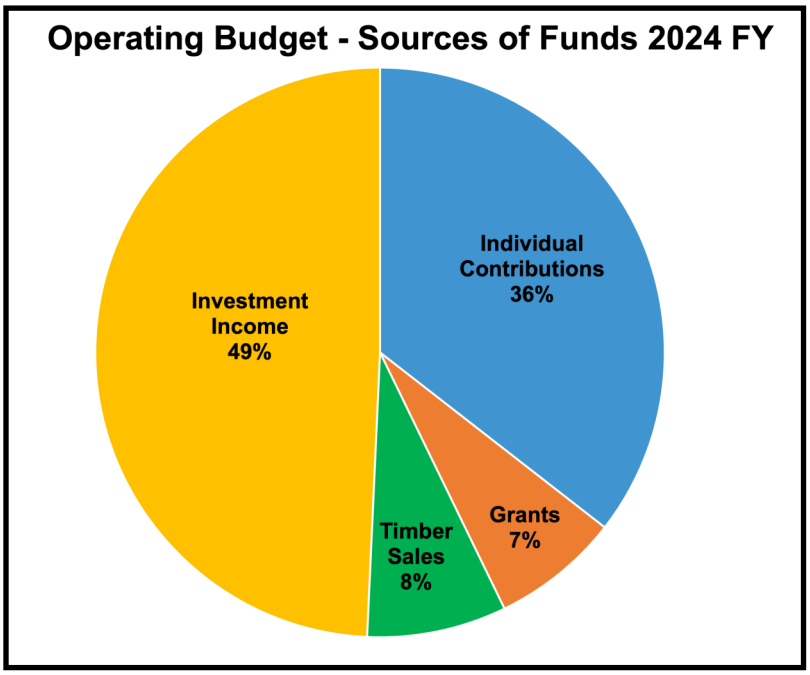
1. The conservation of our forests and waters for the traditional value they provide ecologically, economically, visually, and recreationally.
2. Our local community's historic connection to our conserved lands and their desire to gain economic opportunity from these surroundings.
3. The passion and selflessness of those who dedicate time and resources to supporting the protection and conservation of our forests and lakes.
4. Science, research, and specialists that advance our understanding and management of the forest, its surrounding waters, and its wildlife.
5. Public access so people can enjoy and benefit from the forest and waters for recreational activities.

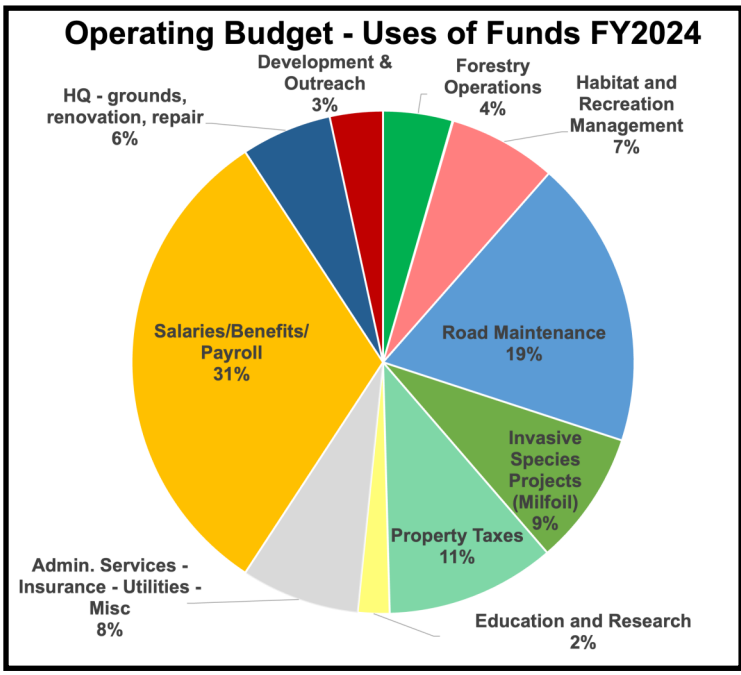
Sustaining DLLT's Mission Through Annual Giving

As DLLT approaches its 25th celebration in the summer of 2026, we are encouraged by the increase this year in annual giving. Total giving grew in 2024 by 27 %. Clearly our strong base of supporters is actively invested in the land trust's mission and our land conservation efforts. We extend our deepest gratitude for your continued belief in the DLLT mission!



DLLT by the Numbers





2024 In Memory Gifts

Arthur Clark
Barbara L. Wood
Bob Croonenberghs
Bonnie Irving
Charles "Pappy"/Eleanor McCracken
Charles Swindell
Charlie Preston
Dr. Carl Hoffman
Henry Moulton
Peter Cornwell
Jack Learson
Jill McGrath
John Redington
Pete Borden
Ralph Perry
Regis LePage
Richard J. Bookman
Robert (Chief) Carroll

2024 In Honor Gifts

Al & Sue LaPlante
Camp Kotok
Dale & Joanne Tobey
David Kotok
Danielle DiMartino
Dr. Ephrain & Dagmar Friedman
Edward & Jill McGrath
John Richarson
Lindsay Wheaton
Percy Montague
Sally Mayer
Steve & Laura Schaefer
Sydney Lea
We 3 Cove

2024 Restricted Gifts

Big Sand Beach (BSB)

$4,263.61 from Individuals

BSB restricted gifts now total $108,441

Milfoil Coalition

$66,080 Maine DEP

$10,000 Maine Community Foundation

$11,000 from Individuals

Headquarters Campaign

$7,500 from Individuals

LifeFlight Helipads

$3,500 Prock Marine

Storm Damage

$11,000 from Individuals

Summer Interns

$2,016 Yamaha Motor Corp.

$2,114 Maine Guides Foundation

$1,600 from Individuals

Corporate Partners

Downeast Lakes Land Trust Corporate Partners are businesses that support our vision for the long-term economic and environmental well-being of Grand Lake Stream and the Downeast Lakes Region.

In addition to the businesses listed below, we would like to thank all businesses that contribute to DLLT by incentivizing employee volunteer hours.

Brook Trout ($1,000 +)

Bailey's General Construction
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
Prock Marine
Ruffed Grouse Society
Small Corporation
Yamaha Motor Corporation

Grand Laker ($250 +)

Emily Landecker Foundation
Furbush Roberts Printing Co.
Lakeville Camp Owners Assoc.
Town of Lakeville
Maine Dept. of Agriculture
Quad Co. Snowmobile Club
T. Worster Logging

Corporate Partner Highlight

Prock Marine Company

The Prock Marine Company of Rockland, ME, has donated $3,500 to establish a third LifeFlight of Maine emergency service helipad on the east shore of West Grand Lake. This crucial helipad location will complement the two sites already established on the west side of West Grand Lake. DLLT will work with the GLS ATV and Snowmobile clubs in determining the best placement for this new helipad and develop with them a calendar of ongoing maintenance for all three sites.

The Prock family has been a long-time camp owner in Grand Lake Stream, and their company completed infrastructure work for the GLS fish hatchery several years ago.

Why I Give

We support the DLLT because it embodies a vision to promote and protect Maine's unique scenic legacy. This is done through educational programs that embrace public awareness and participation in these gifts of nature. It's a privilege to be a small part of this endeavor.

Roman and Sue Hrycun

Our family has had a camp in the Downeast Lakes Region for nearly a century. It is an area very dear to our hearts and the hearts of our children, grandchildren and, we predict, will be to our great-grandson and his generation. We are so pleased that DLLT is preserving these forests and is providing such exemplary stewardship for a unique part of Maine. We are proud to support DLLT's work in sustaining the local economy and preserving a way of life.

Molly and Van Wood

The first time I paddled in the Downeast Lakes region in 2019, I knew I had found a truly special place. Year after year, I return, often spending up to 30 days each season exploring its vast waters—camping, finding adventure, and experiencing the solitude that makes this place so unique. To me, it's Maine's own mini–Boundary Waters, a landscape that deserves to be protected for generations to come.

That's why I dedicate both my time and financial support to the Downeast Lakes Land Trust. As a volunteer campsite steward, I help maintain sites on Pocumcus Lake and Junior Bay, ensuring that others can continue to experience the same beauty and serenity that have drawn me back time and again. And by donating, I support the Trust's vital conservation work—efforts that keep these lakes, forests, and trails wild and accessible.

Art Durity