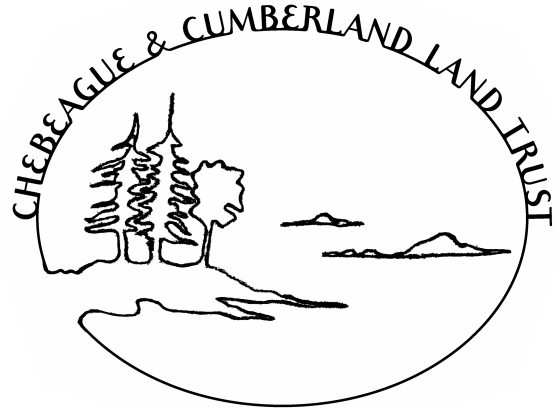


NEWSLETTER

Spring & Summer 2009

Volume 12 Issue 1



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Our purpose is to preserve and protect the intrinsic values and public benefits of the natural resources in the towns of Chebeague Island and Cumberland—mainland, islands and contiguous Casco Bay—and to be responsible stewards in perpetuity for those resources in our trust.

CCLT Mission Statement
(Revised 2007)

WINTER DAY OF OUTDOOR



CCLT Board Members (L-R): Penny Asherman, Al Lamson, Kerry McCormack, Bruce Wildes, Sue Wall and Jonathan Labaree

On February 28 the Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust hosted a *Winter Day of Outdoor Fun* at the Rines Forest in Cumberland featuring snow shoeing, cross-country skiing, hiking and identifying animal tracks. More than seventy-five people of all ages attended, including many who had never been on snowshoes before. Residents of Cumberland, Chebeague Island, and other neighboring towns brought their families and friends to connect with nature exploring this beautiful place. We greeted old friends, and met new ones, while getting a little exercise on a beautiful Maine winter day. Children were given *Pocket Guides to Animal Tracks* to help them discover who lives in the forest. Hot chocolate and other goodies waited for hungry explorers at the end of the trail. One young fellow, so excited to try snowshoes for the first time, reported that he “found tracks from at least five different animals...and then I piled my hot chocolate sky high with whipped cream after the hike!”

(Continued on page 2)



Eastern Mountain Sports provided the snowshoes for this event.
Thank you, EMS!

(Continued from page 1)

The Rines Forest is a magnificent 200-acre property with diverse wildlife, streams and cascades flowing to the Presumpscot River, old stone walls that once surrounded cow pastures, and very interesting terrain. The Town of Cumberland purchased the property in 2003 from the Rines family who had owned and carefully cared for the land since 1918. The forest is part of a 900-acre contiguous block of significant forest habitat and a keystone in an emerging multi-town conservation corridor. A network of trails is maintained for traditional woods-related activities such as hiking, wildlife observation, skiing, fishing, and hunting. Working closely with the Town, CCLT crafted a conservation easement in 2005 to permanently protect the forest as a natural preserve for wildlife and the public to enjoy forever.

Perfect Conditions

Investing in the natural resources of our communities has an indisputable and lasting value. Conservation can inspire people and bring them back to the simple, uncomplicated pleasures of life, like getting outside for a memorable winter hike in your neighborhood! One of the goals of the Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust is to build community awareness of, and appreciation for, both our protected properties and the generous contributions of our members and landowners. Many thanks to all who turned out for this event: it was a fabulous day!

- Jim Thomas



Watching the water appear and disappear under ice and snow

Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust

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www.ccltmaine.org



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Salamander by Dawn Morgan, University of Maine

CCLT Seeking Accreditation

By Jonathan Labaree

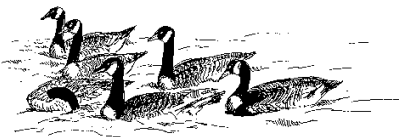


CCLT has begun the lengthy and arduous process of becoming accredited through a national program administered by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. The Land Trust Alliance created the Commission in 2005, partly in response to close Congressional scrutiny of land trusts. Rather than risking new layers of regulatory oversight, the Alliance created a voluntary accreditation process designed to ensure land trusts meet basic standards in their conservation, stewardship, fundraising, and management operations.

Accreditation is based on the Land Trust Alliance's *Standards and Practices*, which serves as the guide for how land trusts of all sizes should conduct themselves. The process begins with a review of existing policies, procedures, and records. With the help of an outside consultant, CCLT has completed that stage. We are now compiling those policies into the format required by the Commission and, where necessary, updating or adopting policies and procedures to meet the standards needed to attain accreditation. Fortunately, CCLT has a strong legacy of operating deliberately, openly, and ethically.

We are also blessed to be going through the process with our two partners in the Portland North Land Trust Collaborative: Oceanside Conservation Trust and Falmouth Land Trust. The Collaborative received one of five grants through the Maine Land Trust Excellence Program that provides funding and technical assistance to land trusts seeking accreditation. Seeking accreditation together is another example of how the Collaborative allows CCLT and its partners to build on each others' strengths while gaining efficiencies through shared resources.

For CCLT, attaining accreditation will take another couple of years as we balance this important work with our other goals of conserving and stewarding land. In the end, CCLT will be a stronger organization that can demonstrate through an independent assessment that it upholds the highest standards and will stand the test of time.

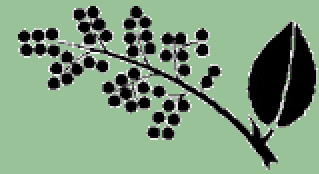


"The Forest Society of Maine (FSM) is a stronger and more focused organization as a result of our participation in the accreditation program. The process helped FSM build organizational cohesiveness and proficiencies in all program areas. The seal of accreditation provides people with a strengthened confidence in FSM and in the land trust community overall."

- Alan Hutchinson, FSM Executive Director

Cumberland Volunteers Map and Survey Vernal Pools

- By Penny Asherman



Dirk and Carly Asherman looking for the egg masses up close

Spring has officially arrived and wood frogs have awakened from their frozen winter state to explosively reproduce on what is referred to by wildlife biologists as “the big night.”

Vernal pools are where all the action takes place and where the cycle of life begins again.

Vernal pools are shallow depressions that usually contain water for only part of the year and are often located near forested wetlands. In Maine wood frogs, spotted and blue-spotted salamanders, and fairy shrimp must have access to vernal pools in order to survive and reproduce. Loss of these pools and surrounding habitat is significant because many amphibians must return to the same pool in which they were born to breed. Not only are these species impacted: the small carnivores and large game species that rely upon the amphibians as an important food source are also affected.



In September of 2007, the State of Maine protected significant vernal pool habitat under the Natural Resource Protection Act (NRPA). The law states that any activity in, on, or over these areas must avoid unreasonable impacts on significant vernal pool habitat and needs permit approval from DEP. A vernal pool is significant if 1) a state-listed threatened or endangered species uses the pool as an important part of its lifecycle, or 2) there is a notable abundance of wood frog, spotted or blue-spotted salamander eggs masses, or 3) fairy shrimp are present.

With the help of a grant from Maine Audubon and Toyota, the towns of Cumberland, Yarmouth, Freeport, Topsham, and Windham are mapping their potential vernal pools. Using an innovative 3-D analysis of aerial photos, these five towns are sending trained volunteers out into the woods to collect data that will determine which pools are “significant.” Specifically, volunteers are counting wood frog egg masses and salamander egg masses in two different visits and also searching for the elusive fairy shrimp on both visits. If *one* of the following criteria is met, the pool is deemed significant: over forty wood frog egg masses, ten blue spotted sala-



mander egg masses, twenty spotted salamander egg masses, or one fairy shrimp. The study will occur over two years to account for fluctuations in conditions.

Over thirty volunteers have come together in Cumberland to survey approximately 200 vernal pools this spring. They are donning waders, carrying clipboards, and counting the gooey egg masses with the hope that the data collected will help protect this vital part of our natural ecosystem.

Salamander by Dawn Morgan, University of Maine

Celebrating Collaborative Land Conservation

By Amy Harris and Jessica Burton

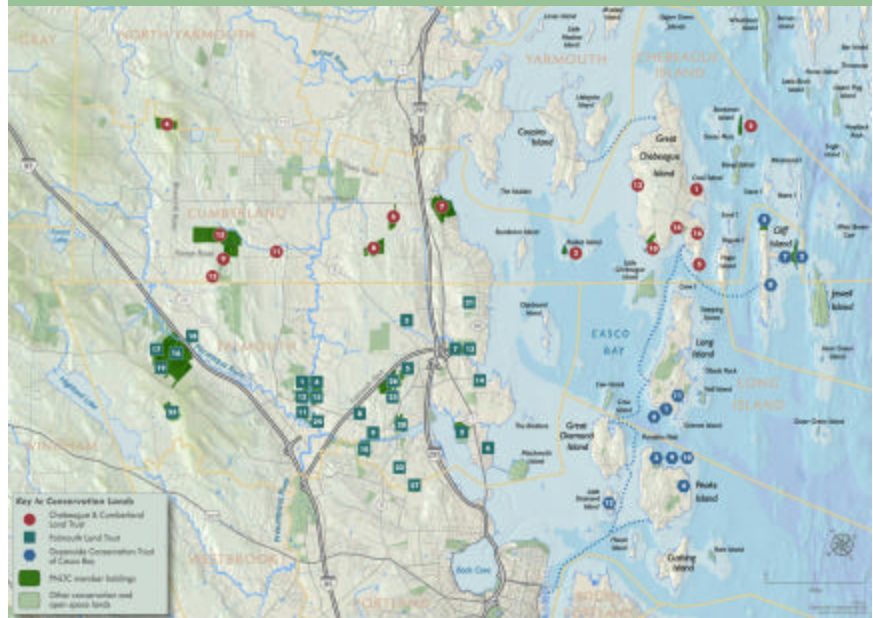
As the sun set over Portland harbor, supporters of land conservation gathered together at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute to celebrate their achievements. The evening's centerpiece was a sophisticated GIS (Geographic Information System) map of the more than 1500 acres held in trust by Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay, Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust, and the Falmouth Land Trust. These three land trusts created the Portland North Land Trust Collaborative in 2006 to facilitate regional land conservation. "Celebrating Collaborative Land Conservation" was a great success with over 75 people attending.

Roger Berle, Chair of the PNLTC, believes that this collaborative drafting of a service area map has "taken these three Trusts out of Twentieth Century, reactive processes and programs, and enabled us to envision accomplishments which will make significant contributions to land conservation in the most populated region of Maine." As Steven Engle, Director of the Center for Community GIS, explains: "These kinds of maps quickly and dramatically create a geographic identity for the land trust, and visually frame information and choices about land acquisition priorities."

Founded in 2006, the Portland North Land Trust Collaborative is the administrative partnership between Falmouth Land Trust and two of the neighboring land trusts, Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay and Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust. The Collaborative continues to support CCLT with administrative and organization support while facilitating the coordinated efforts among the three trusts to create a conservation plan and vision for the greater region and to develop a model of efficient preparation for accreditation (see article on page 3.)

The Collaborative is continuing to receive support from foundations, most recently from the Davis Conservation Foundation. This grant is to create a website that will provide an efficient, effective and secure meeting place for the three partners of the collaborative. We would like to thank Belle Fete Catering, West End Deli, Whole Foods Market, Hannaford Supermarket, L.L.Bean, Maine Coast Protection Initiative, and the Margaret Burnham Charitable Trust.

Collaborative Land Conservation in the Portland North Region Map and Brochure



Designed by the Center for Community GIS



Pen and ink drawing by Ann Maher

Learning to Make Maps with GPS and GIS

A NATIONAL TRAILS DAY EVENT AT TWIN BROOK RECREATION AREA

- By Amy Harris and Jessica Burton

On Saturday June 6, Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust hosted a free GIS/GPS trail mapping workshop at Twin Brook Recreational Area. CCLT board members, members and community members including Town Manager Bill Shane attended the event to learn the art of tracking trails with hand held GPS (Global Positioning System) units and making maps. Tracy Ross, a GIS (Geographic Information System) enthusiast and a local 4H leader, taught the workshop with the assistance of her daughter Amanda, age 17. All participants had an opportunity to use a handheld unit as we traversed the trails of Twin Brook. After we collected the data, we gathered at the covered picnic area and watched as the data was downloaded into a computer and a map was produced!

The event was sponsored by the Portland North Land Trust Collaborative and funded by grants from L.L.Bean and the Margaret Burnham Charitable Trust. It was mirrored by similar events in Falmouth, hosted by the Falmouth Land Trust and on Long Island, hosted by Oceanside Conservation Trust, CCLT's partners in the Collaborative. As part of the Portland North Regional Conservation Planning effort, these events were designed to train local community members to use GPS and GIS technology with the hope of enlisting the help of community members for the mapping project while simultaneously increasing community awareness. Working with the Center for Community GIS since the summer of 2008, the Collaborative is mapping the more than 1500 acres of conserved land overseen by the three member trusts. Our goal is to create a comprehensive database to support effective and regional land use stewardship and planning.



Tracy Ross shows Kerry McCormack, Al Lamson and Bill Shane the tricks of the handheld GPS units

more than 200,000 miles of trails across all 50 states. For the past 16 years on the first Saturday of June each year, thousands of people across the country have raised awareness about trails through dedications, hikes, bike and horse rides, paddle trips, trail maintenance, and other activities. For the first time residents of the greater Portland region had the opportunity to participate in a novel way on National Trails Day, learning how to map these trails ensuring effective stewardship, increasing access through education and inspiring future users.

National Trails Day is a nation-wide annual event coordinated by the American Hiking Society to celebrate

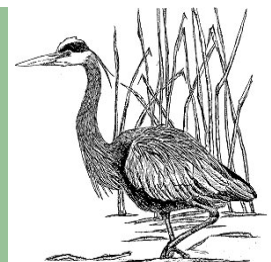


One of the groups sets out to capture trail data

*****SAVE THE DATE*****

CCLT ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

Featuring a presentation from Paul Tukey, Publisher of Peoples, Places and Plants Magazine and National Spokesperson for www.SafeLawns.org





Rines Forest on July 9th. The river and waterfall were very high due to the record rainfall this summer!



CCLT's First Four Protected Properties

Rose's Point (1988, Easement, 8 acres)

Rose's Point property protects a scenic saltwater marsh shoreline and a large freshwater pond on the eastern side of Chebeague Island. Public access is through a town-owned right of way next to the Boat Yard. The intertidal zone on the beach is open to the public.

Stockman Island (1991, Owned by CCLT, 16 acres)

Stockman Island is a nesting island and wildlife refuge. It is an important link in a chain of protected islands located east of Chebeague Island. Public access is restricted during nesting season April 15 to July 15.

Basket Island (1992, Owned by CCLT, 10 Acres)

Entrusted to CCLT by The Nature Conservancy, Basket Island is a beautiful place for daytime picnicking or swimming in a cove. Poison ivy is prevalent inland. Public access is restricted from April 15 to July 15 to protect nesting eider ducks.

Bruce Hill (1995, Easement, 57 acres)

FAA owned, Bruce Hill is a large, forested Cumberland property providing public access for low impact recreational activities. Nineteen additional acres are protected in North Yarmouth, totaling 76 acres of conserved forest.

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from nearby family
farms. Baked Treats
and more...***

***Meet the Vendors at our
website:***

www.cumberlandfarmersmarket.org



WEDNESDAYS 2:30—5:00

Rt.1 Falmouth
Next to Finch's Restaurant

THURSDAYS 2:30—5:00

Sacred Heart Church
Main St., Yarmouth

SATURDAYS 8:30—NOON

Town Office Building
290 Tuttle Road, Cumberland

Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust P.O.Box 25, Chebeague Island, ME 04017

s/s/nwsltr09

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$60.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$250.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner \$500.00 |
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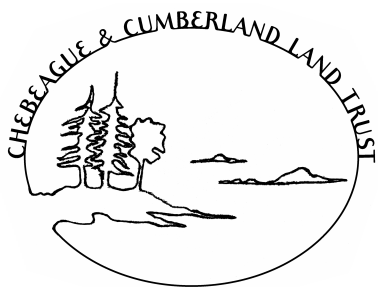
Email address _____



Please make checks payable to C&CLT. The Trust is a non-profit

Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust
P.O. Box 25
Chebeague Island, Maine 04017

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NEWSLETTER *Spring & Summer 2009*

**JOIN C&CLT ON SATURDAY AUGUST 8, 2009 ON OUR
CRUISE OF CASCO BAY ABOARD THE TOUR BOAT *MARIE L.***

PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE AT 699-2989 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.CCLTMAINE.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

**DEPART: CHEBEAGUE IS. 8:30AM.....COUSINS IS. 9:15AM
RETURN: COUSINS IS. 2:30PMCHEBEAGUE IS. 3:00PM**



THIS ISSUE

- ?? Winter Day of Outdoor Fun
- ?? CCLT Seeking Accreditation
- ?? Cumberland Volunteers Map and Survey Vernal Pool
- ?? Celebrating Collaborative Land Conservation
- ?? Learning to make maps with GPS and GIS
- ?? High Water at the Rines Forest
- ?? The First Four Properties

***THE CCLT WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING...PLEASE VISIT WWW.CCLTMAINE.ORG TO
LEARN MORE ABOUT CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND THIS LAND TRUST.***

Our website was designed by **HALL WEB SERVICES** of Scarborough, Maine, a full service web firm specializing in web design, development and internet marketing for small and medium businesses. Hall is proud to support the community by providing in-kind web design, development and marketing services to area non-profit organizations.