Mark Berry

From: Mark Berry [info=downeastlakes.org@cmail2.com] on behalf of Mark Berry [info@downeastlakes.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 3:13 PM
To: Mark Berry
Subject: Downeast Lakes Landings -- June 2013

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Downeast Lakes LAND TRUST

June 18, 2013

Downeast Lakes Landings

Grand Vision Taking Shape: Community Discussion July 10

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 manage and improve wildlife habitats, including deer wintering areas and brook trout streams. We hope to protect unique areas with an ecological reserve that will also allow for the development of old growth forests. We're planning new hiking trails, and great new canoe campsites for the Downeast Lakes Water Trail.

We're also interested in your ideas! Join us at a **Community Discussion** on July 10th, at 7 pm, in the Grand Lake Stream town building.

Events This Week - and Lots More for Summer

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust is pleased to announce a busy summer schedule of community events, races, history and heritage talks and children's adventures. **Click here for the full schedule** - and join us! This week, we're focused on water:

Thursday, 7 pm: **Monitoring Your Lake Watershed**. Downeast Lakes Land Trust is pleased to welcome Scott Williams, Executive Director of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. Scott's presentation will include an overview of our local lakes, discussion of threats to their health, and what can be done to protect them. Bring your questions and ideas.

Friday, 9 am - 4 pm: **Project WET: Water Education for Teachers**. Open to anyone! Continuing education credits available to teachers at a cost of only $10. Please contact us to register. Maine Project WET trains educators in hands-on, interactive lessons that are focused on water and encourage critical thinking. ME Project WET works to improve Mainers' understanding of our water resources.

Don't Miss:

- Grand Lake Stream, America July 4th
- Tuesday morning Explorations & Adventures
- NEW: Intro to Guiding, a GLS Tradition July 13-14

Helping Elementary Students Explore the Forest

Downeast Lakes Land Trust's school education program is off and roaring into the forest. "I initially contacted teachers about developing programs for next fall. However Woodland Elementary got so excited about the idea, they started booking programs immediately!" said a delighted **Tanya Rucosky**, DLLT's new Education and Communication Manager.

Woodland Elementary students from Pre-K to grade 3 explored the forest trail behind their school with Ms. Rucosky using all their senses. "We heard hermit thrushes, watched squirrels chasing each other in the pines, made our own signature perfumes from leaves, bark and lichens, patted slugs, held worms, and sipped maple syrup," said Rucosky.

Downeast Lakes Land Trust is looking forward to continuing to work with Woodland, Princeton, and other local schools. DLLT is offering free forest-based classes linked to Maine's Common Core Standards, and is looking forward to hosting visits to the Farm Cove Community

Forest. Educators can **contact Tanya** to schedule a program.

Creating Early Successional Habitat for Wildlife

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.

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

Downeast Lakes Land Trust partnered with the Ruffed Grouse Society to design our latest early-successional habitat projects. Patches of 2 to 5 acres were harvested by contractors Davis Forestry Products and Tide Mill Enterprises. Funding was also provided from the Wildlife Management Institute and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. A 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.

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