



# Cobscook Currents

News from the Cobscook Community Learning Center

Summer 2013

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*“Just \$300,000 to go, and we can build BOTH Heartwood Lodge buildings. This surpasses our campaign goals for this year.”*

*– Alan Furth  
CCLC Executive Director*

## Heartwood Lodge Within Reach! CCLC Receives Anonymous \$1.2 Million Gift.

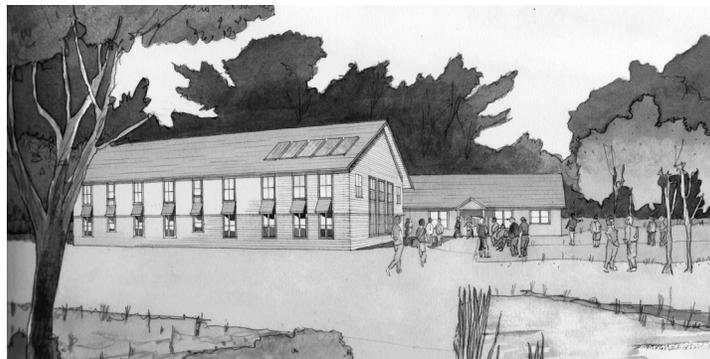
In May, the Cobscook Community Learning Center received great news when word of an anonymous \$1.2 million grant came through the door. This funding propels the CCLC within \$300,000 of finishing the \$2.8 million campaign to complete the Heartwood Lodge campaign in its entirety, including a second building that expands classroom space.

“We couldn’t be happier or more honored that this gift has been offered to support this work,” says CCLC Executive Director, Alan Furth. “It’s an endorsement of the impact that the center can and will have on the world of education. It’s also a reflection of a lot of hard work on the part of our staff, board, and capital campaign committee.”

Originally, the campaign was to build two buildings: one to add residential capacity and another that offers expanded classroom space. “We imagined raising the funds for the classroom building at a later date,” says Furth. “This gift puts both buildings within reach. We’ll start construction this summer.”

Heartwood Lodge’s fifty beds will allow the center to offer longer-term, multi-day programs, and to attract larger scale offerings. “We look forward to offering more immersion programs in the arts and music. We can increase our summer camp offerings and serve as a place for families to come learn about health through retreats on diet and fitness. Additionally, we have been in conversation with the University of New England, the University of Maine, and other institutions for years about intensive programming that could happen once we have overnight facilities,” explains Furth. “Heartwood Lodge is the key to turning those ideas into reality.” Additionally, having overnight facilities allows the center to market itself as a conference and retreat center, to house Road Scholar programs, and more.

The building will be built by local people using as many local materials as possible. “That’s been our commitment from the start,” offers Janet Weston, co-chair of the Heartwood Lodge capital campaign. “We’re using local lumber and local contractors and sub-contractors. Supporting the local economy, while furthering the center’s educational mission, is what this building has always been about.”



*Architect’s drawing of Heartwood Lodge.*

## CCLC Teams Up With Downeast Salmon Federation to Offer Summer Youth Program



*Maria McMorrow,  
project leader.*

The Cobscook Community Learning Center and the Downeast Salmon Federation (DSF) have teamed up this summer to create an exciting opportunity for teens interested in working outdoors. Through funding made available by a grant from the Washington County TIF program, DSF and CCLC have created a two-week experience in which teens will spend two weeks working on restoration of salmon habitat, trail work, improvement of a historic hunting and fishing camp, and an archeological dig. Through this effort, the historic Machias River Wigwams camps and camping sites will be restored and made available to those seeking to access the river. Not only is

this project a great opportunity for a group of local teenagers, but it's also a boost to the region's ecotourism industry. The camps will serve as an inexpensive place for tourists and others to stay as they enjoy time on the river. It also represents the first major collaborative project between DSF and CCLC.



*The Machias River, courtesy of Brigette Besaw Photography*



*The Wigwam Camp.*

Teenagers who sign up will spend July 5<sup>th</sup> through July 19<sup>th</sup> living and working at the Wigwam Rapid on the Machias River and will work under the supervision of crew leaders Michael Giudilli and Maria McMorrow. Giudilli has been leading trips and outdoor activities at the CCLC for the past year, and McMorrow is serving in an Americorps position at DSF. Both are highly trained, skilled outdoor educators. Participants will not only gain valuable skills, but will also receive \$200 stipends. During work days, teens will work on tasks as varied as trail work, interpretive signs, planting native plants for erosion control, removing remnant dams, collecting scientific data, and sifting soil in the search for artifacts. Work related to restoration of salmon habitat will be done in

collaboration with Project SHARE (Salmon Habitat and River Enhancement), a non-profit working to restore fish passage and natural stream function to benefit Atlantic salmon and other native fishes. It's not all work, though. When the day's work is completed, there will be time to swim, fish, create artwork, or relax. There will also be days set aside for short trips to paddle and explore other areas of the watershed. "This will be an unforgettable way to be immersed in the outdoors," says McMorrow. "We're so thrilled to be able to offer this opportunity to young people."

"This collaboration makes so much sense," says CCLC Executive Director Alan Furth. "DSF has this great project going, and the CCLC has the right organizational infrastructure and experience to bring it to life. This sort of work, projects that benefit local people and the economy, offered in partnership with other great organizations is exactly what the center wants to be doing. We're very happy to be part of this great partnership."

As a result of the project, the Wigwams camp will be restored to a usable condition and adjacent trails will be expanded and improved with interpretive signs. The camps will then be made available to the public at the very affordable rate of just \$40 per night. Further, DSF and CCLC will be able to utilize the property for overnight camps and wilderness workshops such as whitewater paddling and fly fishing clinics. All of

## Seedbed of Adventure: collective endeavor and accomplishment

Appreciation, acknowledgement, and accomplishment characterize the contents of this edition of Cobscook Currents. Each individual and organization whose financial contribution has helped sustain CCLC through another year of important and celebrated programming and organizational development is acknowledged. I add my thanks, on behalf of the staff and board of CCLC, to the many individuals who dedicate time and talent to the many leadership committees that help guide and drive developments here, and to those who volunteer to help in so many ways to keep things humming at the Center. There are so many ways to contribute to helping maintain CCLC as the vibrant hub that it is. It is a joy and an honor to be part of such an expansive circle of support. Thanks to one and all.

The efforts of two related groups is about to bear fruit – big fruit. The Heartwood Lodge Capital Campaign Committee and the Heartwood Lodge Design and Construction Committee are about to see construction get underway. The article titled, “Heartwood Lodge Within Reach!” acknowledges that an anonymous transformational gift of \$1,200,000 carries us to within \$300,000 of our campaign goal. The details are carried in the article, but in this letter, I want to highlight the mountain of contributions of time, heart, and talent, as well as every single denomination of financial gift that has combined to carry us to a point where construction can begin, even as we continue to drive towards campaign completion.

Both the Design and Capital Campaign committees convened in 2008, shortly after completion of the CCLC Commons building, to embark on what was imagined to be a one or two year adventure. Remember 2008? The campaign and design teams have persevered just as our nation has, and each contributor has found, within respective capacities, the right amount to offer in support of the project and all of the many new and expanded programs that will be made possible with its completion.

I remember well, standing with an old friend in the CCLC parking lot in the summer of 2008 acknowledging the start of the Heartwood Lodge campaign. She opened her wallet, pulled out a one dollar bill and, laughing, christened the endeavor as having begun. “There”, she declared, “may this be the first of many more to come. I wish you great success with this next adventure.” Now, in the summer of 2013, the end of this particular odyssey is in sight. But, here at CCLC, by design, the conclusion of one adventure always opens opportunity for the start of another.

The truth is that CCLC is a collective of adventures. It is an adventure seedbed. CCLC co-founder and board member emeritus, Wayne Newell, declared this fourteen years ago when, during a retreat to clarify the values, mission and vision of the Center, he compared CCLC to Star Trek. With his great spirited joy, he asserted that CCLC would “go where no one had ever gone before” in our region – and, perhaps, anywhere. That belief and the laughter, joy, and dedicated work which is carried on in this “next generation”, and which will be handed on to yet another and another, is buoyed by the combined contributions of us all.

In addition to the highlights shared in this edition of Cobscook Currents, there is a lot percolating. It is a dynamic time. Thanks to all for being part of the story. Here’s to the great adventures shared and at hand, and to those which lie ahead.

From my place in the circle,



Alan Furth  
Executive Director

## CCLC Launches Writers' Conference

The Cobscook Community Learning Center will launch a writers' conference this summer called *Iota: The Conference of Short Prose*, on August 22 – 25<sup>th</sup>. The event will be an enriching educational experience for local writers or those from elsewhere. "Iota is a word that means a very small quantity," explains Penny Guisinger, CCLC staff and coordinator of the conference. "There has been a lot of interest recently in forms of writing that focus on brevity. We wanted to create a conference that focused on something different from all the other conferences across the country."

**Iota**  
short prose  
conference

August 22-25, 2013  
Roosevelt International Park  
Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada

Faculty: **Sven Birkerts**: *Essay*  
**Arielle Greenberg**: *Poetry & Hybrid Forms*  
**Lewis Robinson**: *Fiction*



Iota has attracted a nationally known trio of writers and educators to serve as faculty. This team will lead workshops in three genres (nonfiction, fiction, and prose poetry and hybrid forms), as well as offer several team-taught sessions to encourage cross-genre experimentation. Sven Birkerts, who will teach nonfiction and essay writing, is the author of nine books, has been editor of *AGNI* since July 2002, and has reviewed regularly for *The New York Times Book Review*, *The New Republic*, and other publications. He has taught writing at Harvard University, Emerson College, Amherst College, and Mt. Holyoke College, and is director of the graduate Bennington Writing Seminars. Arielle Greenberg, who will teach prose poetry and hybrid forms, is the author of the poetry collections *My Kafka Century* and *Given*. Her poems have been included in the 2004 and 2005 editions of *Best American Poetry*. She serves on the MFA faculty at the University of Tampa. Lewis Robinson, who will teach short fiction, is the author of the novel *Water Dogs* and the short story collection *Officer Friendly*. Lewis graduated from the Iowa Writers' Workshop in 2001, has received a Whiting Award and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and is currently at work on a novel.

Iota will be housed, for its first year, at Roosevelt Campobello International Park. In future years, once the CCLC completes Heartwood Lodge (a dormitory and learning space), much of the conference will be moved to the center's campus in Trescott. This year's conference schedule includes field trips to the Lubec area, visits to local businesses, and hikes. "We want participants to feel really grounded in this place," explains Guisinger. "The experience is about writing, of course, but it's also about being immersed in this beautiful location, and drawing inspiration from it."

Applications and registrations are being accepted until July 22. For more information, visit: [www.cclc.me/iota](http://www.cclc.me/iota), or call (207) 733-2233.



David Wilder with the commemorative plaque.

## Center Dedicates New Space

In the summer of 2012, students enrolled in The Community Year, the CCLC's high school program, worked with local builder (and all-around great person) David Wilder on the construction of an addition to Rice Hall, the center's main building. The addition, named The Wilder Wing, now serves as expanded classroom space for the program. Students who worked with David received credit for a building trades course, and learned a lot in the process. Once school resumed in September, students and faculty honored David with a dedication ceremony. Says one student, "It's so great to go to school in a room I helped to build."



*Whiting Village School students on a field trip to the CCLC*



*The Pizza Night kitchen crew having a blast.*



*Our friend Warren Foley tearing up the stage.*



*Author Susan Hand Shetterly leads a memoir workshop, offered by Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, hosted at the CCLC.*



*Staff members Valerie Lawson and Pat Mallar — happy at work!*



*Jaclyn Socabeson demonstrates Passamaquoddy jewelry making at RiceFest 2012*

## **CCLC Highlights**

*With heartfelt thanks to those who make it all possible.*



*Nine-year-old Abby Leavitt reads a poem when the Poetry Express came to the CCLC.*



*Mark Wren demonstrating stained glass at RiceFest.*



*Melissa Cushing performs at Coffee House and Open Mic.*



*A group of young outdoorspeople gather for Outdoor Adventure Club.*



*Community Year students volunteering with our last newsletter.*

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.  
*To our 2012 donors, supporters, friends...*

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

*None of this could happen without you.*

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

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## CCLCs Signature High School Program Launches 4<sup>th</sup> Year With New Name



*CCHSP students in Washington D.C.*

CCLC's High School Program, The Community Year, just marked the successful close of its third year on June 8, when we celebrated our annual graduation ceremony. Two seniors, Andre Morren of Cutler and Chance Peterson of Calais, received their diplomas, and our six other students received certificates of completion. The 2012-13 school year marked the first year that we offered a second year of programming. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, we also said goodbye to three students who completed a full two years of The Community Year Program. These students will transfer to other programs to complete their high school careers, and we wish them well.

As we begin our fourth year of programming, we will be operating under our new name – Cobscook Community High School program. We decided on a name change for two reasons. When we began three years ago, we were offering a one year option for high school students, and the name “The Community Year” fit. We've grown, and now offer students the option to participate for up to two years, so it seemed that a new name was in order. We wanted a name that reflected what we are – a high school program at the Cobscook Community Learning Center. So, Cobscook Community High School it is. While the name has changed, the core of the program remains the same – an interdisciplinary high school program for students looking for a unique, community-based learning experience. We are currently accepting applications for the 2013-14 school year, and invite any interested students, families, and community members to call or go online for application and program information.

### 2012-13 Project Highlights

**Culvert and Macroinvertebrate Study:** Students worked alongside staff and scientists from the Downeast Salmon Federation and Schoodic Education and Research Center to pilot a study looking at the effects of culverts on watersheds. Students conducted field sampling at a culvert near the entrance to Cobscook Bay State Park, created hypothesis regarding the health of upstream and downstream communities, developed scientific posters discussing their hypothesis and findings, and participated in a poster session at Downeast Salmon Federation with students from Jonesport-Beals High School. The goals of the project were two-fold: to gather meaningful data for scientists and staff to help guide resource management decisions, and to engage students in real-world research that has actual application. Read more about the project at [www.participatoryscience.org](http://www.participatoryscience.org).



*Studying macroinvertebrates.*



*Graduating student Chance Peterson reading her book to WVS students.*

**Civil Rights Storybook Project:** This year students researched, wrote, illustrated, and produced children's story books focused on a civil rights leader. The project, which involved the opportunity to work with area artists and culminated in a reading at the Whiting Village School, counted towards their language arts, social studies, and computer technology courses. Students received guidance from Devon Kelley-Yurdin ([www.devonkelley-yurdin.com](http://www.devonkelley-yurdin.com)), graphic artist from Eastport, on thinking about illustration techniques for their projects. Once their books were completed, students traveled to the Book Arts Studio at University of Maine at Machias ([www.machias.edu/book-arts](http://www.machias.edu/book-arts)) to work with professor Bernie Vinzani to bind their completed projects. Examples of their completed projects can be viewed on the high school section of CCLC's website.

## Birding Festival Celebrates Ten Years

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Downeast Spring Birding Festival was the biggest and rainiest in the event's history. "The rain was so hard at times," says Bill Kolodnicki, "it was hard to hear the birds!" The festival, in spite of the weather, attracted a record number of participants and guides. Over 150 people attended and took part in guided hikes, boat trips, and other educational activities over the festival's three days. An additional 150 children from schools in Princeton, Alexander, Pembroke, and Eastport attended a special youth day at Moosehorn for short hikes, activities such as dissecting owl pellets, and the "Owls of Maine" presentation by the Chewonki Foundation.



*Black-capped Chickadee.*



*Chewonki Foundation's live owl presentation being delivered at Moosehorn.*

The Downeast Spring Birding Festival is organized and run by a coalition that includes Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, Friends of Moosehorn, and the CCLC. The center has provided staff and administrative oversight and support of the festival since 2009. Across that time, the festival has doubled in size. For this year's festival, the planning committee's goals were to attract over 150 people and add at least ten new events and ten new guides. "We definitely surpassed those goals," says Jeanne Guisinger. "We added over ten hikes and ten guides and presenters. We offered forty distinct events this year, some of them more than once."

In spite of the nonstop torrential downpours, it was a great year for bird sightings. Hikers were treated to the festival's first-ever Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Other birds included Red-necked Phalaropes, Upland Sandpipers, Philadelphia Vireo, Virginia Rail, Blackpoll Warbler, and Eastern Towhee, the latter of which is not common in this part of Maine. And, of course, the festival delivered sightings of birds common to the region, including Northern Goshawk, Boreal Chickadee, American Woodcock, and the resident nesting Bald Eagles with a pair of eaglets at Moosehorn.



*Razorbills on Machias Seal Island.*

Once again, the festival was attended by a group of Road Scholar students. (Road Scholar is the organization formerly known as Elderhostel.) These participants travelled from all across the United States to participate. For birders everywhere, the Downeast Spring Birding Festival is an opportunity to view birds that they can't see anywhere else, like Atlantic Puffins and Boreal Chickadees. Birding is a mainstay of the local ecotourism economy. In a 2006 study, 48 million people in the US identified themselves as birders. In Maine, wildlife watchers spend upwards of \$866 million each year on food, lodging, transportation, and other expenses. Maine ranks second of all states for participation in birding activities. The festival is not only educational and fun, it's also an economic boost to the region.



*Hardy birders on the trail.*

This festival offers exceptional birding opportunities and very experienced, knowledgeable guides. It speaks volumes about the quality of the experience that people travel from across the country to attend, and some of them come back year after year. Festival participants love the birds they get to see here, but they also love the hospitality, the beauty of this region, and how welcome they feel here. This is an event that will only get bigger as time goes by.

## Farewell to Annie, Welcome to Michael



It's with great sadness that the CCLC says farewell to Annie Seegmiller, who has left her position as a teacher in the Cobscook Community High School Program (CCHSP) to move back to her home state of Iowa. Annie began her work here in 2010, and was an integral part of the program's creation, launch, and success. We will miss the sound of her laughter.

Fortunately, we get to welcome Michael Giudilli to our staff as

Annie's replacement. Michael has been helping to lead youth programs here at the CCLC, including Outdoor Adventure Club during the school year, three weeks of Outdoor Adventure Camp across this summer, and the teen project with Downeast Salmon Federation this July. He has also accompanied the CCHSP group on expeditions throughout the school year. Michael will begin teaching full-time for CCHSP when school resumes this fall.

Welcome Michael! You've got big hiking boots to fill.



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## What?!? You've Never Volunteered at the CCLC Before?!?



This is Terry Miner, a CCLC volunteer extraordinaire, and she's just learned that there are people out there reading this newsletter who have yet to experience the fun of helping out around here. (Yes, Terry, it's shocking. We know!)

There are lots of fun jobs to do: helping with trail maintenance, folding newsletters, chopping vegetables at Pizza Night, setting up for classes and events, cooking, answering the phones — there is truly something for everyone. Volunteering is a great way to meet people, have fun, make a difference, and build your resume. Come join us! Terry will be here....will you?

For more information, contact Kevin at 733-2233 or [kevin@thecclc.org](mailto:kevin@thecclc.org)