



December 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.

Broad Cove Dig Uncovers “One of the Best Sites on Casco Bay”



Getting a hands-on glimpse into the history of Casco Bay can be exhilarating—and that’s what happened in September during an archeological dig of a Native American shell midden at Broad Cove Reserve. Several CCLT volunteers and stewards came every day to dig and sift. CCLT President Penny Asherman was hooked when she found an antler that had been carved into a tool. Third and fourth grade students at the Friends School visited the site, where archeologists found artifacts dating back 400-2000 years. Greely Middle School sixth graders—guided by archeologists Art Spiess, Megan Theriault and Thomas Bennett—were enthralled with the chance to explore the Abanaki shell midden and to sift and sort for potential finds on the screen. They were wowed by Barry Dana, former Chief of the Penobscot Nation, who brought the Abanaki culture to life for them. One of the sixth graders summarized his reaction this way: “I noticed there was so much history in that one spot,” he wrote. “My family and I had been to that beach many times and it feels special to know that this beautiful piece of history is so close to my home.” The archeologists, so

excited by their findings that they called the site “one of the best on Casco Bay,” are now analyzing their findings and will present them in the spring.

Land for Maine’s Future Money Finally Arrives for Knight’s Pond



In November, more than a year after CCLT, Royal River Conservation Trust, Trust for Public Land and the towns of Cumberland and North Yarmouth closed on the purchase of the 215-acre Knight’s Pond and Blueberry Hill property, a long-awaited \$225,000 check finally arrived from the Land for Maine’s Future, a state program that allocates voter-approved bond funds for conservation projects around the state. The LMF money had been in limbo for 2 ½ years, as Governor Paul LePage used \$11.5 million in land conservation bond funds as leverage in an unrelated policy-dispute with the legislature. The contretemps had put purchase of the Knight’s Pond land in jeopardy and had caused CCLT and Royal River Conservation Trust to use other funds to close the gap created by the withheld LMF money. Relieved that the LMF funds were finally in hand, CCLT President Penny Asherman noted, “CCLT will now be able to replenish its coffers and have the funds ready for the next conservation opportunity in Cumberland or on Chebeague.”

Knight’s Pond Preserve Getting Makeover - and Lots of Use



Acquisition of Knight's Pond Preserve in October 2015 kicked off a busy and productive 14 months that focused on making improvements to the preserve and encouraging folks to enjoy it. The Town of Cumberland has constructed a parking lot at the Pond Trailhead. Town workers removed two old cabins and cleaned up debris around them. An intrepid group of volunteers has created new trails, improved existing trails, installed trail markers and connected trails to adjacent conserved property. To view the map visit CCLT's website at www.ccltmaine.org. Volunteers have also constructed several stream crossings. In the works for the near term are installing signs for the parking area and reestablishing the viewshed on Blueberry Hill to Casco Bay. A critical guide for these and future projects is the Knight's Pond Preserve Management Plan recently adopted by the towns of Cumberland and North Yarmouth. The spring, summer and fall saw lots of residents discovering the various joys and beauty of the new preserve. Skiing and snowshoeing will be fun once the snow arrives and CCLT will host a skating party after the pond freezes over.

CCLT Honors Leila Bisharat with Blanchard Bates Award



The land trust's 2016 Annual Meeting featured presentation of the Blanchard Bates Award to Leila Bisharat, who retired from the CCLT board this fall after 11 years of service. CCLT established the award in 1996 to recognize outstanding efforts to preserve the special places of Chebeague and Cumberland. The plaque honoring Ms. Bisharat noted that "she acquired her passion for the natural wonders of Casco Bay from her father, Blanchard Bates, and burnished his legacy with her own dedication, skills, knowledge and successes." The citation goes on to say that "her most enduring legacy has been to instill her own passion and dedication in a younger generation of land conservationists. Through her example and determination, Leila has ensured that the wonders of the Maine coast will be protected for lifetimes to come. There can be no better encomium."

Fierce Competition Leaves Out To Name Favorite Trees of Chebeague - Neighbors Needle Neighbors About Barking up the Wrong Tree



“Don’t you just love the Copper Beech at the Groothoffs?” “But the Passanos’ Catalpa is so unique!” “Do you know about the old growth Pine near the third tee on the golf course?” “Which Oak do you like the best? The one at Bennett’s Cove is gigantic. The one at Higgins Field is so shapely. The one on South Road is a great climbing tree. It’s so hard to choose.” Picking a favorite tree on Chebeague became a significant preoccupation for many islanders late last summer. They were participating in the first phase of a “FUN”raiser sponsored by the Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust and the Chebeague Island Library, which solicited nominations to choose the Favorite Trees of Chebeague. By October 1, 35 trees had been nominated. A small committee is now negotiating a list of 15 that will be the focus of a Favorite Trees Scavenger Hunt next August. The land trust and the library are indebted to Mally Cox-Chapman for dreaming up this fun and creative way of highlighting the aesthetic, emotional and ecological contributions that trees make to every community and special place.

Milliken Acquisition Marks a New Emphasis on Trail Building



Almost all of the properties in CCLT’s care are parcels of land that range in size from a couple of acres to a couple hundred. Only one - the Gray Path on Chebeague - is a stand-alone trail. Over the past two years, the

land trust's board has dedicated itself to adding more trails to the areas it protects, with an emphasis on connecting larger conserved parcels and reconstituting historic trails that have fallen into disrepair and disuse.

The first of these new trails is one that will link Cumberland Center to the 216-acre Rines Forest. Made possible by the vision and generosity of Roger and Margot Milliken and by the support of the Town of Cumberland, the recreational trail, to be known as the Waterfall Trail, will begin at Blanchard Road and will travel over scenic rolling fields and forests to the cascading waterfalls of Mill Brook in Rines Forest. CCLT will begin to develop the trail for public use in Spring 2017. The land trust is grateful to the Millikens for the love of their land and their farsighted gift. By spring, CCLT hopes to have protected at least two new trails on Chebeague, the start of a spider web of trails ranging primarily through the inner part of the island.

The Many Aspects of Stewardship



CCLT's mission is two-pronged. We actively seek land to preserve and protect. We also are caretakers for the resources in our trust. Stewardship, though often less visible and less glamorous than property acquisition, is an on-going, almost daily activity for our land trust. Trail building, debris clearing and stream crossings at Knight's Pond are all stewardship activities. The three-page detailed list of stewardship activities at the new Broad Cove Reserve during 2016 includes erosion monitoring, removing brown tail moth nests, installing interpretive signs, determining whether an area near the proposed parking lot is a vernal pool (it is not), monitoring relocation of the bathhouse and marking dune grass with stakes, string and signs to discourage foot traffic in that area. On Chebeague, one of the stewards is developing an invasive species management plan for Indian Point. We have also identified the need for control of bittersweet and poison ivy on several island properties. At Deer Point, new signs have been installed to keep visitors better informed about fire danger, dog leash and foot traffic rules.

Each CCLT conserved property has at least one steward and several have more than one. Brian Marcaurelle and Caitlin Gerber, CCLT board members who oversee the stewardship program, note that their goal is to have a team of stewards engaged with each property. They point out that, although there can be a lot of work involved in being a steward, it is work that is rewarding and critical to CCLT's overall success. Please contact via email Brian Marcaurelle at: marcaurelle@gmail.com or Caitlin Gerber at: gerber_c@hotmail.com to inquire about stewardship opportunities in Cumberland or on Chebeague.

Annual Meeting Focuses on the Effects of Climate Change on Maine Fisheries



It was standing room only on September 23rd when Chebeague and Cumberland residents turned out at the Chebeague Community Hall to participate in a program called "A Climate of Change." The centerpiece of the evening was a set of four short films produced by the Island Institute that examine the effects of climate change on the fishing industry. The first three films presented a sobering view of how changes in ocean temperatures and other aspects of the marine ecosystem have affected fisheries in Maine, Alaska and Florida. The fourth projected a positive future for Maine's fishing communities through aquaculture and noted how farming shellfish and sea vegetables offer a viable way for fisherman to stay on the water. Also participating in the program were staff of the Island Institute and Chebeague residents Jeff Putnam and Caitlin Gerber. For more information about the films, go to the Island Institute website at www.islandinstitute.org

Make a Year End Gift to CCLT and Consider Including Us in Your Estate Plan



The Board of Directors of CCLT is abidingly grateful to all of our members for their annual support of our critical work. We encourage you to make a year-end gift as a fitting cap to our very productive 2016. To donate online visit CCLT's website at: www.ccltmaine.org. We also hope you will consider including CCLT in your estate plan as a way of ensuring that the special places of Chebeague and Cumberland will be protected in perpetuity. You would be following in the noble footsteps of an anonymous CCLT benefactor whose generous bequest helped ensure the purchase of Knight's Pond. For more information about creating your own legacy gift, contact via email Penny Asherman at: ashermanpenny@gmail.com or Rod Vogel at: rodvogel@maine.rr.com. Thank you very much.

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 are not already a member and would like to join, contact our Membership Chair Rod Vogel via email at: rodvogel@maine.rr.com or Visit CCLT's website at: www.ccltmaine.org

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