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Downeast Lakes
LAND TRUST

February 18, 2016

Downeast Lakes Landings

Downeast Lakes Water Trail Featured in Canoe & Kayak

With the rise in popularity of canoeing and kayaking, the Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) encourages paddlers from all over to come experience the Downeast Lakes region's unparalleled beauty and solitude. The "Downeast Lakes Water Trail" and DLLT are currently featured in the online edition of *Canoe & Kayak*, a very popular magazine that celebrates all forms of paddling. To view the full length article, visit ***Canoe & Kayak*** and read all about the Grand Lake Stream area. It's never too soon to start planning your summer paddling getaway!

Winter Birding Program Inspires New Birders

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust recently hosted a "Winter Birding Weekend" to celebrate the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The GBBC is an international citizen science project that is sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, The Audubon Society, and Bird Studies Canada. Birders of all ages and skills identify and count different species of birds every February to help provide crucial data to scientists around the world.

On February 12, DLLT Education and Outreach Manager Colin Brown presented a slideshow about the GBBC and discussed how people could get involved. This was followed by local bird expert, Bob Duchesne, who presented "Bird Identification Made Easy," a very informative program that gave even the most novice birdwatchers the confidence to identify the numerous species of birds that call the Downeast Lakes region home.

The next morning, DLLT and the Fundy Chapter of Maine Audubon hosted a "Bird Walk" around Grand Lake Stream, participating in the GBBC. Braving single-digit temperatures, a total of 20 species were counted in just over an hour while walking through town. To learn about the numerous species of finches found on the walk, check out Bob Duchesne's Blog for the Bangor Daily News - **"Good Birding."** Duchesne also hosts a radio show titled **"Wild Maine" on WEZQ 92.9.** Tune in this weekend, Saturday 9-10 am and Sunday 8-9 am, to hear an interview with DLLT's Colin Brown, profiling Grand Lake Stream and the work of Downeast Lakes Land Trust!

Managing For Mature Forests

When people envision a mature forest, they likely think back to the days before the industrial revolution. They imagine large, unbroken tracts of virgin forestland, teeming with wildlife and dominated by towering conifers and established hardwoods. This idyllic landscape has largely been lost among the many generations that have needed lumber, paper, and fuel to feed the fires of modern human civilization. People have often manipulated forest growth to suit a variety of needs, including economically-driven forestry. But as civilization grows and changes, so do forest management practices.

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) currently manages large forested areas that, for many years, had landowners with only

economically-driven objectives. Large swathes of forestland were heavily cut to sustain the state's thriving timber industry. Managing for mature coniferous forests that would provide food and shelter for wildlife was not a top priority for previous landowners.

DLLT is making wildlife habitat a top priority for the management of the 33, 708-acre Farm Cove Community Forest. DLLT has integrated timber management and wildlife habitat goals through a "Focus Species Forestry" planning process, selecting a set of focal species to represent a variety of forest habitat types and including species of particular importance to the local community.

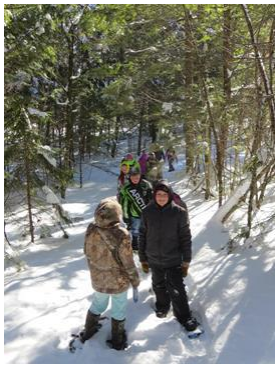
"Every forest type supports some kind of wildlife habitat," explains DLLT Community Forest Manager Kyle Burdick. "How it's arranged on the landscape, and in what abundance, is key to making everything work."

The current winter harvest focuses on managing for a mature, coniferous forest, creating excellent wintering areas for white-tailed deer. While it may seem counterintuitive that cutting trees creates a mature forest, the improved health allows for much greater rates of growth. Through the selective cutting of maple, poplar, birch, and other hardwoods, the future regeneration of cedar, spruce, and fir will create critical food and shelter resources for deer. In the long run, by harvesting hardwood and eastern white pine (tree species that reduce snow loading capacity), the new growth will generate greater canopy cover. The snow loading in the canopy allows for far less snow in the understory, creating easier access to a wide variety of winter foods and dense protection from predators. This management strategy also benefits all other wildlife species that use mature conifer forest, such as American Marten and Pileated Woodpecker. White-tailed deer are a primary focal species and DLLT has mapped and designated over 11,000 acres for management as deer wintering habitat.

"Legally, DLLT only has 40 acres of state zoned Deer Wintering Areas," says Burdick. "That is less than 0.5% of our self-imposed Deer Management area. We feel that large areas with contiguous cover are imperative to a functional, multi-use forest."

For more information on Wildlife Habitat Management or to visit the Farm Cove Community Forest, please
email **info@downeastlakes.org**or call (207) 796 – 2100.

Upcoming Programs With DLLT



Even with winter in full swing, the Downeast Lakes Land Trust continues to host fun and informative education programs in Grand Lake Stream. Be sure to visit our **News & Events page** to find out what is happening next. Stay in touch on Facebook and Twitter for any new happenings at DLLT!

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