



CRABTREE NECK
LAND TRUST

Spring Newsletter 2016

It's About Connectivity

While out jogging last weekend, I passed by other individuals from the community enjoying the early spring weather and we waved, nodded, or said “hello” to one another. Those small acknowledgements of each other connected us in the joy of being outside on a beautiful day. I found myself smiling and I realized how important connectivity is in our lives. When we can connect with another over something as simple as enjoying the sunshine on our faces we get a brief respite from the stresses of everyday living, a break from the fear and anger that exists around us in today’s world.

This idea of connectivity is central to what drives CNLT’s work: connecting people to the land and connecting properties to create wildlife corridors. Whether it is the creation of our Hancock Community Gardens, or the opening of the Pettengill Preserve, CNLT has worked to provide areas where individuals can get outdoors, enjoy the peace and beauty of the natural world around them, and connect with one another over this wonderful place called Crabtree Neck.

As we complete our 10th year as a land trust, CNLT is as committed as ever to providing opportunities for connectivity, and with this in mind, I am very excited to announce the creation of two new trails this year. This summer we will be having a ‘soft opening’ of our Ice Pond Trail (*see details inside*), and in the fall we hope to finish the work on our Woods Trail at the Community Gardens. Visit our website for updates on these trails: www.crabtreenecklandtrust.org

Have a great spring and I hope I will see you this summer out on one of the new or existing CNLT trails.

~ Judy Adelman

Old Pond Boundary

By Renata Moise

As a Board member of CNLT, what I enjoy most is boots on the ground. Usually those boots are my tall rubber boots or my hiking boots, but in the winter of 2015, as the snow deepened week after week, I had an idea.

The Ice Pond property is very familiar to me; as a child I played along the brook while my mother clipped and made paths. It wasn't our land, but she was from Austria and loved beautifying the forest. In those days, a huge pile of sawdust from the old ice house lay to the left of the pond and I skated with my friends while bonfires burned on the shore. The knots of our skate laces froze, and our faces became so cold that we had trouble forming words. We skated out over the cranberry bog and saw bubbles flowing under the clear ice between the red berries and the green moss. Today, I still love being on this property and last year, on a cold February day, when the snow lay 3 feet deep in the woods (so different than this snowless winter), I decided to get out onto the Ice Pond land and get some boundary work done.

Earlier in the fall I had accompanied Surveyor Ed Pare as he showed me the boundary of, what was then, CNLT's newly acquired Ice Pond property. In warmer months the under growth here is thick and we braved deep, wet,

mossy bogs and spruce thickets. At that time I didn't have any of our small diamond shaped boundary markers with me, and even if I had, Ed's pace was too fast for the tedious job of nailing the markers to the trees! But this winter day I could take my time and mark the boundaries while enjoying the peace and beauty of this conserved land.

With the snow so high that the low bushes and downed trees were covered, I could fairly easily maneuver through the forest wearing skis. I started at the northwest marker, heading east along the boundary. The pins in the ground were hidden by snow but I know this land well and went by the orange tape on the tree trunks and branches. What an exhilarating afternoon; I continued to work my way east, but realized I hadn't brought enough markers to complete even a quarter of the job because the Ice Pond property, at about 40 acres, has a long and curvy boundary line. Light snow began to fall as I worked; the afternoon sun grew lower; the sharp cold in the air stung my cheeks. As I headed home, I was overcome with such gratitude for the forest, and for those individuals who believe in protecting the wild areas and who helped CNLT to preserve this special place. Thank you .

The Woods Trail at the Community Gardens



View from the beginning of the Woods Trail at the Community Gardens

This summer, work will begin on creating a hiking trail on our Ball Field property, located on the East Side Rd. This trail will begin at the parking area of the Community Gardens and lead up into the field, past the apple trees, through the blueberry meadow and the high land cranberry patch, to the forest's edge. A loop trail will then meander gently through woods of spruce, pine and maple. Approximately 200 feet of cedar bog bridging will be constructed through wet areas. The entire trail will be one mile in length, returning to the Community Gardens.

Hancock Community Gardens

A Tribute to Ed Curtis

Last fall, members of the Hancock Community Gardens created a bee garden in memory of Ed Curtis, a friend of many in the community and one of those who was instrumental in getting the Community Gardens started. He is greatly missed.



A Call For Gardeners

The Community Gardens were started in 2010 as a place for Hancock residents to have a plot of land on which to grow their own food. Since that time many individuals have enjoyed gardening here and new gardeners are always welcome.

The Community Gardens' committee is already busy planning for the 2016 growing season. There are some plots remaining for this year; if you are interested in joining us in the gardens or have any questions, please contact **Lesley Straley** at: lesley@roadrunner.com

Save the Date

CNLT is celebrating the opening of a new trail on our Ice Pond property.

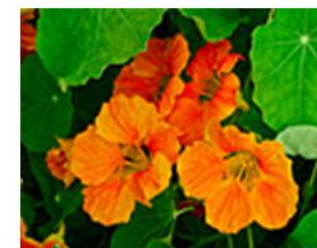
Please save the date: Tuesday, August 9th

Join us for a walk and reception to follow at Ironbound Restaurant.

Details can be found at our website

Stewardship

Volunteers Welcome! The CNLT stewardship committee is looking for volunteers to help with our trails. If you are interested in helping us maintain trails throughout the year and/or want to work on building new trails please call **Renata Moise** at 422-6854



Check out CNLT's website where you can learn more about our work and donate online using PayPal

www.crabtreecklandtrust.org