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August 5, 2015

Downeast Lakes Landings

Downeast Lakes LAND TRUST

August Weekend of Racing Excitement

The weekend of August 15 and 16 will be an exciting one in the town of Grand Lake Stream. Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) is thrilled to be hosting two outdoor races that are sure to bring fun and excitement to the Downeast Lakes region.

On Saturday, August 15th, DLLT is proud to host Baxter Outdoors for the second annual race of the 2015 New England Trail Run Series, the Downeast Lakes 5-Miler. In this scenic lakeside trail run, racers will run the length of the Little Mayberry Cove Trail on a wooded single track hiking trail and will return on a wider motorized vehicle trail. The total length of the course is 5.1 miles. The after party will be held at Weatherby's Lodge. Registration begins at 8:30 am and the race starts at 10:00 am. To pre-register, visit www.baxteroutdoors.com.

On Sunday, August 16th, DLLT is excited to hold the Eleventh Annual West Grand Lake Race. A Grand Lake Stream tradition, the West Grand Lake Race is an all ages event. All non-motorized watercraft are welcome to participate in recreational and competitive distances of 4 miles, 6 miles, and 12 miles. All paddlers receive a t-shirt and a cookout

lunch, sponsored by Grand Lake Lodge, after the race. To pre-register, please call DLLT at (207) 796 - 2100, or email cbrown@downeastlakes.org.

Bring your running shoes for Saturday, and your boat and paddle for Sunday, and make a weekend of it in Grand Lake Stream! For more information on these events and more, visit www.downeastlakes.org or call (207) 796 – 2100.

Downeast Lakes Land Trust Honors Former Executive Director

The 2015 Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) Conservation Award was presented to former Executive Director Mark Berry for his eight years of hard work and dedication to DLLT and to the people of the Downeast Lakes region. Presented by Board President and Vermont Poet Laureate, Syd Lea, the award was given at DLLT's Annual Meeting and Picnic.

Under Mark's leadership, DLLT conserved 370,000 acres as part of the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership campaign, purchased the 6,700-acre Wabassus Lake Tract, and launched the West Grand Lake Community Forest Project. Mark is currently the President and CEO of Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park, located in Winter Harbor, ME.

"In eight years, Mark helped to transform the Land Trust from a small, local grassroots organization into a major player in the field of New England conservation," said DLLT Executive Director David Montague. "He devoted himself wholeheartedly to DLLT's mission, and this recognition of his hard work is timely and well deserved."

The award was a white ash canoe paddle, handmade by local craftsman Dale Tobey and wood-burned by Deb McMichael, a Grand Lake Stream artist. The Downeast Lakes Conservation Award was created to honor those who have made extraordinary contributions toward the long-term economic and environmental well-being of the Downeast Lakes Region of Maine.

Moonlight Paddling on Big Musquash

Not many excursions in the Downeast Lakes region can compete with a calm, flatwater paddle along Big Musquash Stream, the eastern boundary of the 22,000 acre West Grand Lake Community Forest Project. When that paddle is on a warm, July evening under a full "blue" moon, the average ride turns into an extraordinary experience.

Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) staff led over 20 canoes and kayaks with 34 paddlers upstream from Musquash Bridge as the sun dropped below Amazon Mountain, igniting the twilight sky to the west. Shortly after launching, paddlers were treated to a beautiful moonrise in the eastern sky, lighting their way through one of the most unique wetland ecosystems in Maine. The distant buzz of insects, the croaking song of bullfrogs, and the splash of a muskrat added a wondrous musical backdrop.

As the group reached Musquash Esker, DLLT Education and Outreach Manager Colin Brown discussed the unique glacial formation with young paddlers, highlighting the importance of protecting fragile ecosystems. With the air becoming heavy with mosquitoes and darkness quickly descending, the boats turned around and headed for home. The darker journey back provided ample time for stargazing and reflecting upon a gorgeous summer night in Grand Lake Stream.

Paddlers are always welcome in the Downeast Lakes Land Trust, and can take advantage of the nine water-access campsites found along West Grand, Pocumcus, Fourth Machias, and Wabassus Lakes. Don't miss the 11th Annual West Grand Lake Race on August 16th, a flatwater canoe and kayak race that will be fun for the whole family!

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust regularly hosts speakers, sponsors workshops, and leads outdoor adventures that highlight the natural and cultural history of the Maine woods and waters. These programs support DLLT's commitment to protecting both the environmental and economic health of the Downeast Lakes region. Please visit our website to discover what is happening next.

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