



CRABTREE NECK
LAND TRUST

Spring Newsletter 2017

Conservation

The following question is one I have been considering a lot lately: what does it mean to be a conservation organization? CNLT's mission is to conserve land for the preservation of wildlife habitat while also preserving existing public access and creating new trails for the public to enjoy. That is the physical aspect of what we do. But the mental aspect of conservation, or the energy and passion behind our work, is based on a broader concept: the desire to see natural places preserved for all living beings; to remember we are a part of something bigger. Being involved in conservation means not only preserving lands for wildlife and public access, but also caring about the environment in which we all live, for to do one but ignore the other is a missed opportunity on all our parts. For those of us at CNLT, there is great joy in working with landowners to conserve their land, providing an option other than development for their property, which in some instances has been in their families for generations. This is conservation on a local scale but these properties are also part of the bigger picture around us, one that many of us feel compelled to fight to save as well.

This edition of our newsletter highlights this idea of conservation; acting both locally and globally. You will read about CNLT's recent conservation acquisitions which add more open space to existing local preserves around Crabtree Neck, providing broader corridors for wildlife habitat while also adding trails for public enjoyment. There is also a thoughtful editorial from one of our board members regarding the Bar Harbor cruise ship issue, about which there is growing concern in communities around the bay; an article about the bigger picture of what is happening around us. Both of these projects speak to what it means to be involved in conservation, and both of them are dear to my heart; may they be so for you.

~ Judy Adelman, President CNLT

Old Pond/Youngs Bay



Aerial photo of Dembska Property by Ken Woisard, courtesy of MCHT

Old Pond Youngs Bay is a natural gem at the start of Crabtree Neck, just off of Route 1, providing habitat for eagles and ospreys, shorebirds and seal pups. It is here that CNLT conserved its first property by purchasing the old rail trail 10 years ago. Since then, we have worked with Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT), Frenchman Bay Conservancy (FBC), and the Town of Hancock to conserve more acreage in the area. This past winter, CNLT again partnered with MCHT to preserve an exquisite parcel located just across from the trestle bridge, and collaborated with a private landowner to add property on the trail's Western edge. We are committed to conserving as much of this scenic and untouched area as possible and look forward to continued partnerships, both with private landowners and other conservation organizations.

Dembska Property: CNLT and Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) partnered together in purchasing the Dembska property, *photo above*, located by the carrying place in Old Pond, along the rail trail. Fundraising for the purchase and stewardship of the property is ongoing and the deal is anticipated to close on or before May 15th. This is a critical piece in the preservation of OPYB and CNLT is delighted to be a part of this deal, complementing work we began in the area 10 years ago with the purchase of the rail trail property. While CNLT will continue to conserve properties in this area, MCHT has active projects in OPYB as well, and you can find out more about their work by visiting their website: www.mcht.org.

Graves Property: Last December, CNLT worked with Kathleen Graves to conserve 9.9 acres along the rail trail, on both the road and water sides of the trail. This property lies close to the Western entrance to the trail at Kilkenny Cove and offers beautiful access to the shore. CNLT will be working with Frenchman Bay Conservancy to create a future trail from the rail trail down to the water. Mrs. Graves was delighted that this property will remain open with access to the water for all and said it was what her father would have wanted! We appreciate her desire to create this legacy for her father.

The Preservation of Sam Ball Woods

In December of 2016, CNLT and Roberta and Richard Cunningham closed on a deal which allows CNLT to purchase 24 acres of the Cunninghams undeveloped land. We are currently fundraising for this project which includes some field and open views off of Point Rd., as well as beautiful woodlands. The wooded area abuts CNLT's existing Ball field property and in time will have trails connecting with the newly designed Woods Trail at the Ball Field. Already, the Cunningham woods have beautiful trails which were lovingly created and cared for by Mr. Cunningham, and over the next year the CNLT stewardship committee will be working to connect both sets of trails to make one trail system. CNLT is honored to have the opportunity to steward this land in perpetuity, leaving it open for wildlife and public access, and we thank the Cunninghams for their vision and interest in seeing this land preserved. In accordance with the Cunningham's request, this property will be known as the Sam Ball Woods.



View of Sam Ball Woods from Point Rd. by Josh Ferris

Woods Trail at the Ball Field to Open this Summer

CNLT's newest trail, the Woods Trial, located at our Ball Field Preserve is slated to open this summer. The opening trail walk will be held on Saturday, July 8th. Walk starts at 10:30 and is along a 1 mile path through the field and woods, followed by a picnic lunch. Parking at the Community Gardens parking area. For more information contact Renata Moise at 266-1229.

News

- Pettengill Preserve Clean-up Day coming late spring. Check out our Facebook page, Crabtree Neck Land Trust for details.
- Community Gardens plots available. Interested? Contact Renata Moise at: 266-1229.
- Want to volunteer with CNLT; help make and maintain trails or help in other ways? Call Judy Adelman at 781-3085.



Check out our website, www.crabtreenecklandtrust.org, to find out more about our land trust.