

by Roger Clapp, Dec Board of Directors

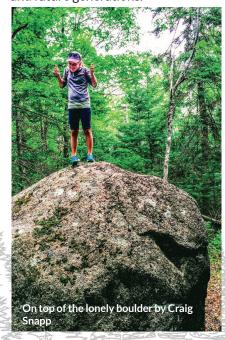
he Board and Staff of the Downeast Coastal Conservancy are pleased to announce that on February 15, 2018 the **Downeast Coastal Conservancy** achieved national recognition as an accredited land trust through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTAC), joining 398 accredited land trusts across the nation. Achieving accreditation means that DCC has demonstrated its commitment to national best practices standards for nonprofit management and land conservation excellence. Being able to display the seal of accreditation means that DCC deserves the public's trust in DCC's delivery of high quality, permanent land conservation work.

The process of becoming accredited required DCC to make a significant commitment in time, lasting over three years, and money. DCC undertook a rigorous review and revision of all of DCC's policies and practices, and provided extensive documentation in an application which filled

three large three-ring binders. The LTAC examined DCC's accreditation application, interviewed DCC and evaluated multiple sources of information. To become accredited, DCC successfully demonstrated its compliance with each of the twenty-six accreditation indicator practices based on LTA's Land Trust Standards and Practices, a set of ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust.

The LTAC is an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), the national land conservation organization, which represents 1,000 member land trusts and 4.6 million members nationwide. LTAC's award of accreditation to DCC recognizes DCC's commitment to sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible nonprofit governance, permanent stewardship of its conservation properties, and continuous quality improvement in its work as a land trust. To continue to meet national standards, DCC will have to renew its accreditation status every five years.

The arduous process of becoming accredited made DCC a stronger organization. Accreditation will result in even greater confidence in DCC by our members, donors, partners and communities. Accreditation confirms DCC's capacity to conserve special lands in Downeast Maine for present and future generations.



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A Note from the Executive Director

By Jon Southerr

"Is there a more worthwhile legacy we can leave than ensuring our magnificent natural wonders are protected for many generations to come?"

aving only served as DCC's Executive Director for a few weeks one thing above all else is apparent, the fact that DCC has achieved so much for a moderately sized land trust in rural Maine. What stands out most of all is that this incredible work is due to the selfless commitment, passion, and determination of our volunteers, members, and donors. Without the contributions of our supporters, DCC could not have achieved so much toward our conservation goals, which are so vital to so many aspects of life in a natural resource based economy such as Washington County.

As spring is upon us, it reminds us of many of the reasons we choose to call Downeast our home. The warmth of the sun as it rises on our beautiful and diverse landscapes, the flora and fauna of spring, the diversity of our wildlife and whitetail deer grazing in the fields and birds appearing with their cheerful song quickly reminds us that a wonderful summer is almost upon us. All of these amazing sights and sounds of spring remind us of how lucky we are to enjoy such beauty in nature here. As we carry on about our increasingly busy lives in these times of modern

technology and its many distractions, it is easy to take the wonders of our natural environment for granted. It is quite easy to forget that our natural world is a complex puzzle working in a symbiotic harmony that can easily be damaged by our simplest of actions, ultimately one which can be impossible to rebuild if we lose the pieces to that puzzle. Having moved to Maine from England in 2001, it was apparent from the moment I arrived in Maine that unlike much of the UK, we still have an opportunity here in Maine to protect much of our natural environment.

We are in a unique position here in Washington County where we have the last remaining 100 miles or so of relatively undeveloped Atlantic Seaboard watershed. We still have a chance to protect that which is so critical to our way of life and our rural economy. We may possibly be the last generation able to save such a threatened resource. Increasing threats from development, climate change and associated weather patterns, and political threats to land trusts and conservation, all elevate the importance of our critical mission here at DCC.

In my role, I will never lose sight of the reality

that our critical work in conservation must be a never ending effort, however this effort is only possible with our network of supporters. Is there a more worthwhile legacy we can leave than ensuring our magnificent natural wonders are protected for many generations to come?

I ask that you continue support of DCC's work and take some time to enjoy the properties you have helped to protect. Pack a lunch, bring your friends and family, and make time for yourself. Lose yourself in the wonders of our properties! Lastly, be proud of the fact that we have protected these lands because of supporters like you.

It is with the greatest pride that I now serve as Executive Director of DCC. Thank you and I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible, or seeing you out on the trails. We always welcome visitors to our office, or I can be reached at any time at (207) 214-5860.

How to Love a Beach...

We regularly get positive feedback from volunteers about their fulfilling experiences supporting the stewardship of our properties. Karen Burnett has been volunteering as a steward at Mowry Beach and—although she initially had some reservations—she has developed a special bond with the place.



group of us here in Washington County and Campobello Island were looking for an opportunity to put our beliefs into action and find a way to help care for the earth. We are a small group of Zen practitioners and decided to approach DCC and ask if we could help them in their care of one of their preserves in our lovely area. Rich Bard suggested that we help at Mowry Beach in Lubec—a place often used by local folks, clammers, and tourists. It suited our objective in helping care for Earth and so we began.

Now here's my confession...I'm from away. The beaches of Downeast are a far cry from the lush beaches I have known in Puerto Rice, Kenya, Mexico, Dominica, and Southern California. The sand at Mowry beach isn't even white and there are no lovely crashing breakers! In fact, there is no water at all at low tide, and it's a poor swimming spot. But the Zen group had adopted it and I happily joined in.

One of us attacked the broken boards of the boardwalk. One of us contacted a group of birdwatchers on Campobello Island who agreed to update us on their avian sightings. One brought grabbers to pry things out of sand and water. One found a trove of bags to fill with trash. One took the picked up trash to her local recycling station. We all cut and chopped weeds (defeated only by Japanese Knotweed). And we all picked up bottles, cigarette butts, plastic, sandwich wrappers, styrofoam, dog poop, shoes, boots, and of course, lobster claw bands.

So, after this experience do I love Mowry Beach now? Yes! I have read that caring for something brings you to love and appreciate it just for itself. I now love the tidal flats which are alive with life and beauty, including seaweed, sponges, clams, sea and marsh birds, and special wetland birds at the boardwalk. Caring for Mowry Beach regularly gives me the chance to see it in many forms. It's sometimes stormy, peaceful, windy, high tide, or low tide. Mowry Beach is every bit as lovely as those beaches at other places I know. Its connection to local history is also special through its history with the native tribes, the

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French and English explorers, the growth of the fishing and lumbering and shipping industries. In our days of being there as a group, I got to meet all sorts of local folk and tourists who enjoy and explore it too.

So, how do you learn to love a place? You get involved and take care of it!

Thanks to Rich and DCC for providing a place me to learn this firsthand.

Karen Burnett, member of Boundless Way Zen Downeast. Roque Bluffs, ME and Central, SC_

DCC Welcomes 4 Incoming Board Members

DCC is thrilled to welcome Cat Cannon, Becky Lee, Anne Baker, and Paul Reinstein to the DCC board! While each of them brings to the table a diverse background of knowledge, skills and experience; they all share a passion for the natural world. You can learn more about Cat, Becky, Anne, and Paul by visiting the DCC website.









Paul Reinstei

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2017 Community Partners in Conservation

As members of DCC's Community Partners in Conservation program, these businesses are helping to protect the natural landscapes and wild places that make Downeast Maine such a special place to live, work, and visit. Their commitment to the betterment of our local communities through conservation will create a lasting impact for generations to come. Please help us in thanking each one of these business owners and organizations for their generous support!

Camden National Bank, Machias Cohill's Inn, Lubec

Down East Community Hospital. Machias

EBS Building Supplies, Ellsworth Froese Title Research, LLC, Addison Helen's Restaurant, Machias Kennedy Marine Engineering, Steuben

Lubec Brewing Company, Lubec Machias Savings Bank, Machias Phillips Investments, Lubec Peacock House Bed & Breakfast, Lubec

Sunrise Canoe & Kayak, Machias Tom Hitchins Architecture, Steuben Viking, Inc., Machias & Milbridge Water Street Tavern, Lubec West Falls Surveying, Machias The Wharf on Johnson's Bay, Lubec Whitney Originals, Inc., Whitneyville

How Does DCC Protect Land?

By Matt D. Scaccia

DCC is focused on conserving lands that make Downeast Maine special and significantly benefits the public. Our specific goals include conserving lands that protect public access to natural areas, recreational resources, scenic views and landscapes, biological diversity and ecological corridors, serve as climate change mitigation projects, and support the productive working landscape of our region.



We work with willing landowners to protect lands either through accepting donations of land, purchasing land, or accepting donations of conservation easements. In each case, we work through voluntary relationships to develop the most appropriate conservation plan for their property. Deciding to conserve land requires thorough consideration of a landowner's interests for the future of their property as well as the financial and legal implications of entering into a conservation agreement. These various options we offer



may be an attractive opportunity for landowners who own property with significant conservation values but have no heirs, have inherited property they do not wish to own, have substantial real estate holdings, have property that supports the local productive landscape (ex. forestry, farming, fishing, etc.), or are simply motivated to protect a special place they own in Downeast Maine. Important steps that are regularly part of conveying a piece of property to a conservation organization include surveying the boundaries of the property, obtaining a professional appraisal of the real value of the property, and having an environmental hazard assessment conducted.

Our professional staff can help you decide if certain conservation option may be appropriate for you and your property.

For more information on any of these conservation options, please contact **DCC's Executive Director Jon Southern** at (207) 255-4500.

SAVE THE DATES!

Downeast Coastal Conservancy 2018 Summer Events Calendar

'Signs of Spring' Walk & Talk Saturday, May 12th Pike Lands, Lubec

DCC Annual Plant Sale Sunday, June 3rd Whiting

DCC Annual Membership Meeting & Community Picnic

Sunday, June 24th Roque Bluffs State Park

Machias River Preserve

Fairy Festival Sunday, July 15th Jonesport

2nd Annual Bad Little Trail Run Sunday, October 21st

Additional summer activities are in the works!

Keep up to date on all our events, news and volunteer opportunities by signing up for our e-newsletter, following us on Facebook or visiting our website at www.DowneastCoastalConservancy.org.

Your 2018 Guide to DCC's Public Access Properties

Whether you are on your first visit to Downeast Maine or have lived here many years, DCC offers access to diverse variety of lands always waiting to be explored.



Pigeon Hill stands as the highest coastal property in Washington County with an elevation of 317 feet. Steuben, ME.



Tide Mill Creek consists of a 225-acre forested peninsula featuring salt marsh, tidal inlets, and freshwater creeks and coastal views. Jonesboro, ME.



Mowry Beach Preserve provides convenient public access to one of the easternmost sandy beaches in the country. Lubec, ME.



Tibbett Island offers access to a truly wild and undeveloped Maine island only 600 feet from the mainland shore of Moose Neck. Addison, ME.



Middle River Park is located conveniently in near downtown Machias adjacent to the confluence of the Machias and Middle Rivers. Machias, ME.



Klondike Mountain offers a bald nubble summit with a nearly 360 degree view of the surrounding bay and landscape. Lubec, ME.



Machias River Preserve is steeped in local history and ecological diversity. The 917-acre preserve is the largest property that DCC has protected to date. Machias/Whitneyville, ME



Orange River Conservation Area protects one of the least developed coastal river systems remaining on the east coast and is ideal for day paddling. Whiting, ME.



Reversing Falls is situated between Dennys Bay and Cobscook Bay and provides spectacular views of the largest set of tidal falls on the Maine coast. Pembroke, ME.



Pike Lands offers scenic views of Eastport and points east as well as Cobscook Bay to the west and is located near the northernmost point in Lubec, ME.



Ingersoll Point features a vast diversity of mosses and lichens which carpet and encrust the forest floor across the 145-acre preserve with trails leading to sweeping coastal views. Addison, ME.

available for each of our properties on our website org (with printable maps & guides) and at mainetrailfinder.com/



More information is downeastcoastalconservancy.

Thank you to our 2017 Donors!

Our numbers are growing! Please welcome new members listed in bold. *All attempts have been made to ensure this list's accuracy. We apologize for any errors.

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Downeast Coastal Conservancy

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Public Access Property Guide Inside!

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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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You're Invited!

2018 Annual Meeting & Community Picnic

Sunday, June 24th, 2:00pm – 6:00pm Roque Bluffs State Park Entertainment by the UMM Ukulele Club

We hope you can join us at this year's annual meeting and community picnic. There will be plenty of new faces to meet and mingle with, including DCC's new Executive Director, Jon Southern and 4 new incoming board members. We'll kick off the afternoon with a brief meeting to update our members and guests on what's new at DCC, followed by a potluck picnic and entertainment by the UMM Ukulele Club.

This event will be held under the tent, rain or shine. Please bring a dish to share and consider bringing someone new along to introduce to DCC. Family friendly and all are welcome!