

***Convergence: a network of complementary activities drawn to a region by its primary assets.***



## **CONVERGENCE 2013**

### ***Landscape-Level Conservation in Down East Maine: Collaborating for Strategic Effectiveness***

**Wednesday 23 October 2013**

Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC), Winter Harbor, Maine

#### ***Presentation Information: Titles and Biographies***

##### ***Large Landscapes and the Past, Present and Future of Conservation***



**Jim Levitt**, Director of the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest, Harvard University and a Fellow at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Jim Levitt is the director of the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest, Harvard University, and is a fellow in the Department of Planning and Urban Form at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. He also serves as a fellow at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School. Jim is a student of the history and evolution of the conservation movement in North America and the world, focusing on landmark conservation innovations that are marked by novelty, strategic significance, measurable effectiveness, transferability and the ability to endure. Jim and his family have spent part of each summer for the past quarter century on the shores of Little Tunk Pond and Tunk Lake in Hancock County, Maine.

##### ***Regional Conservation Partnerships: the New Face of Conservation in New England.***



**Bill Labich**, Regional Conservation Partnership Network, Highstead, Redding CT

Bill Labich is the regional conservationist at Highstead. He facilitates the development and activity of regional conservation partnerships and networks on behalf of the Wildlands and Woodlands Initiative. He has co-authored papers on cross-boundary cooperation among private landowners, on the Wildlands and Woodlands Vision, and on Regional Conservation Partnerships (RCPs) in New England. This last paper, which identified key factors of success, appears in the current issue of the *Journal of Forestry*. Mr. Labich has a Masters in regional planning from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and a B.S. in forestry from the University of Maine at Orono. In his talk, [Regional Conservation Partnerships: the New Face of Conservation in New England](#), Mr. Labich will show how this model of landscape scale conservation, perfectly suited to the region, is resulting in an increase in the pace and connectivity of land protection selecting case studies from among the 39 active RCPs in New England.

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***Conserved Lands in Down East Maine: Have We Saved All the Parts?***



**Andrew Cutko**, Ecologist, Maine Natural Areas Program, ME Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

Andy has worked for more than 15 years at the Maine Natural Areas Program, where he focuses on ecological inventory, assessment, and long term monitoring. He has also worked for The Nature Conservancy, NatureServe, US Forest Service, and a consulting forestry company. Andy has a long term interest in blending remote and field-based assessments of Maine's landscapes, and he is co-author, along with Sue Gawler, of *Natural Landscapes of Maine: A Guide to Natural Communities and Ecosystems*. Andy holds a Master of Forestry degree from Duke University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Williams College, and he is a licensed forester in Maine. He will speak about a recent MNAP assessment of how well conserved lands represent the state's varied habitats, with a focus on Down East Maine.

***Conservation by Design: Planning and Tools for Conservation***



**Joshua Royte**, Conservation Planner, the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

Joshua Royte is the Conservation Planner for the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, a global non-profit conservation group dedicated to protecting biodiversity around the world by protecting the lands and waters all things depend on. This position entails mapping and prioritizing conservation, helping develop strategies and measure results of our work for the protection of landscape-scale forest and freshwater projects.

Current priorities include restoration of river connectivity in the Penobscot River and priority waters around Maine. Joshua received a B.A. from Bard College in 1985 and Masters' from Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies in 1987. After post-graduate work Josh directed The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Fox Island Center, was an environmental planner for the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, and conducted rare species, natural community and wetland inventories for Woodlot Alternatives, Inc. before joining The Nature Conservancy. He is married to Leigh Baker and lives in Yarmouth, Maine.

***Understanding the Conservation Economy of Downeast Maine: An Update on DEREN's Latest Project***



**Jessica Sargent**, Director, Conservation Economics, Trust for Public Lands

Jessica Sargent-Michaud oversees TPL's economic and fiscal impact analysis of open lands research for counties. This research provides local governments with the information necessary to determine the true affect of land conservation on the county's economy and finances. Prior to joining TPL, Ms. Sargent-Michaud was a consultant conducting economic analyses of environmental policies and natural resource damage assessment for state and federal agencies.