

OLT HAS A NEW CHAPTER *by David Wardrop*

We are pleased to announce the formation of the Veazie Land Association (VLA), a new chapter of the Orono Land Trust. The Veazie chapter was formed after years of discussions between interested residents, conservation-minded landowners and the Veazie Conservation Commission. The goal of this chapter is to conserve trails and open spaces that are of high conservation priority to the residents of Veazie and its surrounding communities, while at the same time respecting private landowner property rights, including smart development. In this unique collaboration, OLT has the benefit of growing its membership, expanding its trail systems and increasing conserved open space southerly toward the Bangor Mall and Mt. Hope Cemetery through land donations, easements and purchases. VLA has the benefit of not having to re-invent the wheel. It will utilize OLT's existing corporate structure that has proven to be both effective and long-lasting through its highly competent and professional leadership. Most of the Veazie membership dues and all donations will be held separately from other OLT funds and dedicated to Veazie projects, so Veazie residents can rest assured that their donations will go toward their intended target project(s). A small portion of the membership dues will be withheld by the OLT for administrative costs. The Veazie Land Association will be responsible for the stewardship of its lands and trails. As I write this, we are already in the process of receiving donated development rights and a trail easement from one property owner and are talking with two other key landowners about acquiring development rights, recreation-trail easements and ownership of a significant forested acreage with diverse wildlife habitats.

Some projects that VLA is working on include a public recreational trail system heading from the Orono town line through the center of Veazie to

This white pine, one of the biggest and oldest pines in Veazie, is located on the Manter property. John Manter is seen measuring a 16 foot circumference at 4.5 feet above the ground. This property will be the first to have development rights and a trail easement donated through the Veazie chapter to the Orono Land Trust. More on the Manter property in the next newsletter.

the Bangor town line, with several off-shoots and loop trails connecting neighborhoods, conservation areas and town-owned property. We are also working toward acquiring development rights or outright ownership of properties with valuable conservation qualities from willing sellers. Other projects we will support include the removal of the Veazie Dam, gaining public boat access to the Penobscot River from Veazie, working toward trail easements that help connect neighborhoods and any other conservation opportunities that receive strong support from the community.

The Veazie Land Association will hold quarterly meetings, likely scheduled after a few select Veazie Conservation Commission meetings. Any interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. For notification of meetings as they are scheduled, please send me your name, address, phone number and e-mail address. Email is preferable as most notifications go out via email. Membership forms dedicated to the Orono Land Trust – Veazie chapter are available at the Veazie Town Office or by contacting me.

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Photo by David Wardrop

Potluck Dinner/Silent Auction/Contra Dance Bog Boardwalk Fund Raiser

by Ron Davis

On Saturday, **October 29th** at 6:00pm at the Keith Anderson Community Center, Orono, we will have our 2nd annual fund raising potluck dinner along with a silent auction and contra dance with the Marsh Island Band starting at 8pm.

The purpose of this event is to raise money for the Orono Bog Boardwalk maintenance and endowment funds. The cost of this event will be \$10 per person (\$5 for children under 12) or \$25 per family.

In conjunction with the potluck dinner and contra dance we are hosting a silent auction. Instead of getting merchandise from area businesses, we hope that this auction can be a service auction. Some possible ideas of services that you might consider donating include: knitting lesson, resume writing, music (guitar, violin, voice, etc.) lessons, fly tying, escorted bog boardwalk walk (spring bird migration), baby sitting, escorted bog boardwalk (plants), tips on organizing, cooking and delivering a fancy dinner for two, skiing lesson, guided hike to your favorite place, ice skating lesson, one hour legal or business consultation, sewing lesson, pet or plant sitting, spinning lesson, weekend at your cabin, weaving lesson, etc.

The list of possibilities is almost endless. If you do something and think others would be interested in learning how to do it, please consider offering your services to our auction.

If you don't want to donate a service, please consider an item from your home or a gift such as: bottle of wine, gift basket, cheeses, Christmas tree from your lot, books, Halloween treat basket, pictures or paintings, homemade pie or cake, cookbook, house plant, etc.

We request that you e-mail or call (after 6pm) Jim Bird (Jim.Bird@umit.maine.edu, 866-2578) as to whether you can bring a main dish, dessert, or soft drinks and what services or items you can donate. Please contact Jim by Monday, October 17th. Plates, cups, and utensils will be provided.

The doors to the Keith Anderson Center will open at 5:30pm with the potluck starting at 6:00pm. Several volunteers will be needed before, during, and after the event. Please let Jim Bird know if you can help. The silent service auction will go on during dinner and end by the time the Marsh Island Band starts playing at 8pm. **Please – let's make this event a big success as it was last year.**

The OLT Newsletter is published four times a year.

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Photo by Jerry Longcore

Nature Clip _____ by Jerry Longcore

SPRAWL—its everywhere!

The first dictionary definition is “to be spread out awkwardly”. Or the acronym could mean **Spreading Permanent Residential Areas Without Limits**. Having just returned from a trip across two Canadian provinces and through eight United States to Michigan and back, it is evident that comprehensive planning to ensure green space for wildlife and aesthetics for humans is sadly lacking. We visited South Haven, Michigan located on the shores of beautiful Lake Michigan, where parcel after parcel is being clear-cut and bulldozed for residences and condominiums. Building lot costs exceed \$300,000 and some homes cost 1.5 million. The homes of the native flora and fauna are replaced with pavement, weedless lawns, and mostly non-native shrubs and flowers. The local town council there is considering a moratorium on permitting further condominium development. Sound familiar? Not to be smug, but we need to be thankful for the many folks in Orono who can visualize what our town would be like without its integrated, protected green spaces and trails and who continue to work to ensure that open space is available for all residents of Orono to enjoy.

Committees

The Board of the Orono Land Trust has been reviewing and updating its committees. There is so much work to do that the Board can not get it all done. Many members have wonderful ideas and have indicated interest in different committees. Now is your chance to reinvigorate the reformed committees and help the board accomplish even more. Below, the different committees are described and a leader named. For more information about a committee, please call the leader or any OLT board member. Please fill out the slip and return it to us. You will be called with the date, time and location of the next meeting (toward the end of September). Meetings may be once a month or just twice a year. Get Involved!

Lands: Leader: Sally Jacobs (866-4520) and Sharon Tisher (866-0023)

Plans for natural areas; works to acquire land or easements; monitors development and works with developers to maintain existing trails and safeguard vernal pools and other precious resources. Works with legal issues and documents for easements, grants and fundraising.

Trails/Stewardship: Co-Leaders: Gail White (866-0041)
with Dave Thompson - Trails (827-4615) and Dave Clement - Stewards (866-0420)

Trails people are the “Get the work done” group. They maintain trails, reroute trails, build bridges and culverts, spread chips. They protect natural areas by keeping people off special places. They work with others to develop maps. They work with service learning students, upward bound students, scouts and others who have projects in the preserved areas.

Stewards need to know the property. They need to know the boundaries and if they are being compromised. They should know the adjacent land owners or private land owners who have trails on their land. They should be familiar with numbers of people who use their area. They need to track where plants and wildlife are. They need to report violations to the board. They need to suggest easements or property to the lands committee.

Outreach: Co-Leaders: Melissa Burch (866-5478), Pat Thompson (827-4615),
Ginny Whitaker (866-2467)

This is a multi-talented group. Their talents overlap. They work to develop and publish the newsletter. They keep the web site updated and add interesting information. They organize the annual meeting, Orono festival day, day trips. They get the word out with articles in the Penobscot Times, Orono Observer, newsletter, etc. They develop maps in conjunction with the trails committee. They develop brochures and other informational materials. An immediate project is OLT's 20th anniversary.

Continue on next page...

Committees continued:

Membership: Leader: Jay Johnson (866-2511)

Keeps database of members, collects dues and donations, nominates officers and board members.

Budget/Executive Committee: Leader: Jim Hinds (866-3854)

Develops annual budget for presentation to board. Addresses current issues which require upcoming board decisions. Irons out details of issues.

Veazie Land Association (a Chapter of OLT): Leader: Dave Wardrop (356-8747), Sally Jacobs (866-520)

Oversees Veazie Lands. Identifies property that should be acquired or have easements. Works through the legal process of purchase or easements. Makes and maintains trails and natural areas. Works with the Town to develop and preserve “green space” and “open space” with in development. Organizes activities and supplies articles for the newsletter to the outreach committee. Collects dues, donations, fundraises and applies for grants.

Caribou Bog - Penjajawoc Corridor Project: Leader: Sally Jacob (866-4520)

Identifies properties in preservation area. Works toward acquisition or easements. Applies for grants and funds. Does fundraising. Be hands on with the legal processes.

Boardwalk: Leader: Jerry Longcore (866-3104)

Maintains the Orono Bog Boardwalk, organizes programs, creates a budget and does fundraising.

Please tear off and mail to Orono Land Trust, 100 Bennoch Rd., Orono, ME 04473

I am interested in attending an upcoming meeting of _____
committee(s). (Name of committee(s))

My name is: _____

My phone number is: _____

Comments: _____

Memo

To: Friends and Supporters of the Orono Bog Boardwalk

From: Jerry Longcore, Chair, Fundraising Group

Subject: Boardwalk Endowment Challenge

We are making great strides in meeting the anonymous \$50,000 matching grant challenge and the long-term endowment goal of \$200,000. Generous donors have contributed nearly \$37,000 toward meeting the matching grant, so only about \$13,000 needs to be raised by December 15, 2006. The overall endowment now stands at just over \$70,000. Thanks to all who have responded to these challenges.

During the early days of boardwalk construction we initiated an effort to endow the operation and maintenance of the boardwalk by offering the public the opportunity to sponsor 8-foot sections with a tax-deductible donation of \$200.00. To date, 132 of the 509 sections have been sponsored, which has raised almost \$27,000.

To provide an added incentive to individuals, organizations, and businesses to become sponsors we will randomly select 3 of the 509 numbered sections and sponsors of those sections will be eligible to receive 1 of 3 substantial gifts (items such as a camera or binoculars). The drawing will be held after all sections have been sponsored. The more sections that you sponsor the greater the probability of sponsoring one with a gift attached! Thus, to fulfill the \$50,000 challenge, the magic number of sponsors needed is only 65!!

Please consider being one of the grass root supporters and sponsor 1 or more sections. It is a novel and satisfying way to honor your family, a loved one, a new child or grandchild, or as a memorial to a departed family member or friend. Names of all who contribute more than \$100 are listed at the boardwalk on the donor's poster, unless you wish to remain anonymous. Sponsorship Forms are available at the Boardwalk (ask the docent for one), or request one from Jerry Longcore (866-3104, email Longcore@apollo.umenfa.maine.edu).

Together, we can do this. Thank you for all your support, including your financial support.

Hinds-Keleti 909 Acre Acquisition

by Sally Jacobs

Steven Keleti lives in Malden, Massachusetts and doesn't get to Maine very often. In spite of this, when he read that the Caribou Bog was for sale and it was not protected from development, he not only persuaded the Orono Land Trust that it should be purchased for conservation, he agreed to partner with Jim Hinds to purchase the property immediately and save it until Land for Maine Future funding could be obtained. A big gamble that paid off for all of us!

Steven and his family came to visit Maine and the bog and Jim this past July. They toured a bit of the bog property and celebrated the purchase and subsequent gifting to Maine IF&W with Jim. We all owe Jim and Steven a debt of gratitude for taking the financial risk that made it possible to preserve this outstanding property and guarantee public access forever. This is part of the OLT/BLT Caribou - Penjajawoc Corridor Project which will help control sprawl (see Longcore, page 2).

Now the OLT is working with them on a no-development easement with public access and trails through their adjoining 129-acre house lot. The lot with its three-bedroom house is for sale, sitting there surrounded by 2000 acres of undeveloped land just 9 miles from the Mall and four miles from the University.

The trails are open and fine for walking and biking. Access is the first left on Taylor Road. It is a great place to explore on a bright golden fall day.



Photo by Sally Jacobs

Steven Keleti and Jim Hinds display the updated Caribou Bog-Penjajawoc Project map to celebrate the Orono Land Trail's 909-acre Hinds-Keleti acquisition for Maine IF&W.

TRAIL DAY

OCTOBER 22nd at 9:00 a.m.

Fall already. And that means trail work. Please mark your calendars and pick a place you'd like to work ... join the fun! Bring gloves and clippers. Chainsaws or bucksaws can help, too.

1. **Newman Hill - Black Pond:** widen and mark a new trail around the pond. Leader: Jim Hinds.
2. **Upper River Trail:** clean trail and cut back debris starting at the water building on Bennoch Road. Leader: Chris Dorion
3. **Marsh Island:** corduroy ski trail and clean up debris. Leader: Michael Opitz



Orono Land Trust
100 Bennoch Road
Orono, ME 04473

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATES!
Oct. 22 Trail Day
Oct. 29 Dinner/Auction/Dance
Oct. 20 OLT Board Retreat

Website: www.bairnet.org/organizations/olt

Check website for information about OLT activities.

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

ORONO LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
E-Mail: _____

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.

_____ \$25 Annual Family/Individual Membership _____ \$1000 Life Membership
_____ \$50 Family Membership _____ \$5000 Named Fund**
_____ \$100-999 Supporting Membership*

* 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.