



Rodgers Island Cleanup

Island Adventures with MITA

Over the summer, Downeast Coastal Conservancy's volunteers, stewardship intern, and stewardship director partnered with the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA) to remove garbage from multiple islands along the bold coast. Islands that were cleaned this summer include Rodgers Island in Lubec, Tibbetts Island in Addison, and Sheep Island in Addison.

Island cleanups are pivotal to DCC's mission - they enhance visitor experiences and provide a healthier environment for wildlife and marine life alike. Each outing proved highly successful; each participant collected multiple full trash bags.

We collected a wide variety of marine trash: oil cans, bleach bottles, and broken lobster traps and much more. All non-reusable trash was disposed of properly and any buoys were left with harbor masters to be reused by fishermen. In addition to finding trash, interesting landmarks and wildlife were observed on each of the islands - not to mention the plentiful wild beach peas and blueberries for snacking throughout the day. As this summer comes to an end, DCC looks forward to partnering with MITA for island cleanups next year!

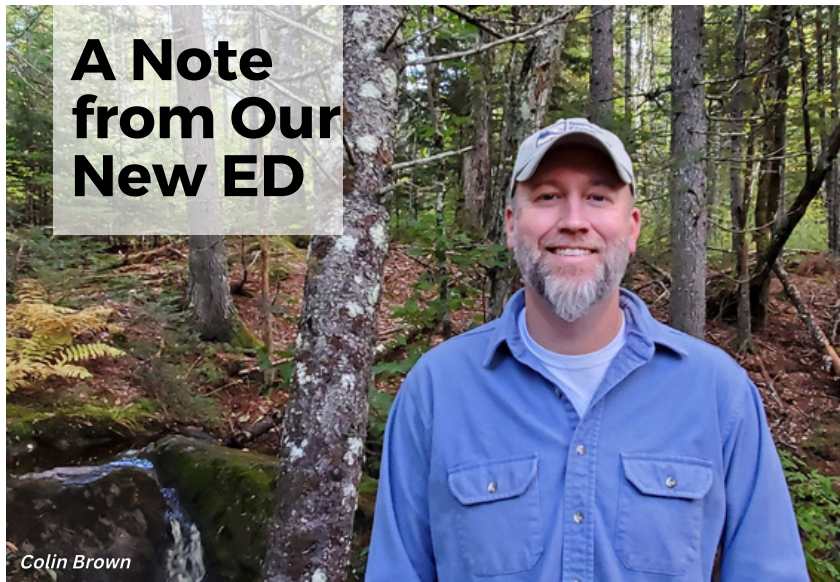
We would like to thank MITA and their volunteers for providing skiffs each day and for being the driving force

Inside This Edition

- 2 Note from our new ED
- 4 New 55 acres in Cobscook Bay
- 5 A Summer of Stewardship
- 6 A Nature Note
- 7 Community-Focused Programs
- 8 Planned Giving
- 9 Thank you to our 2022 Community Partners in Conservation

behind these island cleanups!

If you are interested in volunteering with DCC, please contact the staff at the office or by email. For more information regarding the Maine Island Trail Association, please contact info@mita.org or visit <https://mita.org/volunteer/> for volunteer information.



On a recent DCC-led sunset hike to the top of Pigeon Hill in Steuben, the evening experience was everything one would expect: beautiful! Looking west, we saw the summits of Tunk, Black, Schoodic, and Cadillac Mountains; to the south, the expansive open ocean; and to the east, the rugged, granite-laced islands and coves of coastal Washington County. All awash with the twilight glow of purples, reds, and pinks. Aside from the gorgeous scenery, one aspect of the event struck a deep chord with me – the strong sense of community.

As we gathered at the trailhead, it quickly became evident that the hikers attending the event were from a wide range of backgrounds - DCC staff and passionate volunteers, a young family with small children, nearby summer

residents, retirees on a coastal road trip, and a Milbridge-local who recounted climbing the hill in her youth. The hike also included several folks who had only recently moved to Washington County, and were eager to engage with Downeast Coastal Conservancy. One couple drove all the way from Pembroke to attend!

After some acquainting chatter on the walk up and shared awe at the summit, the conversation grew more personal as we descended through the lengthening shadows – go-to hiking spots, best local eateries, where to hear live music, upcoming DCC events and programs, and even favorite fishing holes (quietly stated, of course...). It was plain to see how a short community hike in a DCC preserve can spark such close connections and

instill a desire to explore more conserved lands in Downeast Maine.

With the daily news cycle often bogged down with divisiveness, land conservation is one topic that bridges gaps and brings people together. While the pandemic has taught us many lessons, one lasting impression that that many people have learned is that public access to open space and connecting with the natural world are essential for our physical, emotional, and mental health. Humans don't just hope and wish to protect these landscapes, they need to. DCC recognizes this need, and is working to create more region-wide opportunities.

Whether building recreational trails and water-access sites, protecting critical ecosystems for climate resilience, or leading environmental education programs for area schools, conservation organizations bring these crucial benefits to local communities. With the help from many area volunteers and ardent supporters, Downeast Coastal Conservancy is well-positioned to provide these fundamental resources for coastal Washington County towns and villages.

I look forward to working with area businesses, schools, and

partner organizations to learn how DCC can further foster these strong social bonds that were on full display at Pigeon Hill. If you see Cathy, Ryan, or myself out on the trails or at a DCC event, please be sure to say hello and strike up a conversation about your ideas and vision for community conservation! We might even let you in on our favorite fishing holes...



Colin Brown
Executive Director



Hiking up Pigeon Hill



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Barbara Snapp, Pigeon Hill Preserve Chief
Steward, telling members about coastal islands

Timbercrow! New 55 acres in Cobscook Bay



Dowheast Coastal Conservancy is excited to announce our newest property, Timbercrow! Located on the western corner of Crows Neck Road and Timber Cove Road in Trescott Township, Timbercrow contains 55 ecologically strategic acres of land and 850 feet of shore frontage along Carrying Place Cove. Within the property are fresh and

saltwater wetlands; a diversity of spruce-fir, cedar, and mixed hardwood forests. The Timbercrow property is especially valuable both for its adjacency to other conserved lands held by the State of Maine and Maine Coast Heritage Trust and for protecting a significant wildlife corridor on the Crow's Neck peninsula.

DCC plans to keep Timbercrow in its current natural state, allowing for limited public access such as hunting and bird watching to take place on the property.

DCC would like to thank two donors for their generosity in donating this important property. We are excited to conserve Timbercrow and all of its resources into the future!

Cub Scouts Donate Bat Houses to DCC

After reading a school library book, Cub Scout Lucas, age 8, had the idea for his scout group to construct bat boxes to help this species of concern. Last fall, his local Bear Den Cub Scouts Pack 125 made this project a success and constructed six new bat houses to be donated to DCC, designed to provide roosting places for hibernating bat populations.

"I'm glad that we made bat houses because it increases their population and decreases the bug population," said Lucas. "Bats are good for the environment."

This summer Lucas and a fellow scout Emmett came to help DCC's Stewardship Director Ryan install two of the bat houses at Middle River Park.



A Summer of Stewardship

By DCC's 2022 Richard G. Rockefeller Conservation Intern Gia Francis



I'm Gia Francis, a junior at the University of Maine at Fort Kent studying Forestry and Conservation Law Enforcement. I came to Machias from Rome, Maine.

Prior to the start of my summer at the Downeast Coastal Conservancy working as a Rockefeller Conservation Intern, I really didn't know what stewardship was. Sure, I had heard the word before, but I had no clue what defined a steward's role at a land trust. After 10 weeks of work, visiting countless preserves and easements, I now have a very direct understanding of what it is that a steward does on a day-to-day basis.

Tasks fluctuate and no day is the same as the last. I had the opportunity to monitor properties and write up reports, clear out new trails, put up signs, work with volunteers, run a few errands here and there, and maintain trails. I spent much of my

time outside, exploring the beautiful Downeast Maine landscape, enjoying a few handfuls of wild blueberries, chatting with trail goers, and getting to know our preserves. I was also able to attend and help out with a few outreach programs such as an introduction to canoeing and a children's beach exploring event. This variety of work kept me on my toes, looking forward to each new day and wondering where it would take me.

On my first day with the DCC, I did some light on-boarding paperwork and then Ryan, the stewardship director, Cam, the stewardship assistant, and I went straight out into the field at Beaver Dam Stream for some trail work. I received a very warm welcome from a large, relentless swarm of mosquitos. I would advise anyone who visits to not forget their bug spray. I speak from personal experience. Nonetheless, I went ahead and lopped back the trail as Ryan and Cam did some chainsaw work removing a few blowdowns. This kind of work continued through the summer, and I spent a lot of time maintaining trails utilizing a variety of different tools such as loppers, weedwhackers, a mower, and even a chainsaw.

I also had the opportunity to monitor some of our fee properties and easements. We'd go out in the field and comb through the woods looking for any alterations to the natural landscape. I did this by foot and, more excitingly, by drone. I was amazed at how fast we could observe a property and how clear the images were. It has really been a game changer efficiency wise. In a single day we could monitor upwards of 5 properties, most of which are hard to reach by foot and would normally take several hours.

Getting to know and work with crews of volunteers was also exciting. Each person comes from a different walk of life, bringing their own experience and knowledge to the table. Everyone is eager to lend their time and energy to help with DCC's projects, whether that be brushing out freshly cut trails, meticulously installing bog bridging, or taking a boat ride out to a couple of islands to pick up litter. These volunteers taught me a lot and I am grateful to have work with them. I enjoyed my time so much that it honestly did not feel like work. I want to thank DCC staff, and all our wonderful volunteers for making this summer so memorable.

Nature Note By Anne Baker, DCC's Board President

Several years ago a long-time Maine resident said to me “I hate hackmatack”. I was so taken aback that I didn’t even ask why. Every fall, I delight in the brilliant yellow-gold of the hackmatack as it contrasts against the dark green of the other conifers.

Larix laricina, or American larch, hackmatack, or tamarack, is native to the northeastern United States. It’s one of about 20 species classified as a deciduous conifer. These trees form cones and sprout needles like conifers, but they also change colors in the fall and lose their needles every year like deciduous trees. The hackmatack is very cold tolerant, and is one of the last trees to lose its needles each fall. The northernmost trees in the world are larches, with ranges that extend up to the arctic treeline. It’s a hardy tree; some have lived to be 180 years old!



It's thought that the word hackmatack is derived from an Abenaki word meaning “wood used for snowshoes.” Hackmatack is a tree of many uses. In addition to snowshoes, the Abenaki used it to make toboggans and canoe parts. The indigenous people of northwest Canada were known to use the inner bark as a poultice to treat cuts, infected wounds, and frostbite. The inner bark was also ground for flour; and tea made from the needles and roots was used as a fever reducer and an expectorant. Here in Maine, porcupines eat the inner bark, snowshoe hares munch on hackmatack seedlings, and red squirrels extract the seeds from its cones.

How anyone could dislike such a beautiful and useful tree is a mystery. For myself, I’ll be watching as the trees turn color, waiting for the hackmatack’s final blaze of glory before winter sets in.



Music Bringing Us Together

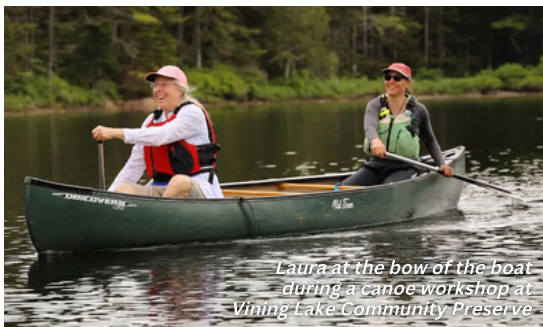
In the heart of Machias with the backdrop of the river, more than 200 people gathered on the Middle River Park lawn to listen to local musicians.

We hosted this sunset concert, Middle River Rhythm, to give people the opportunity to understand and appreciate the importance of natural spaces as a place to bring people together. Thus, it became a night of fun with a purpose, enjoyed by many and showcasing our hard work and dedication to land conservation while connecting with our local community.

DCC is grateful for a donation from Pineo’s TrueValue for helping make this concert a success. Also, Bad Little Brewery Co hosted their first beer tent and Darling’s Ice Cream Truck for a Cause served a sweet treat to all and donated the proceeds to DCC.

Community-Focused Programs

While DCC continues to conserve lands and protect essential habitats at the forefront of our mission, we also make community conservation a focus in our outreach and educational programs. From workshops to sunset hikes to youth day-camps and guided naturalist walks, we hope to inspire our community to develop an appreciation for our region and the conservation projects that support it.



Laura at the bow of the boat during a canoe workshop at Vining Lake Community Preserve

Author, illustrator, and a new resident of Machias Laura Lander expressed *"As a recent transplant to Downeast, having the opportunities that DCC provides for exploring the area and meeting like-minded folks has been of great benefit to me, for which I am thankful."*

This year, DCC hosted 32 events that attracted over 300 participants, many of whom are our new neighbors looking to build friendships and make connections.



Marc and CJ reviewing maps at an orienteering program

From bird watching to paddling, Marc and CJ, recent Pembroke residents, have come to 10 DCC programs this year. *"The programs that DCC offers have been invaluable to us. As new residents of Maine, DCC helps us explore new outdoor spaces while making new friends along the way. Whether it's hiking, paddling, or bird watching, we visit a DCC trail weekly."*

Others, however, have deep roots in Washington County and came looking to find new ways to give back to our community. Cori Collins, a local CPA business owner, joined DCC programming this summer and volunteered as leader at our Forest Camp hosted in July. *"I was so thankful for the opportunities to get outdoors, try new activities in a group setting and be introduced to many of the local lands being preserved for our use and future generations. The value in that is immeasurable. I attended both adult-only and kid-only events, and both*

were superb. If you have kiddos, I highly recommend signing up for an event. The events are always a great learning experience and fun for all. I volunteered to assist with forest camp for children for a couple of days. I can't possible explain how rewarding it was! I was there to lend a hand with the children, but I was learning, playing and having fun right along with them!" Cori made an equally positive impact on the campers, who expressed disappointment that she would be missing our last day of camp.

This impact of our community giving back and coming together is the backbone of our mission. We are growing a family of like-minded individuals dedicated to supporting conservation and growing the next generation of stewards – and of course, we are having fun while doing it!



Cori building Fairy Homes at Middle River Park

Planned Giving: *How to Make a Lasting Impact for Coastal Conservation*



Downeast Coastal Conservancy's land conservation work is always accomplished with a keen eye for the distant future. When an acquisition project is completed, conservation assets such as hiking trails, coastal and freshwater access points, interpretive signage, and abundant natural resources are carefully stewarded, not only for community enjoyment today, but for the benefit of future generations who live and work in coastal Washington County. Organizational fundraising efforts and financial sustainability plans are calculated with the same foresight.

Planned giving provides a variety of tools for non-profit conservation organizations that can help support the work you are passionate about, while helping to meet your financial goals and plans for the future. There are many ways to convey this type of gift to DCC, including:

- Bequests – Including DCC as a beneficiary in your will or other estate plans.
- Charitable Remainder Trusts and Charitable Lead Trusts
- Grants from Donor Advised Funds

Your financial contributions create a lasting impact on Downeast Coastal Conservancy's conservation efforts and support the long-term success of DCC. With any major financial decision, you should consult your estate planning attorney or financial advisor to determine whether a bequest, trust, or other arrangement appropriate for your situation. If you are interested in making a planned gift to DCC, please contact DCC Executive Director Colin Brown at (207) 255-4500, or email colin@downeastcoastalconservancy.org.

Pigeon Hill Preserve by Tom Hamilton



Thank you to our 2022 Community Partners in Conservation!

Middle River Park

The generosity of all of our members is vital to preserving these spectacular places that we love! Our Community Partners in Conservation are local businesses who are likewise passionate about conserving our natural areas that make Downeast Maine special. They aid our stewardship efforts, support educational programs to engage local youth and families, and sponsor large community events for residents and visitors alike. DCC could not succeed without them. Please help us thank our partners by giving them your support!



Cathance Lake Association



Special Thanks to our Silent Auction Donors:

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The mission of the Downeast Coastal Conservancy is to conserve essential ecological habitats, engage the local community, and foster an environment where wildlife and people thrive in coastal Washington County, Maine.

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SAVE THE DATE #GIVING TUESDAY™ NOVEMBER 29TH

Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving. This year, when you donate online to DCC your dollar will go further! **DCC's Board of Directors have generously offered to match total donations, up to \$5,000.**

DOUBLE your impact for community-led conservation and contribute to DCC on Giving Tuesday by visiting our website.

www.downeastcoastalconservancy.org/donate