

Press Release: 9/28/06

Downeast Lakes Land Trust Elects Officers, Continues Conservation Projects

On Monday, September 25, the Downeast Lakes Land Trust elected new officers. In unanimous votes, the Board of Directors elected Lindsay Wheaton as President, Louie Cataldo as Vice-President, Jimmie Upham as Treasurer, and Steve Schaefer as Secretary.

Steve Schaefer served as President of the Trust since its incorporation in 2001, through its formative stages and its successful campaign to acquire and protect the Farm Cove Community Forest, 27,000-acres to the west of Grand Lake Stream, Maine. Steve remains committed to the goals of the land trust and will continue to serve on the Board of Directors.

The land trust had a very busy summer. The Nature Brigade, our volunteer-organized and led youth education program featured seven sessions and attracted 97 participants. The second annual West Grand Lake Flat Water race on August 6 attracted a variety of canoes and kayaks, and all enjoyed a beautiful day on the lake. Downeast Lakes Land Trust, Passamaquoddy Tribe, Prentiss and Carlisle, Wagner Forest Management, and local citizens are all cooperating in an ambitious forest clean-up effort.

In a continuing effort to improve fish and wildlife habitats on the Community Forest, the land trust is currently completing two new projects and planning for future work, including the 2007 timber harvest.

On Belden Brook, the land trust cooperated with the Grand Lake Snowmobile Club and Project SHARE to re-route a section of snowmobile trail, and remove two culverts on the brook that were a barrier to movement of brook trout, and were at risk for failure during high streamflow events. Project SHARE and the land trust worked with a local contractor to re-construct the streambed and banks, including placing boulders, installing erosion-control fabric, seeding, and planting trees. The land trust plans to continue its brook trout habitat improvement project in 2007 by addressing issues at road - stream crossings.

The land trust is also working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service on a Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program project to improve habitat for deer, upland game birds, and other wildlife. This fall, the trust is planting approximately 15 acres with a conservation seed mix, including 5 permanent herbaceous food plots and roads. The trust has also worked with wildlife biologists to improve deer habitat in wintering areas, and provide early-successional forage areas nearby.

For more information, contact Downeast Lakes Land Trust at PO Box 75 / 4 Water Street Grand Lake Stream, ME 04637, (207) 796-2100, or downeastlakes01@earthlink.net.