

Landmarks

The Newsletter of the Downeast Coastal Conservancy

Winter
2016/2017



Photo by Kevin Rowland/DCC.com

By Rich Bard

BikeMaine Comes to Middle River Park

The 400 or so colorful tents contrasted sharply with the vibrant green of the grass and the puffy white clouds that slid easily across the brilliant blue sky. Bicyclists were busy getting their gear organized, hanging clothing out to dry in the light breeze or just relaxing and reflecting on the day's long ride behind them. I picked my way among the scattered tents, musing to myself that this was not the typical scene on one of DCC's preserves, but I was glad to see it all happening at our Middle River Park in Machias. BikeMaine's 2016 ride around the Downeast region landed them in Machias on the second night and DCC was proud to play a part in hosting them.

This is not something that DCC would ordinarily allow on one of our preserves, but our ideas for Middle River Park have been different from the very beginning. The Park has some

important wildlife habitat, but that is mostly in low-lying wetlands and in the marsh that fringes Middle River. The higher and drier area, formerly cattle and horse pasture, is perfect for higher intensity uses that contribute to people engaging with nature or that serve the groundswell of economic rejuvenation that Machias is experiencing.

One BikeMaine participant, Alicia Heyburn, who works in land conservation in southern Maine, told me, "a park large enough to accommodate a variety of uses and close enough to conveniently serve the community is an incredible resource, and BikeMaine was fortunate to be able to use this space. Machias offered an ideal setting for our overnight stay. We had a large grassy area with beautiful views of the water, proximity to the Down East Sunrise Trail and kayak rentals, and easy access to cultural sites like Burnham Tavern and

Helen's generous slices of pie."

Although camping is not normally allowed on any of DCC's preserves, besides Sheep Island, we made a special exception for BikeMaine because of the excellent track record they have of caring for their village areas and cleaning up behind them. We're happy to report that Middle River Park was left in excellent condition.

Reflecting on her experience with conservation, Alicia summed up the value of allowing BikeMaine to camp on one of DCC's preserves. "Conservation is no longer just about saving habitat for wildlife, it is about saving places that build connections and create community, including parks and playgrounds, trails and campgrounds. This sense of community was evident during our visit, and I look forward to returning to the area."



By Rich Bard

A Note from the Executive Director

About Conservation Easements

Downeast Coastal Conservancy has a diverse portfolio of conservation properties that protect wildlife habitat and provide public access all across coastal Washington County. What some people may not be aware of is our partnership with private landowners that helps make this all happen. Using a legal mechanism called a *conservation easement*, DCC is currently working with almost 80 private landowners to add to the conservation we have accomplished on lands that we own outright.

There is a lot that can be said about the value of conservation easements, but my point in writing about this here is to highlight the somewhat anonymous conservation heroes who recognize something special in their land and pledge to give up some of the development rights to their property to ensure that those qualities persist. Easement landowners are truly our partners in the work that we do to keep Downeast Maine's wild character intact for future generations.

Although some easement properties are open to the public for recreation, many are focused on protecting



wildlife habitat, water quality or scenic values from a lake, river or the ocean. I am fortunate to have occasion to visit many of these properties over the course of a year and always feel fortunate to share in the magic of someone's personal paradise.

Along with all of our supporting members, this issue of Landmarks has been sent to all of our conservation easement partners to bring them into the fold and help them see the full picture of what DCC is working to accomplish in Downeast Maine. Welcome to you all! I hope you like what you see.

Community Partners in Conservation

Thank you to the Charter Members of our Community Partners in Conservation program. The following businesses and organizations recognize and support the community value of land conservation in Downeast Maine. Through their partnerships and contributions, we're creating more and more opportunities for our communities we all serve to interact with and appreciate the natural world. To learn about how your business can become an official member, please contact the office at 207-255-4500.

Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Machias
Eastland Properties, Lubec

Helen's Restaurant, Machias
Inn on the Wharf, Lubec
Kelco Industries, Milbridge
Kennedy Marine Engineering, Steuben
Machias Savings Bank, Machias
Maine Blackfly Breeders Association, Machias
Monica's Chocolates, Lubec
Peacock House Bed & Breakfast, Lubec
Phillips Investments, Lubec
The Talbot House Inn, East Machias
Viking, Inc., Machias & Milbridge
West Falls Surveying, Machias

Photo Contest

The Votes Are In!

Congratulations to the winners of DCC's inaugural "Inspired by Nature" photo contest! This summer's enthusiastic participants from across the area submitted their very best photos taken at DCC properties or events. From the rolling waters of Reversing Falls in Pembroke and the iconic Downeast views along the Machias River Preserve to the curious wildlife enjoying Mowry Beach in Lubec and the vast, starry night sky of Pigeon Hill in Steuben, each and every photo submission was truly inspiring! Look for the winning photos in each category throughout this newsletter and visit our website to check out the rest of the contest finalists. A complete photo gallery of all the photo submissions is available on our Facebook page.

DCC Seeks Accreditation

This fall and winter, DCC staff and volunteers will be engaged in a rigorous application process to become accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTAC). Through this process, the land trust ensures that our policies and practices are up to nationally recognized standards. We will be submitting our application in April 2017 and expect to complete the review process sometime later in the year. Although it isn't required that a land trust become accredited, DCC feels that having our internal processes approved by LTAC will provide assurances that DCC uses our member's dollars in the most efficient and transparent manner possible. More information to come as we go through the process!



"Billions and Billions"
by Craig Snapp
Pigeon Hill, Steuben
People's Choice Award
Winner & 1st Place
Landscape

Become an Outreach Volunteer!

Share Your Passion, Showcase Your Talent

Another brilliant summer has come and gone in Downeast Maine. Autumn is now here and the crisp, morning air demands you leave the house with an extra layer. Perhaps the changing weather even has your mind wandering towards thoughts of a nice, cozy winter. For many, this is a time of reflection on all that has transpired in the past year and anticipation for the possibilities that next year could bring. That is certainly the case here at DCC!

This past year we hosted 25 recreational and educational programs across the area, including guided hikes and group paddles, themed community events (like Snow Day and Applefest), and a number of educational youth outings. With a small staff of just 2.5 employees, none of that would have been possible without the dedicated support of outreach volunteers!

What is an Outreach Volunteer?

An outreach volunteer with DCC is an individual that helps to raise awareness about the value of the unique natural resources we have right here in the Downeast region. They volunteer their time, energy and wisdom in service of their communities to highlight the importance of having places where we can connect with nature. Many of our outreach volunteers are also members of the Outreach Committee. Together they organize and staff events, share stories, lead recreational outings, teach their trade and, among many other things, inspire more people to get involved!

What Does an Outreach Volunteer Look Like?

You! You don't have to be a Maine Master Naturalist to get involved (although if you are, we'd love to hear from you!). Perhaps you're a teacher, artist, fisherman, forest ranger? Whatever your passion, share it with the community! We're always looking for new ways to create opportunities for people to interact with nature and nurture their love of the land.

Interested in Getting Involved?

That's great! Please contact Holly at 207-255-4500 or Holly@DowneastCoastalConservancy.org to learn more about DCC outreach and share your ideas.



Applefest 2016 at Klondike Mountain



DCC volunteer, Bill Cherry, leads a hike at Machias River Preserve



Enjoying sunset from the summit of Pigeon Hill



Snow Day at Middle River Park

Winter Preview

Winter is approaching, and with it snow and freezing temperatures. The wood stove is busy at work while the rest of us become more sedentary, with some even putting outdoor leisure activities on hiatus altogether. We at DCC recognize the challenges of staying active in winter, so we continue to offer opportunities for recreation. Hibernation sounds like a fitting natural alternative, but the woods call at all times of year.

DCC staff and volunteers organize many activities and events throughout the winter to keep you outdoors and active, including regular snowshoe outings and impromptu sledding parties at Middle River Park in Machias. This winter, the Park will also play host to the second annual

Snow Day, our biggest event of the season. Be sure to check on the progress of our planned expansion of this year's new cross-country ski trail.

Staff will also schedule guided animal tracking activities for those interested in learning more about winter ecology. Fresh snowfall offers plenty of excitement for the amateur forensic scientist. One can identify tracks of snowshoe hares, coyotes, moose, and many others on the trails of DCC's winter access preserves, and, with the aid of a trained eye, reproduce the events that take place in winter's bitter struggle for survival.

Will you explore the trails this winter? There is much joy and beauty to be found in the fragrance of the firs and cedars, the sound of squirrels gnawing

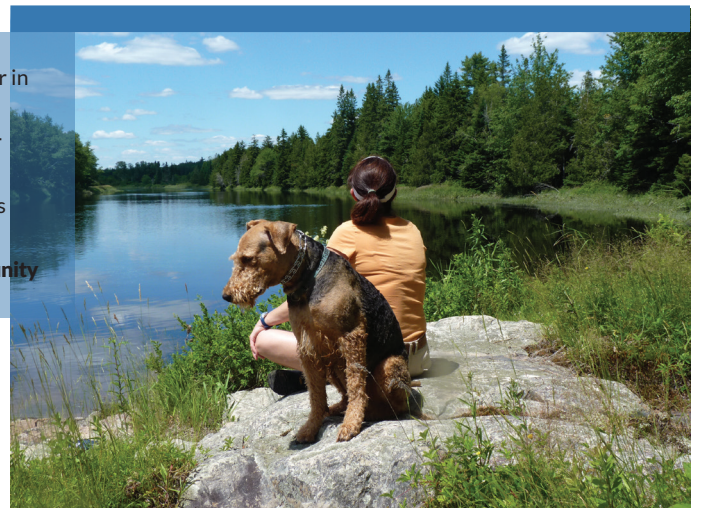
into frosted acorns and pine cones, and the sight of the snow-covered wonderland that we find Downeast. Parking lots are maintained at five of our preserves across coastal Washington County throughout the season. Pick up or download a copy of our popular Winter Access Guide for more information. Then bundle up, grab a hot cocoa, and join us for an outdoor adventure!

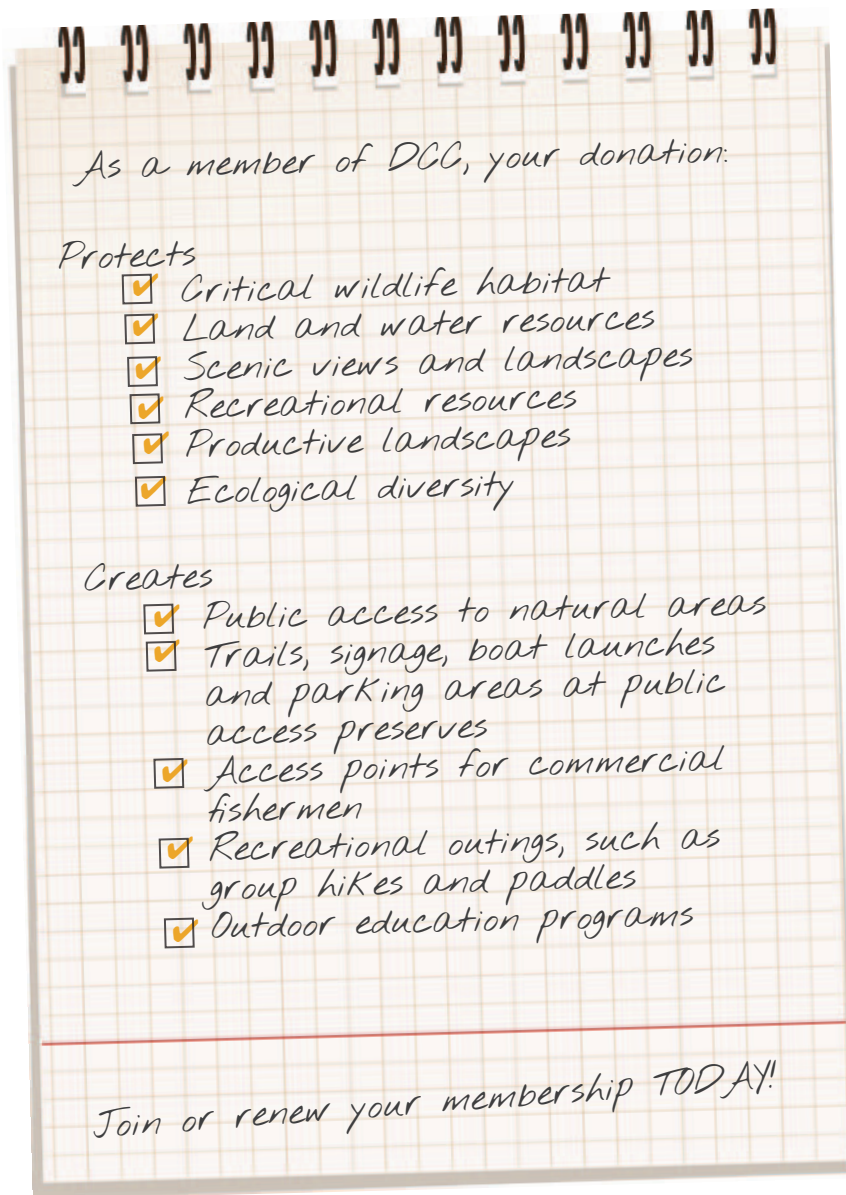
Winter activities are difficult to plan in advance thanks to unpredictable weather and snow conditions. Please watch our Facebook page or the events calendar on our website (www.DowneastCoastalConservancy.org/events-calendar) for notice of upcoming events.



"Mushroom"
by Colin Brown
Reversing Falls, Pembroke
Photo Contest
1st Place, Close-up

"We Love Summer in Maine"
by Lynn Gallagher
Machias River Preserve, Machias
Phot Contest
1st Place, Community





**New to the Board
Welcome New Board
Director, Thad Dolley!**



Thad is a long time resident of the Machias area and currently resides in Machias. His home on the north side of the village nearly abuts DCC's Middle River Park. He has two children (ages 21 & 18) and a stepchild (17). He is a graduate of John Bapst Memorial High School in Bangor, has a BS in Accounting from University of Maine at Machias, an MS in Business from Husson University in Bangor and graduated from ACB's (America's Community Bankers) National School of Banking.

Thad has been employed at Machias Savings Bank for 20 years where he is currently Vice President, Credit Risk. Thad has served on several non-profit Boards in the past in various capacities, including President, Treasurer and Finance Committees. He enjoys golfing, walking and spending time with family. While Thad is new to conservation, he has expressed interest in learning more and becoming involved in DCC's community oriented conservation activities.

Downeast Coastal Conservancy

Board of Directors

Ellen Hostert (President), Machias
 Kara McCrimmon (Vice President), Trescott
 Les Coleman (Treasurer), Addison
 Thad Dolley (Assistant Treasurer), Machias
 Sherrie Sprangers (Secretary), East Machias
 Roger Clapp (Assistant Secretary), Addison
 Julia Arnold, Whiting
 David Dowley, Roque Bluffs
 Jeremy Gabrielson, Cape Elizabeth
 Robert Miller, Beals
 Leslie Page, Addison
 Davis Pike, Lubec
 Bill Schlesinger, Lubec
 Dick Sturgeon, Steuben
 Helen Waite, Jonesport
 Mo Waite, Jonesport

Advisory Council

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

Staff

Rich Bard, Executive Director
 Holly Byers, Outreach Coordinator
 Tim Moffett, Land Steward



Members of DCC's Board of Directors and Staff

By Alan Brooks

Remembering Nancy Nielsen

(1930 - 2016)

Nancy moved to Washington County in 1980 after years as a “summer person.” By then she had been a school librarian, environmental educator, wildlife rehabilitator, naturalist, and operations manager for an art museum, among other things. She was also becoming an accomplished poet. Everything came together, one way or another, in her life here. Responding to threats to the ecological integrity of Cobscook Bay, in 1981 she co-founded the Straight Bay Association. In 1987, with speculative subdivision becoming rampant, she helped form the Quoddy Regional Land Trust. She served QRLT for more than 20 years as board member, volunteer staffer, and donor, with her husband Reinald, of land and easements.

Nancy was QRLT’s environmental conscience, occasional goad, and visionary. Her ability to network and to befriend conservation colleagues made her the proverbial “force multiplier,” increasing QRLT’s impact and drawing the help of larger organizations. She was patient but fearless when it came to pursuing projects and upholding conservation values. She was directly responsible for protecting her beloved Stone Man Farm in Lubec, the Dennys

River Sportsmen’s Club land on the Dennys River, and other properties. While fiercely loyal to QRLT and, after its formation, DCC, she was happy to see projects passed on to other organizations if that meant results. She seldom received, nor did she ask for, the credit she deserved, but she played a key role in shaping our region’s current conservation landscape.

Declining health forced Nancy to leave Stone Man Farm for Whiting in the last 5-plus years of her life and to withdraw from most activities. But she maintained her interest in DCC to the end and took immense satisfaction as she looked out her window at the new preserves and easements along the Orange River and as she thought of the conservation victories she had been part of. And she continued to write poetry full of her joy in life and the land and her sense of possibility. Since Nancy considered herself first and foremost an educator, I can’t help but read her final poem, printed here, as a kind of teaching. Nancy reminds us that, above all else, we should stay curious, engaged, and connected with the world, especially the natural world. As she said in her poem, “Spring Tide,” “it is no small thing to live in a holy place.” She held that awareness to the end.



Oh, Who’d Leave This World

*When the wind
that wind
wind from the sea
salt and wrack
lifting the meadow grass
ghosting with fog*

*or where
racket of crows
caw and caw
dipping
into the wind*

*Who’d set aside the book
this book any book
so filled with life
book on the table*

*Side by side
we talk of the stories
wind from the south*

*The wind outside
salt marsh wind
wind from the sea*

who?

*Nancy Nielsen
Straight Bay*



“Common Yellowthroat”
by Colin Brown
Mowry Beach, Lubec
**Photo Contest
1st Place, Wildlife**

In this issue

- **BikeMaine**
- **Winter Preview**
- **Photo Contest Winners**
- **DCC's Community Partners**
- **About Conservation Easements**
- **Remembering a Conservation Leader**
- **Volunteer Opportunities**



DOWNEAST
COASTAL
CONSERVANCY

PO Box 760
Machias, ME 04654

www.DowneastCoastalConservancy.org

info@DowneastCoastalConservancy.org

Telephone: (207) 255-4500

Facebook: [facebook.com/DowneastCoastalConservancy](https://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.

Printed on recycled paper.