I f you’ve lived in Downeast Maine for many years, you’ve probably noticed some of the changes in our region caused by rising global temperatures. The ten-year average temperature in Maine has risen by more than 3 degrees Fahrenheit since 1895, rising faster than the average global temperature. Thanks to quirks in the geography of the Gulf of Maine, we are feeling the effects here more than other areas of the planet. According to the National Climate Data Center, the higher temperatures have led to more frequent and intense precipitation events—blizzards and intense rainstorms—punctuated by periods of drought. As the ocean absorbs excess greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere, seawater is also becoming more acidic along our coasts.

The change in climate is already affecting both people and natural resources in the region. Not all the changes are harmful, but they will require us to adapt to a new normal as the climate continues to warm. Fortunately, there’s a lot we can do to withstand the changes and keep our coastline and communities strong. The increase in precipitation and periodic droughts pose a significant threat to the well-being of Downeast natural and human communities. With more storms, we are getting more frequent storm surges, rising waters pushed by storm winds. A surge can inundate and damage low-lying roads, homes, and infrastructure, and floodwaters can scour away wetlands. When a storm surge meets an overland flood from rain-swollen rivers, devastating
floods can ensue. Storm surge scenario maps created at the University of Maine at Machias, along with studies done by Maine Department of Transportation and the National Weather Service, show that some Downeast areas are especially vulnerable to such floods. For instance, in downtown Machias, the dike, much of Main Street, and the wastewater treatment plant are at increasing risk for flood damage as storms become more frequent and stronger. Clam flats and wetlands in Machias Bay may be damaged by rising waters, too.

The adjacent flood scenario model depicts what had been considered a “100-year flood,” more accurately described as having a 1% probability of occurring each year. However, climate models suggest that by the end of the 21st century or sooner such floods will have a 5% probability of occurring each year. At the same time, sea levels are expected to rise at least three to six feet in that time, raising floodwaters even higher.

Of course, the Downeast Region is highly dependent on resource-based industries such as fishing, forestry and farming. Each of these industries is affected by climate forces and will continue to change in the coming decades. Due to warming temperatures, lobsters are migrating at different times, and harmful algae blooms and wastewater contamination cause shell fishing closures. New pests boosted by warmer, wetter weather affect blueberries and several tree species in the region.

Land conservation can play a crucial role in helping the region adapt to climate-related changes. Wetlands and open floodplains along river corridors can absorb pollutants and slow floodwaters and minimize damage to roads and infrastructure. As sea levels rise, coastal wetlands must rise as well, so finding and conserving upland areas for saltmarsh migration will be important in the coming decades. Land trusts can conserve unique habitats and species at risk due to climate change and may facilitate migration to new areas.

These are just a few of many local impacts of climate change. To learn more about how climate change is affecting our region and options for adapting, check out the Washington County Climate Vulnerability Assessment developed under the Grow Washington-Aroostook Project at http://www.gro-wa.org.

**Calling All Shutterbugs!**

We are now accepting submissions for this year’s photo contest. Send us your best shots for a chance to win a Helen’s Restaurant gift certificate. Please visit our website for entry details and contest rules.

**Membership Drive**

We are launching a new member drive and invite you to join in! As a current member you can help us raise awareness about the importance of protecting open spaces and land conservation in Washington County by encouraging your friends, neighbors and colleagues to become DCC members too.

Every new member, along with the person who referred them to DCC, will be entered in our raffle. The raffle prizes are a painting by our own Robert Miller and an overnight at The Peacock House Bed and Breakfast in Lubec.

With a goal of 100 new members by August 31, we cannot do it without your help to spread the message and inspire others to join.

Remember that membership in DCC is just a minimum donation of $35.

New members can complete the enclosed form or sign-up online. Just have them note you as their referral source. Questions can be answered by contacting the DCC office.
For thirty years, Downeast Coastal Conservancy (in the form of Quoddy Regional Land Trust and Great Auk Land Trust prior to their merger in 2009) has been responding to changing needs and ecological pressures with a goal of protecting Downeast Maine’s wild character.

Our 76 conserved properties each have a unique set of features that warranted protection. Many properties in Cobscook Bay and Pleasant Bay from our early years focused on protection of land around mudflats and estuaries used by black ducks and other waterfowl as they endure the winters here in the southern part of their range. We also joined in on efforts to protect bald eagle nesting territories as our national bird climbed from just a couple dozen pairs in Cobscook Bay to repopulate the entire eastern seaboard and eventually achieve national recovery. The amazing diversity of life in salt and freshwater marshes, rivers, and streams motivated us to protect dozens of properties to ensure that at least some of these habitats remain undeveloped and with minimal human impact into the future.

Still other lands were conserved with a more explicit and immediate human benefit. Many of our conservation easements, which are properties that are still privately owned but under a permanent agreement to conserve the land, protect scenic shorelines of lakes and rivers for the benefit of people recreating on the water. Finally, we have the dozen or so properties that are improved for public access with a range of hiking trails, boardwalks, canoe or kayak launches and winter snowshoe access. This last category of public access preserves gets most of the attention in our newsletters and social media, but it is important to keep in mind the full suite of lands that DCC has protected since 1987.

Now, we look forward to the next chapter of conservation. While we continue to expand public access and protection of sensitive habitats of many types, we will place a special emphasis on lands that have the ability to help species, including humans, adapt and respond to climate change. While some people may disagree about the causes of climate change, it is indisputable that the sea is and will continue to rise. Average annual temperatures are and will continue to rise. Storms have and will continue to grow more frequent and intense. DCC will use the best information available to us to protect land that will continue to be ecologically important into the future. We will have much more information about this emerging conservation strategy as it develops.

On our 30th anniversary, we are thankful for all of the amazing work that our members, volunteers, boards of directors and staff have accomplished. Together, we have built an amazing organization that is poised to take on new conservation challenges and continue to steward the special places in our care.

Since 1987 and into the future...

Rich Bard
Executive Director
Rich@DowneastCoastalConservancy.org

Bad Little Trail Run

We’re so excited to host our first ever trail running event! DCC is partnering with the Sunrise Athletic Club, a local group of outdoor recreation enthusiasts, to host the Bad Little Trail Run on October 1st at Machias River Preserve.

Starting and ending in historic Whitneyville, participants of all ages and abilities can sign-up for a 6 mile or 2.5 mile course that follows the Machias River and winds through the preserve’s forested trails. You can help celebrate conservation in our community by walking, running, volunteering or simply cheering on participants at this event! Registration opens July 1st.
You may have heard that DCC now owns 37 preserves across coastal Washington County; but who is really there to make sure that these unique places are cared for? DCC staff are always on the watch for any issues or developments on our properties, but our growing network of Chief Stewards often serve as one of our best resources for understanding, improving, and protecting our lands. Chief Stewards essentially volunteer to ‘adopt’ one or several DCC properties and get the opportunity to develop an in-depth relationship with their chosen place(s). In addition to conducting an annual monitoring visit and ensuring their property is well maintained, Chief Stewards are often involved with writing and updating management plans and helping set stewardship priorities on their property. Volunteering with DCC at this level really gives Chief Stewards an invitation to develop practical skills in preserve management and a chance to see what conservation looks like behind-the-scenes through becoming familiar with the history of their property, the management plan, the terms of the deed, location of the boundary lines, and the natural features they help protect. Craig Snapp has been DCC’s Pigeon Hill Chief Steward for 9 years and has found this to experience to be both very rewarding and fun. I recently spoke with Craig to learn more about his path to becoming a Chief Steward and any tips he may have for anyone interested in being a Chief Steward on a DCC property.

Q. When did you become the Chief Steward at Pigeon Hill and what sparked your initial interest?
A. I’ve been the Chief Steward at the Pigeon Hill Preserve since 2009 which has been a labor of love and a lot of fun. I first saw the fantastic views up there in 1967 when my wife Barbara was introducing me to the wonders of Downeast Maine. We’ve had a summer home on the western base of Pigeon Hill since 1995 so I would visit the hill and its surrounding lands often. It was natural for me to become heavily involved in the campaign that lead to the acquisition of the preserve by DCC between 2007 and 2010.

Q. Did you have any conservation volunteer experience before volunteering with DCC?
A. I did have some experience. I retired from a career in Silicon Valley in 2000 and moved to Maine in 2003. As a volunteer I had provided GIS mapping support for a major project with The Nature Conservancy in California and provided GIS, GPS and landscape photography support for several years to the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the Great Auk Land Trust (GALT) and the Downeast Salmon Federation (DSF).

Q. What kinds of land stewardship skills have you had the opportunity to learn/develop while working at Pigeon Hill?
A. Learning about the natural resources of the preserve has been important for developing the interpretive signage along the trail system. I’ve also taken workshops on trail design and maintenance best practices. My knowledge and skills with mapping and GPS tracking have also advanced as the trail system at Pigeon Hill has grown.

Q. What kinds of advice would you give to anyone interested in becoming a DCC Chief Steward?
A. Being a Chief Steward can be a fun and very satisfying volunteer activity. It should be viewed as a serious responsibility with a multiyear commitment. You should take time and endeavor to learn best practices from the DCC staff and other preserve stewards.

Q. Can you describe one of your most memorable experiences at Pigeon Hill?
A. I have enjoyed helping to lead the annual moonrise and sunset hikes and plan to continue with that as well. I fondly remember working with volunteers and local school groups on trail building projects, and introducing my grandkids to the...
Forest Management at the Machias River Preserve

The Machias River Preserve, in addition to its nearly 6 miles of hiking trails and 3 miles of river frontage, is the home of the Machias River Community Forest. This 900 acre stand of trees has a long history of logging and human impact, including several old pastures and a farm that was abandoned in the mid-1900s. In 2014, DCC drafted a Forest Management Plan to guide our management of the forest. The stated objective of the plan is “to promote and enhance a diverse forest property, one which will provide continual sociological and ecological benefits to the residents of Machias, Marshfield, and Whitneyville, surrounding communities, and the entire region.”

In late 2016, the town of Machias informed DCC that a number of tall trees in a small section of the property actually extend into FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) airspace and present a hazard to departing or landing aircraft at the Machias Valley Regional Airport, which is immediately across the Machias River from the DCC preserve. After serious and due consideration of our options, DCC decided to undertake a timber harvest to accommodate the town’s need for a clear approach to the airport.

To do this, we asked our forester to amend the management plan for this roughly 20 acre patch of woods to create a harvest prescription that balances the needs of the airport with forest health and aesthetic impacts on the hiking trail. Trees adjacent to the trail were “topped” by a local arborist who climbed the trees and pruned them down to an acceptable height to avoid having large stumps right along the trail. In February, a local timber harvesting company carried out the rest of the harvest on frozen and snow covered ground to minimize impacts to the forest floor. They were very sensitive to our ecological and aesthetic concerns, and were careful about avoiding damage to unharvested trees and minimizing the visual impacts to the hiking trail. We are grateful to David Irving of Shelterwood Forest Solutions, Nor’east Tree Care, and Guittill’s Logging.

The town of Machias understood that removing trees from our preserve was a sensitive topic and they were patient as we worked through the process of incorporating their needs into our own goal of managing a healthy and diverse forest. In the end, we built a closer working relationship with Machias, which issued the following statement: “The Town is very grateful for the friendly and helpful cooperation from DCC in our Airport Obstruction Removal Project. The Town is required by the FAA to ensure clearance zones for the safety of airplane traffic through the removal and maintenance of trees in the approach areas. DCC staff was very professional and worked closely with the Town to ensure the project moved forward at a steady pace. Their assistance allowed the Town to accomplish our goals in a timely manner. Thank you to everyone at DCC.”

Hikers on the Machias River Heritage Trail will undoubtedly notice the harvested areas adjacent to the first half-mile of trail, but we know that nature will take control with a flurry of growth and activity in the new clearings. Over the next few years we can expect to see more harvesting at the Machias River Preserve, with a continued focus on enhancing the health of the forest and contributing to the community.

For more info about DCC’s plans for timber management, contact Executive Director Rich Bard.
2017 Summer Calendar

This summer’s schedule of events was designed to create opportunities for you to EXPLORE DCC’s conserved lands, ENGAGE with others in nature and EXPERIENCE something new!

For more details on each of our events, please visit our website, sign-up for our e-newsletter, follow us on Facebook or contact Holly.

Holly Byers
Outreach Director
207-255-4500
Holly@DowneastCoastalConservancy.org

Saturday, June 3rd
DCC Annual Plant Sale
11am – 1pm / 352 Route 1, Whiting (The old QRLT office). You can support this event by donating plants for sale. Contact the office to learn how!

Friday, June 9th
Full Moonrise Hike
7:30pm / Pike Lands Conservation Area, Lubec.

Wednesday, June 14th
Tide Mill Creek Group Hike
5:30pm / Tide Mill Creek Preserve, Jonesboro.

Wednesday, June 21st
Intro to Kayaking Workshop
Led by Rob Scribner, Maine Guide and Owner of Sunrise Canoe and Kayak
5:30pm / Middle River Park, Machias
This is a FREE workshop but registration is required. Please contact Sunrise Canoe & Kayak at (207) 255-3375 to register for a boat (limited number available).

Sunday, June 25th
Annual Membership Meeting & Community Picnic
2pm – 6pm / Roque Bluffs State Park, Roque Bluffs.

Thursday, July 6th*
Pike Lands Beach Clean-Up
Time TBD / Pike Lands, Lubec
*Weather dependent, rain date Friday, July 7th

Saturday, July 8th
Guided Paddle on the Machias River (Whitneyville to Machias)
Led by Rob Scribner, Maine Guide and Owner of Sunrise Canoe and Kayak
Register directly with Sunrise Canoe & Kayak at (207) 255-3375 to reserve your spot at a discounted rate of $55.

Sunday, July 9th
Walk & Talk: Wild Flower & Tree ID
Led by Dr. Sherrie Sprangers, UMM Professor of Biology
5:30pm / Middle River Park, Machias

Saturday, July 15th
Orange River Paddle & Estey Mountain Hike (Bring Your Own Boat)
10:00am / Reynolds Marsh, Whiting

Sunday, July 23rd
Fairy Festival
10am - 3pm / Long House Farm, Jonesport
(Registration Required)

Thursday, August 3rd
Pleasant River Paddle (Bring Your Own Boat)
9am – 11am / Columbia Falls to Addison
(Registration Required)

Sunday, August 6th
Full Moonrise Hike
6:30pm / Pigeon Hill Preserve, Steuben

Wednesday, August 16th
Walk & Talk: Climate Change
Led by Dr. Tora Johnson, UMM Associate Professor of Geographic Information Systems
5:30pm / Middle River Park, Machias

Fri/Sat/Sun, August 18th – 20th
Machias Wild Blueberry Festival
Come visit our booth on Fri & Sat to vote for the photo contest winner!
9am – 5pm / Machias

Saturday, August 26th
Reversing Falls Group Hike
2pm / Reversing Falls Preserve, Pembroke

Saturday, September 9th
Walk & Talk: Logging History of the Machias River
Led by Bill Cherry, Retired Forester
9am / Machias River Preserve, Machias

Sunday, October 1st
Bad Little Trail Run
Machias River Preserve, Machias

SAVE THE DATE
August 30th, 2017
DCC 30th Anniversary Celebration
6,330 acres. 76 properties. 61 miles of coastline.
But what’s next? Join us for an evening celebration, featuring a lineup of speakers to help illustrate DCC’s conservation strategy moving forward.
Thank you DCC’s Community Partners in Conservation

Spotlight on Helen’s Restaurant

If you’ve ever popped into Helen’s Restaurant in Machias for a cozy sit-down meal or a slice of pie, chances are you’ve seen the smiling faces of the hardworking owners, Julie and David Barker. The Barkers have been DCC supporters for years and were thrilled to enroll Helen’s Restaurant as a charter member of the Community Partners in Conservation program.

While chatting about the natural beauty of the Washington County coast, Julie stated, “We love this land.” Just this past winter, Julie and David walked around Middle River Park, reflecting on their youth in Machias and their ties to the land. Three years ago, after the restaurant burned down, walks along the river at the Machias River Preserve provided a much needed sanctuary for the couple. As business owners in the community, the Barkers recognize that “It’s important to keep people local. Having those places (Middle River Park and Machias River Preserve) certainly help to do just that.”

“In my heart I’m still climbing trees, but at my age I just can’t do certain things alone anymore. It means so much to me to be able to go out and walk the land and paddle the rivers as part of a group with DCC.”
- Nancy, DCC Member

Spotlight on Kelco Industries

When we kicked off our Community Partners program last summer, we were looking for local businesses in Washington County that supported the community value of land conservation and weren’t afraid to lead by example. As our very first enrolled member, Kelco Industries, fits that role to a tee. A family owned and operated business, Kelco has been serving the Christmas tree and wreath industry since 1955. Visitors can also pop into the company’s retail shop located at their headquarters in Milbridge to stock up on wreath-making materials and other craft supplies. Thank you, Kelco Industries, for your commitment to protecting Maine’s wild places!

Your support is needed for Land for Maine’s Future

Downeast Coastal Conservancy and Land for Maine’s Future (LMF) are both celebrating our 30th anniversaries in 2017. In that time, LMF has funding for several of DCC’s most cherished conservation successes—protecting wildlife habitat and ensuring public access to wild places. To ensure the continuation of this important program, need to hear that their constituents value the role of state government in land conservation. Please take a moment to look at www.landformainesfuture.org to see the many special places conserved with LMF’s help and let your legislators know that you support the program.

Next time you enjoy one of these treasured places, thank LMF and the people of Maine for consistently voting to approve LMF bonds:
- Pigeon Hill (Steuben)
- Ingersoll Point (Addison)
- Mowry Beach (Lubec)
- Pike Lands (Lubec)
- Alan Brooks Salt Ponds Preserve (Lubec)
Hello from the DCC staff!

If you’ve stopped by the office lately, chances are you’ve seen a few new faces! In November, we welcomed our new Land Steward, Matt Scaccia. Last fall, Cat Cannon also joined the team to assist in DCC’s accreditation application submittal. Outreach Director, Holly Byers, welcomed her son, Clayton, into the world in October, and is back at the front desk now ready to greet you. Our fearless leader and Executive Director, Rich Bard, continues to be the glue that holds it all together! If you haven’t had a chance to meet any of these fine folks yet, please pop in for a visit or join us at any of our events!

In Memory of Mo Waite

DCC suffered a heavy blow over the winter with the untimely passing of Mo Waite. Mo, along with his wife Helen, has been an active member of the Board of Directors of DCC and Great Auk Land Trust (prior to 2009) since 2003. Among many ways Mo has contributed to DCC over the years, he was most recently a member of the Stewardship Committee and Lands Committee and played an active role in preparing DCC to apply for accreditation. Mo was instrumental in conserving several significant parcels on Maine’s coast, but was also very helpful in little ways – building signs, creating bird houses for children to assemble as their own, and playing the role of King of the Forest in DCC’s annual Fairy Festival.

Mo and Helen first bought land in Washington County in 1986 and have lived here five months each year since then. The rest of their time has been spent in North Carolina, where Mo was Professor Emeritus in the Duke University Department of Biochemistry and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Eagle’s Nest Foundation. We will all miss Mo’s gentle presence, his wise counsel and his wonderful sense of humor.

Downeast Coastal Conservancy Board of Directors
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Tora Johnson, Machias
Craig Snapp, Steuben

“It was such fun for Dick to participate in a bit of trail creation and for me to kayak Middle River with Holly and David and the others – we look forward to more participation.”

- Dick & Peg,
DCC Members
In the Works
By Matt D. Scaccia

DCC has an ambitious and productive year planned ahead for improving our properties and enhancing public access and recreation. With so many new projects in the works, we are excited to share what we have planned ahead across coastal Washington County.

In Addison: A joint stewardship work day with the Maine Island Trail Association is planned for June 23rd at Tibbett Island to undertake some invasive species control, improve some of the existing trails, and clean up debris that has washed up onshore. At Marsh Island, the recently created access trail will be marked and a main parking area will be established for the property.

In Jonesboro: Over the past couple of years, Tide Mill Creek has been largely closed to visitors due to multiple families of beavers damming a stream and flooding the access trail. We have found a way to reopen the preserve and coexist with the beavers. Volunteer naturalist Wally Muth is developing an educational sign that highlights the ecological influence the beavers have had there. A new parking area was constructed at Tide Mill Creek last fall and provides improved access to the property. Plans are also underway to upgrade the hiking trails and encourage more public use of this interesting property.

In Machias and Whitneyville: A new series of interpretive signs will be added to the Machias River Preserve and will feature information on a wide variety of topics including the natural, historical, and cultural features of the area. This property and the river are a truly inspiring place to study nature and develop an understanding of our local history. Trail improvements have been ongoing even throughout the winter and several new bridges have been added. DCC is also working to construct a parking area for the Downeast Sunrise Trail in Whitneyville. At Middle River Park there are plans to improve the hand-carry boat launch for easier loading and unloading of canoes and kayaks. Plans are also underway to extend one of the trails onto a colonial-era ‘berm’ located on the shore of Middle River which will provide access to a unique point of solitude in the park. Two major upcoming projects will include clearing areas of overgrown alders to restore portions of the former pasture.

In Lubec: An energetic group of University of Maine at Machias botany students have been spearheading recent trail clearing and other improvements at the Pike Lands. These students have also been working to develop a management plan for the unique horticultural species that Dr. Radcliffe Pike originally planted on the property in the 1960s. DCC is partnering with the Maine Island Trail Association for a shore cleanup on the property on July 6th. At Mowry Beach, a new interpretive panel will be featured on the signboard as you enter the beach. Volunteers also continue to make improvements to the arboretum at Klondike Mountain Preserve.

In Pembroke: Trail improvements are ongoing at the Reversing Falls Preserve. Visitors will experience improved views thanks to some trail improvements over the winter. New signs will also be coming later this year.

In Cooper: Road access was improved at our Gilman Dam property in 2016 and new directional signage will be installed this year to direct visitors to our boat access point on a remote section of the Dennys River.

If you are 5-13 years old, love the old growth fir forest by “shamrock moss stream”, love to be in fairy magic, to act and stage a woodland play; then come be with a group of playmaker soul-mates. This year’s production is “The Royal Egg” and the near demise of the fairy kingdom.

Our day, 10AM to 3PM, July 23, in Longhouse Woods also includes cake baking, fairy house building, costuming, the play and cast party, for boys and girls. Bring your own picnic, your own adult, and your creative self.

Registration opens June 7. Please contact Helen at (207) 497-5734 to reserve your spot.

Fairy Festival fills up rapidly. This is a FREE event and limited to 20 playmakers.
Thank you to our 2016 Donors!

By donating to Downeast Coastal Conservancy you are ensuring that our woods, waters and wild places are conserved for generations to come. You are creating opportunities for people to connect to and learn from nature. You are giving voice to the voiceless, by protecting the habitats for numerous animal and plant life. When you donate to Downeast Coastal Conservancy YOU are making a difference. We simply cannot say it enough, thank you for your support!

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Our numbers are growing! Please welcome new members listed in bold.

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In Honor of Linda Dole and Correne George  
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In Honor of Rich Bard  
In Honor of Riet Zwiep  
In Honor of Robert and Jewell Miller  
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In Memory of Francis Schumann  
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In Memory of Marty Metz  
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In Memory of Mary Nielsen  
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In Honor of Dr. Francis Schumann and Mrs. Hilda Schumann  
In Honor of Dr. Susan J. Hobbies  
In Honor of Janis McEvoy  
In Honor of Karin Wagner and Bernard Mohr  
In Honor of Les Coleman  

All attempts have been made to ensure this list’s accuracy. We apologize for any errors.
You’re Invited!

2017 Annual Meeting & Potluck Picnic
Sunday, June 25th, 2:00pm – 6:00pm
Roque Bluffs State Park
Entertainment by the UMM Ukulele Club
This year marks the 30th anniversary of DCC. We hope you can join us at the Annual Meeting where we’ll reflect on what led us here and discuss what’s next for DCC! Following the opening meeting, we’ll share a potluck picnic and enjoy the tunes of the UMM Ukulele Club. Please bring a dish to share and consider bringing someone new along to introduce to DCC. Family friendly and all are welcome!