



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



CAPE ELIZABETH LAND TRUST



Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear CELT Community,

This has been another very exciting and productive year for CELT, highlights of which we present in the following pages. As we enter into the fifth year of our strategic plan and begin planning for the next five years, I would like to share with you some accomplishments from the last four years and goals for this year.

Goal 1 is to Secure Top-Priority Lands. Over the last four years, we have protected four significant tracts of land. Our goal this year is to place a conservation easement on the Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church property (see next page) to protect the last section of the Cross Town Trail!

Goal 2 is to Ensure Cape Elizabeth Lands are Cared for In Perpetuity. We have improved our maps and built a bridge to make it easier for people to access our lands and made tremendous progress in managing invasive plants. This year we will work with the US Fish and Wildlife to manage habitat for the New England cottontail rabbit and make plans for a universal access trail.



CELT STAFF: (L-R) CINDY KRUM, PATTY RENAUD, ARDATH DIXON, PHILIP MATHIEU, DIANNE MANNING

Goal 3 is to Engage the Community with Cape Elizabeth's Lands. We have added exciting programming in the schools and expanded community programs. This year we will add a 7th and 8th grade place-based education program at Turkey Hill Farm. Eighty students will come out weekly to the farm during the fall and spring.

Goal 4 is to Expand Our Membership and Financial Support. Thanks to all of you, we have completed an extremely successful comprehensive campaign. Over the last four years, general membership has increased by 23% and the Conservation Leadership Circle (those who give \$1000 or more annually) by 30%. We anticipate continuing to increase this support as we serve the needs of our community.

I would like to send a heartfelt thanks and appreciation to you, our members, for your many gifts and to all the volunteers and staff who make the work of this community land trust successful.

— *Kind regards,*

Cindy
Cindy Krum



Stewards of Tomorrow

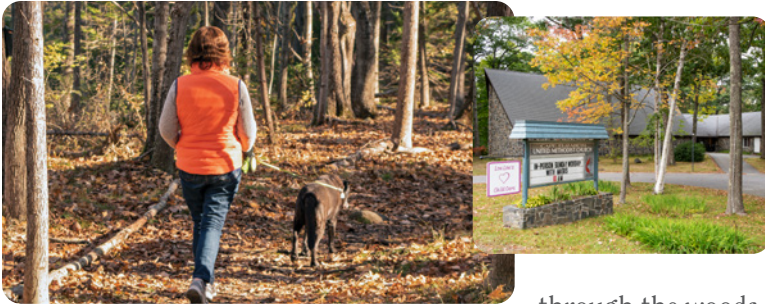
**Madison Evasius, Hannah Hutchins
and Ella Briman**

Hannah Hutchins (USM '22) joined CELT as our Summer Stewardship Assistant. Over the course of 10 weeks, Hannah contributed to a number of ongoing initiatives including trail maintenance, management planning, and invasive plants removal across a number of CELT preserves. Along the way, Hannah also coordinated the work of volunteers, including Madison Evasius (Bowdoin '24) and Ella Briman (Dartmouth '25), who tackled independent projects focused on habitat restoration at Runaway Farm, property recordkeeping, and preparations for Paint for Preservation. Thank you to all our volunteers and especially to Hannah for making this another productive summer caring for the lands we cherish!

Conserving Land for Future Generations

Agreement with Methodist Church Protects Trail Connection Forever

Thanks to a partnership with the Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church (CEUMC), we are very close to securing permanent protection for the final piece of the Cross Town Trail! The easement will ensure that hikers and bikers can continue to use the trail



through the woods behind the church *forever*. This trail is a key connector to Robinson Woods via the Canter Way Trail, and until now it has been the only section of the 7.8-mile Cross Town Trail that does not have permanent protection.

“CELT has long considered protecting the Cross Town Trail one of its important responsibilities,” says former Board President Bill Luneburg. CELT and the Town of Cape Elizabeth have worked for many years to preserve land and acquire access rights to make the trail from Fort Williams to Kettle Cove a reality, using a patchwork of conservation tools.

The CEUMC has graciously allowed people to use the trail for years. The entire congregation takes environmental responsibility and education seriously. Their “Eco Ministry” uses the space for walks, demonstrations and presentations, a ministry that the congregation is looking to expand in the future.

“CEUMC is pleased to join with CELT in preserving this beautiful piece of forested land in the middle of Cape Elizabeth. This easement is an important part of our focus on environmental ministry and protecting the world around us. We hope this begins a long relationship with CELT that results in many collaborations going forward.”

— Steven Hill, Chair, Administrative Council, CEUMC

This new conservation easement will protect the entire 6.6 acres behind and next to the church from any development, including the area next to Cumberland Farms. Public access will be limited to the trail corridor.

To most people, little will appear changed with the purchase of this easement. What users now and in the future will have is the reassurance that their children and grandchildren will be able to walk or ride this trail forever.

CELT needs to raise \$480,000 by April 30th to complete this critical transaction. Please help if you can, and thank you!



Forever Cape Secured Exciting Opportunities for Land Conservation, Stewardship, and Education

Earlier this year we reported on the completion of the tremendously successful *Forever Cape – A Campaign for our Community*, the largest campaign ever in Cape Elizabeth. With contributions from more than 950 donors, this campaign conserved 3 new properties totaling 158 acres for the public good, bringing our total acres conserved to 844! It’s hard to imagine, but most of the funds for land have already been spent on those properties. The remaining is designated for stewardship and for endowing the operations of the organization responsible for that stewardship. We could not have accomplished this without the generosity of our members. Having laid a solid foundation, we are now able to look ahead to advancing conservation for the next 5 years! *Thank you!*

Where Campaign Funds Go¹

Protecting & Stewarding	
Land in Perpetuity ²	5,124,607
Caring for Land (5 years)	300,000
Planning for Tomorrow (General Endowment Fund)	1,200,000
Annual Operations (FY18 – FY20)	967,541
Total	\$7,592,148³

¹ Campaign costs prorated within above priorities.

² Includes Stewardship Endowment Fund of \$665,000

³ As of 12/31/2020

Spotlight on Programs

Stewardship

PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE UNDERWOOD

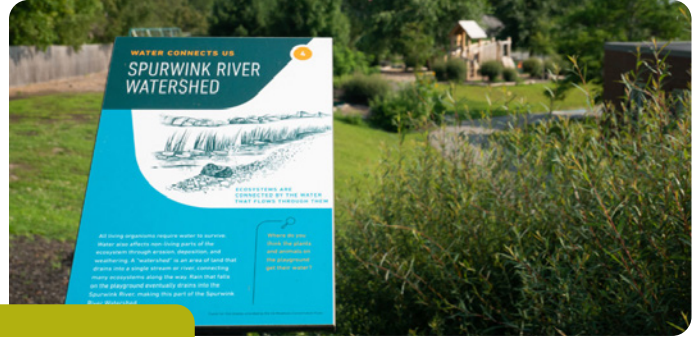


Taking care of 844 acres of fields, forests, and wetlands is no small task. Over the last year, CELT staff and volunteers have taken on a number of ambitious projects to enhance the conservation and recreation value of our preserves.

Perhaps the biggest highlight (literally) was the construction of a new series of boardwalks and a 32-foot span bridge at Runaway Farm. The latter required volunteers to carry three 740-lb, glue-laminated, timber stringers a full quarter mile from the field on Spurwink Avenue to the designated crossing at Pollack Creek. The resulting construction is a truly impressive feat of volunteer labor, meeting both the aesthetic requirements of our preserve visitors and the technical standards developed by the US Forest Service for trail bridges.

Following spring's trail-building season, CELT refocused on the ongoing effort to remove invasive plant species from our preserves. Thanks to the success of our comprehensive campaign, we were able to contract with Vegetation Control Services to help us address some of our most dense areas of honeysuckle, bittersweet, and barberry, including mowing down areas of invasive plants at Robinson Woods, Turkey Hill Farm, Great Pond, and Runaway Farm. Strategic volunteer days helped target adjacent areas that could not be easily reached by the heavy machinery. All told, it's safe to say that more invasive plants were removed from CELT preserves this year than ever before!

Education



2021 By the Numbers

- 32** feet of Pollack Creek spanned by the new bridge at Runaway Farm
- 76** acres protected by easement at Maxwell Farm-Dyer Field
- 120** middle school students visiting Turkey Hill Farm for fall programs
- 857** views of CELT education videos
- 123** new members (a record!)

Running education programs in a pandemic had its challenges, but also encouraged some creative adaptation.

As just one example, we held three different versions of our Cross Town Walk this year: a virtual tour in June that was released as an Instagram Story (find us at [@celtmaine](#)); a more traditional end-to-end hike in August, during which we tested out an option

to allow participants to hike just the first or second half if they couldn't complete the full 7.8 miles; and a loop hike variation in October that covered both sections of the Cross Town Trail and a number of additional properties.

Our school programs returned in full force as students headed back to the (indoor and outdoor) classroom in September. Students at Pond Cove Elementary School were greeted on the playground by five new interpretive signs that illustrate the ecological connections between the nature-based play structures and the greater natural world. The signs are a collaboration between CELT, the Pond Cove Playground Committee, and PCES, with funding provided by the Ed Meadows Conservation Fund.

One of the most exciting new initiatives is a growing partnership between CELT and Cape Elizabeth Middle School that seeks to bring two classrooms of students out to Turkey Hill Farm for a half-day of programming up to four times per week. This program provides a unique opportunity for students to experience place-based education away from the school campus. This collaboration was made possible with a generous grant to CEMS from the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation.

People Make a Difference

Pairing Land Conservation and the Arts Since 2008

This year CELT held its 14th Paint for Preservation *plein air* art auction, our only annual fundraiser. The idea took shape many years ago when Mary Anne Cary presented the idea to Claudia Dricot, both Cape Elizabeth residents. The two have continued to organize the event ever since.

Mary Anne is an artist and Claudia a fine art photographer who met in an art class 18 years ago. Interested in both land preservation and the arts, they approached CELT in 2007 about organizing a *plein air* art auction. “En plein air” is a French expression meaning “in the open air,” and refers to artists painting entirely outdoors with the subject in full view.



CLAUDIA DRICOT (LEFT) AND
MARY ANNE CARY

Paired with one CELT board member, the committee of three held the first “P4P,” as it is affectionately known, at a large farm on Old Ocean House Road.

Claudia and Mary Anne recall how that first year they had friends make all the food, and students played jazz music. Says Claudia, “The homeowner grew many varieties of tomatoes, and I remember garden tours and tomato tastings. It was a very home-grown kind of thing.”



COOPER DRAGONETTE PAINTS
SPURWINK RIVER (PHOTO CREDIT:
BOB HARRISON)

The event was such a success that CELT approached the duo about doing it again... and again... and again, and it keeps getting better every year. Now organized by a committee of ten, planning begins in October and continues until the event, typically held in June – July.

“At this point we have the best plein air artists in Maine. People have told us it’s the best thing going in Maine,” says Claudia. Adds Mary Anne, “Having artists painting out there brings people from all over to see the treasures Cape Elizabeth has to offer.”

For the first 9 years, P4P was a one-day event, culminating in a gala “wet paint” auction of the newly created pieces. It was then expanded to three days to allow for the possibility of rain. For the past two years, the auction has been held online due to the pandemic. We hope to host a live event again in 2022.

CELT deeply appreciates the artists, business sponsors and volunteers who help make this event happen each year, and extends a special thank you to Mary Anne and Claudia for all of their hard work and contributions for all these years.

Find out more about Paint for Preservation at capelandtrust.org/paint or email Patty Renaud at patty@capelandtrust.org.

Thank You, Bill!

Bill Luneburg, a retired law professor who has summered on Cliff Island since 1946, became involved with CELT soon after he moved to Maine full time in 2014. He joined the board and soon thereafter became the lands committee chair. Bill worked tirelessly on many exciting land projects over the past 3 years and revised all of the lands policies. He also lent a hand to the Paint for Preservation committee. In the fall of 2020, Bill started his term as Board President. His dedication, commitment, knowledge and facilitation skills have been tremendously appreciated by all. We are lucky to report that although Bill steps down as President, he will remain on the board. If you see him



on the trails with his Labrador retriever puppy, Kennedy, please thank him!



OAK SOCIETY

The Oak Society welcomes people who name CELT as a beneficiary of a planned gift or make a substantial contribution to our Endowment Fund. Thank You!

Anonymous (3)	Jean C. Hayes
Geoff & Lindsay Alexander	Herb & Kathleen Janick
Greg & Impy Altnauer	Evelyn Landry
Robert Anderson, Jr.	Sandy Larlee
Bruce & Phyllis Coggeshall	Sarah & Paul Muscat
Ted & Alison Darling	Tim & Maren Robinson
Whitney & Maria Drake	Arlyn Roffman & Bill Greenberg
Carolyn M. Fritz	Jeff & Susie Saffer
Jeanette & Mark Hagen	Dr. Joseph Schenkel
	Jessie Timberlake

To learn more about ways to give to Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, please contact Patty Renaud, Membership & Development Manager, at (207)767-6054 or email patty@capelandtrust.org.

Thank You for Your Annual Support to Save Cape's Great Places

The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust is a community-based nonprofit sustained by the generosity of our members and supported by a volunteer board and dedicated staff. Through our three operational pillars – Land Preservation, Stewardship, and Education – we're actively saving Cape's great places. We are deeply grateful for your support.

Gifts received between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021.

*Gifts made to *Forever Cape — A Campaign for our Community* and Maxwell Farm-Dyer Field were presented previously in a separate report.

Conservation Leadership Circle Members

\$5,000 +

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The Estate of Bruce Coggeshall
Kathleen & Herbert Janick
Suzanne & Neil McGinn
Alden & Amy Philbrick
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\$1,000-2,499

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These gifts were made as a tribute to the following people:
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These gifts were made to remember the lives and contributions of the following people:
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THANK YOU TO PAINT FOR PRESERVATION ARTISTS AND SUPPORTERS

We are extremely grateful to our sponsors, planning committee, videographers, digital marketing, host committee and everyone who made our second online Paint for Preservation art auction a great success! A special thanks to the artists, who donate a portion of art sales each year:

Lyn Asselta	Ken DeWaard	Cooper Dragonette	Lindsay Hancock	Marguerite Lawler	Tessa O'Brien	Liz Prescott	Matthew Russ
Olena Babak	Marsha H. Donahue	Erin McGee Ferrell	Alison Hill	Janet Ledoux	John David	Holly Ready	John Santoro
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Thank You to All our Volunteers!

As a community organization, CELT relies on thousands of hours of volunteer assistance each year. In previous annual reports, we have listed all who contributed their time over the past year. Yet, with so many donors and so many volunteers, we have simply run out of room! Although we cannot list all of your names, please know that you are our lifeline and we are deeply appreciative of all that you do! We simply could not do the important work of conservation in Cape Elizabeth without you!



330 Ocean House Road
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

Our Mission

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.

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