

Landmarks

The Newsletter of the Downeast Coastal Conservancy

Summer 2016



By Helen Waite, Board of Directors

Imagination, Children & Nature

Paris, November 2015, an arching banner over the Climate Change Convention proclaimed: “Planter une graine de nature dans l’imaginaire des enfants...mission accomplie pour nos eco-animateurs.”

“Plant a grain of nature in the imagination of our children and the mission is accomplished to create eco-animators.” Because our children are animated through their limitless imagination, the key to a child’s understanding of their natural world is down the rabbit hole of their mind. Every instance of learning is a story, a journey to a shimmering new land with familiar corners, yet which beckons with an insistent pulling toward the unknown, untested connections.

How then does the nature teacher plan

her lessons? How do we at Downeast Coastal Conservancy plan to connect to our own future through our children? Looking to animation (i.e., action) as being the key to learning, we must plan experientially and then plan to ignite the experience through the imagination.

What could be better than a canoe expedition to an otherwise unobtainable (i.e., mysterious, important) place, searching for a special hard-to-find natural species or geological outcrop (i.e., treasure)? And perhaps to create a role-play as Scientists, or Crocodile Dundees, or Indiana Jones (i.e., heroes) who will further engage the force of imagination. Through role-play, children actually live an experience more deeply; hence the learning is remembered.

Without being disrespectful to the truths of the natural world, we learn through an experience plus our imagination, not through “just words.”

The DCC Fairy Festival is a prime example of live-learning through story and action. For a minute, just imagine a woodland glade: a moist, light-filtered ecosystem supporting giant white cedars, red spruce, maples and firs; flickering sunbeams and filamented moth wings; tiny beings living in tall mosses; salamanders and wood frogs; breezes rustling amongst horsetails along the brook; and Hermit and Veery thrushes fluting the air. For children, fairies are precious and, because of that, all interconnected things in this

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By Rich Bard

A Note from the Executive Director

“Mowry Beach is just down the road from us. We walk there pretty much every day – sometimes twice a day. We just really want to help out.”

These words were music to my ears as I met a young couple at a friend’s wedding celebration and our conversation turned to my work at DCC. One day earlier, at a volunteer gathering to improve a new trail at the Machias River Preserve, I had a similar conversation with a retired couple who use DCC’s trails and were glad to have the opportunity to give something back. I believe there are many more people like these two couples who understand that the accomplishments of DCC, from conservation of important wildlife habitat to recreational trails and outings to educational programs for

kids, all rely on the efforts of volunteers. There are many ways to get involved and a job for anyone who wants to help. I would encourage anyone with an interest in conservation, trails, or getting kids outside to get in touch with me or a member of the staff to talk about how your interests or skills can contribute to DCC’s vitality. You might become a trail steward; an office assistant; a member of one of our active committees, which get a higher level view of parts of the work going on at DCC; or you might eventually join the Board of Directors to help set the direction of the whole organization. With that in mind...

Welcome to the “Summer of Stewardship” as DCC staff have dubbed this season. Just take a look at all the great projects that Tim Moffett, our Land Steward, describes in his “In the Works” article on page 4 of this

newsletter. In truth, those are just the tip of the iceberg, with many more projects underway and in the planning stages. We will kick off the fun-with-a-purpose at a June 3rd bonfire at Reynolds Marsh Overlook, which is part of the Orange River Conservation Area in Whiting. We’ll be burning brush and the remains of an old shed that collapsed years ago. If cutting brush and hauling wood doesn’t sound appealing, feel free to show up early to go for a paddle (bring your own boat) or just linger around the bonfire with some hot dogs and snacks. We’ll have more details to share about other volunteer opportunities this summer in our email and Facebook updates. In the meantime, I hope to see you at the Reynolds Marsh Overlook! Who wouldn’t love to gather around a fire and listen to the frogs and birds usher in the summer season as the sky above grows dark? I hope you can join us!



Rich Bard
Executive Director
Rich@DowneastCoastalConservancy.org

Imagination, Children & Nature continued from page 2

hallowed fairy-kingdom ecosystem are precious.

If children create a play within this ecosystem about precious things like fairies, frogs, bats, and moths, they will become conscious of what creates vulnerability and how nature itself is vulnerable. Children who attend fairy festival become our future eco-animators! But best of all, for them, they feel more safe and connected to nature and long to return. They are ready to work and protect nature.

But you might be saying to yourself, “I am not that creative, I have not been given a dramatic imagination. I only learned from other people;” which, actually, I don’t believe for an instant.

You learned imaginatively and actively like any child does. For a moment, think back to special moments in the natural world and give yourself permission to relive those moments again. Remember some of your favorite stories, or mysteries, or fairy tales and imagine them as taking part in your favorite nature moment. Or check out your kid’s books or movies, and make your own plays up from the stories other people tell. To plagiarize is to humanize. I find all the old stories of immense help to my own playmaking ideas. Imagine the people in your family and with whom you work as the characters in the little vignettes. What are their special qualities? Playmaking itself is not magic, only our willingness

to go there is magic, and a little work too. And then, just listen to where the story is going. You’re doing great.

Lastly, imagination and the courage of any journey to the unknown needs reward, especially for children, including you. A reward which is tangible or not, but carries significance, will create deeper memory. Therefore at the end of an experience, there needs to be some sort of formal closure. It is great to incorporate some sort of little ceremony that honors every young or old participating member. This closure is the closing of the package to be saved forever. Even the planet herself is a package whose loose ends could use a bow tie (or could take a bow).

Recurring Gifts

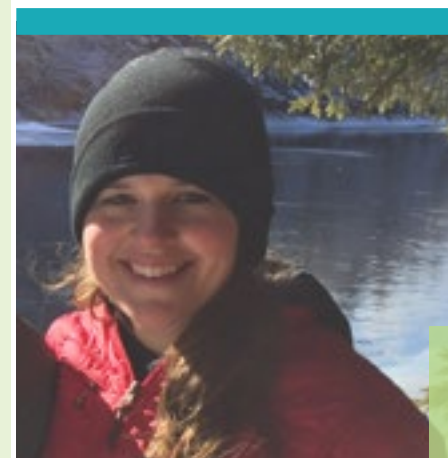
You know that warm, fuzzy feeling you get when you do the right thing by supporting a worthy cause? Enrolling in DCC’s recurring donation program lets you experience that on a regular basis by allowing you to donate in equal installments throughout the year. Our recurring donors tell us they feel great every time they see that donation notice in their email inbox, and without the accompanying wince that happens when you want to dig deep to support your favorite nonprofits at the end of the year.

Setting up an automatic recurring gift to DCC is easy to do, and you can start, stop or change your gift at any time. Just go to www.downeastcoastalconservancy.org and click “Donate” to get started.



Applefest

Applefest is back for its 4th consecutive year! Join us as we celebrate the autumn harvest at the beloved Klondike Mountain Preserve in Lubec on Saturday, September 10th. This apple inspired event has something for everyone. Come press your own apple cider, sample an assortment of fresh cheeses, join in on a guided hike up Klondike Mountain or pack a picnic to enjoy amongst the apple trees. A variety of apple themed crafts and activities will also be available to engage and entertain our youngest apple pickers! Do you have an apple idea that you think would enhance Applefest, or you would like to volunteer to help? Please contact us.



Holly Byers
Outreach Coordinator
Holly@downeastcoastalconservancy.org

Photo Contest

“Inspired by Nature”

We are so pleased to host our first photo contest! Celebrate the natural beauty of coastal Washington County and help inspire the continued protection of the landscapes you love by sharing your best photos with us.

With the support of its members, DCC has conserved some of the most treasured and beautiful places in our area. From its rocky shorelines and colorful countryside, to the forests filled with wildlife and the people who call it home, it is difficult to demonstrate what makes this area so special in just one photo. With that in mind, we’ve created 4 categories to help narrow it down: Landscapes, Wildlife, Community and Close-ups.

All photographs submitted will be judged by a panel of DCC Staff and Volunteers. Finalists will be selected in each category and a “People’s Choice” winner will be determined by voters at this summer’s Wild Blueberry Festival in Machias. All finalists will be posted on the DCC website, featured in our winter newsletter and publicly displayed for the community to enjoy and appreciate.

Please visit www.downeastcoastalconservancy.org/inspired-by-nature-photo-contest for entry details and contest rules.



Show us your view of Downeast Maine!

“This summer is going to be a lot of fun! From paddles to picnics and plenty of hikes – our calendar of events is jam-packed with opportunities to get outside, interact with nature and explore some wild places. All our activities are free and open to the public, so bring a friend and share the experience!”

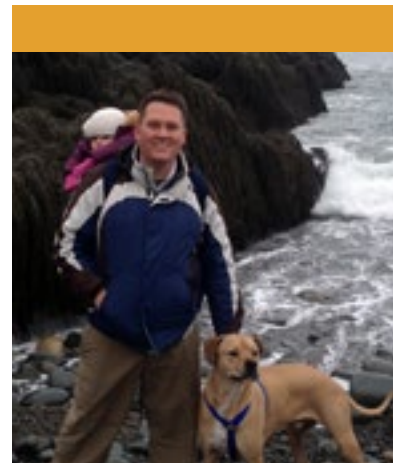


View from Machias River Preserve, Hemlock Trail.

By Tim Moffett

In the Works

Our focus in 2016 is the stewardship of our 40 preserves and maintaining and improving public access for hiking, hunting, paddling, skiing, and the therapeutic enjoyment of nature that comes from spending time in Washington County's woods, waters, and wild places.



Tim Moffett
Land Steward
tim@downeastcoastalconservancy.org

In Addison, our “recreational engineers” are reopening the old .2-mile Marsh Island Preserve trail. Clearing work has been completed and a brochure featuring the short trail and property information is in the works. The ledges at the end of the trail are ideal for a picnic where visitors can explore tidal pools, observe the marine life of Cape Split Harbor and Western Bay, or simply soak up the southern sun.

In Cooper, boat access to the Dennys River via our Gilman Dam Preserve will be restored following road work this spring or summer. This property begs for exploration and will be evaluated for hiking trail opportunities once the road work is complete.

In Lubec, the road frontage, parking area, and upper field of our Klondike Mountain Preserve are receiving a spruce up thanks to a volunteer group led by Alan and Gretchen Mead of Whiting. They will be removing scrubby vegetation and planting native ferns, flowers, shrubs, and trees. Contact Alan at almead1234@gmail.com to take part.

Just up the road, the Pike Lands Arboretum project is reaching

finalization. With support from the L.L.Bean Maine Land Trust Grant Program and Maine Coast Heritage Trust, all of horticulturist Dr. Radcliffe Pike's botanical specimens have been identified and 13 have received interpretive signage, with more signs in the works. A grand opening is scheduled for June 12th to coincide with a plant sale on the grounds (see the summer calendar) and peak bloom of the arboretum's many rhododendron varieties.

In Machias and Whitneyville, DCC staff are designing a preserve-wide package of interpretive, directional, and trailhead signage for Machias River Preserve. Interpretive signs will focus on the natural surroundings as well as the cultural and historical significance of the property—host to countless log drives, past homesteads and cattle pastures, and an 18th-century free black community.

Work on the new Money Island Trail continues. Once complete, this newest addition to the preserve's five-plus-mile trail system will provide easy access to the relaxing cascade of a perennial brook and offer flattering cross-river views of Whitneyville and the trail's namesake feature.

Middle River Park, the “Two Rivers” counterpart, is receiving a new dock and gravel turnaround for a hand-carry boat launch. Permanent directional signage was installed throughout the trail system over the winter and a short connector trail through a hardwood stand is the planned result of a May student service activity.

In Wesley, our Beaver Dam Stream Preserve has been added to our mowing list. This will reestablish a grassy area for parking and recreation. An old trout and salmon fishing trail will be rehabilitated this spring allowing for casual hiking along the stream where healthy spawning habitat can be observed.

In Whiting, the Orange River Conservation Area (ORCA) has expanded and now includes 671 acres of protected riparian buffer and upland. Improvements to access and parking are currently underway and will soon be followed by a comprehensive system of signage that will provide navigational and interpretive information. A new hiking trail, accessible only by paddling to the trailhead, was completed in the fall and offers a path to the overlook at the summit of Estey Mountain. Picnic areas have been cleared along the shoreline of the Orange River flowage thanks to student and faculty volunteers from the Cobscook Community High School program and local residents who donated and installed picnic tables.



Beyond these exciting new projects, general maintenance will continue at preserves from Steuben to Calais and Lubec. Our stewardship program keeps us very busy but offers much reward to the public who encourage us with donations of land, monetary gifts, and volunteer service. These projects would not be possible without the continued community support we receive in the name of environmental conservation and outdoor recreation.

Our Lands

Hunting on DCC Preserves

Did you know that most forms of hunting are permitted on DCC preserves? Although the November deer season is the most well-known, other hunting seasons occur throughout the year and on every day except Sundays. We are proud of a long and conflict-free history of cooperation between hunters and hikers.

For more information about hunting on DCC land or other property uses, feel free to contact us at (207) 255-4500. For information about hunting laws, a calendar of hunting seasons and lots of other wildlife information, please visit www.maine.gov/ifw.

Left: Beaver Dam Stream in Wesley.
Right: Clearing trails at Reversing Falls in Pembroke.



2015 Annual Report

Downeast Coastal Conservancy

Conservation

Conservation is at the heart of everything that DCC does and includes acquiring new land as well as caring for land that is already under our protection. Stewardship of our conservation lands is a permanent responsibility that we take very seriously.

In 2015, DCC purchased 216 acres of land that protects 2.2 miles of freshwater shoreline on the Orange River in Whiting and over 3,500 feet of ecologically rich tidal estuary on the Pleasant River in Addison.

With the support of our members and donors, we have conserved over 6,330 acres of land and 61 miles of shoreline since 1987.



Deer grazing in Middle River Park.

Recreation

People have always used our conserved lands for hiking, snowshoeing, hunting, fishing, birding and other non-motorized recreation. In fact, over 1,000 people signed in at our trail register at the popular Pigeon Hill trail in Steuben in 2015 alone. Studies show that the true number of hikers may be twice as many as those who choose to sign-in. Across DCC's public access preserves, we are reaching thousands of outdoor enthusiasts and reminding them of the value of wild places.

In addition to those who independently enjoy our lands, we hosted 17 recreational programs, providing a guided



Sledding at Middle River Park in Marchias

outdoor experience to another 500 people. Group outings often are the only way for some people to get out and experience nature, while for others it may be just one of the many ways they connect with nature and fellow outdoor enthusiasts.

Education

In 2015, we worked with 8 high school, university and camp groups, providing lessons for over 200 students and campers including the Cobscook Community High School, Mano en Mano and the Lubec after-school program. This does not include the many classes that have independently used DCC preserves as outdoor classrooms and laboratories.

Conserved lands near population centers and schools become part of the civic infrastructure of a community, meaning that educators and parents can depend on these places to be there, year after year, as a place to teach our youth about the natural world around them.

“Took beautiful pictures. Great Trail! ♥ it! Good job DCC! - from a trail registry”



Alan Brooks Salt Ponds Preserve, Lubec

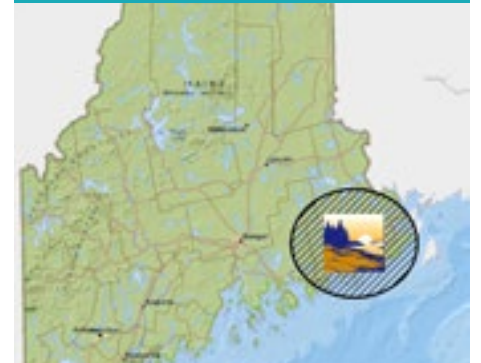
2015 Sources of Revenue



2015 Expenditures



Where We Work



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- Sherrie Sprangers (Secretary), East Machias
- Roger Clapp (Assistant Secretary), Addison
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- Robert Miller, Beals
- Leslie Page, Addison
- Davis Pike, Lubec
- Bill Schlesinger, Lubec
- Dick Sturgeon, Steuben
- Helen Waite, Jonesport
- Mo Waite, Jonesport
- Thad Dolley, Machias (joined April 2016)

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- Tom Boutureira, Freeport
- Mark Boyer, Pembroke
- Alan Brooks, Whiting
- Ben Emory, Salsbury Cove
- Tora Johnson, Machias
- Craig Snapp, Steuben

Staff

- Rich Bard, Executive Director
- Becky Lee, Assistant Director (Jan to Oct)
- Holly Byers, Outreach Coordinator
- Lindsay McMahon, Conserved Lands Manager (Jan to June)
- Tim Moffett, Land Steward

Events

Plant Sale at the Pike Lands Arboretum Grand Opening

The Pike Lands is rich in ecological diversity with low lying moist areas that support moss and lichen habitats, tidal vegetative zones, an old apple orchard, spruce and fir trees one might expect near the Maine coast, as well as plantings of unique species not typically found in the area. Naturalist and professor of horticulture, Dr. Radcliffe Pike planted these botanical anomalies in the 1960s. With the help of our partners at the L.L.Bean Maine Land Trust Grant Program and Maine Coast Heritage Trust, we have identified these unusual species and created a botanical trail map to enhance visitors' experience through a self-guided walking tour of the distinctive plants that live on as Dr. Radcliffe Pike's legacy and gift to the community.

The botanical signs were installed earlier this spring, and on Sunday, June 12th from 11am - 2pm, we'd like to

invite the public to join us at The Pike Lands to celebrate the official grand opening of the arboretum.

Calling all gardeners! This year's Plant Sale will be held in collaboration with the grand opening of the Pike Lands Arboretum. This is your chance to restock your garden with hostas, daylilies and a variety of other locally grown perennials. Please contact the office if you are interested in volunteering or donating plants for the sale.

Directions to the Pike Lands: Take US Route 1 to ME Route 189, leading to Lubec. After 9 miles, turn left on the North Lubec Road at McFadden's Variety. Go 5 miles to the Downeast Adventures sign (on the right) near the end of the paved road. Park past the sign on either side of the road.



Join us at the Pike Lands Arboretum for our Annual Plant Sale.



Children gather for the Fairy Festival at Long House Farm in Jonesport.

Events

Return of the Fairy Festival

July 23rd at Long House Farm, Jonesport

Listen! The Fairies, Trolls and Bats are calling you! Please come, join us for a day (10AM to 3PM) of Fairy Festivaling in the ancient mossy woods. That is, if you are 4-12 years old. We will create the new play, Luna Moth, with costumes; we will build fairy castles, bat caves, to please the fairies and entertain all with a cast party by the brook. Bring your own picnic, your own adult, and your own creative ideas! Limit is 20 fairy makers. Register and get more info after June 1 with Helen Waite 207 497 5734. It's FREE!

Events

2016 Summer Calendar

This summer offers lots of opportunities to explore and enjoy our conserved lands. As you browse through our events line-up, you'll see some favored traditions like Applefest and a moonrise hike up Pigeon Hill, as well as some new activities, including the "Summer of Stewardship" kickoff bonfire and the grand opening of the Pike Lands Arboretum. Keep up to date on all our events, news and volunteer opportunities by visiting our website, www.DowneastCoastalConservancy.org, signing up for our e-newsletter or following us on Facebook. All events are FREE and family friendly!

Friday, June 3

"Summer of Stewardship" Kickoff Bonfire

6pm - 10pm / Reynolds Marsh Overlook, Whiting

Sunday, June 12

Plant Sale at the Pike Lands Arboretum Grand Opening

11am - 2pm / Pike Lands Conservation Area, Lubec

Contact the office if you would like to donate plants for the sale or are interested in volunteering at the event.

Sunday, June 26

Annual Membership Meeting & Pot Luck

2pm - 6pm / Roque Bluffs State Park, Roque Bluffs

Tuesday, July 5

Orange River Paddle (Bring Your Own Boat)

5pm / Orange River Landing, Whiting

Saturday, July 16

Nature Hike & Middle River Paddle (Bring Your Own Boat)

9am / Middle River Park, Machias

Saturday, July 23

Fairy Festival

10am - 3pm / Long House Farm, Jonesport

Tuesday, August 2

Pleasant River Paddle & Floating Picnic (Bring Your Own Boat)

11am - 2pm / Columbia Falls to Addison

Rain date - Thursday, August 4, Noon - 3pm

Registration is required due to limited space, call 207-255-4500

Thursday, August 18

Full Moonrise Hike

6:45pm / Klondike Mountain Preserve, Lubec

Saturday & Sunday, August 20 & 21

Machias Wild Blueberry Festival

9am - 5pm & 9am - 3pm / Machias

Saturday, August 20

Nature Hike & Middle River Paddle (Bring Your Own Boat)

5pm / Middle River Park, Machias

Saturday, September 10

Applefest

11am - 3pm / Klondike Mountain Preserve, Lubec

Friday, September 16

Full Moonrise Hike

6pm / Pigeon Hill Preserve, Steuben

Saturday, September 17

Logging History of the Machias River - Heritage Trail Guided Hike

10am - 1pm / Machias River Preserve, Machias

Saturday, October 8

Fall Foliage Orange River Paddle (Bring Your Own Boat)

4pm / Orange River Landing, Whiting



Join us for a hike or paddle this summer!

2015 Downeast Coastal Conservancy Donors

By donating to Downeast Coastal Conservancy you become a member of a diverse network of individuals united in the common goal of conserving the natural beauty and resources of coastal Washington County. With our members' direct support we've conserved over 6330 acres of land and 61 miles of shoreline, ensured the protection of a variety of critical wildlife habitats and provided numerous educational and recreational opportunities within our communities – proving that together we can accomplish so much! Thank you to everyone who contributed to Downeast Coastal Conservancy in 2015.

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

“Thank you for your continued efforts to conserve the state's beauty and strength.”

- a 2015 donor

2016 Annual Meeting and Pot Luck

Kick off your summer season at Downeast Coastal Conservancy's biggest event of the year! The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held at Roque Bluffs State Park on Sunday, June 26th. This yearly celebration of our members will open with a brief meeting from 2pm – 3pm, followed by a potluck picnic and live entertainment provided by the UMM Ukulele Club.

Not only is the Annual Meeting an opportunity to learn about what's new at DCC, it's a chance to reconnect with old friends, meet new friends and make memories together.

The meeting will be held under the tent, rain or shine. Please feel free to bring your kids, grandkids and guests to enjoy the day as well. Don't forget to pack your picnic blanket, lawn chairs and your favorite dish to share. We'll see you at the park!



DOWNEAST
COASTAL
CONSERVANCY

PO Box 760
Machias, ME 04654

2016 Summer Calendar Inside!

Let's keep in touch

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Telephone: (207) 255-4500

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DowneastCoastalConservancy

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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