



*Cobscook Community High School students built the bog bridging on the Fowler's Mill Pond Trail.*

## DOWNEAST COASTAL CONSERVANCY

The Downeast Coastal Conservancy (DCC) maintains and protects the Klondike Mountain Preserve and also works cooperatively with land owners to protect other land in coastal Washington County, from Steuben to Lubec, and up to Calais and Rt 9. This area is part of the last frontier on the Northeast coast of peaceful, untrammelled beauty, including forests, woodlands, wetlands, islands, salt marshes, clam flats, fishing villages and working waterfronts.

DCC is a membership organization whose mission 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.

Formed in 2009, through the merger of Great Auk Land Trust and Quoddy Regional Land Trust, Downeast Coastal Conservancy brought together two successful land trusts, each with over twenty years of conservation into a single, stronger organization.

To join DCC, make a charitable contribution, or obtain assistance in conserving your land, please contact us.

DOWNEAST COASTAL CONSERVANCY

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# KLONDIKE MOUNTAIN PRESERVE



*Eastern view from Klondike Mountain towards Fowler's Mill Pond, the old mill pond dam, and South Bay.*

## HIKE LUBEC!



DOWNEAST  
COASTAL  
CONSERVANCY

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Written by students at the Cobscook Community  
High School Program

# KLONDIKE MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

## HISTORY

How did Klondike Mountain get its name? In 1897, two strangers checked into the Lubec Inn. Mr. Charles Fisher and Reverend Prescott Jernegan were two men looking for a way to make a quick buck. They claimed that they could extract gold from seawater, and founded the Electrolytic Marine Salts Company. The two hired 100 workers to convert an old grist mill into their plant, and the following spring they sunk 240 "accumulators" into Cobscook Bay to collect gold. While they claimed that the high tides and rapidly flowing waters of the Lubec Narrows were perfect for their process, they likely set up shop in Lubec due to its remote location. When investors from New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut came to inspect the process, Fisher and Jernegan duped them by diving into the bay at night and planting gold in the accumulators. The two men were so successful in attracting investors that they began construction of a second plant with the help of over 700 laborers, mostly Italian immigrants who had been working on a rail line in Machias. In July of 1898, as word spread that all was not well at the plant, Jernegan and Fisher fled the area and were never prosecuted for their deception.

Prior to ownership by DCC, the property which now comprises the Klondike Mountain Preserve was owned by the Blanch family. In the Blanch family for over 100 years, the pasture supported the family's dairy farm. At one time, they had as many as 100 head of cattle and other livestock.



*Open fields at Klondike Mountain were once pasture for cattle.*

From some points on the property you can see the remnants of a man-made dam that was constructed when Fowler's Plaster Mill, a historic tide mill, was in operation. The cove to the east of Klondike Mountain is known locally as Dead Man's Cove. Lubec has a colorful history and the name likely comes from sometime during the Prohibition Era, when the body of a man who may have been involved in local smuggling activities was found in the cove.

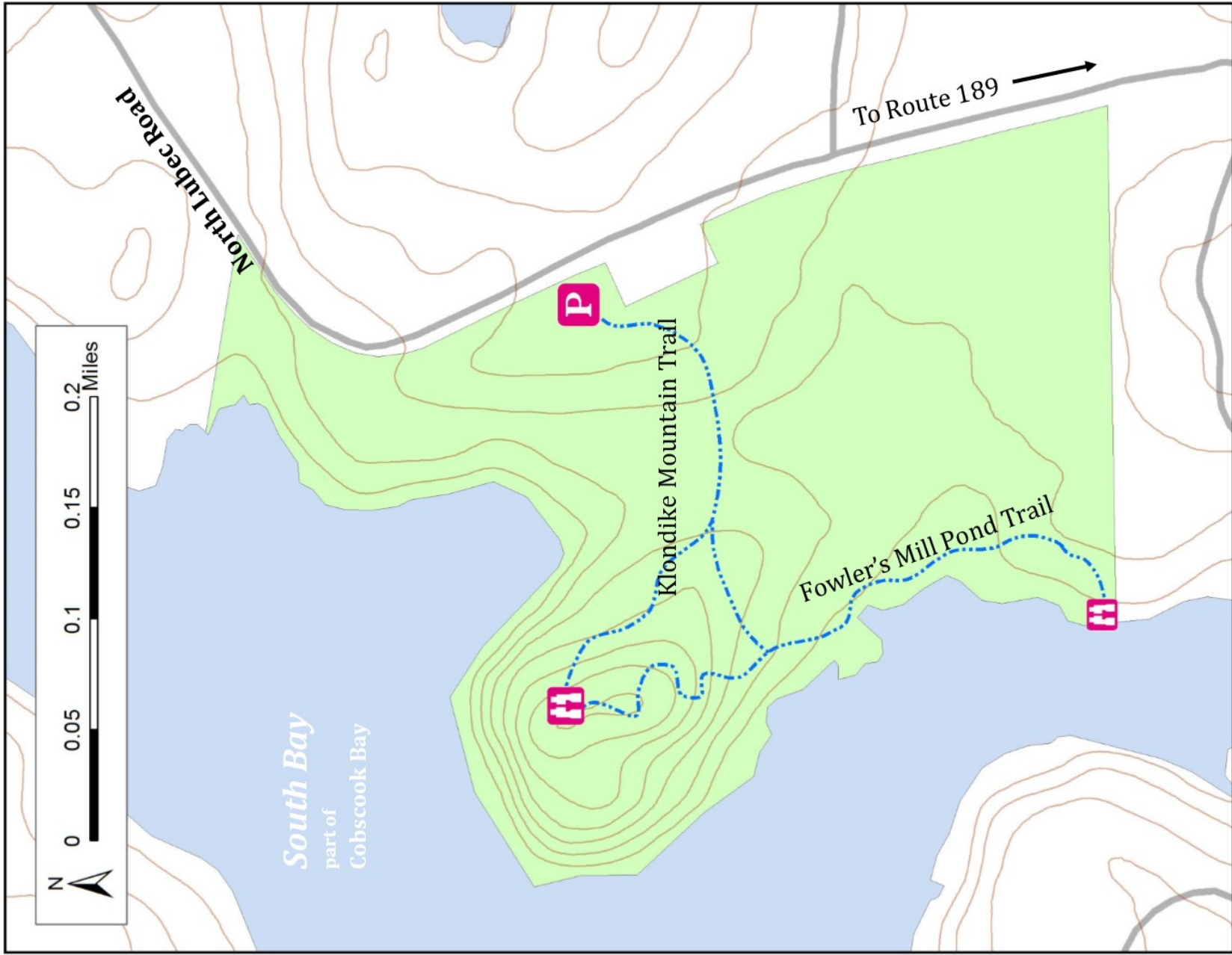
Burton and Eleanor Blanch, who worked with DCC to preserve Klondike Mountain, loved to hike the trails. In an interview with students from the Cobscook Community High School program, they said that they wanted to preserve the property for all to enjoy.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

The 46-acre Klondike Mountain Preserve includes 3,590 ft of shoreline along South Bay and a trail to the summit of Klondike Mountain, where visitors can enjoy a near 360 degree view of the area. From the parking lot, visitors walk to the trail through an old pasture dotted with apple trees. At the western edge of the field, visitors can choose to hike the Fowlers Mill Pond Trail or the Klondike Mountain Trail.

Fowler's Mill Pond trail features stands of mature spruce, white pine, big tooth aspen, cedar, fir and birch, and skirts the shore of Fowler's Mill Pond. Klondike Mountain Trail traverses ledge outcrops. White and red pine are common along the southwest portion of the trail. At the summit, ground juniper, wintergreen, mountain cranberry, stunted conifers, and a variety of lichens are abundant.

Klondike Mountain is an excellent location to sight migratory birds throughout the spring and summer. The mix of shoreline, pasture, and varied woodland habitats offer a mix of birding locations.



### TRAIL INFORMATION

This hike is a must for Lubec visitors and residents alike. Klondike Mountain is a beautiful summit on the coast of Lubec. The trail, marked with blue blazes, cuts through an old cattle pasture with fruit bearing apple trees. There are two trails that begin at the far tree line of the meadow, about a quarter mile from the parking area. The Fowler's Mill Pond trail travels along the shoreline, and is less than a mile out and back to the parking lot. The Klondike Mountain Trail leads to not one but two summits where magnificent views are achieved. This loop trail is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile round trip.

### PRESERVE GUIDELINES

Thank you for your stewardship and caring for the Klondike Mountain Preserve for all to enjoy. The Preserve is open from dawn to dusk. Help us protect this special place by observing the following guidelines.

- Please practice "carry-in/carry-out" and "leave no trace" ethics. Do not feed or disturb wildlife.

- Visit only during daylight hours and at own risk.

- Hand picking of apples and berries is permitted.

- For safety, wear safety orange during hunting season.

- Do not carve graffiti or initials in rocks, ledges, or trees.

- Fires, camping, ATVs, and snowmobiles are not allowed.

- Balsam fir tipping, plant collection and rockweed harvesting are not allowed.

