

Cape Lands

The Newsletter of the **CAPE ELIZABETH LAND TRUST** Spring 2009

The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust permanently conserves and provides stewardship for lands cherished by our community—from shorelands to marshes, from farmlands to woodlands—for the education, use and enjoyment of this and future generations.

Two for the Ages

From the wooded shores of Great Pond to the rocky promontory of Trundy Point, the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust has been busy putting your financial support to work – Saving Cape’s Great Places...

Trundy Point

Named for John Trundy, whose father George owned most of what is now known as Shore Acres, Trundy Point has been a known landmark since the late 1700’s. With commanding views of the Portland Head Light to the North and Two Lights to the South, this rocky outcrop and pocket beach provide stunning views and protect a variety of native species and valuable shore frontage.

In December 2008, the current owner of the property, Cape resident Paul Coloumbe, finalized an agreement with CELT to donate 6.85 acres of land to be permanently preserved in its natural state. Displaying a truly remarkable commitment to this project Mr. Coloumbe chose to completely remove an aging residence located on the property, and to revegetate the former house-site.

Now under ownership by the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, Trundy Point is available for public access during daylight hours. To ensure that we are able to maintain the ecological health of this spectacular property, dogs are discouraged and must remain leashed. Parking is not available on the property itself so visitors are asked to be judicious about parking on public roads or in front of neighboring homes.



Great Pond Trail

On April 15th, the Town of Cape Elizabeth and CELT joined together to purchase a trail easement from Jodie and Pat Jordan that will provide permanent deeded access along the northern shore of Great Pond. As the only remaining segment needed to complete the southern half of the cross-town trail, this trail corridor has been a shared goal of CELT and the Town for many years.

Thanks to this historic collaborative effort, local residents and visitors are now able to walk from Town Center to Kettle Cove entirely upon public access trails! While the Jordan family has allowed casual access in the past,

this project was completed to ensure that this, and future

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www.capelandtrust.org



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≡ PRESIDENT'S COLUMN • TED DARLING



Over the past two fiscal years, CELT has steadfastly focused on potential land acquisition projects as well as increasing our land acquisition fund so that when opportunities materialize, we are ready to act.

Towards that end, we have been able to increase our land acquisition fund by almost \$90,000 with support from our members, sponsors and supporters. We recently invested a portion of those funds in partnership

with the Town of Cape Elizabeth to preserve the Alewives Brook Trail Corridor, an important trail connector for the town wide Greenbelt Trail network. We are now seeking to replenish that fund, so when future opportunities present themselves, CELT is able to act swiftly to conserve strategic land parcels in Cape Elizabeth. Our ability to act quickly is often the difference between preservation and development.

“Our ability to act quickly is often the difference between preservation and development.”

By contributing to the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust in the form of a membership contribution or gift, you play an instrumental role in our future readiness as a land conservation organization. Help support land conservation by contributing to CELT's readiness to act.

We greatly appreciate your support!

Volunteer Opportunities:

Special Events:

Paint for Preservation
August 30, 2009

Harvest Festival and Sprint Triathlon –
September 27, 2009

Stewardship:

Hobstone Woods Trail Work Day
July 11, 2009 at 9:00AM

Visit capelandtrust.org for future current trail work days



Office:

Database assistance and general administrative assistance.

TWO FOR THE AGES, continued from front page

generations will be able to continue using this remarkable trail.

In Cape Elizabeth's more distant past, access to Great Pond was fiercely debated. As a "Great Pond" (greater than 10 acres), colonial law mandates public access to the water body, but in 1907 'No Trespassing' signs and guards were posted to keep the public out. Local resistance to the posting included at least one armed conflict where shots were fired. Fortunately no one was hurt and the conflict soon ended. Local residents have enjoyed access to the pond ever since then. ≡

Notes From the Field ≡

Relatively dry early spring conditions allowed Stewardship Chair Steve Ballou and fellow committee members to get a quick jump on their annual monitoring visits to each of our 22 properties throughout Cape Elizabeth.

Spring trail work days are now upon us and we encourage you to join us clearing downed trees and brush from our properties as well as other trail maintenance projects.



The last week of May also brought our annual 8th grade trail project. This year members of the CE class of 2013 rerouted a trail on the recently acquired Great Pond trail corridor and upgraded the existing trail connecting Fenway Road to the new Great Pond boardwalk.

Strategic Conservation Plan

When the Town of Cape Elizabeth concluded its most recent Comprehensive Plan in September of 2007, the study reflected the complex melding of municipal priorities shaped by public opinion. One of the more visible recommendations related to the goal of maintaining and acquiring 'strategic' conservation parcels. When presented with this recommendation, CELT undertook a comprehensive review of what 'strategic' land conservation should mean. Over the past year, CELT has dedicated significant staff resources toward answering this question with the result being a detailed outline of our strategic objectives. These new land protection efforts will benefit from an overall strategy for land protection in Cape Elizabeth.

From an internal operational perspective, our Strategic Conservation Plan also helps the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust meet new national Land Trust Alliance standards requiring a 'best practices' approach to planning and conducting our land protection efforts.

As a planning tool for our land trust, this Strategic Conservation Plan provides not only a blueprint for our efforts, but also provides valuable inventory and an open space analysis to identify common areas of interest in support of municipal land protection interests.



Through the designation of three Focus Areas (Agricultural, Habitat/Conservation, and Recreation), CELT has positioned the organization to proactively direct our conservation activities toward these identified priority areas with the goal of increasing the pace and effectiveness of our land protection activities.

This conservation plan serves as an impetus for outlining our future development and fundraising goals as well as providing strategies to help increase our fundraising success with private foundations and government agencies, individual donors and landowners.

Neighborhood Gatherings

Over the next two years, CELT will be hosting more than a dozen neighborhood gatherings to share with residents our strategic conservation planning findings and to orient participants to ways each neighborhood can get more involved in supporting CELT's stewardship and land acquisition efforts. If you would consider hosting an event at your home, please contact either Chris or Lisa at the CELT office.



Sunflower at Jordan Farm, John Bald

Wish List:

Picnic Table – for those warm summer days

Laser Printer – to help our office run more efficiently

Birdseed / Birdfeeders – to keep our feathered friends close by and well-fed

Chain Saw – to clear fallen trees and brush

Summer Office Hours:

Throughout the summer, the CELT office will be open on **weekends from 10-2!** Recognizing that this is when many of you are out and about on the trails, we wanted to be sure you could stop by for recommendations on area hikes. You can also checkout our Explorer Backpacks preloaded with field guides, binoculars and other tools to help you get more out of your hike long. Stop by the CELT office to checkout an Explorer Backpack!

Education—Outdoor Classroom Completed!

by Lisa Gent, Education Committee

For years to come, No Child Will Be Left Inside! With a solid belief in the value and need for outdoor learning, CELT broke ground for the outdoor classroom. The new structure, located in Nature land on the Pond Cove playground, is an exciting step towards the completion of the outdoor learning area that began back in the spring of 2007. At that time, Pond Cove parent, Todd Brydson of Earthtone Landscapes, was working tirelessly on the first phase of the project, which included a complete revitalization of a section on the school playground. The outdoor classroom itself was designed with input from the Pond Cove teachers so as to help better facilitate their lessons, activities and curriculum. Pat Carroll of Carroll Associates has generously given hours of his time and energy to design a space that will enhance learning and exploration.

Back in the fall of 2006, the CELT Education Committee began working with the school to learn what we could do to enhance and give educators more



resources to better achieve their science and natural history curriculum goals. What we found was that if educators had a place to take their classes for both formal and informal lessons, they would be incorporating the outdoors into many more of their daily lessons as well as integrating environmental education into the curriculum. The resulting space allows children to experience nature and the outdoors in a less structured way so that kids can build their own relationships with nature and develop their own deeper awareness, understanding

and appreciation for the natural world around them.

Thus far, the feedback has been great, and most of the Pond Cove classrooms are using the new space. In addition, we now have 3 raised garden beds with three classrooms “adopting” each bed by helping to plant, care and harvest with the guidance of Master Gardener, Beth Owens.

This ongoing project has truly been a community effort. The financial support of organizations like CELT, Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation, Pond Cove Parents Association and Portland Trails have been instrumental. Local businesses and volunteers have provided a solid foundation for this project. Our deepest gratitude goes to the generous contributions of Todd Brydson of Earthtone Landscapes for his continued support of time, equipment and expertise. Tony Owens has been indispensable as our “general contractor” with Michael Cain and Bob Dawson, always willing to do what needed to be done! With the help of Pat Carroll of Carroll Associates, we had some amazing plans to guide the classroom construction. Dana Furtado and his team donated material and their time to shingle the entire roof. Skip Murray and his crew donated equipment and time, while Jim Rowe contributed concrete for the foundation. The Town and Bob Malley with his crew gave us gravel, and several other volunteers and local business contributed time and materials. We are so grateful to these individuals and businesses for their continued support of this worthwhile project.

Next time you are in the Town Center, take a moment to look at the changes that have occurred on the Pond Cove Playground, and check out Nature Land!

BOARD PROFILE

Meet Sheldon Smith!



Please welcome CELT’s most recent addition to the Board of Directors, Sheldon Smith. As an Information Technologist and Geologist with Woodard & Curran, Sheldon is excited to share his extensive land use expertise with CELT. In addition to serving on the Stewardship Committee Sheldon is interested in leading a geology tour of Cape Elizabeth for those of you curious about Cape’s ancient history. Sheldon lives in the Oakhurst neighborhood with his wife Alina and their three children.



Fifth Annual Harvest Festival and Triathlon Set for September 27th

With the generous continuing support of our lead Triathlon sponsor, Noyes, Hall and Allen Insurance of South Portland, CELT is pleased to announce the 5th Annual CELT Challenge Sprint Triathlon and Duathlon. The accompanying Harvest Festival, too, will be back and better than ever in 2009.

Despite torrential rains last year, the race went off without a hitch. Participants were undeterred by the weather and came out in force. Registration for this year’s race is already underway at Active.com. Visit capelandtrust.org for more information and a link to the registration page.



June 22 Call for Artists

—Deadline for Submissions

Area artists are invited to submit 2 slides or digital images on CD for consideration by the jury to participate in *Paint for Preservation*, our second annual juried **Wet Paint Auction** to be held **August 30, 2009**. Slides or CD should be sent to ‘*CELT Paint for Preservation*’ at CELT, PO Box 265 ccb, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107.



July 14th! Eat for Preservation at Flatbreads

Come out and support CELT at Flatbread Company on Commercial Street in Portland on July 14th. CELT will receive \$3.50 from each large flatbread ordered that evening.

September 1st! Photo Contest

CELT is pleased to announce the 2009 Photo Contest “*Celebrating Cape’s Natural Heritage*”. Photographers are invited to submit up to 5 images for consideration by our judges. **Deadline** for submissions is **September 1, 2009**.

Winning photographs will be announced at the Harvest Festival on September 27th. Visit www.capelandtrust.org for full contest details and submission guidelines, or call our office.



August 30 Paint for Preservation:

Wet Paint Auction

Following a very successful auction last year, CELT has been invited back to Apple Tree Hill for another **Paint for Preservation** event on August 30th. Attendees will have the opportunity to bid on paintings on the same day they are painted, and to tour the extensive flower and vegetable gardens of our host, Rodney Voisine. During the day nearly 24 artists will be scattered throughout Cape Elizabeth capturing our scenic shore lands, marshes, woodlands and farms.



Photo by Bob Harrison, 3rd place 2008 CELT Photo Contest.



You're in Good Company When You

Please join the many CELT members whose financial support help us to conserve those natural areas in Cape Elizabeth cherished by our community. CELT relies upon your generosity and ongoing financial contributions to support our land conservation efforts.

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- 9.** Your Support helps provide us conservation planning resources for local landowners and municipal leaders
- 10.** Your Support helps us **CELEBRATE AND PROTECT CAPE ELIZABETH'S NATURAL HERITAGE**

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CAPE ELIZABETH LAND TRUST
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