December 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.

Windstorm Pounds Deer Point

Our Deer Point property on the exposed southwest tip of Chebeague Island was particularly hard hit during the intense late-October windstorm. Downed spruce trees buried the hiking trail to the point. Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust (CCLT) Board Member and Chebeague Stewardship Chair Caitlin Gerber rallied 25 volunteers who, with eight chainsaws and a lot of enthusiasm, got the trail re-opened. CCLT Board Member Beverly Johnson captured the severe damage and the crew’s incredible volunteer spirit in this six-minute video: https://youtu.be/bNzU2dV9pGY

Post-Windstorm Trail Clearing in Cumberland

On the mainland, CCLT member, Victor Otley, and his family promptly cleared trails at Knight’s Pond Preserve. The Town of Cumberland work crews cleared downed trees from the new path leading from the parking lot to the beach at Broad Cove Reserve. On the Farwell Forest property (pictured), longtime
Property Steward Bruce Wildes had to bring in his tractor and a winch, along with a team of CCLT Board members and volunteers, and their chainsaws to clean out various big trees precariously leaning over the trail. CCLT greatly appreciates all the volunteers in Chebeague and Cumberland who pitched in to get our trails re-opened to the public after this strong storm.

Stewards Conducting Annual Monitoring Walks

During November and December, our volunteer stewards—or in some ideal cases, stewardship teams—have been out conducting year-end monitoring site walks for each of our properties. The stewards photograph and write up annual reports on the properties to ensure compliance with the terms of our conservation easements and to identify any management tasks. If you would like to be added to our list of members willing to volunteer for trail work or to be part of a stewardship team for one of our properties, please send us an email at info@ccltmaine.org. We have a lot trail work planned for 2018 and that is without responding to any more big storms, so we could use the help!

New Waterfall Trail Progressing

CCLT member David Fitz has been hard at work building the soon-to-be-completed Waterfall Trail off of Blanchard Road near the center of Cumberland. This is David in late November standing next to one of three incredible bridges he built. You may have spotted David this summer or fall driving his tractor from his house through Cumberland Center to the trail! A team of CCLT volunteers helped David cut the last section of trail the weekend after Thanksgiving (we featured a photo of that crew on our year-end postcard to members). The trail needs one more bridge and David will be working with a local Eagle Scout candidate to build it. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for when this amazing trail, made possible by the forethought and generosity of CCLT members, Roger and Margot Milliken, and the hard work of David Fitz, will be completed.
Get Out! Nature Walk! December 16th

Join us on Saturday, December 16 from 10:00-11:30 at Rock Ridge Preserve in Cumberland for our last Get Out Nature Walk of 2017. We will be searching for signs of winter and animal tracks. All ages are welcome. There is a small parking area at 39 Rock Ridge Run by the Stream Trail. CCLT would like to extend its sincere appreciation to master naturalists Karen Herold and Karen Massey for kicking off this new program in 2017 and encouraging all of us to get out and enjoy the wonders of nature all year round! Stay tuned for more walks in 2018.

Knight’s Pond Winter Skating

With the Artic air moving in over the next few weeks, the ice should start setting up nicely at Knight’s Pond! Let’s hope the snow holds off so that we can have some fun days skating, playing hockey and enjoying the natural beauty of the pond. Remember to wait until the ice is 5-7” thick before heading out. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for another fun skating party if conditions are good!

Film Highlighting Conservation in Maine Communities

Join CCLT and several other local land trusts in viewing a new film, “Community Conservation,” by award winning film maker Mark Ireland on Thursday, January 11 at St. Mary’s Church, 43 Foreside Road in Falmouth. The beauty of Maine — from coast to mountains, farmland to deep forests — is richly captured in this documentary. Hikers, kayakers, immigrant farmers, kids, fishing guides, balsam tree-tappers, canoe-builders and more, tell the stories of local communities finding balance in nature. The screening will be followed by a conversation designed to open dialogue about community conservation across Maine and in our own local communities. Tim Glidden, Maine Coast Heritage Trust president,
and filmmaker Mark Ireland will participate on the panel as well as representatives from the surrounding communities. The film is being presented collaboratively by CCLT, Falmouth Land Trust, Presumpscot Regional Land Trust and Royal River Conservation Trust.

Maine Master Naturalist Course

Have you always wanted to learn more about nature and share your passion with others? The Maine Master Naturalist Program (MMNP) offers an opportunity to “get up close and personal” with the natural resources of our great State. Participants engage in 100 hours of in-depth training over a year as they learn about Maine’s ecosystems, plants, animals, conservation biology, and so much more. The next course takes place at Maine Audubon in Falmouth starting in April 2018. Students have the opportunity to: examine the natural resources of Maine alongside scientists, faculty, and other professionals, connect with others who share a passion for nature, and volunteer time and expertise by becoming a naturalist volunteer. Here is the link for more information http://mainemasternaturalist.org/. Many of the graduates from this program have contributed to CCLT educational events, including our volunteer leaders of the monthly Get Out! Nature Walks – Karen Herold and Karen Massey!

CCLT Board Members

On behalf of the CCLT Board of Directors, we wish to sincerely thank Sue Burgess and Carl Tubessing for their years of service on the board of directors. Their tireless volunteer hours over so many years has been a stunning act of generosity. We will miss them greatly. While we say goodbye to Sue and Carl for now, we welcome four new directors serving three-year terms. We are pleased to announce Tracy Ames and Diane Lukac from Chebeague Island, and Matie Little and James Mallar from Cumberland, as new board members.
Make a Year-End Gift to Support Our Work

CCLT is incredibly grateful to all our members for their generous support of our essential work. We appreciate everyone who recently gave online to CCLT on #GivingTuesday (November 28), our first social media fundraiser! As promised, the CCLT Board of Directors in their year-end gifts will be matching every dollar donated during our Giving Tuesday campaign. We hope other members also will make a year-end gift to help CCLT achieve its ambitious plans for 2018. Your generosity allows us to preserve and protect the best natural habitats in our communities, provide public access whenever possible, expand outdoor recreational opportunities, and engage our youth so they too will learn to cherish our towns’ natural spaces. As a small non-profit organization, our success depends on our members’ generous financial support.

We also hope you will consider including CCLT in your estate plan as a way of leaving a lasting legacy to your community. You would be following in the philanthropic footsteps of an anonymous CCLT supporter whose generous bequest helped ensure the purchase of Knight’s Pond (pictured). For more information about creating your legacy gift, contact Penny Asherman (asherman.penny@gmail.com) or Matie Little (mlittle@leblancyoung.com).

We Need Your Help With Our 2018 CCLT Membership Drive

CCLT has always believed that together we can make a difference in our communities and a robust membership is the lifeblood of our success. In 2017, we have added 36 new members, which we are thrilled about! Our ambitious goal for 2018 is to add at least 50 more new members. We have started our push already. This fall we sent a letter written by two new Cumberland residents (who we subsequently invited to join our Board) to some 300 other new residents, telling their story of how they first connected with CCLT properties and encouraging others to join. You can read their letter HERE. The response has been very positive. The father of one of the new families that joined CCLT in response to the letter is pictured above clearing the Farwell Forest trail! You, our members, may know neighbors and friends that share our values and enjoy our protected lands, but have merely not been asked to join. We encourage you to personally invite them to join our efforts.
For More Information Visit CCLT’s website at: www.ccltmaine.org

CCLT Board of Directors

Penny Asherman, President

Rod Vogel, Vice President

Courtney Wilson, Treasurer

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