

Cobscook Currents

News from the Cobscook Community Learning Center

Spring/Summer 2014

CCLC Acquires Property on Straight Bay

In 1974, Frank Trocco purchased 50 acres of fields and forest lands at the head of Straight Bay in Trescott. For decades, his property, and the adjacent parcel owned by Diana Becker, served as the home base for students of the Audubon Expedition Institute (AEI). Reflecting back on their original intentions, Frank shares, "Mike, Diana, Beth, and I bought those properties because we thought they were beautiful and should be protected forever and used for education."



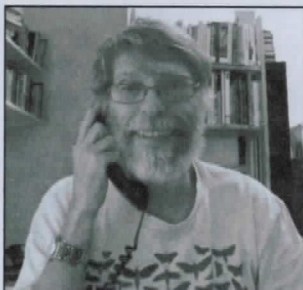
The view from the property on Straight Bay.

In 2011, with the gift of his remaining 16 acres to CCLC, Frank set into motion a river of collaboration and generosity ensuring their legacy will be sustained for generations to come. With major support from Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT), the Butler Foundation, Trudy Vandell, and a handful of former AEI staff, students, and friends, the original 50-acre parcel has now been reunited under CCLC's ownership and with a conservation easement held by MCHT that protects the natural character of the land, access for traditional fisheries, and educational activities.

Nancy Nielsen and Alan Brooks, founders of the Quoddy Regional Land Trust, breathe a sigh of gratitude and relief with these words, "We are thrilled that CCLC and MCHT, working together, have forged a new link in the bay's chain of protected shoreline. We couldn't imagine a better outcome for the long-term future of this property."

MCHT President, Tim Glidden reflects, "We were excited to partner with CCLC to accomplish so many important goals: acquiring a site for wonderful educational programs, fulfilling a long-held conservation dream on Straight Bay, and building connections between the people of a great community and the lands that have supported them for generations."

CCLC's Executive Director, Alan Furth moved to Lubec in 1978 to teach with AEI and at the Lubec School, and enjoyed both teaching and living on the properties. He is deeply honored that CCLC has been given the opportunity to rekindle outdoor education programming on that sacred land. The Straight Bay campus will be dedicated as the Diana Becker Sanctuary and Trail Lands in memory of Diana who was a founder of AEI, a person who deeply loved the people and landscape of the Cobscook region.



*Frank Trocco
friend of CCLC*

Frank concludes, "This is why I wanted to give my land to CCLC: I know it will continue to respect it – to embrace the original hopes and intentions that we held from the start. I couldn't be happier."

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Inside:

Thank you to our 2013 donors and supporters.

New programs!

Update on Heartwood Lodge!

Cobscook Community High School Program *Mixing academics with adventure*

"Well that doesn't sound very much like high school." Inevitably, one student will say something like this after an outreach presentation describing the Cobscook Community High School Program (CCHSP). Just as often parents will say, "I wish something like this was available when I was in high school." Either that, or "Can I come do your program?"

Like the saying goes, if it's not working, try something else. CCHSP is that something else. There are tangible differences between what we offer and what a student would expect from many conventional programs. Days spent out in the community, on expeditions, and engaging with our environment provides students with a level of programming that engages body and mind. Working on projects that students help design creates a high level of ownership in the experiences. And, working in a family-like learning environment provides that missing ingredient that many students need to feel supported in their learning.

"It is imperative for educators to relentlessly focus on providing the richest learning opportunities for each student entrusted to them. CCLC's faculty does a superb job serving their students with this innovative, academic program."

Dr. Keith Laser,
Superintendent, Calais
School District

It's not just the innovative curriculum that makes this program different: the unique structure of partnerships operating behind the program act as a foundation for innovation and add to its academic rigor. Through collaborations with many local and statewide organizations, CCHSP provides students with fun, memorable learning experiences while still maintaining a strong focus on academics. All of our learning experiences are aligned with Maine State Learning Results, Common Core, and Next Generation science and technology standards. This year the students of CCHSP have worked in partnership with the Downeast Salmon Federation to restore Maine's Atlantic salmon population; Downeast Coastal Conservancy to develop a new public access property in Lubec; and with Acadia Learning for Participatory Science on a statewide study of snow and its relationship to climate change.



Student Kyle Francis on a field trip to Tide Mill Creamery.

But the collaborations don't end there. We are always searching for new and exciting ways to engage our students in meaningful, hands-on learning experiences. The most recent partnership includes Dr. Anne Langston of The University of Maine at Orono's Aquaculture Research Institute, Dr. Barry Costa Pierce of The University of New England's Marine Sciences Department, and the students of the CCHSP. This relationship will engage students on the leading edge of critically important sustainable aquaculture research in Cobscook Bay. When we started the Cobscook Community High School Program four years ago in partnership with Calais High School, our goal was to turn otherwise disengaged students into excited, lifelong learners. The program has done just that. Even more, beyond helping to reinvigorate disengaged learners, our program also serves to excite students who simply want something more from their education.



CCHS students in the classroom, on a hike, and helping out at Downeast Salmon Federation. Our students do it all!

***Do you know a high school student who would love this program?
We accept applications all year!***

For more information: www.cclc.me or (207) 733-2233

CCLC Launches New Center — Educational Reform Initiative

By Benjamin Williams, Director, Center for Rural Teaching and Learning

In the United States, one out of every four children lives in poverty. In Washington County, Maine, the rate is closer to one in three. Current research shows that, for children, the trauma caused by living in poverty can profoundly impair learning. Merely growing up in extreme poverty can negatively impact the problem-solving skills essential to educational success, college entry, and career.

CCLC's newest center, the Center for Rural Teaching and Learning, is developing a response. The Rural TurnAround for Children (RTFC) project is designed for rural communities and their schools beginning in Washington County. The RTFC pilot project takes its inspiration from The TurnAround for Children program (TFC). TFC has more than a decade of experience and is currently running in more than 80 public schools in urban New York, Newark, NJ and Washington, D.C. The program is an innovative approach to poverty and its impact on learning and brain development. In partnership with TurnAround for Children, we started the RTFC project in October 2013.

RTFC is ambitious. The plan includes adapting the urban design to a rural setting, developing partners, and then initiating a five-year pilot program in Washington County schools. RTFC will put innovative educational research to work in to rural classrooms.

CCLC's Rural TurnAround project benefits from TurnAround For Children's experience, training and research as we adapt their model for rural communities and schools. With childhood poverty at its highest level and few solutions in sight, CCLC's focus on building a model program focused specifically on rural poverty and learning could not come at a more critical moment for rural communities and their children. While the RTFC program is clearly not a silver bullet to transform failing schools overnight, TFC has a proven record in urban areas and we believe has the possibility of transforming Washington County schools.

See page 4 for more information about Ben Williams, one of our newest staff members.

Innovations in Marine Science and Education

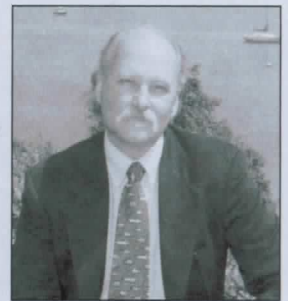
By Barry Costa-Pierce

Shortly after accepting my position in 2012, I was introduced to the outstanding mission, vision, and work of the Cobscook Community Learning Center (CCLC) and its for-profit affiliate, the Cobscook Bay Company, LLC (CBC). I immediately saw the potential for collaboration between UNE, CCLC, CBC, Maine's marine economy, but most of all what the potential partnerships could mean for Washington County, the Passamaquoddy people, for UNE, and for the spectacular marine ecosystems of this bioregion.

We are building collaboration between UNE, CCLC, and the CBC into a plan for UNE's Marine Science Center. We hope over the next few months to have important members from the UNE leadership in Washington County to discuss education, research and service opportunities. UNE is especially pleased with the prospect of Heartwood Lodge and the acquisition of CCLC's new Straight Bay property.

One part of this vision is the possibility of UNE and CCLC working to establish a permanent marine science and entrepreneurship field facility on the shores of the world class Cobscook Bay. For UNE, CCLC with CBC are vital partners in this vision. Together we expect to accomplish a new generation of ecologically sound and innovative fisheries, aquaculture, seafood processing experts and companies, and work with the region's tribal and non-tribal communities that are deeply moored in, and dependent upon, healthy marine ecosystems, fishing traditions and practices.

At UNE, we educate the next generation of coastal leaders as informed citizens, scientists, business leaders, and policy-makers. Our students acquire science-based knowledge, leadership and innovation skills to be of outstanding value to universities, coastal businesses, civil society, and governments in Maine, and throughout the World. Contact me if you are interested in learning more about this outstanding program.



Barry Costa-Pierce, who among his many titles, is Director of the Marine Science Center at the University of New England.

Cobscook Community High School Program

Mixing academics with adventure

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We accept applications all year!***

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Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.
To our 2013 donors, supporters, friends...

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None of this could happen without you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

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Straight Bay Property

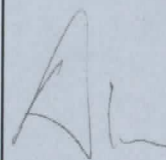
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Thank you!
from Alan Furth

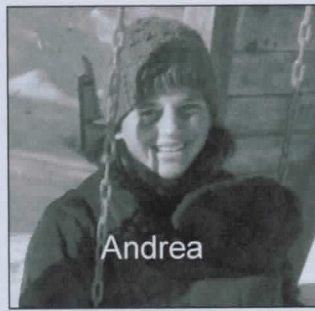
At the heart of the newsletter we thank and acknowledge each of you who have contributed financially to help CCLC programs and activities thriving.

The articles on the pages that precede and follow your names represent the very real fruits that result from the combined gifts of time, energy, skill, heart, and finance that we all bring to the CCLC. Thank you for your part in all that has brought us this far. In so many ways, this is another new beginning, another spring. Enjoy reading this issue. We look forward to your good company as Heartwood Lodge opens up a whole new generation of programs, and a new cycle of learning begins.

On behalf of CCLC's volunteers, staff and board,



Alan



Introducing the CCLC's new board members! Welcome to you all.

Sarah Strickland (Robbinston) is the founding partner of Strategic Wisdom Partners, a Maine-based organizational consulting practice serving to a wide range of non-profit organizations during significant leadership and strategic transitions. She has over thirty years experience in the non-profit sector.

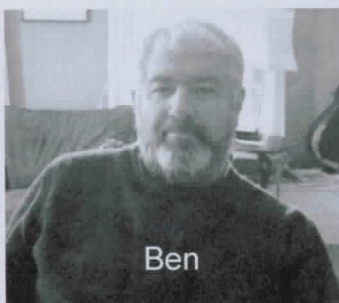
Sue Crawford (Robbinston) has worked in higher education for thirty-five (probably more) years both as a professor and as an administrator. She is a partner in the Commons of Eastport, and serves on three other boards. Sue loves to learn and laugh!

Andrea Ednie (Machias) is a faculty member at the University of Maine at Machias in the Environmental Recreation & Tourism Mgt. program. Her research explores the interrelationships between recreation behavior and the environment,. She loves outdoor adventures like hiking, paddling, biking, and more.

Mary Anne Spearin (Round Pond) holds a BA in K-8 Education from UMM and a Master's in Literacy and CAGS in Education Leadership from UNE. Throughout her career she has served in every imaginable role as an educator. She is currently the principal at Indian Township School in Princeton.

Stephanie Bailey (Indian Township) volunteers for multiple organizations, and proudly serves as a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Stephanie has also happily served her community as a foster parent and facilitated a tribal youth group called Youth of the Dawn for three years which was focused on local, global, and Passamaquoddy culture.

And another welcome to the CCLC's new staff members!



Ben Williams is the *Director of the Center for Rural Teaching and Learning* at the CCLC. He comes to this position from directing the Masters in Education program at Union Institute and University in Montpelier, VT. He worked with many rural schools and districts placing student teachers and developing programs in Vermont. He was the director of the Vermont Council on Teacher Education. He also worked on the research and evaluation team for the Annenburg Rural Challenge program while completing his doctorate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



Patricia Caya is the CCLC's brand-new *Administrative Assistant*. Before coming to the CCLC, she was the Advertising Representative for The Quoddy Tides. She also organizes and runs Road Scholar programs for the Atlantic Leadership Center, and is an adjunct voice teacher at the University of Maine, Machias. Before moving to Maine, she was the Communications and Events Coordinator for the Irvine Nature Center in Stevenson, MD. Patricia is also a professional singer, and has performed in concert, recital, oratorio and opera.

Heartwood Lodge is Here!

Heartwood Lodge is under construction and will be open for business by September 2014! General contractor Chris Goodwin and his crew have been working hard, and the window sills, flooring, and ceilings are in place. When you walk through the building, it's not hard to imagine how it will feel when it's full of people and energy. We're



Heartwood Lodge sprang up out of the ground this winter. Come by for a tour!

also particularly excited about the installation of the new wood-burning heating system that will provide heat and hot water to the entire CCLC campus. Not only will it reduce heating costs and save energy, it will allow us to use local biomass to create heat and hot water, while also serving as an educational demonstration site for these technologies. There is so much potential.

Heartwood Lodge will transform the programmatic capacity of the CCLC by allowing us to offer multi-day programs, overnight summer camps, and courses offered through our burgeoning partnerships with institutions such as University of New England, University of Maine, and others. Everything from weekend courses in health and fitness or the arts to credit-bearing courses with colleges and universities will come to life within the walls of Heartwood Lodge. Additionally, the Lodge allows the center to market itself as a retreat and conference center, which changes the profile of our revenue significantly by making us more self-sufficient.

To learn more, or to make a reservation at the Lodge, call us or stop by. We love to give tours of the building! The opening celebration will be in October 2014, at Rice Fest.



Heartwood Lodge Committee Co-chairs, Janet Weston (l) and Sue Crawford at the Lodge ground-breaking ceremony in October.



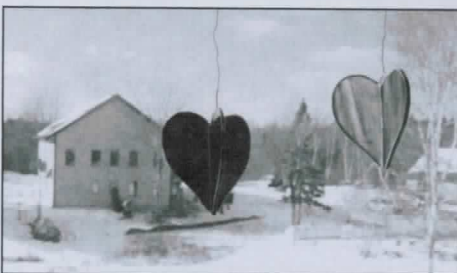
General contractor Chris Goodwin on the job.

Introducing the Hundred Hearts Campaign to Finish Heartwood Lodge

We are so close!

The entire Heartwood Lodge project is two buildings, not one. The first building, described above, creates residential capacity for CCLC and other programs. Also critical is classroom and other spaces for those programs to exist in. The second building, The Classroom Building, is needed for the project to have maximum impact. *You can help!*

The Hundred Hearts Campaign asks 100 people to commit to gifts of \$1,000 — payable at just \$200/year for five years to help us finish the job. This yields \$100,000! Donors can choose to pay monthly, annually, or all at once.



The first year's ornaments, donated by Wrenovations in Robbinston.

Donors to the campaign will receive a hand-crafted, locally-made, heart-shaped ornament — one each year for five years. The first ornaments, donated by Mark Wren of Wrenovations in Robbinston, are made of stained glass. Future years' ornaments will be made from paper, ceramics, beads, or wood. Participation is limited to the first hundred people to sign up!

For more information, visit: www.cclc.me or call (207) 733-2233.

CCLC Community Programs — Upcoming Highlights

Programs are continually being added to the schedule. For the latest, go to: www.cclc.me

Festivals:

- Down East Spring Birding Festival, May 23-26
- RiceFest, October 9 - 11

Summer Camps:

- Outdoor Adventure Camp (ages 7-12), 3 weeks
- Outdoor Explorer Camp (ages 10-13), 3 weeks
- Machias River Wigwams Camp (for teens), July 5-19

Literary Arts:

- Iota Conference of Short Prose, August 14-17
- Reading & Writing Haiku, July 8-29

Road Scholar:

- Birding Campobello Island, May 23-28, August 24-29
- Bold Coast Stewardship, June 8-13
- Letterboxing, Lighthouses and Whale Watching, July 13-18

Fitness:

- Zumba, Mondays 5 pm
- Mindful Movement, Wednesdays, 5 pm
- Yoga, Thursday evenings

Arts:

- Drawing, July 8- August 26

Other:

- Hunter Safety, July 13 & 20
- Wild Plant Foraging, August 22
- Monday Night Music, 2nd, 4th, & 5th Mondays
- Death Café, 1st Tuesday

Coming up: courses in Pottery, Wild mushrooms, and The Artist's Way. Dates TBA

Outdoor Adventure Camp for ages 7-12

Outdoor Explorer Camp for ages 10-13

Campers learn essential wilderness skills:

- primitive shelter and fire building techniques
- orienteering and wilderness first aid
- wild plant identification
- swimming, canoeing, geocaching

Explorer Camp has an overnight trip on Thurs.

Week 1: OAC, M-F, 6/23-27 Week 4: OEC, M-F, 7/21-25
Week 2: OEC, M-F, 7/7-11 Week 5: OAC, M-F, 8/4-8
Week 3: OAC, M-F, 7/14-18 Week 6: OEC, M-F, 8/11-15

Cost: \$225 per week Outdoor Adventure Camp

\$275 per week Outdoor Explorer Camp

Hassle-free scholarships available.

Machias River Wigwams Camp


Teens work with DSF & CCLC staff to :

- restore salmon habitat
- help with scientific data collection
- set native plants for erosion control
- build nature trails
- assist archaeologists on site

Saturday, July 5 - Saturday, July 19

To apply, contact: Maria McMorrow

maria@mainesalmonrivers.org

Offered in partnership with:  DOWNEAST SALMON FEDERATION

10 Commissary Point Road
Trescott, ME 04652



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