



Eider duck

Maine's Highest Court Rules Rockweed Belongs to Landowners

By Roger Clapp, DCC Board of Directors

On March 28, 2019, all seven Justices of Maine's Supreme Judicial Court ruled that rockweed growing in the intertidal portion of Maine's seacoast is the private property of the adjacent upland property owner.

The case was brought by brothers Kenneth Ross and Carl Ross who own intertidal property in Pembroke on Cobscook Bay and by Roque Island Gardner Homestead Corporation against Acadian Seaplants, a Canadian company that has been harvesting rockweed from Maine's coast for many years. The decision, which cannot be appealed, means that rockweed in the intertidal area is private property and cannot lawfully be harvested without the

upland property owner's permission. DCC filed a friend of the court brief in the case in support of the landowners because DCC has always taken the position that rockweed is private property and because DCC considers rockweed to be the keystone intertidal species that is vital to the survival of many marine organisms that find food and shelter in rockweed beds.

Since 1998 DCC has been concerned that rockweed harvesting adversely affects the marine ecosystem. In 2000 DCC submitted a petition to the Maine Department of Marine Resources signed by approximately 540 Maine residents urging a moratorium on commercial harvesting of rockweed in Cobscook

Bay. Subsequently, DCC created the Rockweed No-Cut Landowner Registry, a database for "landowners who do not permit commercial rockweed harvesting on their lands". Currently, 568 landowners have signed that Registry. rockweedcoalition.org.

In 2012 DCC sent a letter to Acadian Seaplants stating that DCC's properties on the coast of Washington County protect the natural habitat in the intertidal area and that harvesting of rockweed in the intertidal area seriously impairs such habitat. Although in the past Acadian has ignored DCC's request to not harvest rockweed on its properties, this decision by Maine's

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A Note from the Executive Director

In terms of snowfall, it has been a milder than usual winter in Washington County. Despite this, I am sure I speak for many of us when I say with delight spring is finally here. Spring brings the excitement we all feel as we see DDC's properties start coming to life with summer approaching. As we prepare for the summer season, visiting our properties and undertaking necessary maintenance

A quote from one of the fathers of modern conservation:

"We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune."

Theodore Roosevelt

and improvements is a priority. With the arrival of spring, I am reminded that I have just served my first full year as Executive Director at DCC. Upon arriving at DCC last March, I was tasked with building a new staff team and with this new team was an opportunity to take a look at several exciting projects that DCC may engage in as we further our mission of protecting areas that are without question among the most stunning regions of North America, Downeast Maine.

I have found my first twelve months with DCC even more rewarding than I could ever have imagined. Having the opportunity to meet many of our members and volunteers has truly been one of the most rewarding aspects of working at DCC. While I wish I could meet with every one of our members, I have enjoyed getting to know some of the most wonderful people who share our

passion for DCC's mission. The warmth, positivity and cohesion of the many members and volunteers has driven all of us here at DCC. Our great nation may be going through many challenges, divided politically as never before, but the world of conservation and DCC in particular has maintained a strong unity, bonded by our passion for ensuring this part of Maine remains as unspoiled as possible, a legacy that will be enjoyed by many generations to come. Our members have achieved many great things in our 30+ years of history, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to grow our conservation effort in this region.

As we look at priorities for the year ahead, DCC will continue to build on the youth outreach successes we have enjoyed in the past twelve months. Working with partner organizations, we have put more children than ever through educational and recreational programs on DCC properties as well as in local schools. This outreach and education effort is so vital to our mission and ensuring we are nurturing the next generation of conservationists who will be the future of DCC's mission. We are also continuing to build our network of volunteer stewards and continue to improve access opportunities on our public preserve properties. A further priority is in working closer with communities to highlight the value that our conserved land brings to this rural natural resource based economy of Washington County.

With a couple of recent acquisitions



added to our protected lands and several projects in the works, this year promises to be an exciting time for DCC. I am hoping to announce soon an excellent new public preserve property, and DCC is delighted to be collaborating with a Municipality to assist with the protection of a Town owned property, primarily as a bird sanctuary. As we move forward, there is much work to be done to protect critical areas within our region and we hope that our members will continue to be a key part of this effort.

We remind everyone who supports our mission that DCC is a membership driven organization. As such, I welcome your input and involvement at any time. We could not have built DCC without your generosity and support and I believe you should have every opportunity to be involved in our work. I thank all of you who have helped the new team here at DCC settle into our important work.

Wishing you an amazing summer,
Jon Southern
Cell: (207) 214-5860



Stewarding Land

I often exclaim that as DCC's Stewardship Director, I have one of the best jobs in Washington County. A significant part of my job requires me to walk all of our beautiful properties, spending the majority of my time outdoors, on our trails, and traipsing around miles of shoreline and protected marshes – it's a tough job, but someone has to do it. One of our obligations as an accredited land trust is to monitor each of our properties every year, ensuring that the management plans for properties we own are being followed, that there are no violations of our land use policies, that obligations to grants we have acquired to protect properties are met, and that there are no violations of conservation easements we hold. This includes monitoring trail systems, walking the boundaries of our properties, addressing any maintenance issues that may have come up the previous year, and generally just keeping an eye on the properties we have pledged to protect – that is, the 6,228 acres and just over 63 miles of shoreline we have pledged to protect. This is part of what it means to steward our lands.

DCC offers nearly 20 miles of hiking trails on 11 different properties. All of these trail systems need work each year – everything from clearing downed trees and fixing bridges damaged by runoff and spring high water, to re-blazing, cutting back the ever encroaching forest, cleaning up trash, and updating signage and kiosk information. On top of all of this, we are continuing to add to this list of properties, increasing the number of acres protected and the miles of protected shoreline and marshland. We will also be increasing the number of hiking trails that will forever be open to the public for use. When I step back and look at these



University of Maine at Machias' ELA101 class helps to clear the Heritage Trail at the Machias River Preserve! Photo by Dr. Gregory Benton.

obligations, it is safe to say this work is pretty great! However, no matter how enjoyable the job, there is no way we could do this without help from many dedicated volunteers.

We have a myriad of volunteers who help with all aspects of stewardship. These land stewards make the job possible; they are the foundation of our stewardship program, and they deserve many thanks for helping DCC meet its mission to conserve natural habitats and resources of the coastal watersheds, islands, and communities of Washington County, Maine, for present and future generations. As we continue to grow, we also continue to grow our volunteer steward program.

We are always looking for volunteers (individuals or organizations) to "adopt a property," to take on some of the stewardship obligations we make to protect our natural resources, public access, and scenic beauty in Downeast Maine. We will be working with the Downeast Salmon Federation to offer a training for volunteer stewards on Saturday, June 22nd in Whitneyville. The training will give an idea of what all a steward would do, what properties we need the most help with, and how

to perform an annual monitoring visit. If this is something you'd like to get involved in or would like more information about, please feel free to email our Stewardship Director at kyle@downeastcoastalconservancy.org or call the DCC office at 207-255-4500.

Preserve Highlight: Pike Lands Preserve

After a spring storm a couple years ago, the East Loop Trail at the Pike Lands Preserve was closed. With the help of a group of UMM students, the trail is now open, and I highly recommend visiting it!

This conservation area is comprised of two open-access properties along the North Lubec Road once owned by naturalist Radcliffe Pike. The properties include a total of ~2 miles of hiking trails which traverse a unique variety of plant, bird, and wildlife habitats as well as a beautiful sandy beach. This preserve was acquired with the support of the Land for Maine's Future program in 2005.

Community Partners in Conservation Spotlight

Peter Knowles - Chiropractor

By Bob Jean

Dr. Peter Knowles has been providing chiropractic care to his patients in Machias since 1981. He also meets a payroll for 3 employees who help him. Here in Washington County we all know how important those jobs are for our local economy.

Dr. Knowles can help with your aches and pains in places like your neck, back, and shoulders - he calls this "crisis care". He has observed that when people don't take care of themselves before they hurt, often when they get between 35 and 45 suddenly they hurt and crisis care becomes the first option.

Dr. Knowles prefers to see his patients for proactive health care, before they need crisis care. It's then

that he can provide the tools to stay healthy. And he says that is why he decided to offer his services, and why he became attracted to the chiropractic profession. He sat back in his chair and said, "Now that's what make me tick".

He said that when he was between 6 and 7 years old he happened upon an anatomy book. He became so interested that he learned all the muscles and bones in the human body, and it is a fascination that he still carries to this day.

Knowles is an avid runner, running half-marathons all over the East Coast. And of course he runs in Downeast Coastal Conservancy's annual Bad Little Trail Run. He also teams up with his daughter, Michelle,



who lives in Silver Spring, MD, where they run half-marathon races together. That is part of the family proactive health plan.

In addition to offering treatment for your aches and pains, Dr. Knowles provides proactive care, acupuncture, and an assortment of vitamins.

You can call to schedule an appointment at (207) 255-8001. Please thank him for being a DCC Community Partner when you call!

Walls TV & Appliance 50 Year Celebration

By Bob Jean

Where would your home be without Walls? may be a company slogan, but for 50 years that means something in Downeast Maine. Competing against national box stores and recessions, Walls TV has been able to survive the tough times with loyal customer support.

Walls TV was founded in 1969 by Bernard and Vivian Walls. Like many successful businesses you have to wear many hats to make the business work. Bernard would do the selling, delivering and the service calls for the business. Vivian, in addition to her full-time employment teaching job at the Rose Gaffney School, helped out with the bookkeeping and maintaining the store for deliveries.

Tragedy struck during a winter storm in 1971. Lightning struck and the re-

sulting fire destroyed their home and all of the retail stock located at Gardner Ave in Machias. They would have to start out with nothing, including having to pay for the retail stock that burnt. The family persevered, moving into a trailer on the same property where they lived, conducted the appliance business and built a new home. Bernard and Vivian expanded Walls TV with a \$1000 loan (\$6000 in today's dollars) from Kelsie, Bernard's dad, so he could acquire a General Electric franchise for Washington County.

Walls TV and Appliances provides top quality appliances, appliance repair for their customers along with selling comfortable Serta mattresses. Walls TV has been located at the 85 Main Street location in Machias since 1985.

Today: The Walls family business is now



working on three generations at the shop. They are very appreciative of the community allowing Walls TV to service the Down East area for 50 years.

This August please stop by to help Walls TV celebrate their 50th year in business and meet the loyal Walls TV team, which includes Vivian Walls-Patten, Randy Walls, Glenn Spencer, Don Paulson, Stuart Pratt, Sean Merchant, and Shawn Clifton. They can be reached by phone at 207-255-3555.

Please be sure to thank them for being a DCC Community Partner when you call or stop by.

Ways That You Can Help Support Our Important Conservation Efforts

By supporting Downeast Coastal Conservancy, an accredited Land Trust, you can be assured you are supporting a focused and fiscally responsible organization that follows the highest national standards in conservation and stewardship. We keep administrative costs as low as possible maximizing your gifts potential in ensuring we use those gifts to protect and manage the areas we all love for future generations. There are a number of meaningful ways to support Downeast Coastal Conservancy's critical mission.

Secure online giving

We offer secure online giving at <http://downeastcoastalconservancy.org/donate/ways-to-give/> or you may make gifts by cash or check. If you wish to spread the cost of a donation throughout the year, simply choose "Make this a recurring donation" when making an online gift through our website. You can also help DCC when shopping at Amazon.com by signing up to support Downeast Coastal Conservancy with Amazon Smile at: <https://smile.amazon.com/>.

Donate Stock

By giving appreciated securities you can avoid paying capital gains taxes, receive a tax deduction on the full value of the gift, and support DCC at a lower cost to you than if you made a cash gift.

Give from your IRA

If aged 70 ½ and older you can donate up to \$100,000 directly to DCC from your individual retirement account (IRA) without it being counted as taxable income. The gift can be used as your required minimum distribution. Your financial institution can arrange this for you.

Leave a Legacy

Anyone can leave a lasting legacy by naming Downeast Coastal Conservancy as a beneficiary in their will or living trust, life insurance, or retirement accounts. It's easy to do and it costs nothing during your lifetime. If you decide to do this, please let us know so that you can be part of the planning as to how that gift is to be used in the future. Another way to leave a legacy is to invest in one of our Maine Community Foundation DCC funds, your gift will not only be responsibly invested securely and ethically, but will continue to grow, benefiting DCC's stewardship work for many years to come. Legacy gifts can provide you or your estate with important tax benefits too. You can leave a lasting legacy by supporting DCC.

To learn more about our flexible ways to give and to find the option that best fits your giving plans, please call Bob or Jon at (207) 255-4500.

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Rockweed continued from page 1

highest court confirms DCC's right to prevent such harvesting in the future. DCC will again inform Acadian that DCC does not permit rockweed harvesting on its properties.



Thank you to our 2018 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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SAVE THE DATES! 2019 Summer Events Calendar

DCC Annual Plant Sale
Sunday, June 1st
Whiting

DCC Annual Membership Meeting & Community Picnic
Sunday, June 23rd
Roque Bluffs State Park

Chief Steward Training
June 22nd. Contact the DCC office for more information.
Whitneyville

Fairy Festival
Sunday, July 21st
Jonesport

Bad Little Trail Run
Sunday, October 5th
Machias River Preserve

Additional Summer Activities
DCC has LOTS of other things to do. Keep up to date on all our events, news, volunteer opportunities, hikes, paddles, etc. by signing up for our e-newsletter, by following us on Facebook, and by visiting our website at www.DowneastCoastalConservancy.org.



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Community Partners in Conservation Spotlight 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!

2019 Annual Meeting & Community Picnic

Sunday, June 23rd, 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 new 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 the 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.



**Hike the Pike Lands during the
Birding Festival and all year long!**