



## Land Trust News March 2013

*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 Receives Eco-Excellence Community Award



Ecomaine selected CCLT to receive one of the 2013 Eco-Excellence Community Awards at a ceremony on March 12th. The award recognizes CCLT for its "outstanding contributions to ecological preservation." Ecomaine is a non-profit waste management company owned and operated by 21 municipalities in Southern Maine. CCLT is honored to be acknowledged by Ecomaine for its contributions to the community and the region!

### Hopping Down the Cottontail Trail



This winter, CCLT volunteers of all ages have been donning their snowshoes to search for the elusive New England Cottontail rabbit. With training in December, adults and students became citizen scientists and have been conducting surveys of potential cottontail habitat sites identified in Cumberland and Chebeague Island. The field study is part of an overall survey from Portland to Brunswick organized by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the New England Cottontail Coalition. Populations of the native New England Cottontails have been dwindling due to habitat loss, predation and natural causes. If you have recently seen cottontails, or know where they used to live, send us an e-mail at [info@ccltmaine.org](mailto:info@ccltmaine.org).

PHOTO: Left to right- Bea Crosman, Bev Johnson, Brennan Jackson, Tiffany Calder, Celia Whitehead, Laura Hamilton, and Ellie Jackson. *Photo credit: Beverly Johnson*

## Spring Fever at Frog Pond & Salamander Swamp



Join us for an impromptu “Spring Fever” event at Frog Pond on Range Road in Cumberland. One of the first true signs of spring is the sound of frogs. When the frogs awaken from their winter freeze, they head to vernal pools to mate and lay their eggs. The sights and sounds of these vibrant wetlands are one of the greatest spectacles in Maine’s natural world. Vernal pools are not only critical to all species of frogs, but also for salamanders, turtles, insects and other animals. Come experience the burgeoning of spring with us at CCLT’s Frog Pond! Since we must wait for nature to tell us when this is going to happen, please e-mail pennyash@maine.rr.com if you are interested in participating. We will send an e-mail notice as we get close to the date. The frog activity usually occurs in March in the evening when we have the first warm rain.

## Conservation Easement Tax Incentives 2013



Congress just renewed an incentive that enables landowners to get a significant tax benefit for donating a conservation easement on their land. This invaluable conservation tool has helped CCLT work with many willing landowners to protect their land. The incentive allows easement donors to 1) deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income in any year (up from 30%) and 2) continue to take that deduction for as long as 16 years (up from 6 years). The financial impact of the enhanced tax incentive can be quite positive for the taxpayer. This incentive is a win-win for landowners and conservation. Landowners must act quickly, however, because the incentive is currently set to expire December 31, 2013. Some members of Congress are working to make the incentive a permanent option.

## Stay Tuned! Horseshoe crabs...



Our popular summer event of watching the horseshoe crabs on the shores of the Payson Property will be taking place again this summer.

Space is limited, so please stay tuned for details on participation.

**Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust**  
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