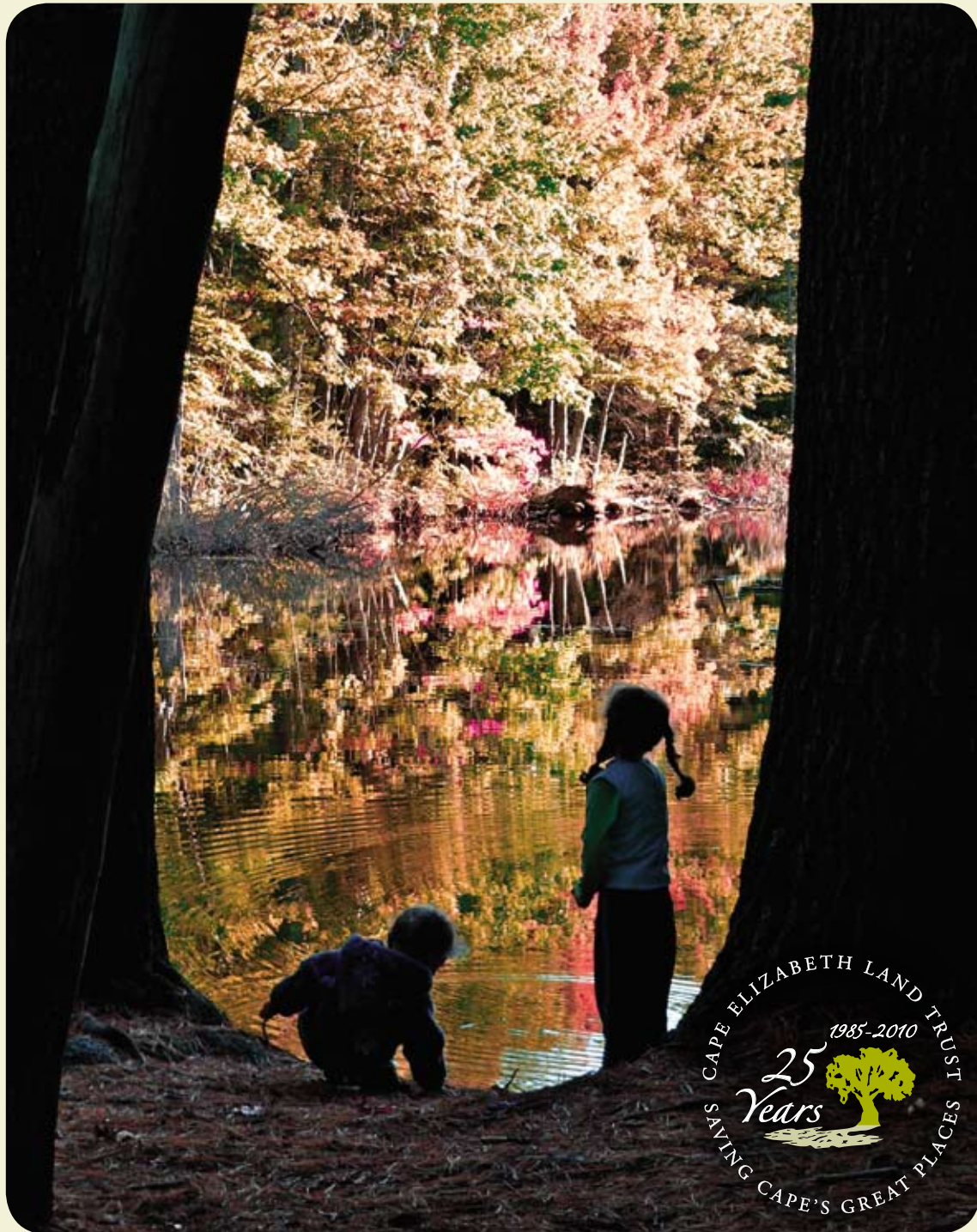


Saving **Cape's** Great Places



...For This, and Future
Generations



CAPE ELIZABETH LAND TRUST

A Community Treasure... A Lasting Legacy

Recently, one of our board members had a most unusual encounter.

While he was swimming at the local pool, a friend turned to him and related how much she and her children had enjoyed a recent visit to Great Pond. "What a great place!" she exclaimed. "We are so lucky to live in Cape Elizabeth!"

Our board member could not agree more, thinking of the farmlands, woodlands, marshlands and shore lands that define Cape Elizabeth's rural character and magnify its beauty.

And then she continued, "Thanks for all that you and the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust do!"

"Me? Thanks for what I do?" our board member thought as he reflected upon the work that CELT does. "I'm just a cog," he said as humbly as possible, knowing that he is only helping to carry on a land preservation mission that began 25 years ago by forward-thinking Cape Elizabeth residents.

Clearly, the work that the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust does today is as important as the work that was done to establish the land trust in 1985. But, it is the cumulative effect of that work and the resulting legacy – the permanent protection and stewardship of lands cherished by our community for the education and enjoyment of this and future generations – that is profound.

"It is the cumulative effect of that work and the resulting legacy – the permanent protection and stewardship of lands cherished by our community for the education and enjoyment of this and future generations – that is profound."



Photo by Sarah Beard Buckley

This special annual report celebrating our 25th anniversary attempts to capture the magnitude of what the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust and its supporters have done throughout the years to create a network of conservation lands, trails and working farms that will be treasured by the community for decades to come.

Please enjoy its contents, and join us on our ongoing journey to save Cape Elizabeth's great places.



Our Founding in 1985

In 1985 a small group of Cape residents serving on the town's Conservation Commission discussed the formation of an organization dedicated to preserving important conservation lands. Their mission was to ensure that the rural character of Cape Elizabeth would remain intact for future generations. With guidance from the Maine Coast Heritage Trust and encouragement from the town of Cape Elizabeth, the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT) held its inaugural gathering on October 17, 1985. Eighteen people were in attendance.

By the end of 1985, CELT had submitted incorporation papers to the appropriate state and federal licensing bodies, and the first budget was created – for \$997. This initial budget covered filing fees, a post office box (which we still have), \$100 for postage and copying, \$55 for 3000 membership letters and \$180 for town-wide mailing costs, flyers and envelopes.

From these modest, grassroots beginnings, CELT has grown steadily. The organization added its first paid staff position in 1998; named a full-time executive director in 2003; and moved into a newly constructed, town center office in 2007. Since its inception, the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust has permanently conserved nearly 600 acres of land on 25 parcels for the public's benefit.

CELT is still a grassroots organization dependent upon community

support. As a nonprofit organization, CELT is governed by an all volunteer board of directors who meet monthly to discuss potential land projects, to coordinate land stewardship and management activities, to oversee educational outreach programs, and to organize the fundraising, finances, governance, and special events activities that make the realization of CELT's mission possible.

Our founders often marvel at the success of the organization, but those of us currently at the helm simply thank our lucky stars that our founders had the foresight to believe that given the chance, this community would rise to the challenge of helping to preserve what we now call "Cape's Great Places." To them we owe a debt of gratitude and pledge our continued support of the founding principles of the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust – for you, for our families and for the future.



Photo by Sean Flaim



1988 | 19.3 acres

Runaway Farm

OWNED Spurwink Road woodland parcel with abundant ferns and wildflowers.

Also in 1988: Harmon Property | 2.8 acres & Spinnaker Heights | 1 acre

Willow Brook | 3.46 acres
Wood Road Quarry | 0.96 acres
Reef Road | .75 acres

Elizabeth Farms | 28.5 acres

1985

1986

1987

1988

Cape Elizabeth Circa 1985

As these two maps clearly depict, virtually all of the conservation lands in Cape Elizabeth have been protected during the past twenty-five years. In 1985 the only true conservation lands in Cape Elizabeth were our two state parks (Crescent Beach and Two Lights) and Fort Williams Park. Thanks in large part to a new zoning ordinance requiring the 'set-aside' of open space in new subdivisions and the growing role CELT has played in local land conservation, today's conservation maps show a much different picture.

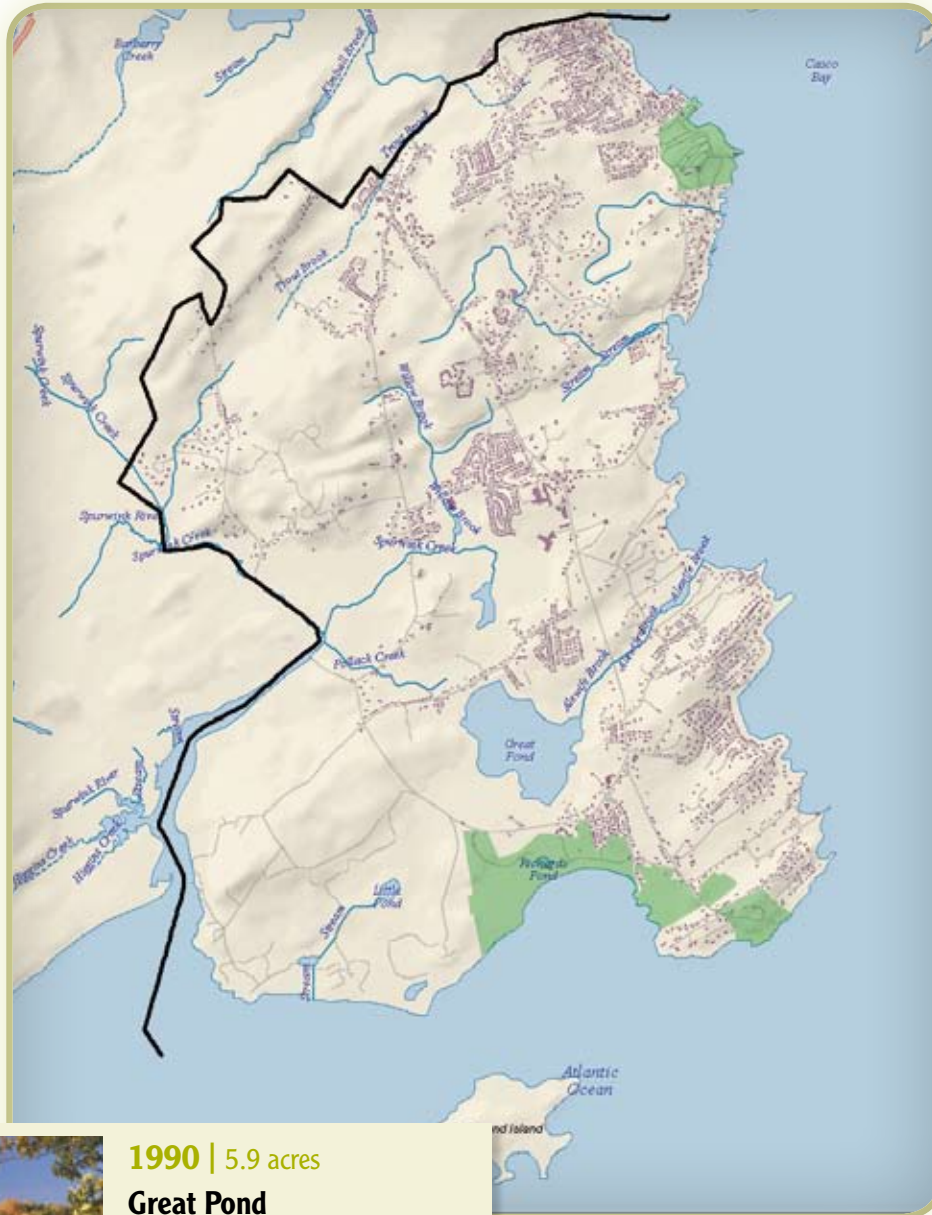


Photo by Jack Kennealy

1990 | 5.9 acres

Great Pond

OWNED Well maintained trails and scenic vistas at Cape Elizabeth's largest fresh water pond.

Viking 'A' | 5.9 acres

1989

1990

1991

1992

Featured Property: **ROBINSON WOODS**

In the spring of 2000, CELT was given the opportunity to purchase the 82 acres of forest and beachfront at Robinson Woods for half of its appraised value. What followed was a bold campaign to raise over \$800,000 from our community and other conservation funding sources

to ensure the permanent preservation of remarkable property. Generous donations from local residents, fueled by strong community support of this project, soon led to a successful

82 ACRES,
Conserved in 2000

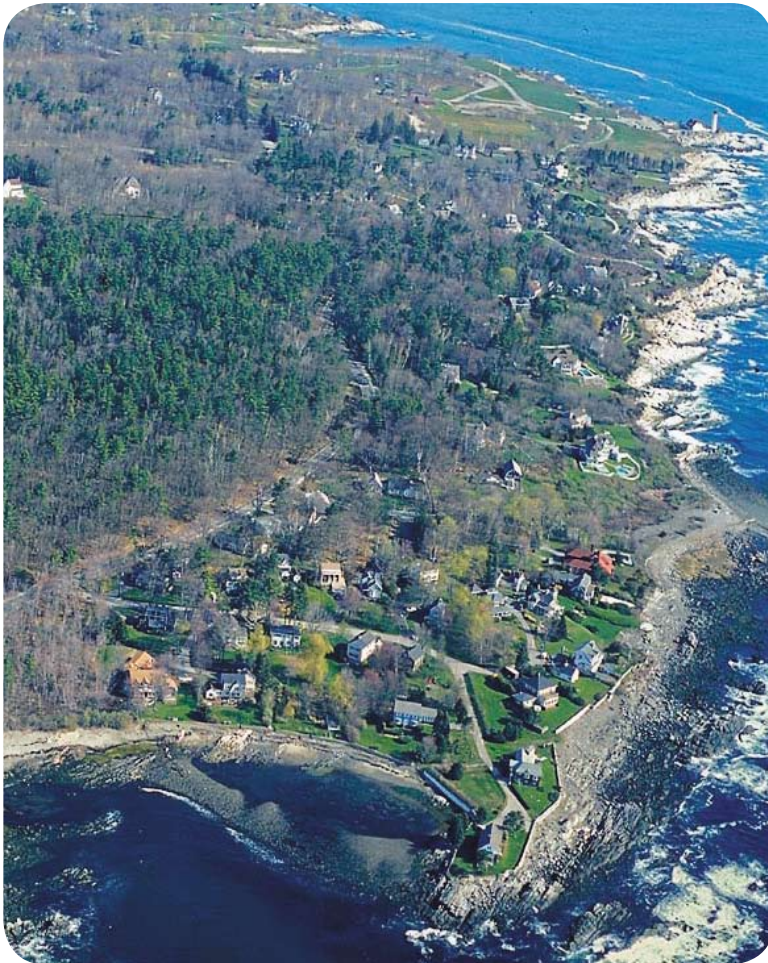


Photo by Nat Clifford

grant application to the Land for Maine's Future Program and a matching grant from the Town of Cape Elizabeth.

Robinson Woods has since become a beloved destination for birders, hikers and winter exploration. Properties like Robinson Woods and the adjacent Pond Cove conservation area bring exceptional value to our community as recreational resources, as habitat for birds, mammals and amphibians and as natural buffers preserving the rural character and beauty of Cape Elizabeth.



CELT Photo

2000 | 82 acres
Robinson Woods
OWNED Stunning mature forest with extensive trails and numerous vernal pools.

Also in 2000: Pond Cove | 1.25 acres, Cross Hill | 105 acres & Lourie Property | 3 acres

Hobstone Woods | 20.56 acres

1997

1998

1999

2000

Featured Property: **JORDAN FARM**



Photo by Jack Kennealy

47 ACRES,
Conserved in 2004

To ensure that their family could continue to live and farm in Cape Elizabeth, William H. Jordan and his wife, Ruth, approached CELT to see if preservation of their land could help maintain the viability of their farming operation. Ultimately, an agreement was reached whereby the Jordan Family permanently restricted all future residential development on 47 acres of their farm adjacent to the Spurwink Marsh in exchange for a reduction in the appraised value of the land. This win-win relationship in the form of a Conservation Easement enabled CELT to achieve permanent preservation of important, local agricultural lands and their associated habitat values while the Jordan family realized income from the project to reinvest back into their farming operation.



Photo by Bob Harrison

Also in 2004: Office | 1. acre

2004 | 47 acres

Jordan Farm

EASEMENT Iconic Cape Elizabeth farmland parcel with sweeping views of Spurwink Marsh.

Zeb's Cove | 19.5 acres

2001

2002

2003

2004



Photo by Molly Chase

conservation that this community has historically demonstrated by highlighting the protection of ponds, woodlands, and farmland and the preservation of the rural character of the town as top planning priorities.

While assistance from local government can help achieve this goal, CELT plays a critical role as the only organization in town dedicated solely to land conservation. Our ultimate challenge is one of finding local landowners who are willing to consider preserving their lands. To this end CELT has been building its capacity to assist local landowners with property value assessments by providing technical assistance and land planning services so they may see first-hand the personal

and community benefits derived through land conservation.

Considering that Cape Elizabeth has been inhabited since the mid-1600s, it is remarkable that the past twenty-five years have been perhaps the most significant in terms of defining future land use. Without a doubt the next twenty-five years will be equally important as we determine which areas of Cape Elizabeth will remain in their natural state and which will be converted to other uses.

Residents and visitors share a love of Cape Elizabeth often referring to its “rural character” and natural beauty. As a community, we have an opportunity to preserve this sense of place, to celebrate and preserve a small slice of Maine in the best of traditions - by sharing these resources, by stewarding the land together, by harvesting the land together, and by walking the land together.



Photo by Laurie Jensen



Photo by Meghan Wakefield

2009 | 23.7 acres
Turkey Hill
EASEMENT Dynamic working farm with extensive woodlands and scenic trails.

2009

2010

2011

2012



Saving Cape's Great Places

Stewarding Lands Entrusted to Our Care

Managing nearly 600 acres of land on 25 parcels is no small task. Each year our Stewardship Committee relies heavily upon volunteer assistance from local residents, students, and scout troops. Each of our properties has been preserved to protect the natural resources of the land, and CELT regularly visits each property to ensure the land is being properly maintained.



CELT Photo

*Each of our properties
has been **preserved**
to **protect the natural**
resources of **the land***

Properties that are heavily used by the public generally require more upkeep and maintenance. Our Stewardship Committee works closely with our Education and Land Committees to coordinate and prioritize stewardship needs.



CELT Photo

STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES:

- **Preserving Habitat:** Preparing conservation plans, documenting significant natural features, and preparing interpretive materials for use on our trails
- **Trail Maintenance:** Building and maintaining trails, clearing downed trees, building bridges and kiosks, all of which require significant upkeep and labor
- **Mapping:** Using aerial photography, GPS data collection and GIS mapping to develop ever more sophisticated documentation of the lands we have preserved

Educating This and Future Generations



CELT Photo

CELT's growing educational programs are designed to instill a greater appreciation and awareness of our natural environment. Supported almost exclusively by grants from private foundations and donor-designated gifts, our educational programs are coordinated through CELT's Education Committee, composed of local residents and educators.

Over the years CELT has developed model programs designed to engage students and adults in the exploration and understanding of the natural systems surrounding our neighborhoods and schools. Collectively, these programs build an awareness and appreciation for Cape Elizabeth's natural environment, in turn helping CELT and our volunteers to become better stewards of the lands we protect.

SOME OF THESE PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- **EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION IN ROBINSON WOODS.** Each year the entire 4th grade visits Robinson Woods three times (fall, winter and spring) utilizing a curriculum co-developed by CELT and local teachers to fulfill required components of Learning Results criteria based on examples of local ecology.
- **MINI-GRANTS.** CELT coordinates a small grant program to assist local educators in acquiring learning materials for their classrooms or to bring outside educational programs to the school.
- **SERVICE-LEARNING.** Each year the entire 8th grade participates in a trail building or trail maintenance project on CELT properties.
- **ADULT AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.** Offered through the Community Services bulletin, CELT walks and programs provide expert insight into the nature surrounding us. From tree identification, to wildflower, seabird or geology tours, there are many ways to learn more about the natural wonders in Cape Elizabeth.
- **OUTDOOR CLASSROOM.** Utilizing largely volunteer labor and generous support from regional foundations, CELT coordinated the construction of an outdoor classroom and alternative learning area at the Pond Cove Elementary School.



CELT Photo



Saving **Cape's** Great Places

Year in Review 2010

CAPE ELIZABETH LAND TRUST 2010 GOALS

During our annual goal setting session, the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust established the following goals for 2010:

1. Secure an agreement on a significant, strategic land conservation parcel
2. Implement a new database system and increase membership by **75 members**
3. Increase the Conservation Leadership Circle to **35 members**
4. **Achieve a \$25,000** operational surplus and raise **\$50,000** additional for land conservation
5. Increase education program participation and visibility within the school
6. Place maps of all properties on the website and complement these with interactive capabilities
7. Fill all available board seats with qualified candidates

Land Preservation

Secure an agreement on a significant, strategic land conservation parcel

In 2009 CELT completed a comprehensive, strategic assessment of potential conservation lands in Cape Elizabeth. We identified and inventoried properties that provide recreational access, wildlife habitat and farmlands. Over the past year, CELT has actively pursued conservation opportunities by reaching out to landowners, discussing conservation possibilities and benefits, and providing information and tools to create long-term land use plans. We have collaborated with local leaders, town officials and residents to identify and pursue common land conservation goals. And we have redoubled our fundraising efforts so that when the right opportunity emerges, CELT is ready to act.

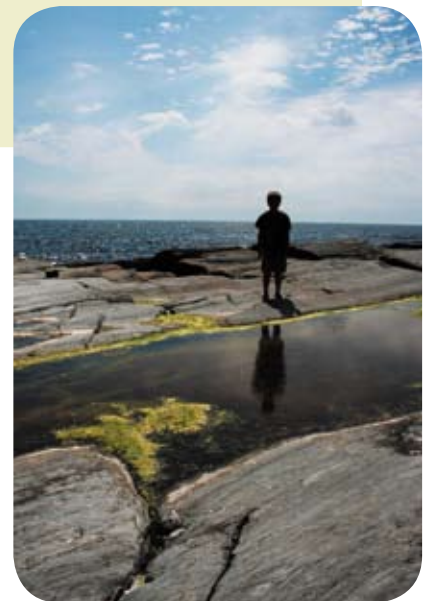


Photo by Brian Carollo

Membership and Community Outreach

Implement a new database system and increase membership by 75 members

In early 2010, CELT embarked on an ambitious and necessary conversion to a new membership database system. The system conversion was successfully completed in June 2010, providing CELT with sophisticated tracking, reporting and membership renewal tools. In addition, we implemented a monthly e-mail program to keep our members current, and we introduced a Facebook page to provide our members with regular communication, photos and event updates. We completed two town-wide mailings and built a plan to systematically increase and sustain our membership. As we prepared this report for press, CELT counted nearly 600 active members, an 8% increase over 2009.



Photo by June Eiesland

Development

Increase the Conservation Leadership Circle to 35 Members

CELT's Conservation Leadership Circle consists of those members who have chosen to support CELT at a level of \$1,000 or more annually. In 2010, the Development Committee established the ambitious goal of increasing the number of Conservation Leadership Circle Members to 35, up from 23 members in the prior year. The Committee's membership outreach efforts were remarkably successful. By year-end, our inaugural Conservation Leadership Circle welcomed 41 members who collectively contributed in excess of \$118,000 to CELT.



Photo Sarah Beard Buckley

Achieve a \$25,000 operational surplus and raise \$50,000 additional for land conservation

Achieving a significant operational surplus in a difficult economic environment required a concerted Membership, Development and Special Events effort.

Members of the Development Committee, together with other board members and dedicated community volunteers, led two highly successful events in 2010. The success of these events, in combination with strong membership support, enabled CELT to set aside \$50,000 in our land conservation fund at the end of our 2010 fiscal year.

Saving Cape's Great Places



Photo by Sean Flaim

Paint for Preservation

The 3rd Annual Paint for Preservation Wet Paint Auction was our most successful yet. Featuring twenty-nine invited and jury-selected artists, Paint for Preservation drew a capacity crowd of 340 guests to its Breakwater Farm venue and raised nearly \$36,000 net of expenses for the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust.

CELT Challenge Triathlon

The 6th Annual Noyes Hall & Allen CELT Challenge Triathlon and Duathlon attracted 175 participants and as many spectators and volunteers for what has become an annual, end-of-season event for local triathletes and their families. With strong sponsorship support, this year's triathlon netted \$11,000 for the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust.



CELT Photo

Education

Increase education program participation and visibility with the school

Our Education Committee continued its active outreach efforts on behalf of the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust in 2010. The Committee completed its fifth year of its 4th grade walk program, provided grants to enhance Cape school curriculums associated with appreciation of the natural environment, completed the 8th grade trail project, and sponsored high school seniors completing their transition projects. In addition to ongoing efforts to support Natureland and maintain the Environmental Resource Center at Pond Cove School, the Committee also worked with middle school teachers to create a science program for 7th and 8th graders oriented towards the appreciation of the natural environment. If that was not enough, our incredibly productive volunteers also offered a variety of guided walks, serving 86 adult participants.



CELT Photo

Governance

Fill all available board seats with qualified candidates

Our Governance Committee was successful in recruiting new board candidates for CELT. At year's end, all but two of the nineteen board seats had been filled. In addition to their recruiting work, the Governance Committee led CELT's evaluation of the Land Trust Alliance accreditation process, resulting in a

recommendation that we move ahead with accreditation. CELT applied for and received \$18,000 in grant funding from the Maine Land Trust Excellence Program, which will support a comprehensive organizational review and provide assistance for CELT to take the steps necessary to achieve accreditation within three years. Governance has done a superb job keeping CELT's policies, procedures and practices at a very high level. Accreditation is the next step towards building a durable organization for the next twenty-five years.

Financial Position

Over the past twenty-five years, the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust has built and maintained a strong financial position. With no debt and a strong cash position, the Land Trust is prepared to assist interested landowners in conserving their properties and to partner with the Town, State and Federal programs on large scale land conservation projects as they emerge.



Photo by Rose Cardillo

During our most recent fiscal year, the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust again generated a significant operational surplus. At year-end, the Board of Directors dedicated nearly \$50,000 to our land conservation fund.



Photo by Alan Kesselhaut

Saving **Cape's** Great Places Begins With Three Pillars of Support

The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT) is a community-based, nonprofit organization sustained by the generosity of our members. Over the past 25 years, CELT has built a solid, well-respected organization supported by a volunteer board of directors, a two-person staff and three operational pillars: Land Preservation, Education and Stewardship.

Land Preservation

*Support for Saving **Cape's** Great Places positions CELT to take advantage of strategic opportunities to conserve significant land parcels valued by our community.*

Education

*Support for Saving **Cape's** Great Places enhances CELT's ability to deliver educational programs that foster appreciation of natural areas and conserved lands.*

Stewardship

*Support for Saving **Cape's** Great Places helps CELT build an expert stewardship program capable of maintaining lands permanently entrusted to our care.*



CAPE ELIZABETH LAND TRUST

To support Saving **Cape's** Great Places
call 207-767-6054 or visit
www.capelandtrust.org/greatplaces

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Cover photo by Molly Chase