

Cape Lands

The Newsletter of **CAPE ELIZABETH LAND TRUST** Summer/Fall 2004

For You, For Your Family, Forever!

Since our last newsletter the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust finalized its purchase of Robinson Woods and has taken a giant step forward toward the completion of our campaign to preserve the William H. Jordan Farm on Wells Road. Both of these projects exemplify the collaborative nature of funding land acquisition, and neither would have been possible without the generous support of our friends and members—**Thank You!**

Robinson Woods

More than three years ago we embarked upon a bold campaign to raise over \$800,000 to purchase Robinson Woods. John Robinson had offered the property to us at only half its appraised value—we knew we had to seize the opportunity



to permanently protect this unique property. For an organization with one part-time staff and an operating budget of only \$20,000 we also knew we would need help. Our first breakthrough came from a \$250,000 grant from the Land For Maine's Future program. Our second guardian angel was the Town of Cape Elizabeth who matched the LMF grant, putting us well on our way towards ownership.

With smaller grants from the

Casco Bay Estuary Project, the Lennox Foundation, and the Davis Foundation, we were able to piece together the remainder of the funding locally.

What we discovered during these three years was an incredible local understanding and appreciation for preserving open space here in Cape Elizabeth. To so many who contributed individually to this campaign you will be glad to hear that not only do we now own the property outright, but we also have been busy building bridges *(cont'd. p 2)*

Jordan Farm

For the past three years the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust has been working to preserve 47 acres of farmland adjacent to the Spurwink Marsh known as the William H. Jordan Farm. With the assistance of the Land for Maine's Future Program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm and Ranchland Protection Program CELT has been able to leverage over \$1,000,000 in grants toward this project.



Through a variety of loans and donations CELT has dedicated over \$170,000 toward this project, but we still need to raise close to \$100,000 to fulfill our financial obligations on this project. As with Robinson Woods this opportunity was too great to miss and risk losing one of Cape's few working farms. Under the terms of our agreement the stunning views of the Spurwink Church across the Marsh will be forever protected and the land will be maintained for agricultural use. But perhaps the best part of this project is that three generations of the Jordan family will continue to own and work the fields. To many, this project perfectly illustrates the importance of Cape Elizabeth's maintenance of its rural heritage and protection of open space for public access and/or agricultural use. With sweet corn coming, and strawberries just past, we wouldn't want it any other way.

THE CAPE ELIZABETH LAND TRUST is a non-profit, membership organization dedicated to preserving accessible retreats, wildlife habitat, and other natural areas in Cape Elizabeth to be used for the education and enjoyment of this and future generations. ☞ **The participation and support** of all who share the organization's interests is most welcome. ☞ **The Land Trust now protects** over 500 acres of historic, scenic and ecologically-significant farmland, woods, wetlands and shore land in Cape Elizabeth. ☞ **CELT is a member** of the Maine Farmland Trust, the Maine Land Trust Network and the Land Trust Alliance, the national organization of local and regional land trusts.



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FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION OF
WEBSITE AND EMAIL SERVICES.**



Greetings. As I reflect upon all that has happened during my first seven months as President I am overcome.

We have had several major successes. The completion of the Robinson Woods acquisition in December (with the support of the Town of Cape Elizabeth and the Land for Maine's Future program), was our first acquisition of such a major scale. The preservation of forty-seven acres of the William Jordan Farm through the purchase of development rights was another and has guaranteed that the view of the marshes and the Spurwink Church will remain for all future generations to enjoy. These were possible only through the dedication of our members who pursued state and federal funding and the generosity of land trust members and present and former resident of Cape Elizabeth who opened their checkbooks to help.

How fortunate we are to have two highly experienced land preservation people in our office, Director **Chris Franklin** and Administrator **Suzanne Foley-Ferguson**. As we grow they are giving us the guidance needed to deal with all the complexities of this type of organization.

The excitement of these accomplishments is dimmed, however, by the loss of two dedicated members, **Peter Cooley** and **Frank N. Strout**. Peter's enthusiasm for our work was cleverly evident in his participation on the Board and several of our committees. Frank N. Strout, father of our vice-president, recognized the need for land conservation in Cape Elizabeth before the formation of our trust, and became one of our first ever board members.

Both have left us but their love of our mission is evident in the many gifts given to us in their names. They are missed and will be forever remembered.

I hope that more of you will join us in our various activities. Come see what we have done: Come enjoy what has been saved **for you, and your family, forever.**

With utmost sincerity:

Forever, cont'd from p. 1

and maintaining trails. Soon we will be installing a kiosk at the Shore Road entrance and some interpretive signs along the trails providing information about woodland habitat, amphibians and avian residents of Robinson Woods.

For those who have never seen Robinson Woods, consider joining the Land Trust members on their guided walks held the last Sunday of each month. Upcoming walks will be September 25, October 24 and November 28.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Now in our final six months of our Campaign for the Cape, we have raised over 75% of our \$2.1 million goal in support of our land acquisitions, stewardship and education programs. *With your continued support we will be able to meet our goal by raising another \$500,000 by December.* Already this campaign has raised enough money to purchase Robinson Woods, and to secure the development rights to the Jordan Farm.

Having closed on two high profile land acquisition projects, CELT now needs to ensure that we are able to care for and maintain our properties for the greatest public benefit. The majority of the funds raised in this final phase of our Capital Campaign will be earmarked especially for the continuance and strengthening of our education and stewardship programs.

You'll find our list of generous contributors to the Campaign on Page 6. Thanks to ALL!

Senior Transition Project

One of the great things about working for the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust is the opportunity to be out on the trails talking with the users of our trails and of course doing a bit of trailwork at the same time. Each year when graduating seniors are deciding how they would like to spend the final three weeks of their senior year 'giving back to the community' CELT always hopes for a few volunteers. This year turned out to be a particularly rewarding year as five seniors (inspired by our student representative to the board Taylor Strout) asked to work with us for their Senior Transition Project. For three weeks in May, Taylor, along with fellow seniors Mike Scot, Alex McCarthy, Rory Hannon and Chris Webber completed a combined 600 hours of labor and learning.

The experience for all was quite rewarding. CELT was able to build two new bridges at Robinson Woods, build a new trail along the town center trail, and clear brush from many CELT and Town properties. Each of the seniors in turn learned more about their local environment, and about the day to day operations of the Land Trust. While the weather in late May provided a gray and often wet stage to work on, the seniors completed their work without complaint. While supervising the students we were able to take the time to talk with local and visiting walkers on our various trails. It was rejuvenating to meet so many CELT supporters out on the trails enjoying themselves.

One of the great parts of their Senior Transition Project was being able to participate in our 6th annual Eighth Grade Trail Workday. After a brief in-school orientation the eighth graders split into six groups and each group came out for a half-day of trailwork. As always we were amazed by how much the kids accomplished over the three days. The eighth graders helped clear the new Willow Brook trail, as well as pitching in on some trail maintenance at the Dyer-Hutchinson property. Board member Nancy



Miles once again supervised our 8th grade workweek. Nancy coordinated teacher and parent volunteers and rounded up much needed tools and woodchips, generously donated by John Greene.

CELT thanks all those who participated this year, and sends a special farewell and thanks to our seniors. Each spring we enjoy to these service-learning projects and we look forward to developing more programs designed to getting local school children out on the trails to introduce them to the importance of preserved lands in Cape Elizabeth.

As I enter my second year as Executive Director of the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust I am amazed at how much we have been able to accomplish in the past year. As we look forward CELT will continue to operate our Land Acquisition, Stewardship and Education programs, while building a stronger local base of support.

Some of our accomplishments in the past year include:

Land Acquisition

☛ **Robinson Woods:** In December 2003 CELT finalized its purchase of Robinson Woods, permanently protecting 80 acres of mature forest, wildlife habitat, and public access trails. Our Robinson Woods purchase also includes a 2-acre shorefront lot at Pond Cove across Shore Road.

☛ **Jordan Farm:** In March 2004 CELT purchased the development rights to 47 acres of the William H. Jordan Farm on Wells road (see attached article). This farm will remain in the Jordan Family and continue to be farmed while protected from development by an agricultural easement held by CELT.

Stewardshop

☛ **LMF Grant:** In September 2003, CELT received a \$12,500 grant from the Land For Maine's Future program to improve access to Robinson Woods. These funds are being used to build bridges over wet areas, to install interpretive signs, and to place a large informational kiosk at the entrance to Robinson Woods, complete with a full color map of the Woods commissioned from local watercolor artist Rose Kennealy.

☛ **8th Grade Trail Work:** In May 2004 CELT hosted the entire 8th grade for three days of trail work off the Town Center Trail behind Chancellor Gardens. Each class spent half a day clearing brush and spreading wood chips along the new Willow Brook Trail.

☛ **Senior Transition Project:** This year CELT hosted five seniors from Cape Elizabeth High School for three weeks, teaching them about land stewardship and the day to day operations of the Land Trust. The seniors also proved to be exceptional trail workers, logging close to 100 hours of trail work for CELT.

☛ **Annual Monitoring:** Members of CELT's Stewardship Committee made their annual rounds to all of our protected properties to ensure compliance with our easements and management plans.

Education


☛ **After School Programs:** This spring, two of our Education Committee members, Lisa Silverman-Gent and Suzanne McGinn, launched an After School Program for elementary aged children to explore and learn more about our local environment through field trips to select CELT properties.

☛ **Summer Camp:** Following the success of the After School Programs, our Education Committee created a four day Mini Summer Camp for kids to explore locally protected habitat. The first session finished in June, and a second will be held in August. Visits to Great Pond, Robinson Woods, the Spurwink Marsh and Kettle Cove were designed to educate and inspire kids to know their local environment.

☛ **Maine Community Foundation:** In May 2004 CELT submitted a \$15,000 request to the Maine Community Foundation's Aristotle Fund to expand our environmental education programs into local school curriculum. By offering training and resource materials CELT hopes to create opportunities for teachers to learn more about locally protected areas and to integrate environmental education into curriculum planning.

All of us here at the Land Trust are very excited to build upon these successes and to keep strengthening our organization with your support and guidance. Please feel free to stop by our offices or give us a call. Together we can keep Cape Elizabeth looking like Cape Elizabeth far into the future.

New Maps Coming in August!



The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust is very pleased to announce the release of an 18" x 24" full-color map depicting the Town of Cape Elizabeth, highlighting all Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, Greenbelt and State Park preserved lands. Not only will this be a beautiful stand-alone map of the town, it is sure to inspire you to get out and explore new trails. Trail descriptions including notes on the special features of each property will easily guide you to the trailhead. This map will be for sale at various outlets around town BUT it will be FREE to current and new CELT members. One more reason to become a member today!

We are also very pleased to have a new map of Robinson Woods, reproduced from an original watercolor commissioned from local artisan Rose Kennealy. The painted map beautifully captures the character of Robinson Woods while providing easy navigation points to lead you around the 2.5 mile outer loop trail.

THE CAPE ELIZABETH LAND TRUST

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND FOUNDATIONS
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Membership Drive

As CELT continues to expand our programs we need not only to retain our existing membership base but also continually attract new members. Membership dues provide the majority of our operating expenses, keeping our doors open and swinging. Over the years our mailing list has grown to nearly 1,700 current AND past members, but as you can see, our current membership is well below this number. Please check the list on the previous page to make sure you are a member in good standing. IF SO, thank you for your continued support. If not, PLEASE JOIN TODAY!

As an added incentive, we are proud to present to all current and new members a complementary copy of our beautiful NEW Cape Elizabeth Town and Trails Map—see our note on Page 4!

* * Please note that donations of \$250 or more to our Capital Campaign include one year membership dues; smaller donations do not.
* Making a gift? Many companies offer to match employee gifts, some even offer 2:1 matches. Inquire with your employer to make your gift give twice.

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• **In Memory of Walter F. Whittier, Charles D. Whittier:**
Ms. Sarah Whitney

• **In Memory of Hadley S. Ward:**
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• **In Honor of Constance Verrill Reich**

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• **In honor of Peter Cooley, Frank Strout, Gloria Clifford & Russel Ross:**

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Mr. & Mrs. Harold Woodsum

In Memoriam • *Over the past six months CELT has lost a number of long time supporters and friends, including two CELT volunteers. The memorial gifts given in their name will be used to support the ongoing mission of the organization.*

• Peter Cooley

A recent addition to the Land Trust Board of Directors and our Executive Committee, Peter kindly added his unique insight and innovative ideas toward furthering our goals. His participation on the marketing committee and his passion for quality public access trails in Cape Elizabeth will be greatly missed. In addition to his involvement with the Land Trust, Peter previously volunteered for Portland Trails and was a member of St. Albans Church. Peter was a frequent user of town trails, avid runner, loving husband, and proud father of his three children. We appreciate the many contributions we have received in Peter's name and they will be used to honor his life and his work.

• Frank Strout

Longtime friend of the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, Frank Strout also passed away this spring. Those who knew him best admired his dedication to family and friends, his love of horses and his commitment to land conservation. Frank found great pleasure in teaching his family to love the outdoors. The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust has been greatly rewarded by these teachings through the continued leadership of Frank's son, CELT Vice President Frank Jr. Donations made in Frank's name are also being dedicated toward a project in his name.

Memorial Gifts honoring the lives of **Russel Ross, Barbara Clifford and Charlie Farr** are also gratefully acknowledged.

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For complete information about planned giving options to the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust please contact our offices.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

JOIN US for the following series of events and celebrations over the next few months!

Aug 12, 1-3:30 pm: Jordan Farm Press Conference

Join CELT the Jordan Family, representatives from the Land For Maine's Future Board, and the US Department of Agriculture for a day of celebration at the Jordan Farm on Wells Road. There will be volunteer activities for those wishing to help harvest food for the hungry.

Sept 5: Labor Day Art Show

Stop by our table to chat or to [view our new maps!](#)

Sept 18: Robinson Woods Day 10am-1pm

Come join us for a day of celebration on the Robinson Woods Trails. We will be dedicating our new kiosk, maps and interpretive trail through these spectacular woods.

Sept 26, 1 pm: Robinson Woods Walks

Meet at the stone pillars, Shore Rd. *Same for 10/24 & 11/28.*

October 2, 9am-12:30 pm: Cross Town Walk

Walk from Ft. Williams to the center of Cape Elizabeth following a contiguous trail on Greenbelt, CELT trails.*

October 20: Cape Lands Presentation

Come learn more about the Land Trust, and public access trails in Cape Elizabeth.*

October 24: Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for this annual celebration as we near the completion of our Campaign for the Cape. AND, come to a Robinson Woods Walk today (*see Sept. 26, above*).

November 28, 1-2:30: Post Turkey Woods Walk

Walk off the turkey today! Bring the family and friends. Pets welcome on leash (*see Sept. 26, above*).

**Register through Cape Elizabeth Community Services, 799-2868*

