

19TH ANNUAL OLT MEETING

President, Gail White

March 25, 2005 was the 19th Annual Meeting of the Orono Land Trust. We had a very nice turn out. The Board honored three people for their contributions to the Land Trust. Jay Johnson, past president and current board member, has put in many hours keeping records and representing the Land Trust at several functions. Kathy Carter, a long time member, recently gave up the job of keeping the membership list after keeping the list for several years. Michael Griffin, member, gave many hours of legal expertise to enable the sale of the Morris Cabin.

The guest speaker was Jason White who entertained everyone with hiking tales. He spoke about equipment then showed slides of his 2001 AT hike. People of all ages enjoyed the presentation. Jason is a 1996 Orono High graduate and a 2001 UM graduate in environmental studies.

President, Gail White, opened the annual meeting and told of all the activities of the past year. She explained how the Land Trust Standards and Practices are becoming very important in the face of changing tax structures. She told of all the work the board has done in the face of extensive development in Orono. The Orono Bog Boardwalk the Corridor activities were explained. The Morris Cabin was sold and the funds have been set aside for future lands and stewardship. The proposal to have the Town of Veazie join OLT in some manner was presented.

The annual meeting was adjourned and a short board meeting took place. For any one who missed the annual meeting and would like more information about it, please contact Gail White @866-0041.

MAINE LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE '05

This year's conference was held at Brunswick High School on a very rainy Saturday, May 7th. Many different land trust and similar organizations attended. Over 30 workshops on land trust topics were presented. The Land Trust Standards and Practices discussions showed that OLT was doing very well but, has areas to improve on. The OLT membership will be hearing more about this topic throughout the year. The conference was very well attended by Dave and Pat Thompson, Sally Jacobs, Jay Johnson, Dave Clement, Melissa Burch, Jim Hinds, Gail White, Roger King, Cheryl and John Daigle. ~ *Gail White*



Photo by Sally Jacobs

Wonderful ski day on Caribou Bog Uplands and Pushaw
Jim Hinds led the OLT winter trip which included Steve Brooke, our liaison with the Lands for Maine's Future Board, Chris Dorion, Sally Jacobs, Pat Thompson, Dave Thompson, and Bucky Owen.

OLT and BLT Collaborate to Conserve 909 Acres

On Wednesday, May 25, Jim Hinds and Steven Keleti formally transferred 909 acres of the Caribou Bog and surrounding forested uplands to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W). The Orono Land Trust and the Bangor Land Trust teamed up with the Maine IFW to apply for Land for Maine's Future funding and an Outdoor Heritage grant. These funds along with those from the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Maine Audubon, Maine Community Fund and private donors made it possible to purchase the property from the owners, Jim Hinds from Orono and Steven Keleti from Malden Massachusetts. It has taken over two years of work on the part of the Caribou Bog-Penjajawoc Project Committee, a joint committee of the OLT and BLT, and a tremendous amount of patience on the part of the owners, but the result is a that a large natural area with over a mile of shoreline on Pushaw Lake, just nine miles north of the Bangor Mall, is now permanently protected for wildlife, and public access for traditional uses such as hiking, hunting, skiing, snowmobiling and biking.

The IF&W will be managing the area with help from the Orono Land Trust. Signs will be put up to mark the Trailhead just off Taylor Road, which is accessed from outer Forest Avenue.

This purchase, together with the purchase of a five-acre lot that abuts the larger parcel, are the first big step in a regional effort to connect the already conserved areas such as the Bangor Forest, the OLT Newman Hill Preserve, and Hirundo Wildlife Preserve into a unified Corridor for recreation and conservation connecting Bangor to the Great North Woods.

Orono Land Trust Board Member List and Classes

2005

Gail While (President)
David Clement (Vice President)
Sue Owen (Secretary)
Jim Hinds (Treasurer)

John Alexander
Melissa Burch
Steve Colburn
Chris Dorion
Sally Jacobs
Jay Johnson
Jerry Longcore
Peter Millard
Jim Rose
Shep Sheppard
David Thompson
Pat Thompson
Sharon Tisher
Wendall Temblay
David Wardrop
Ginny Whitaker

2006

Melissa Burch
David Clement
Chris Dorion
Jay Johnson
David hompson
Sharon Tisher

2007

Steve Colburn
Jerry Longcore
Wendall Tremblay
Pat Thompson
David Wardrop
Ginny Whitaker
Gail White

2008

John Alexander
Jim Hinds
Sally Jacobs
Peter Millard
Sue Owen
Jim Rose
Shep Sheppard

Spring Trail Day

by Gail White

Trail Day was a bit overcast and a little misty, but enthusiastic people showed up in several locations. Beth White, Margaret Clancey, Herb Crosby and Jay Johnson walked the River Trail and cleared obstacles, cut up downed trees and beaver "spikes" and picked up trash. On another portion of the river trail and along the road the Mick Peterson family was picking up trash. Between the community center and the water building they picked up 3 trash bags of junk and a large plastic snowman!

Twelve people showed up on Taylor Road and broke into two groups. Jim Hinds worked with Bucky Owen, John Alexander, Ron and Meg Logan with their friend, Cheryl. They cut about 1/4 mile of new trail on the Hinds-Keleti land. This new trail will give the house on the property privacy and give people all-season access to the 909 acres of conserved land. They also spread about 10 wheel barrels of wood chips.

Chris Dorion was assisted by Bob Lombardo, Johanna and Matt Cote, Kathleen Bell, John Halloran and Leslie Hudson. Their goal was to move the old Caribou Bog Ski Trail to permanently conserved lands. They cleared 1/2 mile of trail from the gravel logging road, southwest to Forest Ave. This summer, Chris hopes to continue the trail from Forest Ave northward.

Aaron Queheillalt, Gail White and Woody Carville rerouted the trail off South Forest Ave. to higher land that private landowner, Julian Haynes offered for use. This trail connects the Pearce Easement with the Rampe Conservation Easement. The old trail was covered over and the new trail was blazed.

Eagle Scout, Ryan Tripp, worked during the week on his eagle scout project with about a dozen other scouts. Ryan worked on a hillside making water dikes and spreading chips. After he finished, mother nature decided on different water routes. Tyan accommodated the new routes and now the trail drains well and is passable in the spring.

Good job everyone! Thank you.

OLT MISSION

The mission of the Orono Land Trust is to foster the maintenance of a trail system connecting strategically located public natural areas, to encourage the protection and appreciation of natural habitats and to ensure access to public waters.

2005 Nature Walks on the Orono Bog Boardwalk

Saturdays during the summer

Group size is limited and advance registration is required.

To register or for information: Contact Judy Markowsky
email fieldspnd@juno.com or 207-989-2591

June 18, 9-11 AM	Ecology of Orono Bog
July 16, 9-11 AM	Movement of Water in Bogs and Fens
July 23, 9-11 AM	Peat Bogs for Kids
July 30, 9-11 AM	Mosses, Peat Mosses, and Other Tiny Plants of Bogs
Aug. 6, 9-11 AM	Peat Bogs for Kids
Aug. 27, 9-11 AM	How Some Plants Survive Where Most Plants Would Perish
Sept. 14, 7-11 AM	Mushroom Ecology of Orono Bog (\$10 fee)
Sept. 24, 9-11 AM	Deep Peat

Orono Bog Boardwalk Yard Sale a Success!

Over \$3,000 was raised towards the maintenance and operation of the boardwalk. Tim Conmea won the raffle for the lovely homemade quilt donated by Susan Bodyke. **Special thanks to Jim Bird for hosting the 2nd annual yard sale and to OLT volunteers who donated items or helped with the event!** ~ John Daigle, Boardwalk Director

The OLT Newsletter is published four times a year.

Newsletter Coordinator: Pat Thompson
Newsletter Layout: Cheryl Daigle, Pat Thompson
Website Editor: Ginny Whitaker
Proofreader: Sally Jacobs

HOW SKY MEADOW GOT ITS NAME

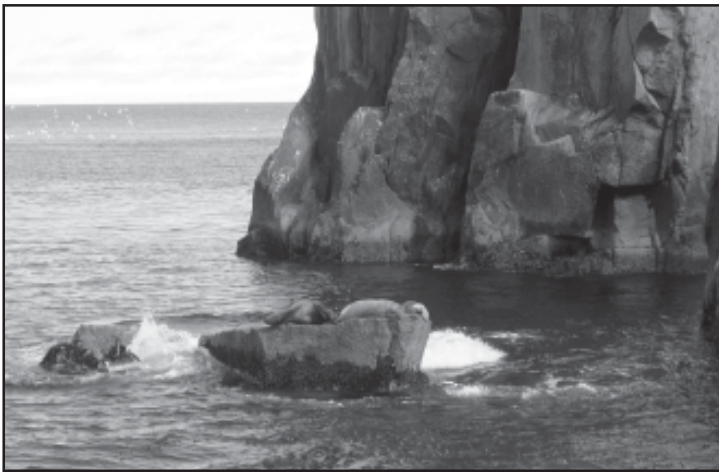
John Lyman as told to Sally Jacobs

(“Sky Meadow” is an open meadow that belonged to Pat Farnsworth and now belongs to Dr. John Tozer. It is located to the northwest of the end of Mainewood Avenue.)

One evening, many years ago, Jeri Quick, as was her wont, took several, six or seven, friends, all women and all equipped with her fund of cold-weather gear and footwear, mostly snowshoes, on a “loop trek” on the new trails her husband, Har, and I had cleared through woods and fields between Forest Avenue and Kelley Road.

While entering the meadow, the sky was lit up by multi-colored Northern Lights, the Borealis, from the horizons to the zenith. The effect was so memorable that the place thereafter in the speech of those people and whom they talked to was identified as “Sky Meadow.” In over 40 years the name has become the name for the place Dr. Tozer placed his house. Small miracles abide!

This is written just as John talks. It is very relaxing to hear his slow gentle tales.



Food for sea Lions has become a problem due to global warming in Alaska. *Photo by Pat Thompson*

NATURE CLIP.....by Jerry Longcore

The Heat is On—Global Warming

The old saying that goes something like “Figures don’t lie, but liars can figure” seems to affect views about the global warming issue. The gist of the issue is that the amount of CO₂ (and other greenhouse gases, e.g., methane, nitrous oxide) in the atmosphere has been steadily increasing since the 1780’s. These gases serve as a heavy blanket in the atmosphere and hold more of the sun’s heat, which previously had radiated away from the earth into space. The resultant increase in temperatures, including at the poles, has already caused environmental changes, which are mostly negative. Ice sheets have collapsed, glaciers are receding, shrubs are moving into the tundra, the number of glaciers in Glacier National Park has declined from 150 to 30, eighty percent of the snowcap of Mount Kilimanjaro has disappeared, annual precipitation has increased by more than 25 per cent during the past century, sea temperatures have increased 2° F in past 20 years, mean global sea level has risen up to 7.8 inches during past century, and the northward shift of species and shift in timing of flowering of plants and nesting of birds are well documented. These are just a few of the effects. Yet, Senator Inhofe calls global warming “the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people” and the United States has not joined the rest of the industrialized countries in supporting the Kyoto Treaty, a collaborative response to global warming. To inform yourself on this critical issue read the following [National Wildlife Federation, Special Issue: Global Warming, April/May, 2005; and The Climate of Man—III, by Elizabeth Kolbert, in The New Yorker, May 9, 2005 (also, see parts I, II in earlier issues)] then act on that knowledge.

VEAZIE TREE PLANTING

by Gail White

Saturday, May 21, started out sunny but it didn’t take long for the clouds to arrive. It didn’t change the spirits of the people from Veazie, Orono and Bangor who showed up on Buck Hill to plant 300 fourth generation hybrid American Chestnut seeds and 30 control trees. Leader Glen Rea had everyone busy in no time. Jamie Weaver had dug most of the holes and after a little machine repair, got the rest dug.

First a tablespoon of rich mixture was put in each hole, then metal surrounds were inserted. The hole was filled with a peat moss/rich dirt mixture and a seed planted and covered. Each hole was marked with bamboo sticks. There were three different sets of seeds. Each of the sets had a different heritage. Ivan Booker (age 95) photographed the event. Now to monitor the site weekly during the growing season. After about 6 years the determination will be made as to which trees have the best resistance to the chestnut blight. Those trees will begin the next generation and be reintroduced to the woods. Thank you to all that helped: Glen and Ann Rea, Ethel Champaco, Dave Clement and Betsy Weiss, Jamie Weaver, Ivan Booker, John Manter, Ian Prior with son Jack, Paula and Joel Brown, David Gross, Gail White, Brianna Marang, Brooks Mills, Ethan Weaver, Ken Ferguson with children, Alex, Anna and Kate.



Newman Hill winter 2005



Orono Land Trust
100 Bennoch Road
Orono, ME 04473

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATES!

June 18 - September 24
Bog Boardwalk Nature Walks
September 10
Orono Festival Days

**Please check for membership
expiration date on your address label.**

www.bairnet.org/organizations/olt

Check website for information about OLT activities.

ORONO LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

_____ \$25 Annual Family/Individual Membership

_____ \$50 Family Membership

_____ \$100-999 Supporting Membership*

_____ \$1000 Life Membership

_____ \$5000 Named Fund**

Please mail this form with your check made out to "Orono Land Trust" to:

Orono Land Trust, Membership
100 Bennoch Road
Orono, ME 04473
OLT is a publicly supported charitable organization 501 (c) 3.

* All but \$50 of your donation will go into a long-term fund for future land acquisitions and for stewardship of existing lands.

**For gifts of \$5000 or more, the Orono Land Trust will set up a fund named after the donor or a person named by the donor; the donor can specify if it is to be a stewardship fund for a particular piece of property, for future land acquisitions, or for a legal defense fund. For example, the "John Doe Fund for Stewardship of the Newman Hill Preserve" or "Jane Doe Fund for Future Land Acquisitions: or "The John and Jane Doe Legal Defense Fund".

I'd like to make an **additional** \$_____ donation to help to protect green space in Orono.

I am interested in helping the Land Trust activities in the areas of:

_____ **Lands** – The core committee, always on the lookout for new areas, monitors land-use changes.

_____ **Stewardship and Trails** – Backbone of OLT, monitors areas, maintains trails for public use.

_____ **Program and Activities** – Plans and conducts events and programs of education and entertainment.

_____ **Public Relations** – Helps tell the OLT story through newspaper articles and brochures.

_____ **Newsletter** – Write, publish and distribute newsletter for members, maintains mailing list.

_____ **Membership** – Encourages existing and new members to participate in OLT activities.

_____ **Web site** – Constructs and maintains the web site structure, facilities and data.

_____ **I'd like to share these other interests and talents:**

Does OLT have permission to list your email address_____ and/or phone number on the OLT web page? Y N

OLT posts its newsletter and members of committees on its web page.