



## July 2016 E-NEWS

*Our purpose is to preserve and protect the intrinsic values and public benefits of the natural resources in the Towns of Chebeague and Cumberland - mainland, island and contiguous Casco Bay – and to be responsible stewards in perpetuity for those resources in our trust.*

### **CCLT News Alert: Atlantic Puffins On Chebeague!**



*Photo: Puffin by Oscar V055 (own work) - [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AAtlantic\\_puffin\\_055.jpg#file](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AAtlantic_puffin_055.jpg#file)*

Well, not really, but on Wednesday, July 20, Steve Kress, world-renowned expert on Atlantic puffins will be on Chebeague Island to present a program on his efforts to restore puffins and other seabird populations around the world. The session, to be held at the Island Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m., will also feature “The Puffin Movie,” a film produced by students at the Chebeague Island School. Mr. Kress’ inspiration and tenacity led the successful effort to restore Atlantic puffins to Eastern Egg Rock in Muscongus Bay. He is co-author of the book, [Project Puffin](#), which describes his years-long restoration campaign off the Maine coast and his attempts to replicate his success with puffins for other rare and endangered species.

## Horseshoe Crab Event Highlights Natural Beauty of Broad Cove Reserve



The annual early-June ritual of horseshoe crabs coming ashore to lay their eggs in the sand has been taking place on the Eastern and Gulf Coasts of the United States, including here in Casco Bay, for millions of years. In fact, scientists tell us that the large-shelled, pointy-tailed animals have existed in their current form for nearly 450 million years, pre-dating dinosaurs and other pre-historic creatures.

Imagine, then, my fascination to be sitting on the beach at Cumberland's Broad Cove Reserve along with 50 adults and children on the morning of June 4<sup>th</sup> to observe the horseshoe crabs act out their annual reproduction ritual. Female crabs were there ready to lay their eggs and male crabs competed to fertilize them. The CCLT event brought together Cumberland and Chebeague residents, volunteers and marine scientists for two days of horseshoe crab presentations and hands-on demonstrations.

Best of all, in my view, was the setting: Cumberland's Broad Cove Reserve, at the edge of a sandy beach, high tide lapping at our feet, gulls begging for a tasty clam treat, and the morning sun warming our backs. It is easy to see why the Town and CCLT are working so hard to protect this unique ocean-front property.

*--John Berrett, Cumberland resident*

## Seniors Take a Hike, Learn Chebeague History



Lifelong learning programs, also known as senior colleges, are a popular way for folks over 50 to expand their knowledge and broaden their intellectual horizons. On June 8, 25 enthusiastic participants in the University of Southern Maine's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute ventured to Chebeague Island to get in a bit of island hiking, to marvel at three of CCLT's most exceptional preserves and to be exposed to some island history.

Their initial stop was Rose's Point, CCLT's first easement. Historian Donna Damon explained that this eight-acre salt marsh shoreline was once a very small part of a large farm owned by the Rose family until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Waterfowl visit the large freshwater pond in spring; in fall the foliage offers a spectacular view from the water. The popular beach is accessible to the public by a town-owned right of way. Next they visited Deer Point. The hikers made their way down a narrow road and rough footpath to sun-warmed, rocky ledges, which offer breathtaking views of three nearby islands and the open ocean beyond. During lunch, the participants heard about some of the history of Deer Point, including its importance during World War II. Their final stop was Indian Point (a.k.a., The Hook), a 16-acre preserve on the west side of Chebeague. Owned by a homeowners' group called the Indian Island Company, Indian Point consists of 3700 feet of scenic shoreline and bird habitat and provides public access via an ecologically significant and fragile sand bar to Little Chebeague Island. Tineke Breed, one of the homeowners and an expert birdwatcher, spoke to the group about her 25 years of birdwatching at the site and the preserve's critical importance for both resident and migratory birds. CCLT, the senior college hikers and the hundreds of other users of Rose's Point, Deer Point and Indian Point are grateful to the owners of these special places for their generosity and commitment to conservation and to future generations.

## And Speaking of Hiking: Major Trail Improvements for Knight's Pond, Farwell Forest and Curit



This spring and summer CCLT volunteers are improving trails to increase recreational opportunities and are conducting other stewardship work on several of the trust's protected properties. At the recently acquired Knight's Pond Preserve in Cumberland, a hard-working group of volunteers has created a color-coded trail network, blazed a new connecting trail from the ridge to the pond, improved existing trails and are expanding the trail network onto the adjacent Bruce Hill Property. Also this summer at Knight's Pond, the Towns of Cumberland and North Yarmouth are adding a parking area and replacing a dilapidated wooden bridge. At neighboring Farwell Forest, which connects to Knight's Pond Preserve by a snowmobile trail, volunteers have improved a loop trail and are fighting back against encroaching invasive plant species.

On Chebeague Island, CCLT volunteers are working with the Town of Chebeague to design a new trail at the Curit Property from the North Road to the bluff overlooking Casco Bay with the hope that it will be ready for use this fall. At the Gray Path on the East End of the island, a new bench has been added to the trail in memory of Duke Faubert to provide a place to relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery at Back Shore Beach.

Let us know if you would like to be a part of these on-the-ground efforts to improve our protected properties!

## Can You Dig It? Archeological Work to Begin at Broad Cove and a Report on Recent Investigation of Belvin Cemetery



Thousands of years ago, Wabenaki Native Americans visited the shores of Broad Cove to camp, hunt and enjoy the bounty of fish, clams and other marine life of Casco Bay. Prehistoric evidence of these early natives has been found in a recently discovered shell midden (mound) at Broad Cove Reserve. A test sampling of the site has revealed pottery and evidence of early trading between the natives and European explorers. This September, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, in partnership with the Town of Cumberland's Thomas Bennett, will lead an archeological dig of this Wabenaki shell midden. Archeology students from the University of Southern Maine will assist with the project. CCLT is coordinating with Greely Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to visit the site as part of their indigenous cultures curriculum. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting opportunity to learn more about the fascinating history of local native people.

This spring, William and Christy Belvin, owners of the eponymous CCLT property on Chebeague, contracted with Dan Lynch, a noted New England archeologist, to investigate the Chandler's Cove Ancient Burying Ground, which is located on the property. Mr. Lynch used non-invasive techniques, such as ground penetrating radar, to develop a much clearer understanding of this historically important site. He also was able to accomplish additional cemetery surveys on Chebeague that are unrelated to the Chandler Cove burying ground. Mr. Lynch will present his findings on July 26 at the Chebeague Island Historical Society.

## Climate Change and the Fishing Industry



On September 23, CCLT and the Island Institute will co-sponsor a program on Chebeague Island on the effects of climate change on the fishing industry. Featured will be four short films developed by the Island Institute called “A Climate of Change.” They focus on planning for climate impacts on the Gulf of Maine, ocean acidification, the collapse of oyster fishing in a Florida community and the potential that aquaculture offers for maintaining a fishing economy.

## Join CCLT!



The Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust is grateful to the many Cumberland and Chebeague residents who show their commitment to protecting our area’s natural beauty by supporting our many efforts. If you aren’t already a member and would like to join, contact our Membership Chair Rod Vogel via email at: [rodvogel@maine.rr.com](mailto:rodvogel@maine.rr.com) or Visit CCLT’s website at: [www.ccltmaine.org](http://www.ccltmaine.org)

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