

Landmarks

The Newsletter of the Downeast Coastal Conservancy
Summer 2015



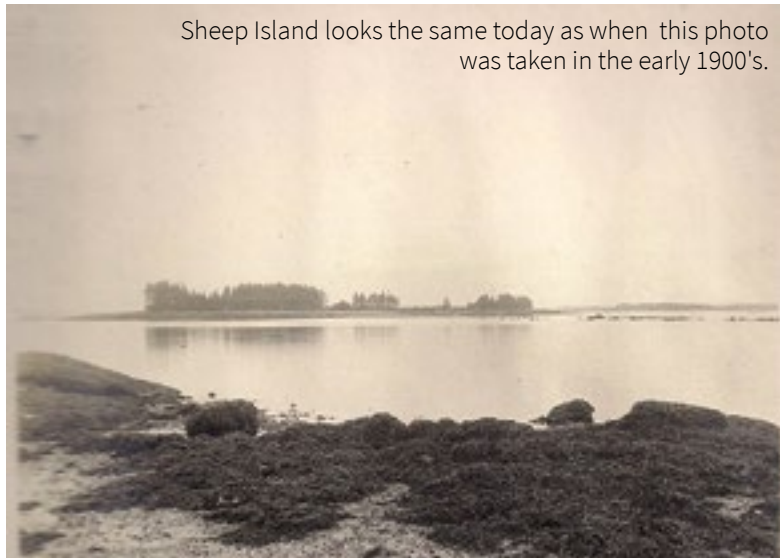
"That's the way it always was..." Sheep Island Preserved Through Community Effort

By Rich Bard

Sheep Island, a mere six acres, is just big enough for a couple of stands of trees where children can have a grand adventure exploring the forest or looking for treasure along the shore, all within earshot of their parents, preparing a picnic on the sandy beach. Sitting about a quarter-mile from shore, even relatively inexperienced sailors, boaters and paddlers navigate out to the island and achieve a safe landing in the inviting cove on the north shore.

My introduction to Sheep Island came when a couple of long-time seasonal residents of Addison began to tell stories about the

Sheep Island looks the same today as when this photo was taken in the early 1900's.



island, with its sandy beach on the north shore - protected from the whims of the onshore breezes. They talked about the generations of family picnics on the island, Fourth of July celebrations with dozens of community members and the way the island dominates your view as you cross the bar while driving down to Cape Split at the south tip of Addison. "Sheep Island is the first place you take your grandchildren for a boat ride," one resident told me. After decades of being open for public use, area residents were concerned when the owner decided to sell Sheep Island. No one could know whether this was the last generation who would enjoy this favorite summertime destination.

...continued on page 2

Working closely with DCC, a group of Addison's year-round and seasonal residents appealed to their friends and neighbors to contribute to their dream of purchasing Sheep Island for the community. The deal was that if they could raise the money, DCC would own the island to ensure that it remains open for public enjoyment. "That's the way it always was, since the first Wasses came here in 1775. I know they would be pleased to hear that the island is protected" said lifelong resident Billy Thompson, referring to the earliest members of his family who used the island as a near-by getaway for picnics and fun. He knows that his ancestors would be pleased to hear that Sheep Island has been conserved. Billy also shared some of his own memories of the island. "There was always a Fourth of July picnic there. We would go in the fall of the year when the gooseberries were ripe and before then for strawberries. The older men would tell stories about getting beautiful big clams on the southern shore."

In a flash, the money was raised and DCC became the proud owner of this beloved community treasure, placing a bold exclamation point at the end of



DCC's very successful 2014. If you are among the lucky people who have been enjoying Sheep Island, rest assured that not much will change with DCC as owner of the island. We want it to continue to be a local destination where families can land their boat, have a picnic, enjoy some beachcombing and take away priceless memories.

To celebrate the protection of Sheep Island, DCC will host a Community Picnic with boat trips out to see the island. For more information, see page 7.

Eight Legs and Trouble!

Keep in mind that anytime you set off into the forests or fields of a DCC preserve, you are at risk of contacting deer ticks, which can transmit Lyme disease or a whole host of associated diseases to you or your dogs. Please take appropriate precautions, which can include tucking pant legs into socks, wearing light colored clothing (to make ticks more detectable on your clothes) and using a permethrin or deet-based repellent on your clothing. After your outing, remember to perform a self-check on your entire body. Don't forget to check children and pets!

More information can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/>.

A Note from the ED

The summer of 2015 is shaping up to be a busy and productive season for Downeast Coastal Conservancy. We have an exciting events calendar filled with hikes, paddles, and moon-gazing events, but we are also trying something new this year. In an effort to get to know more of you, we are holding a series of community picnics around the region, celebrating past successes and looking ahead to our future (see pages 6 and 7 for more details). We hope you'll join us to share some food, fun and conversation about DCC. As with all of our public events, we encourage you to bring a friend to spread the word about DCC!

Throughout this newsletter, you will notice references to other groups and organizations with which we collaborate to carry out our programs. Those mentioned in this edition of Landmarks are just a few of the many nonprofits, schools, government agencies and even local businesses that we consider partners in our work. To make the most of our limited resources, many local groups are finding that joining forces is the best way to achieve our common goal of creating a vibrant and healthy future for Downeast Maine.

For example, one of our newest partners, the Lubec Community Outreach Center (LCOC), offers after-school activities for elementary students in Lubec. DCC owns

the Mowry Beach Preserve, right next door to the elementary school, and we provide outdoor education programs, so a partnership is a natural fit. We have enjoyed a similar relationship with the Maine Sea Coast Mission's EdGE after-school program for several years.

If you are involved with an organization and want to explore the possibilities of working together, please don't hesitate to be in touch, join us for one of our community picnics or attend our "Muddy Boots and Ice Cream Scoops" annual meeting on August 2 (see the back cover for details).

I hope to see you out on the trail this summer!



Rich Bard
Executive Director
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207-255-4500

"I'm looking forward to hitting the trail this summer with my beautiful granddaughter Brealyn. Be sure to say hi if you see us!"

"The Art of Giving" to DCC



Wendilee Heath O'Brien, who owns a cabin in Steuben, often makes the trek to the top of Pigeon Hill to gather inspiration for her unique paintings, done in the classical Japanese style known as kinpakku. As one of four artists selected for the "Art of Giving" event, held annually by Downeast Magazine, Wendilee has donated this painting to be raffled off at a gala later this fall, and the proceeds donated to DCC. "I've wanted for so long to do something to contribute to the stewardship and continued public use of Pigeon Hill," she said, and the donation of her art fills that bill perfectly. See more of Wendilee's beautiful art at www.whopaints.com. We will send more information about The Art of Giving Gala by email and on our Facebook page later this summer.

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Enjoying a beach in Addison in the early 1900's.





Kayaking on the Orange River.

In the Works

In the Works is a new section in the newsletter. This is a chance for us to share insider information with you about some of the stewardship projects and access improvements we are working on. Opportunities exist for volunteers to help with these improvements.

Trail building continues on the Machias River Preserve with the extension of the Heritage Trail. When completed, the Heritage Trail will continue along the river south of the Sunrise Trail to the trestle bridge in Whitneyville. At Middle River Park welcoming kiosks will be built and permanent signage will be installed.

We're working on big improvements at Orange River in Whiting. We will be improving the access point at Orange River Landing to make parking and unloading/loading boats easier for individuals, groups and classes. Interpretive and directional signs will orient visitors and share important information about the watershed. Picnic tables, built and donated by a volunteer who is dedicated to helping others enjoy the Orange River, will be placed at day-use

landing sites that will be developed with the help students at the Cobscook Community High School. We are also working on a new hiking trail that will allow paddlers to get out of their boat and hike to the top of Estey's Mountain, where they will be rewarded with sweeping views of areas forests, lakes and rivers.

At Mowry Beach in Lubec, final maintenance work will be done on the boardwalk. A two day volunteer extravaganza, the Boardwalk Blitz, in November nearly completed the maintenance project. Sinking sections of boardwalk will be leveled and the last railings will be replaced. Every year, volunteers help with regular trimming of vegetation that grows, crowding the boardwalk. If you love Mowry Beach and want to help, contact Lindsay.

The non-native, non-invasive botanicals planted by Dr. Radcliffe Pike at the Pike Lands will receive special attention this year. In a collaborative project with the University of Maine at Machias and the Regional Medical Center at Lubec (the

property owners, DCC holds an easement on the property), informational signage and a new walking map will create a unique self guided botanical tour of the property. Are you interested in gardening and non native plants? Consider joining the Special Plants Stewardship Team at the Pike Lands and help ensure the long-term health and survival of Dr. Pike's Plants.

Signage will go up at both Middle River Park and the Machias River Preserve making these properties easier to use and find. We are knee deep in the management planning process for these properties which will guide the future uses and planning for the properties. 🌿



Volunteer to Help with the Trails This Summer

After a long winter, we are excited for the summer season to begin. It is May 1st today and there is still snow in the woods. Confidence is growing that the snow will finally be gone by the time you read this. Spring cleanup and trail opening is happening currently. You are welcome to hike DCC trails at anytime, but spring cleanup and minor maintenance will be completed by early June. If you would like to be a part of the summer action, join our once monthly work parties, or talk with Lindsay about another way you can help with the stewardship of your favorite DCC property.

The dates for the work parties have been set, the locations will be determined once the work needs have been assessed. Work parties are a way to get to know your favorite properties better. Join a workgroup, get out, enjoy the sun and get some exercise while giving back to the places you love. Contact the office for more information or watch for updates on our website and through emails. Work parties are as follows:

- May 30, 2015 from Noon-2pm
- June 27, 2015 from 10am-1pm
- July 18, 2015 from 9am-noon
- August 22, 2015 from 10am-1pm 🌿



Volunteers perform repairs on the Mowry Beach Boardwalk in 2014.



Lindsay McMahon
Conserved Lands Manager
lindsay@downeastcoastalconservancy.org
207-255-4500

"If you would like to be part of the summer stewardship action join in on a once monthly work days, or contact me to learn about other volunteer opportunities."



Helping press apple cider at Applefest.

3rd Annual Applefest!

Entering its 3rd year, Applefest is one of DCC's signature events. The open fields and beautiful scenery of Klondike Mountain Preserve are the backdrop of this event where the apple is king. Join us for apple cider pressing, apple jelly making, apple art creating, apple story reading, apple eating, and more. Although the apple is the star of this event, a trip to Klondike Mountain is not complete without a hike to enjoy the panoramic views. Do you have an apple idea that you think would enhance Applefest, or would like volunteer to help? Please contact us. 🍏

2015 Summer Calendar of Events

Make sure to check for additional information about what to expect on a hike or paddle and other event information on the next page! All events are FREE to attend unless otherwise noted.

SATURDAY, MAY 30
Stewardship Work Party
Noon-2pm | Location TBD

SATURDAY, JUNE 27
Stewardship Work Party
10am-1pm | Location TBD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1
Bring Your Own Boat Middle River Full Moonrise/Sunset Paddle
6pm-8pm | Middle River Park, Machias

SATURDAY, JULY 12
Community Picnic
2pm | Jonesport

SATURDAY, JULY 18
Stewardship Work Party
9am-Noon | Location TBD

SUNDAY, JULY 19
Community Picnic & Sheep Island Celebration
Noon | South Addison

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2
Annual Meeting for Members
2pm | Lee/Pellon Center, Machias
Come early for a hike at Middle River Park at 1pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15
Machias Wild Blueberry Festival
9am-5pm | Machias

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18
Bring Your Own Kayak Pleasant River Marshes Monitoring Paddle
1pm-4pm | Columbia Falls to Addison
Rain Date—Thursday, August 20, 2015, 2:30-5:30pm
FREE, registration is required due to limited space, call 207-255-4500

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
Stewardship Work Party
10am-1pm | Location TBD

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
Community Picnic
11am | Lubec

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
Full Moonrise Hike
6:15pm | Pigeon Hill Preserve, Steuben

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
Applefest!
11am-3pm | Klondike Mountain Lubec
See more information on the next page

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
Logging History of the Machias River Heritage Trail Guided Hike
10am-1pm | Machias River Preserve, Machias

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
Full Moonrise Hike
5:30pm | Klondike Mountain, Lubec

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
Total Lunar Eclipse Viewing Party
Time TBD | Middle River Park, Machias

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3
Bring Your Own Boat Orange River Paddle
1pm-4pm | Orange River Landing, Whiting
Additional information can be found online at www.DowneastCoastalConservancy.org/events-calendar Stay up-to-date by signing up for email updates on our website or by liking us on Facebook.

Sometimes events need to be canceled or changed because of weather. If you are unsure about weather, check our Facebook page or call the office 207-255-4500 for updates the night before or the day or an event. Bring a friend with you and introduce someone new to DCC! 🍏



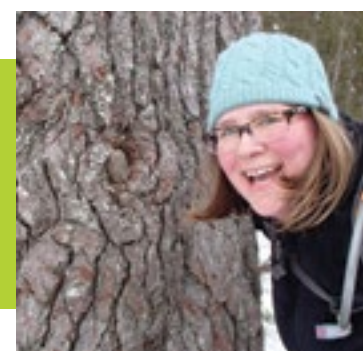
What to expect on a hike:

If you are joining us for a hike, please wear appropriate footwear, our trails are uneven and sometimes wet. Dress for the weather and don't forget the sun protection and your preferred bug repellent! Bring your own water and snack. If you are joining us for an evening hike, please bring a flashlight.



What to expect on a paddle:

If you are joining us for a paddle, you will need to bring your own boat, PFD and paddles unless otherwise advertised. Dress for the weather and don't forget the sun protection. Bring your own water and snack. We will be on hand to help unload and load boats. If you are joining us for an evening paddle, feel free to pack a flashlight. Sign up is required for the Pleasant River Paddle on August 18, call the office to sign up at 207-255-4500.



Becky Lee
Assistant Director
becky@downeastcoastalconservancy.org
207-255-4500

Community Picnics

Get-together with old friends and make new ones, share your ideas and celebrate what we have achieved together at a regional community picnic this summer. These gatherings will be hosted by longtime DCC members and supporters. The environment will be relaxed and food will be provided. Bring a friend, these picnics are open to everyone!

- July 12 at the home of Helen and Mo Waite, the Long House Farm in Jonesport.
- July 19 at the home of Kathleen Sullivan and Bob Stevens in South Addison. Transportation will be provided to Sheep Island for those who wish to visit.
- August 22 at the home of Davis Pike in Lubec.

Save the date for your local picnic on your calendar and watch for more information or call the office for details! 🍏



"I hope you'll join us for a picnic, hike or paddle this summer. Be sure to check our website for additional information about these and other events. Remember, weather can be unpredictable, call the office for event updates if needed."



A Constantly Changing Landscape

By Becky Lee

Epic winter snowfall created the winter of my dreams! Snowshoeing with blazes and trail signs sometimes buried in the snow was a new and delightful experience. Late winter brought a new tradition to DCC, the Friday Afternoon Snowshoe at Middle River Park. In the frozen landscape, we were free to explore areas that are wet and impassable in the warmer months. Our snowshoes left a zigzag of packed trail for others to follow. And follow they did! During my weekend snowshoe and sledding outings with friends, it was not uncommon to

run into 4-5 other groups of people snowshoeing, sledding or cross country skiing during a 2 hour period.

The stillness and low sun reflecting warmly off the glittering snowy landscape left its impression on me and I am certain that winter is my favorite season in the Park. But now I'm not so sure. The fields are carpeted with green vegetation dotted with the bright colors of early summer wildflowers, beckoning my senses, and I think that this may be my favorite season. But I know once fall arrives and the colors transform into a plethora of warm earthy tones,

punctuated with bright yellows, reds and oranges I will have found a new favorite. I just can't decide! And the best part is that I don't have to.

The thing that has surprised me the most about Middle River Park is that it is constantly evolving and changing. I love that I can visit the park every week and have a different experience every time. In the heart of Machias, Middle River Park awaits your discovery year round.

Download the Middle River Park Guide online at www.DowneastCoastalConservancy.org/our-conserved-lands/

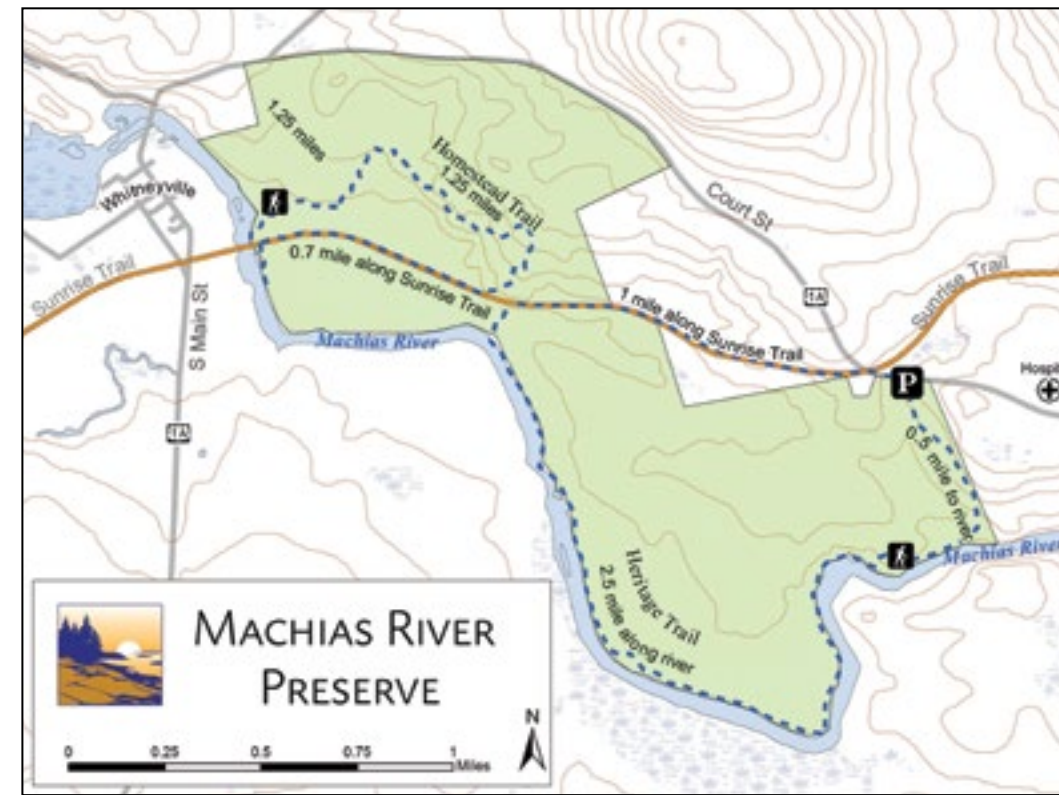
Focus on Public Access: Machias River Preserve

By Becky Lee

Step back in time to 1776. The town of Machias is in its infancy as is the country, and Maine is still a colony. There are no cars, no phones, no electricity, and no land trusts. Machias looks different than we know it today, and one of the only familiar buildings is the Burnham Tavern. There is no bridge across the Machias River at Bad Little Falls and no dike between the Middle River and Machias Bay. People get around on foot, horse or by sailing ship. It is in this environment where several hemlock seeds germinated in the fertile soil along the banks of the Machias River. Strong roots grew into the soil, and the trees reached up to the sun.

As they grow, countless log drives roar past on the Machias River. The railroad tracks are built and soon trains rumble over the Machias River. All the while, the trees continue to grow taller and thicker with stronger roots. Over time, the log drives stop as do the trains and eventually the neglected rail bed is transformed into the Down East Sunrise Trail. And still the trees grow. In 2012, unbeknownst to the Hemlock trees, DCC purchased the land where they stand, protecting it forever, through the Two Rivers Campaign. These now majestic trees are one of the many treasures hikers will discover on the Machias River Preserve.

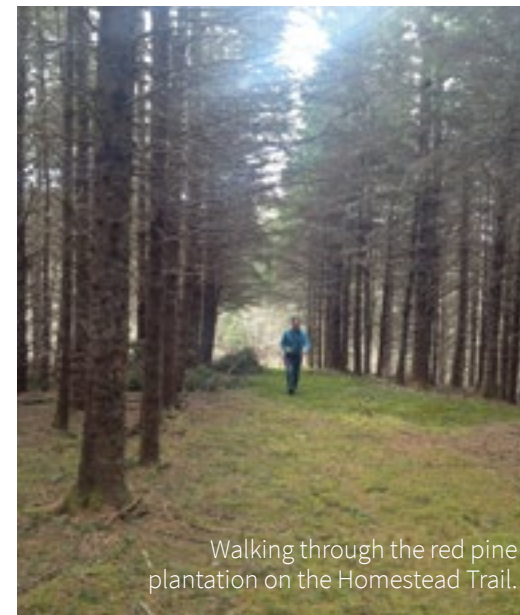
A trail network awaits hikers at the Machias River Preserve, the most well known



of these is the Machias River Heritage Trail, a 3.5 mile long hiking loop with a trailhead that is less than 1 mile from Downtown Machias. From the trailhead, hikers traverse woods and a large stand of cedars before heading downhill towards the river. The trail follows the river for the next 2.5 miles. A bench in a clearing of large white pines below Munson Pitch is the perfect spot to enjoy the splendor of the trees towering above. Shortly after, the hiker will arrive at Munson Pitch, this is a spot where I like to stop to enjoy my lunch and watch the river rush by. Before long, the trail turns away from the river along tributary and hikers cross the last bridge before arriving at the Down East Sunrise Trail. From this junction, it is a 1 mile walk on the trail back to the parking area.

"It's hard to imagine where there could be a better opportunity to experience such a timeless and unspoiled area so close to "civilization." What a treasure!"
 –Dick and Peg Fournier, DCC Members

You can extend your hike from this point. When emerging on the Sunrise Trail, turn left and you will see a small parking area about a hundred feet ahead of you on the north side of the Sunrise Trail. From the back of that ATV/Snowmobile Parking area, you will find the start of a second loop trail, the Homestead Trail. This interior loop features a forested



Walking through the red pine plantation on the Homestead Trail.

landscape, including a red pine plantation. The trail skirts around an area of marshland home to a variety of birds and soon meets the Machias River and follows it downstream a short distance to the Sunrise Trail next to the railroad trestle bridge. Cross over the Sunrise Trail to find another ATV/Snowmobile parking area and a picnic spot. It is here where you will find the Hemlock Trail, it is a very short path along the river and it features the Hemlock Trees mentioned earlier in this article, estimated at over 200 years in age. From this point, it is a short walk across the trestle bridge on the Sunrise Trail to Route 1A in Whitneyville or a 1.8 mile walk on the Sunrise Trail to the trailhead parking lot.



A lone snowshoer on a network of trails at Middle River Park.



Tom Wessels examines a large hemlock tree along the Machias River.

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Your donation makes you a member of Downeast Coastal Conservancy, a partner in our conservation successes. Members provide the community with opportunities for hiking, paddling, sledding, birding or quiet appreciation of nature; protection of critical wildlife habitats; destinations for school and camp groups; as well as fun events like the Applefest and Fairy Festival. DCC makes responsible use of your donation to share your appreciation for nature and the wild places we all love so much. As you read through the stories in this newsletter and events know that your donations helped make this possible. Thank you to everyone who contributed to Downeast Coastal Conservancy in 2014.

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Alicia Rogan Heard
Wendilee Heath O'Brien
Harriet Heath
Andrew and Paula Hepburn
John Hibbs
Dick Hoyt and Jean Bookman
Megan Humphrey and Terry Hotaling
Betsy Jaegerman and Russell Worcester
Kate and Tony Jans
Bob Jensen
Tora Johnson
Ferd Jones
Alice and Stuart Jump
Kenneth Kaiser
Stephen Keiley
Joel Kendall and Mary Prince
Pat and Rose Kenney
Dorie Krauss
Pam Kristan
Greg Kucera and Noni Waite Kucera
Sarah Lennon
The Lewis Family
Cynthia Locklin
Erik Lookabaugh and Melissa Lee
Charles Lowell
Kenneth and Janet Martin
Barbara McCleave
Robert and Janis McEvoy
Barbara McGhie
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Elizabeth and Richard Mistler
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Harry and Joanne Quayle
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Karl Rossi III
Paul and Chris Rudd

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Mary and Bob Sayre
Anne and Werner Schelzig
Philip Schenck
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Muna Shehadi Sill and Mark Stodder
Dorothy Sio
Kevin and Betsy Sio
Monica and Ellie Small
Arnie Smith and Lisa Marin
Burgess Smith
Robert and Barbara Smith
Harvey Spears
Stephen and Miriam Spence
Dean and Terry Sprangers
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Malcolm Stevens
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Darren, Caitlin and Mia Wood
Teresa Wood
Peter and Bess Woodworth
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Marianne Zegers
Riet Zwiep

Business

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Machias Savings Bank
Shelterwood Forest Solutions
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West Falls Surveying

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All Souls By The Sea
Appletree School
Maine Blackfly Breeders' Association
Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation

Honorarium & Memorial Donations

In Honor of Alan Brooks
In Honor of Alan Brooks and Nancy Nielsen
In Honor of Craig and Barbara Snapp
In Honor of Craig Snapp
In Honor of Don and Sherrie Sprangers
In Honor of Francie Bodell
In Honor of Heide and Francis Schumann
In Honor of Kathy and Eric
In Honor of Les and Joyce Coleman
In Honor of Les Coleman and Roger Clapp
In Honor of Mary K. Wakeman
In Honor of Rev. Donna Carey
In Honor of Rich Bard
In Honor of Robert and Jewell Miller
In Memory of Arnold Sio
In Memory of Douglas Heath
In Memory of Ellie Reichlin
In Memory of Elwood Davis of Cherryfield, Maine
In Memory of Helen B. Andrews
In Memory of Jan Zwiep
In Memory of Jim Granfield
In Memory of Jim Warren
In Memory of John Gardner Merrill and his many McNamara Kin
In Memory of John J. Begley
In Memory of Pam Dickison
In Memory of Ralf Multhopp and Ukey Santos
In Memory of Richard A. Humphrey
In Memory of Walter Grallert

All attempts have been made to ensure this list's accuracy. We apologize for any errors.



DOWNEAST
COASTAL
CONSERVANCY

PO Box 760
Machias, ME 04654

2015 Summer Calendar Inside!

The mission of the Downeast Coastal Conservancy is the conservation of the natural habitats and resources of the coastal watersheds, islands and communities of Washington County, Maine, for present and future generations.

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www.downeastcoastalconservancy.org • Telephone: (207) 255-4500

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Muddy Boots and Ice Cream Scoops: *A Celebration of Volunteers and Members with the Annual Meeting*

Muddy boots are just part of the job for DCC volunteers. This is especially true for volunteer property monitors. These unsung heroes plot a course that takes them off the beaten path to check on interior sections and boundary lines of Preserves and Easements. These volunteers are our eyes and ears on a property and often return home with muddy boots.

Join us on Sunday, August 2 at 2pm for a gathering where we will recognize our volunteers, thank our members and have an ice cream social. Executive Director Rich Bard will present on “Why DCC Conserves Land in Washington County” and share ways that you can get more involved. We will have a short Annual Meeting of the Members before adjourning to an ice cream social.

Muddy Boots and Ice Cream Scoops will be held at the Lee/Pellon Center in Machias starting at 2pm. Prior to the gathering, we will be leading a guided hike of the trails at Middle River Park. Join us at 1pm if you would like to hike. 🌿