



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Date: July 30, 2007

Contact:

Mark Berry, Executive Director, Downeast Lakes Land Trust
207-796-2100; downeastlakes01@earthlink.net

**DOWNEAST LAKES LAND TRUST HOLDS 5th ANNUAL MEETING
AND COMPLETES SECOND HIKING TRAIL**

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust (“DLLT”) held its Fifth Annual Meeting and Picnic for over 100 of its supporters on July 29 in Grand Lake Stream, during the Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival. Staff and Directors reported on the organization’s educational, research, and forest management activities over the last year and discussed their interest in acquiring a 6,600-acre parcel of land immediately south of the DLLT’s Farm Cove Community Forest. The Wabassus Lake Tract includes 9 miles of shoreline on Wabassus Lake and the Getchell Pugs, scenic vistas of -- and from -- Wabassus Mountain and Third Lake Ridge, and significant wildlife habitat.

Guest speakers Tom Curren of The Pew Charitable Trusts and DLLT Advisory Board member Sydney Lea congratulated the organization on its successful fund raising for land conservation and its vision for the future. Executive Director Mark Berry read a letter from Governor John Baldacci celebrating the occasion and expressing continued support. The DLLT honored former Executive Director Steve Keith for his years of service and his pivotal role in fund raising. Winning bidders in a benefit auction took home a birchbark pack basket and yellow birch chair made and donated by Bill Mackowski, a watercolor of a brown trout painted and donated by Susan Fritz, note cards featuring the painting, and knitting project kits donated by Maranacook Yarns.

The Annual Meeting also included a drawing for a Grand Lake canoe built by the late Ken Wheaton and donated in honor of William Phillips by his son Peter Phillips of South Burlington, Vermont, with a motor contributed by DLLT Director Steve Schaefer. The Wheaton canoe raffle’s much envied winner was Bob MacKinney from New Jersey, a long-time Grand Lake Stream summer visitor.

The DLLT recently completed construction of the second hiking trail in its Community Forest. The trailhead for the Pocumcus Lake Trail, with off-road parking, is on the Fourth Lake Road, approximately 7.5 miles west of Grand Lake Stream. The entire trail is 3.5 miles long, and it gives hikers the option of a shorter route by omitting a second loop. It passes through several different forest types and offers beautiful views of Pocumcus Lake from its shoreline. A Maine Conservation Corps crew built the trail, supervised by Morgan Cottle of Houlton, a University of Maine School of Forestry graduate who is an intern with DLLT from the Quebec-Labrador Foundation.

The Pocumcus Lake Trail offers hikers a more isolated experience than the DLLT’s first hiking trail, completed last year. The Little Mayberry Cove Trail begins at the village of Grand Lake Stream and runs two and a half miles along the western shore of West Grand Lake. Maps of

both trails are available at the DLLT office at 4 Water Street in Grand Lake Stream, or by calling 207-796-2100.

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust is a nonprofit organization that contributes to the long-term economic and environmental well-being of the Downeast Lakes region through the conservation and exemplary management of its forests and waters. It is Maine's largest land-owning local land trust: its 27,080-acre Farm Cove Community Forest includes the Fourth Machias Lake Ecological Reserve and other forestland sustainably managed forever for wildlife habitat, forest products, and public recreation.

###