

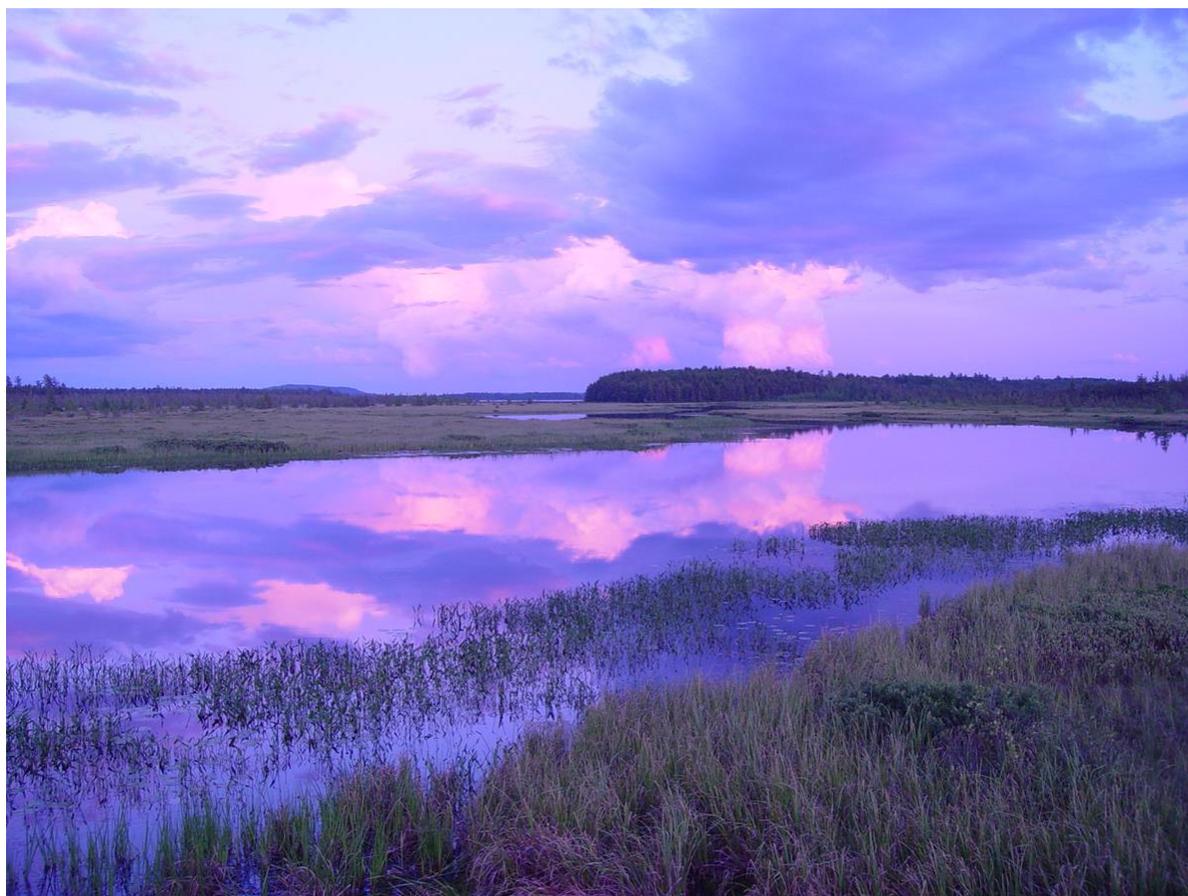
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July 20, 2015

# *Downeast Lakes Landings*

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## West Grand Campaign Nearing Completion

With summer in full swing, the Downeast Lakes Land Trust is charging ahead with its \$19 million capital campaign to purchase the 22,000-acre West Grand Lake Community Forest. This is the culmination of a \$57 million effort to conserve approximately 400,000 acres in Downeast Maine and fulfill our original conservation goal outlined at DLLT's founding in 2001. This acreage connects 500,000 acres of conserved land in Maine with additional conservation land in New Brunswick for a combined total of 1.4 million acres of international corridor benefitting wildlife and people.

After successfully acquiring a working forest conservation easement on the land in 2012, DLLT has just six months remaining to raise the final \$1.2 million required to purchase the

land in fee. The fee land will be owned by DLLT and managed for wildlife habitat, public recreational access, and sustainable timber harvest. With continued support from state and federal agencies, private foundations, and individual donors in Downeast Maine and across the country, we will complete this milestone for conservation in Downeast Maine and ensure Forests and Lakes – For People – Forever®!

## Summer Fun Begins

With the arrival (finally!) of sunny and warm July weather, summer programming is off to a great start at the Downeast Lakes Land Trust. The first week is in the books of two ongoing series' of children's classes that highlight different outdoor activities and lessons titled, "Explorations and Adventures" and "Serious Skills for Boys and Girls," held right here in Grand Lake Stream.



On Tuesday, July 7, DLLT volunteers Patty and Barry Weeks, led a lesson in Nature Journaling. In the first installment of "Explorations and Adventures," children learned how to create their own journals, using generously donated materials by the Weeks', and were busy gluing, binding, stapling, and decorating their new writing pads. With pads and pencils in hand, students ventured out on a short walk through town to practice some sensory writing exercises, led by DLLT's Education and Outreach Manager Colin Brown. As they headed along the canal and over the dam, children wrote Haiku and observed their surroundings, learning about the importance of recording observations in nature.

On Thursday, July 9, the "Serious Skills for Boys and Girls" program was led by Maine Master Guide and DLLT volunteer, Al LaPlante, where Orienteering and Geocaching was the topic of the day. Students first learned valuable map and compass skills, practiced their pacing, and reading a bearing. After refreshing their compass abilities, Al introduced lessons on proper use of a handheld GPS and Geocaching. A popular new activity, Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (a small container) hidden at that location. The group was given a sneak peek at DLLT's brand new Geocache course, to be introduced later this year. After the long hike through the woods, students were treated to a small "treasure" located inside the Geocache, and learned about a fun and exciting new hobby.

Be sure to look for exciting upcoming Downeast Lakes Land Trust activities for both children and adults by visiting [www.downeastlakes.org](http://www.downeastlakes.org). For more information about programs and events, please contact us at (207) 796 – 2100 or by emailing [cbrown@downeastlakes.org](mailto:cbrown@downeastlakes.org).

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## Fish, Floats, and the Fourth of July

Late June and early July at the Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) was buzzing with activities in preparation for the Fourth of July. Staff, students, and volunteers were busy putting the finishing touches on DLLT's parade float in time for the "Grand Lake Stream America" festivities. Many recent Farm Cove Community Forest projects have focused on stream management, arch culvert replacement, and improving native fish habitat, all of which became the theme and focus of this year's float.



On Wednesday, June 24th, DLLT's Education Committee organized a "Float Art Party" that had a fantastic turnout. Children painted large brook trout and salmon, created the lettering and signage, and drew their ideal healthy stream habitat. The banners created for the side of the float read: "DLLT – Restoring Stream Habitats For Future Generations." With the details all finished, it was time for the float construction to take place.

Two days before the big parade, the float building commenced with generously donated materials, space, and time. Hammers, nails, and power tools in hand, staff and volunteers were able to create a picture-perfect view of native fish swimming freely through open streams. This event kicked off DLLT's summer activity series, "Serious Skills for Boys and Girls," a free weekly educational program for children ages 10-16, held every Thursday morning at the Grand Lake Stream School Building. For younger children ages 6-10, "Explorations and Adventures" will run every Tuesday morning at the same location.

The parade was a huge success, with children riding on the float, tossing out gummy worms and fish along the way. Many special thanks go out to DLLT's Education Committee, volunteers, and local children who helped make this year's parade one to remember!

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## Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival Time!

Mark your calendars for this coming weekend, July 25 and 26. The 21st Annual Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival will bring two days worth of local music, art, food, and family fun. Be sure to visit the Downeast Lakes Land Trust booth and check out our latest events and projects. For more information about the festival schedule of events, visit [www.grandlakestreamfolkartfestival.com](http://www.grandlakestreamfolkartfestival.com). See you there!

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## Notice of Temporary Road Closure

Downeast Lakes Land Trust would like to provide ample notification to area residents and visitors about an upcoming, temporary closure of Fourth Lake Road, at Grand Lake Brook. The purpose of this temporary closure is to replace the existing stream crossing with an open-bottom arch, as part of DLLT's continuing efforts to improve waterway conditions and restore fish habitats. The project will also greatly improve road conditions and enhance recreation opportunities in the Farm Cove Community Forest.

The exact dates are weather dependent, but the target dates for the temporary closure are **September 8 – 15**. The window of opportunity for the project is determined by water conditions and regulations of the State of Maine. A detour route around the site will be in place by using Little River Road, Third Lake Road, and Wabassus Mtn. Road. All other sites along Fourth Lake Road will remain open during this time.

We apologize for any inconvenience this improvement project may cause, and DLLT will make every effort to work with affected parties during this closure. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to improve access to the Downeast Lakes region for the enjoyment of all. For more information about the project, please contact Downeast Lakes Land Trust's office at (207) 796 – 2100, or email [info@downeastlakes.org](mailto:info@downeastlakes.org).

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