



Winter Family Fun Day

Expanding Programs to Grow Conservation

For two long years we canceled many large in-person events due to the coronavirus pandemic. Now DCC has brought back favorite annual events and created new ways for the public to engage in some of our most important conservation work.

At the return of the Machias Winter Family Fun Day, young sledders enthusiastically hit the slope at Middle River Park in competition to show off their decorated cardboard box sleds. Their creativity was on full display, as spectators watched sleds of all shapes and sizes race down the hill. The event was part of a winter celebration hosted by DCC and the Machias Bay Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to this popular winter event, DCC also partnered with

Downeast Lakes Land Trust to host a "Downeast Day on the Ice" at Vining Lake Community Preserve in Cooper. The snowy road was plowed and sanded; ice fishing holes were drilled; and a small skating rink was marked off. Skis and snowshoes were available for participants to try; horse-drawn sled rides offered a magical winter adventure; and a bonfire was lit for families to roast hotdogs and s'mores. Over 150 participants came to enjoy the warm and sunny winter day and to learn more about winter recreation.

Inspired by this increased interest in outdoor recreation, DCC aims to provide programs and opportunities for all members of the community to connect to open spaces at our con-

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Cardboard Box Sled Competition

Transitions and Change

Words from the DCC Team

Wood frogs are calling and spotted salamanders are moving into ponds for breeding, heralding the changing seasons. DCC is also in a period of change, preparing for new leadership. Change can sometimes be difficult but it can also be an opportunity for innovation and growth. Jon Southern, who has led DCC over the past four years, stepped down as Executive Director on March 14th to accept the role of Executive Director & Superintendent of Roosevelt Campobello International Park.

"Fortunately, DCC is in an excellent position to weather change, with two outstanding employees who have been keeping everything running smoothly while we search for a new Executive Director", notes Anne Baker, DCC's Board President. "Cathy Lookabaugh, Direc-

tor of Membership and Outreach has taken on the role of acting Executive Director in addition to her programming and communication work. Despite the additional load she's managed to keep the organization humming along without missing a beat. Although he has only been with us since November, Stewardship Director Ryan Mola has tackled his job with enthusiasm and is rapidly acquiring an understanding of the ins and outs of land conservation."

"Our collective goal during this transition is to build on our strengths in conservation, education, and fundraising," notes Acting Director, Cathy Lookabaugh. "Our conservation and community work have had great momentum over the last year and this is an opportunity to keep that momentum going."

DCC is poised to add three conserva-

tion properties this Spring, has engaged 80 youth in nature since the start of this year, and is already planning our second Annual Silent Auction in support of the conservation and public access of our preserves.

"It continues to be a privilege to work with our dedicated board, community partners, and donors to further our important mission," notes Cathy. "The behind-the-scenes team is energetic and moving forward as we anticipate the new opportunities that will come to the DCC with its next Executive Director."

The search for a new Executive Director is underway and the applicants are bringing a wide array of skills and experience. DCC's future prospects are bright and we're looking forward to an exciting new chapter in DCC's continued evolution.



Expanding Programs to Promote Conservation continued from page 1

served properties. "The programs and projects that our DCC members fund inspire others to become involved in conservation," notes DCC's Outreach Director and now Acting Executive Director, Cathy Lookabaugh. "These programs are the gateway into helping people understand why conservation is so important. We work continually to create new access points and to help folks discover the beauty of these natural spaces."

Connecting people and place is central to our mission. DCC's Outreach and Education Committee members drive the future of community conservation through these kinds of programs and events. By engaging youth and adults in the ecological, historic, cultural, or recreational values of conservation, we can build a stronger community of caring stewards dedicated to the integrity of these lands and waters of the Downeast region.

To see upcoming programs for the 2022 summer season visit page 3.

If you are interested in learning about ways to volunteer and help grow programming at DCC, reach out to cathy@downeastcoastalconservancy.org.



Above: Machias Winter Family Fun Day Cardboard Box Sled Competition
Left: Downeast Day on the Ice at Vining Lake

2022 Summer Event Calendar

Please save these dates. Join us for an upcoming event on a DCC preserve!



MAY

Signs of Spring Hike

May 20 - Pike Lands Preserve, Lubec

Spring Birding Hike

May 22 - Vining Lake Community Preserve, Cooper



JUNE

Annual Plant Sale in Partnership with Porter Memorial Library's Seed Sale

June 11 - Machias

Fairy Homes and Troll Turfs

June 18 - Middle River Park, Machias

Summer Solstice Sunset Hike

June 21 - Pike Lands Preserve, Lubec

Introduction to Canoeing

June 24 - Vining Lake Community Preserve, Cooper



JULY

Beach Explorers

July 8 - Mowry Beach Preserve, Lubec

Orange River Paddle & Estey Mountain Hike

July 29 - Orange River Conservation Area, Whiting

AUGUST

Sunset Paddle

August 8 - Orange River Conservation Area, Whiting

Full Moon Hike

August 10 - Pigeon Hill Preserve, Steuben

Nature Explorers

August 12 - Pigeon Hill Preserve, Steuben

Island Paddle & Hike

August 28 - Tibbetts Island, Addison

SEPTEMBER

Sunset Hike

September 8 - Klondike Mountain Preserve, Lubec

OCTOBER

Bad Little Trail Run

October 2 - Machias River Preserve, Machias

To register for events or receive more information please visit our website or email cathy@downeastcoastalconservancy.org.

Events may be canceled or postponed due to inclement weather.





DOWNEAST COASTAL CONSERVANCY

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Craig Snapp, Steuben

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Cathy Lookabaugh

Outreach and Membership Director, Lubec

Ryan Mola

Stewardship Director, Dennysville

Board Member Spotlight

Introducing our two newest board members, Gren and Gail, who joined our Board this April and will be nominated for full 3 year terms at the Annual meeting come July.

Gren Blackall



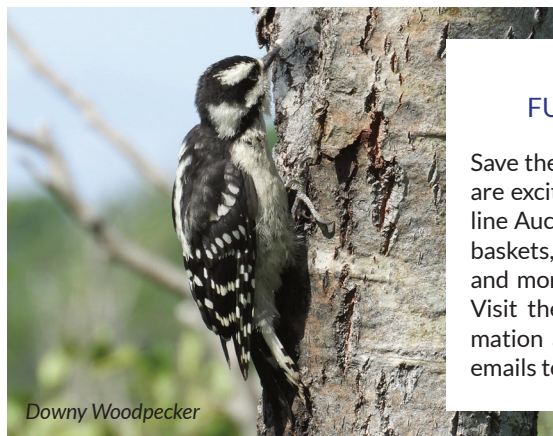
Gren Blackall has held C-level executive positions in financial institutions in five US states and served on three community non-profit boards. He has led efforts around business and retail organic customer growth, small business services, marketing with emphasis on data and customer engagement, cash management, MIS/CRM, profitability, product design, social media, technology, and strategic assessment/planning. He has written over 1,200 bank "thought leader" articles and has been a frequent presenter. Gren earned a Math

BS from Yale and an MBA from UCLA. His most recent

board membership ended in 2017 finishing 8 years as Treasurer of Avesta Housing, northern New England's largest affordable housing developer and manager. Today Gren lives in Addison Maine with his two dogs where he owns and has developed trails on a 30 acre former coastal granite quarry which operated from 1890-1932.

Gail Peters

Gail was originally from the mid-Atlantic states. She graduated from Rowan University with a degree in English and a teaching certificate. Married to Wayne Peters, the Navy brought them to Connecticut. Gail received a Master's Degree in counseling from the University of Hartford. She has lived in Maine for 20 years. She is committed to the history and preservation of the natural world to help maintain a legacy for future generations.



Downy Woodpecker

ANNUAL ONLINE FUNDRAISING AUCTION

Save the date: June 1st – June 15th. We are excited to offer our 2nd Annual Online Auction featuring local artwork, gift baskets, weekend getaways, boat trips, and more! You won't want to miss out! Visit the DCC website for more information and to sign up for our monthly emails to stay up to date.



Tide Mill Creek Preserve

Shadbush at Machias River Preserve

Happy Mud Season! As you have probably already realized, the ground in Washington County is soft and muddy right now. Every year at this time, the effects of mud season take their toll on many of our region's trails. When in the woods this year, please be mindful of the trails on which you tread and follow proper mud season hiking etiquette.

A handful of DCC's trails become damaged by disturbance during mud season; that damage makes their recovery difficult later in the year. In some cases, trails need rebuilding due to misuse during the spring. When someone treads on or around a trail that is especially muddy, frost heaved, or soft, it creates ruts and damages the soil beneath. The trail then becomes eroded, difficult to navigate and less desirable for later hikers.

DCC staff have temporarily closed the Money Island Trail at Machias River Preserve in order to protect it from the impacts noted above. Due to the nature

of the soils in that area, any disturbance to the ground from the last of snow melt until the end of mud season severely damages the trail. As always, we appreciate your cooperation; we plan to open it up as soon as possible!

Although the woods are muddy, our increasing temperatures and sunlight make this time of year an excellent time to get outside and put an end to your cabin fever. However, it is important to remember a couple tips to help decrease negative impacts on DCC's and other trails.

One tip is to avoid any trail with excessive mud or pooling. If you approach an area with large sections of mud or pooled water, the best thing to do is to turn back and try a different trail. DCC offers multiple hiking opportunities throughout Washington County and some preserves are less affected by mud than others. Great examples are Middle River Park, Mowry Beach, and Pike Lands.

If you must stay on a trail with mud or pooled water, it is best to walk through it and not around it. By walking around the main tread of a trail, you create a new path that increases vegetation impacts, erodes previously untouched soil, and, in turn, causes the muddy section to grow in size. Please always stay on the main tread of the trail any time you are out hiking.

By following just a couple tips, you give yourself and others the opportunity to enjoy DCC trails for many years to come. Get outside and have fun in our warming weather!



Raccoon Tracks, Lubec

CLUES TO THE FOREST

By Anne Baker, DCC's Board President

Pigeon Hill Preserve

Every visit to a DCC preserve is a learning opportunity. Forests have a story to tell, and with careful observation you may be able to read a forest's story. Some of us are still in kindergarten when it comes to knowing how to "read" a forest, or learn from a landscape, but there are clues that we can use to understand a forest's composition and how this may have changed over time.

It's helpful to begin by thinking about what factors impact forests. Logging, fires, windstorms, clearance for pastureland, disease, beaver activity, and climate change all have the potential to shape a forest. Identifying which of these factors has been important for a particular forest is a mystery which can be solved using clues from the forest itself.

You might begin by looking at forest structure, specifically the size and spacing of the trees. Are all of the trees in the forest about the same size? This suggests that in the past some event has wiped out what previously existed and that the trees that are there now have all begun to grow at about the same time.

We might suspect a fire, but most fires don't destroy all of the trees in an area. Older, larger trees are more likely to survive a fire, though they may show signs of fire damage. Disease might be a suspect, but usually there are some disease resistant species in Maine's diverse transitional forests. Clearance for pastureland might be a suspect of interest, with regrowth begun once pastures were abandoned producing a stand of similar-sized trees. Looking for signs of pasture, such as barbed wire attached to stumps that have been cut a meter or more above the ground could provide a clue, and the presence of a few large trees could be the result of a few trees being left for shade in pastures. Clear cutting is another strong possibility, also producing a stand of similar-sized trees. Are



the trees in the area all the same species and are they planted in rows and evenly spaced? This suggests logging activity and replanting at some time in the past. There's a DCC preserve that illustrates such activity. Do you know which one?

What other clues will help you understand a forest's history? The presence of multiple trunks for hardwoods can be an indication that logging or a fire has occurred in the past. In general trees killed by disease and defoliated will develop significant fungal growth within a decade and will subsequently rot, while conifers killed by fire become rot resistant and can remain as standing dead snags for more than 50 years. Multiple stumps are an indication that an area has been logged, but the condition of the stumps, gray on the outside and rotted on the inside, or rotten just beneath the bark but with the central core more or less intact are clues as to what trees were in the forest, how many times it's been logged, and whether or not fire has been a factor.

Maine's forests are in the transition zone between the temperate deciduous forests to the south and the boreal coniferous forests to the north. Transition zones are regions of high diversity of plants and plant communities. Careful examination of our forests can lead to a fuller appreciation of the diversity of plants and plant communities found therein. For those who want to know more about interpreting our forests there's a wonderful guide written by Tom Wessels entitled *Reading the Forested Landscape**.

*Wessels, Tom. 1997. *Reading the Forested Landscape: a natural history of New England*. The Countryman Press, Woodstock, Vermont.



Ingersoll Point Preserve

Applying for Reaccreditation

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. DCC achieved that recognition in 2018. We are pleased to announce that this year DCC is applying for its first renewal of accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

"We are proud of our accreditation status; it demonstrates DCC's long-term commitment to land conservation in Downeast Maine."

Every five years the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each

applicant's policies and programs. "We are proud of our accreditation status; it demonstrates DCC's long-term commitment to land conservation in Downeast Maine," notes Cathy Lookabaugh, DCC's Acting Executive Director. "This is a rigorous process that continually strengthens our organization by assuring sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance, and lasting stewardship. Renewing our accreditation is part of DCC's ongoing commitment to permanent land conservation and fostering an environment where wildlife and people thrive."

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how DCC complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operations of the land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/>



[help-and-resources/indicator-practices](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices).

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on our application will be most useful if sent by December 2nd, 2022.



Reversing Falls, Robin Hadlock Seeley

Protecting Maine Coast's Future

With special thanks to our
four impactful board members

By Gren Blackall, new DCC board member

Pike Lands Preserve

7,000 acres and 72 miles of Maine coastline are now under the stewardship of DCC. These acres and their many walking trails are protected from development and will benefit from a variety of programs that increase their resilience to changing climate, protect their fauna and flora, and ensure they will be available for recreation for generations to come.

Geological forces over the eons have shaped the Downeast Maine that we know and love. But in the coming years, development will lay an increasingly heavy hand on our landscapes. DCC's small staff and Board of Directors are driven to protect these precious resources in perpetuity. With their leadership and the assistance of our devoted members and volunteers who participate each year, DCC's work continues with excellence.

It is with both melancholy and gratitude that we share with you that four of DCC's most productive and supportive board members – Les Coleman, Da-

vid Dowley, Davis Pike, and Julia Arnold – are rotating off this June due to term limit requirements. Former board president and professor at UMM, Ellen Hostert, writes, "These four board members shared a remarkable vision for DCC. They all guided this organization through land acquisitions and the merger of Great Auk Land Trust and Quoddy Regional Land Trust. They gave innumerable hours of their time to steward our protected lands, guide DCC through accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, and build important connections with those communities with whom DCC now works."

These four contributed as a whole and individually. They moved DCC to a stronger organizational and financial position that now opens up opportunities for our future. Each has brought unique perspectives: Les for his financial and legal acumen, David for his passion for stewardship, Julia for her laser-like ability to keep us focused, and

Davis for his insights into our eastern-most communities.

There are new members to the DCC Board who will carry on the same tradition and keep to the high standards that our departing members have instilled. We will miss Les, Julia, David, and Davis as Board members but know that they will continue to support DCC as committee members and advisors. DCC extends its heartfelt thanks to them for their dedication and accomplishments.

Are you interested in joining DCC's efforts? DCC has opportunities for people of all ages, from helping maintain trails, to supporting the multi-dimensional aspects of land conservancy or even donating land. The Board of Directors is always looking for passionate members from the community who bring expertise and enthusiasm to the mission of DCC. Contact Cathy Lookabaugh at DCC at cathy@downeastcoastalconservancy.org.

Thank you to our 2021 Donors!

The generosity of all of our members is vital to preserving the spectacular areas of Downeast Maine that we love. We are thrilled to welcome our newest members, highlighted in bold, who joined us in 2021.

LEADERSHIP

Alan Brooks
Anne Baker & Bob Lacy
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Gilbert Butler
John & Anne Curtis
John Bullitt
John Woollam
Joyce & Les Coleman
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LANDMARK

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Pleasant River Wildlife
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We have made every effort to make this listing as accurate as possible. Please contact us at (207) 255-4500 if you have any questions or corrections.



DOWNEAST COASTAL CONSERVANCY

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Telephone: (207) 255-4500

Facebook: facebook.com/DowneastCoastalConservancy

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.

Printed on recycled paper.

You're Invited! 2022 Annual Meeting

Sunday, July 17, 2:00pm

We hope you can join us at this year's annual meeting. 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 a guest speaker presentation and refreshments. All are welcome.