July 2017 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.

Celebrating 30 Years of Conservation

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust. The years since our founding, with their accumulation of challenges and celebrations, have validated the vision of our early founders and leaders. It was a vision that began with the premise that our two communities, separated by the beautiful and sometimes forbidding waters of Casco Bay, could be more successful conserving land and protecting natural resources by working together rather than by working separately. Thirty years ago, our founders were alarmed at the mounting pressures to develop land and limit access to the wondrous natural places on the mainland and in Casco Bay. From Rose’s Point, our very first easement, to the networks of trails we now are assembling in Cumberland and on Chebeague, we have conserved nearly a thousand acres of special places—each stream that gurgles with spring run-off, each snowy owl
that winters at Indian Point and each child who helps a frog across a road on a rainy April evening a testament to our founders’ foresight and determination.

In many ways, the challenges of conservation now are even greater than those our founders faced 30 years ago. Pressures for development, threats to ecosystems and the demand for recreational opportunities are all greater than they were in the late 1980s. Thanks to the support of our two communities and our two town governments, the generosity of our many members and the dedication of our board members and dozens of volunteers, CCLT is ready and eager to face these challenges, build on our past successes and to continue to validate our founders’ vision.

**Tide Pool Adventure**

Join us for our monthly Get Out! Nature Walk on Chebeague Island, Wednesday July 19 from 12:45 p.m.--2:15 p.m. We will be tide pooling this month at Bennett’s Cove with guest nature guide Carol White. Come get your feet and hands wet for this intertidal adventure. We will learn about the diverse ecosystem in the intertidal zone of our rocky and sandy Maine shores! All ages are welcome. Islanders should meet at Bennett’s Cove Beach at 12:45 p.m. Mainlanders will take the 12:15 p.m. ferry from Cousins Island. Please rsvp to asherman.penny@gmail.com if you are coming on the ferry so we can arrange for transportation. For more information visit www.ccltmaine.org.
Hunting for Favorite Trees on Chebeague Should Be a Breeze, But Will It?

The exciting finale of the first-ever Hunt for Favorite Trees is fast approaching. On Saturday, August 5 at noon, teams will branch out around Chebeague to find the 17 trees nominated last summer by the island community. Their goal will be to find at least ten of the nominees scattered around the island. They’ll take selfies of themselves with the trees, provide a fact from a report written by a student at the Chebeague Island School and a sketch of their leaves—all, of course, to prove they found the right trees. Prizes will be awarded to each team that finds at least ten trees and the best selfie will be featured on the Chebeague website. This “friendraiser” is co-sponsored by CCLT and the Chebeague Island Library. The two organizations 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. When we know and value our land and our trees, everybody wins—especially the trees.

Ready to Launch

Have you visited ccltmaine.org recently? If not, we urge you take a few minutes to check out our completely redesigned website. The website has been updated to make it more user-friendly and informative. It showcases CCLT’s preserves and easement properties and includes helpful background information, usage guidelines and photos. Now it is even easier to stay informed about CCLT news and events, to become a member of the land trust and to
volunteer. We're truly excited about the new site and we hope you are too! Huge thanks are due to Chebeague Island native John Emery and his team at Emery Creative for their help in developing a site that we think reflects the spirit of CCLT and the beauty of the special places in our communities.

**Greely Woods Conservation Easement**

CCLT is working with the Town of Cumberland this month to complete a new conservation easement in densely-populated Cumberland Center. The easement will protect recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat in the Greely Woods. The 38-acre forested parcel’s trail network has been used by local residents for running, hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, enjoying nature and hunting for many years. The conservation easement will ensure that many Cumberland residents—particularly those in Cumberland Center—will have access to outdoor recreation minutes from their door. The parcel also provides habitat for wildlife and water quality protection for streams, wetlands and Cumberland Center’s aquifer. In addition, Greely Woods is a key link in a growing trail network throughout Cumberland and we are excited by the extended trail network possibilities!

**Curit Trail Open**

Eight volunteers yielding three chainsaws, a brush cutter, and some sharp loppers spent a mid-May Saturday afternoon clearing a new trail on land known as the Curit Property on Chebeague
Island. This 8.2-acre property is owned by the Town of Chebeague and protected under a conservation easement by CCLT. The trail was cut on a 50-foot right-of-way that runs from North Road (across from the cemetery), down onto Town-owned conserved land where it concludes in a loop that parallels a ravine and the shore. This lovely, less than a mile-long foot path provides beautiful views of the bay and the stream that trickles down the adjacent ravine. Come check it out!

**Message in a Bottle**

![Message in a Bottle Image]

Finding a message in a bottle is the stuff of children’s adventure books and tall tales, right? Not if you ask Jonathan Labrie, a member of the staff of the Cumberland recreation department and a recent visitor to Stockman Island. Jonathan ventured to the island with friends to help clean up the damage done by the long and harsh winter. While walking the beach, he happened on a modern-day, real-life message in a bottle. The note was sent by an 8th grade science class from Malden Middle School near Boston. The students were studying ocean currents and plastic waste in our oceans. They sent the bottle on its journey from Boston in March 2016 as an experiment to see where the currents take waste on the East Coast. Although school is out for the summer, Jonathan sent an email to the teacher to report where the bottle had landed in Casco Bay so that he could share the information with the students. The note reminded us not to put any plastic in the ocean and asked us to recycle the bottle that carried the note – which we did!
Accreditation Renewal

In 2012, the Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust became one of the first all-volunteer land trusts to receive accreditation by the national Land Trust Alliance. The successful accreditation, achieved after a rigorous and arduous two-year process, was a hard-earned recognition of CCLT’s procedures, standards and credibility. We have now completed an equally meticulous application process to have our accreditation renewed for another five years and to reaffirm CCLT’s continuing commitment to excellence. The Land Trust Alliance will review our application over the next several months, with a decision expected in early 2018.

Make a 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 gift to support our work as we enter a busy phase of acquisition on the mainland and islands. Donate online 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 legacy gift, contact Penny Asherman (asherman.penny@gmail.com) or Rod Vogel (rodvogel@maine.rr.com). Thank you very much.
Join CCLT

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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