Downeast Lakes
LAND TRUST ®

The sunny days of summer are here! These days, the Downeast Lakes Community Forest is a busy place - take a peek below to see what events and programs are happening in July and August!

Big Lake Needs Your Help!

In late 2019, variable-leaf water-milfoil was found in Big Lake – the first such infestation of this aquatic invasive in Maine, east of the Kennebec River. Big Lake needs your help, and that's why DLLT is spearheading the Big Lake Milfoil Coalition – a working group comprised of area businesses and organizations to help fight this infestation and protect the lakes that you love.

Want to know how you can help out? Attend one of the following informational meetings, led by Coalition member Lake Stewards of Maine to learn how to help protect the lakes and stay on the lookout for this invasive plant. The meeting is open to all, and shoreland owners and recreationists are encouraged to attend.

- **Tuesday, July 13, at 7 pm** at the Big Lake Campmeeting Association dining hall (229 Big Lake Landing Rd, Big Lake Twp, ME)
- **Thursday, July 15, at 7 pm** at the Princeton Rod & Gun Club (Greenland Point Rd, Princeton, ME 04668)

Invasive Aquatic Plant Paddle

In 2019 the invasive aquatic plant, variable water-milfoil, was discovered growing in Big Lake. This year, Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) is working with DLLT, other area partners and a team of experienced Invasive Plant Patroller (IPPers) to conduct a comprehensive survey of the lake to determine the extent of spread of milfoil within the lake.

Please join LSM staff, part of the 2021 IPPer team, and their hosts, Big Lake Campmeeting, on **Wednesday, July 14, from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM, for a FREE, informal training event.** You will learn about the threat of invasive aquatic plants and the importance of early detection. All attendees will receive (and learn how to use) LSM's waterproof, tear-resistant "Quick Key" which allows users to quickly determine whether or not any plant found in growing in the lake is suspicious. You will see live samples of the invasive variable leaf-milfoil, become familiar with many of Big Lake's native aquatic plants, and practice skills needed to be an effective part of the Big Lake survey effort.

This training will take place both on shore and on the water. Attendees will need their own shallow draft boats (canoes, kayaks, small row boats or inflatables), paddles, and PFDs. Other equipment and materials will be provided.

Pre-registration is required. Please register here**.** If you are unable to attend the Paddle on 7/14 but would like to learn more and/or get involved, please contact Roberta Hill at roberta@lakestewardsme.org.

Upcoming Events

Ongoing - Summer Children's Programs

A summer staple in Grand Lake Stream! These free, 3-hour programs are for children ages 6-16. Children's programs meet weekly on Wednesday mornings across the summer from 9 am to noon, and focus on a different environmental topic each week.

July 14 – Nature Art and Journaling — *Meet at the Grand Lake Stream Dam*

July 21 – Meet the Flintstones — *Meet at the Musquash Esker Trail*

July 28 – Field Day — *Meet at the Grand Lake Stream School Building*

August 4 – Pontoon Boat Rides (AM & PM) — *Meet at the Grand Lake Stream Dam* 1/2-day boat rides around West Grand Lake! ***Parent/guardians must pre-register by July 28th, and only one child per time slot*** Email Carly Davis or call (207) 796-2100 to register.

August 11 – Cartography — *Meet at Little Falls*

July 22 - Family Experience: Night Time Nature Experience - 7 pm
Join DLLT's trained staff as we embark down the Musquash Esker Trail to discover Mother Nature's hidden secrets of the night. In this program we will stargaze, learn about nocturnal animals, and make some s'mores over the fire!

July 24 - DLLT Annual Meeting, Picnic, and Benefit Auction - 1 pm
Rain Date: Sunday, July 25 at 1 pm - Join us for DLLT's annual meeting, picnic, and benefit auction! We are bringing a few changes to this year's event. In order to accommodate CDC guidelines, we will have a socially-distanced event at the end of Canal Street, with individual bag lunches and well-spaced picnic tables for families to sit together. Please bring a folding chair or blanket as table space may be limited. We have exciting items for the table auction and live auction, and we'll report on all of DLLT's conservation efforts during the past year. **Please RSVP** to lhunt@downeastlakes.org, or call (207) 796-2100. See you there!

July 29 - The Art & Science of Forestry - 9 am
Join consulting forester Si Balch and DLLT Managing Forester Ernest Carle for an informative visit to the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. Forestry has many aspects, and we will discuss how these are incorporated into the forest management and mission of DLLT. Please be ready to drive to a few sites and have water and sturdy shoes for exploring the woods.

July 30 - Lakeville Expansion Celebration - 11 am
Join Downeast Lakes Land Trust, The Trust For Public Land, and local residents

for a community celebration! We are nearing the end of a two-year campaign to purchase the 2,025-acre Lakeville Expansion, which will be added to the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. This will be an outdoors event, and a light lunch will be enjoyed by the shores of Sysladobsis Lake. **RAIN DATE: Sunday, August 1. Please RSVP** to DLLT at (207) 796-2100 or email info@downeastlakes.org.

DLLT Outdoor Film Series

Join DLLT for our annual outdoor film series, sponsored by Machias Savings Bank. Meet on the Grand Lake Stream Ballfield at sunset! Movies start at 8 pm - popcorn is provided, and moviegoers should bring their own drinks and chairs/blankets.

July 30 - *The Big Year*

August 6 - *On Golden Pond*

August 3 - Family Experience: Naturalist Led Hike - 1 pm

Join DLLT staff as we travel along the newly-made Storybook Trail. Meet at DLLT's new headquarters site at 214 Milford Road in Grand Lake Stream. This trip is ideal for families with younger kids, as the 0.4-mile trail meanders through the forest with pages from a storybook helping us find our way. Come see a cedar swamp, wild high bush blueberries and huckleberries, and signs of wildlife on this unique trail!

August 14 - Baxter Outdoors' Downeast Lakes 5-Miler - 10 am

Co-hosted by Baxter Outdoors and Downeast Lakes Land Trust, the "Downeast Lakes 5-Miler" is a trail race not to be missed! This annual race takes place on the western shore of West Grand Lake along DLLT's Little Mayberry Cove Trail, and consists of a 5.1-mile loop on single-track hiking and dirt paths.
Baxter Outdoors is the outdoor adventure division of Baxter Brewing Company, based in Lewiston, ME. Following the race, enjoy snacks and some cooldown beverages courtesy of Baxter Brewing Co. $1 per mile covered in the race will

be donated to the Downeast Lakes Land Trust!
Registration for the race is being handled by Baxter Outdoors and can be found here.

August 15 - Annual West Grand Lake Race - 9 am

After taking 2020 off, the Downeast Lakes Land Trust is thrilled to host the 16th Annual West Grand Lake Race! This flatwater paddle race is a family-friendly event that has become a Grand Lake Stream summer favorite. All non-motorized watercraft are invited to participate in race distances of 4, 6, or 12 miles. Prior to the longer distances, we will host a special "kids race" for everyone to enjoy. Bring the whole family to watch!
Registration will be held from 9:15 – 10:15 am, followed promptly by a pre-race safety meeting at 10:30 am. Registration fees are $25 for adults (18 and older) and **new for this year – $5 for youth (12-17) and children under 12 are FREE!** Registration includes a t-shirt and a post-race individually bagged lunch and awards presentation. All proceeds benefit the conservation efforts of Downeast Lakes Land Trust.

August 20 - Land Navigation - 12 pm

Join Mike Tuttle, Sgt. Maj. USMC (ret.)/U.S. Navy Survival Instructor, as he teaches how to read a map and compass. Learn to use a magnetic compass through instruction and practice out in the field. Learn to use topographic maps to plot your own destinations accurately. Come prepared and properly dressed to plot and walk off trail in the woods. No prior experience needed! Come away with the confidence to explore the woods and waters on your own. Maps and compasses will be provided. Meet at the Grand Lake Stream School Building.

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