



AUGUST 2015 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.

Knight's Pond & Blueberry Hill Project



Photo: Knight's Pond

While the Governor is refusing to release the \$225,000 in Land for Maine's Future funds awarded to our project in July 2014, the Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust and Royal River Conservation Trust are stepping forward to make sure that this tremendous opportunity to purchase and protect the 215 acres at Knight's Pond & Blueberry Hill for recreational enjoyment and wildlife habitat is not lost. This special place, located less than a mile from our town center, includes a 46-acre pond, a large block of forestland, a network of trails, critical wildlife habitat and views of Casco Bay.

Our time is running out with the landowner, but we are fully committed to seeing this project completed for the benefit of our communities. We are working on firming up our contingency plans now. We will ensure that current and future generations will be able to enjoy hiking, biking, skating

and other outdoor adventures at this truly amazing property. Thank you for your continued enthusiasm and support for this great project! To learn more and to make a donation visit www.ccltmaine.org.

Monarch Butterfly & Milkweed Event



Photo: Monarch Butterfly

CCLT and Oceanside Conservation Trust have joined hundreds of schools, universities, other conservation organizations and citizen scientists throughout North America in an effort to restore migrating monarch butterflies, those iconic, nearly miraculous signs of summer. Not so many years ago, you could stand in your yard on Chebeague, Peaks and other islands of Casco Bay and watch dozens of these delicate beauties flutter by. Now you might see only one or two all summer. The primary cause of this alarming decline is the monarch's dwindling habitat, namely eradication of milkweed plants. Milkweed is the only plant on which monarchs successfully lay their eggs and, since 2000, over 180 million acres of this habitat have been lost, a 30 percent loss!

On August 12th, the Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust is sponsoring a program to describe the monarchs' life cycle, migration patterns, and their reliance on milkweed for survival. The program also will highlight how island residents can assist by planting milkweed and by eradicating the invasive swallowwort weed.

We invite you to join us on Chebeague Island August 12th, 1:30-4:00, at the Island Hall and an island field for a Monarch & Milkweed event featuring a presentation by Harry Pringle, a summer resident of Little Diamond Island, OCT Board member and a passionate amateur expert on monarch butterflies. Harry will discuss what Director Emeritus we can do to enhance monarch habitat in our own backyards and on conservation land. In addition, Chebeague resident Mary

Holman will instruct participants on how to eradicate black swallowwort weed. For more information visit www.ccltmaine.org.

Ministerial: Latest Gem in the Diadem of Protected Islands



Photo: Ministerial Island

This summer the Rutter Family, owners of Ministerial Island, and members of the Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust are picnicking together on a grassy knoll at the island to celebrate its protection. This recent conservation easement covers all 17 acres of this outer island in the Town of Chebeague. Ministerial is one of a series of islands that are lined up like a neat barrier fence along the open Atlantic protecting Chebeague and the interior of Casco Bay.

Edsell Bates, who settled neighboring Bates Island, also owned Ministerial. Born in Harpswell in 1774, Edsell Bates was a master mariner and the father of Captain Lazarus Bates who is buried in the Meeting House Cemetery in Yarmouth. Settlers saw the island's value as a fishing station, with enough fresh water and topsoil to take a family and their animals through the seasons. Native Americans also left behind evidence of their presence on the island with mounds of shell middens.

The Rutter family has treasured the island as a marine and bird sanctuary since 1941, open only to their family and researchers. Their quaint family cottage, built on the foundations of an 1850's two-story house, will remain nestled on the knoll among the rocks and ferns.

Migratory birds and marine life will enjoy access to the island unimpeded by man-made changes forever. Boaters and sailors will enjoy the stunning scenic vistas. And, Chebeague fishermen will continue to actively fish the surrounding waters in summer for lobster and winter for scallops.

Thanks to the foresight and generosity of the Rutter Family, generations to come can count on the protection of Ministerial's pristine shores and fragrant uplands.

Ongoing Vigilance at the Payson/Broad Cove Reserve Property



Photo: Payson/Broad Cove Reserve

In CCLT's continuing work at the Payson/Broad Cove Reserve property on the Cumberland Foreside, it's important to remember three key points.

First, unlike all other conservation easements the Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust holds, the easement written by Marion Payson and her lawyer allows for development and reserves significant landowner rights. The Payson heir's decision to sell the family land to a developer has resulted in consequences that they may not have intended, but are allowed based on the terms of Marion Payson's easement. The property has changed from a one-owner estate to a major subdivision with ten separate owners and Town Reserve.

Second, the sale and development of the property has resulted in increased monitoring and enforcement responsibility for CCLT, which we are fully capable of exercising. We take this duty seriously. We've hired natural resource and legal conservation professionals and consulted with other experts. Our stewardship team is monitoring the property at least weekly. We've issued easement violation notices to the developer and the town and required a remediation plan. We recommended a citizen committee draft a property management plan for the town-owned Broad Cove Reserve, which was just adopted by the Town Council.

Third, the Town submitted its proposed parking and access plans to CCLT and we are carefully reviewing them for approval, rejection and required conditions based upon adherence to the

easement's terms. We recognize that change is hard, but regardless of the landowner, CCLT will continue to vigilantly enforce the easement terms and monitor activities over the long-term to protect the beauty and natural resources of this special property.

Renew Your Membership Online!



Photo: Chebeague Island

It's quick, easy and helps save CCLT paper and postage costs! Go to www.ccltmaine.org to renew your membership online. Thank you for your support!

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, visit our website at www.ccltmaine.org.



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