



Winter 2005 Newsletter

VOL 71

STEWARDS NEEDED

by Gail White

**Have you ever thought about being a steward? Yes, it's work, but it can also be lots of fun!
It does get you outside!**

The Orono Land Trust is working toward accreditation. Why, you may ask. There has been a strong push for the Federal Government to stop tax benefits for preserving land. The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) has led the way to educate our representatives about the excellent work Land Trusts and like groups do. The LTA has published 12 standards and practices to meet those standards. We believe that if OLT can meet the standards and become accredited, we will be able to continue to protect land and accept easements. The OLT board has been working very hard on the standards and practices and will continue to do so.

One of the standards deals with stewardship of lands. The Trails and Stewardship Committee has agreed that an excellent way to care for properties under our supervision is for group stewards. Currently, we have one steward per area. That is a lot to ask of one person in a few of our areas. Stewards are asked to watch the property to make sure trails are open, if work needs to be done, where boundaries are and are they being encroached on, who neighbors of the property are, what plants, trees and wildlife are on the property. There will be a head steward for the rest of the team to report to and who will prepare an annual report. Current properties and stewards are:

Properties owned by OLT

1. Marsh Island - Peter Millard
2. Newman Hill - Jim Hinds
3. Cota Trail - Gail White
4. Penobscot Shores - Wendall Trembly
5. Hsu - Dave Thompson

Town or Private Lands

1. Jeremiah Colburn Natural Area - Gail White
2. Orono Bog Boardwalk - Jerry Longcore
3. Hinds-Keleti Lands (IF&W)/Landmark –
John Alexander
4. Chapel Road Easement - Adrienne Butler
5. High School Land - Glen & Nancy Rampe
6. Sklar Park & Boy Scout Land - Tim Richards
7. Cotsirilos, Walsh, and Reid Properties -
Woody Carville
8. River Trail/Brownies Park - Jay Johnson, Beth White
& Melissa Burch
9. Caribou Bog Ski Trail - Chris Dorion
10. Ayers Island - open

Easements to OLT

1. Hinds Conservation Easement - Catherine Burns
2. Rampe Conservation Easement - Aaron Queheillalt
3. Pearce Easement - Aaron Queheillalt
4. Two Marsh Island Trail Easements - Peter Millard
5. Outdoor Classroom - Dave Thompson
6. Pushaw Shores (Goulds Landing) - Sally Jacobs
7. Pendergast Easement - Sharon Tisher
8. Orchard Trails Trail Easement (new) - open

**If you feel you would be able to assist with one of the properties, please contact:
Gail White (866-0041) (gpwhite@maine.edu) or
Dave Clement (866-0420) (dclement@me.acadia.net).
We can provide information and/or sign you up with the leader of an area. We can provide training.**

Please Get Involved!

OLT Wish List

We now have access to office space and are looking for office chairs and various office supplies. Please contact Sue Owen (866-4892) if you have items that you wish to donate.

Veazie Land Association

by David Wardrop

The Veazie Land Association (VLA) held its first meeting the night of November 16 at the Veazie Community School. Several interested residents, landowners, OLT members and new Veazie members showed up for an informational session on how the Veazie chapter came to be and where it's going. Many thanks to the Town of Veazie for supplying great food and drinks.

Veazie chapter memberships are coming in steadily and we have about 1/3 of our target number after only a couple months. If you know of anyone who is interested in developing public recreational trails across Veazie, please tell them about the Veazie chapter. After the holidays, we're going to round up new members to communicate where volunteer support is needed. Until then, enjoy the holidays.



Jay Johnson, Gail White, Sally Jacobs, Dave & Pat Thompson, Judy Markowski, and Dave Wardrop touring Veazie Lands.
Photo by John Manter.

Veazie Lands

by Gail White

On Sunday, Nov. 6th, Dave Wardrop lead a group through the McPhetres Farm Forest in Veazie, owned by the Town of Veazie. He showed the group the benefits of a working forest. We saw the nice information signs along with some very large trees. A tall white oak with a large cavity was a favorite. We also got to look at the proposed trail easement on the Manter property close to the McPhetres Farm Forest.

Those enjoying the walk with Dave included Carol Redelsheimer (town forester), John Manter, Dave & Pat Thompson, Judy Markowski, Jay Johnson, Gail White, Sally Jacobs and Ron Davis.

The Orono Bog Boardwalk Potluck Supper/ Contra-Dance a Huge Success!

Thanks to the generous donations of auction items, several thousand dollars were raised at the event, and everyone had a great time. A special thank you to Jim Bird for helping to coordinate the event, as well as for hosting the yard sale earlier in the year. Ron Davis was recognized by the National Park Service and the State of Maine for his service to the Orono Bog Boardwalk.
~ John Daigle, Orono Bog Boardwalk Director



Photo by Cheryl Daigle.

Nature Clip _____ by Jerry Longcore

Winter Potpourri

In an attempt to limit redundancy I reviewed the last 6 years of quarterly Nature Clips, which I started writing in 2000. For previous Winter clips I discussed the topics of "Preparing for Winter—Nature's Way", "Are you Adapting to Cold? Here are the Rules" and "Br r r r, It's Cold! What to do- HIBERNATE!" This year in anticipation of Winter, although it is yet to arrive on December 22, I recommend that you embrace the ice and snow and spend as much time as you can in the out-of-doors. In doing that during my recent trip to Baxter State Park I have already seen coyote and moose tracks that meandered down a woods road, friendly gray jays gliding soundlessly by, and a flock of snow buntings. A special treat was seeing an abundant display of yellow flowers on two large shrubs of fall-blooming witch hazel. Enjoy the winter but remember that ice needs to be at least 2 inches thick to support one person and greater than 3 inches thick for a small group of people.

The OLT Newsletter is published four times a year.

Newsletter Coordinator: Pat Thompson

Newsletter Layout: Cheryl Daigle, Pat Thompson

Website Editor: Open

Proofreader: Jay Johnson

OLT Newsletter encourages submission of articles by members for publication whenever space allows.



Melissa Burch, Alex Bulteel, Jessica Yorzinski at the Crow Mobbing Demonstration at the Carville's house.

Photo by Pat Thompson

Crow Mobbing Presentation

by Melissa Burch

CROWS! Almost everyone has strong opinions about these ubiquitous birds. Their chatter wakens us early on weekend mornings, and they deal destruction to trash bags left at the curbside.

On a Sunday in September, land trust members and friends were treated to a talk on crow behavior from an unabashed fan of the species. Jessica Yorzinski, a recent graduate of Cornell University, presented slides and interesting recordings related to crow behavior. Jessica emphasized the cleverness of crows, their persistent family groups, and their cooperative behavior. This led us into the outdoor demonstration.

Jessica surreptitiously placed a stuffed owl on a post in the back yard. While the audience watched and listened from the porch, she played a recording of crows calling to alert others to the presence of a predator. Within one or two minutes, about a dozen crows had materialized in the back yard, diving aggressively at the owl and adding their raucous noise to the calls on the recording. They continued to try to intimidate the perceived predator for about ten minutes, before losing interest.

Woody and Jean Carville very kindly provided their home for this talk. It turned out to be perfect venue, with plenty of crows on call nearby. Thanks to the outreach committee for providing refreshments.

The week after her crow presentation, Jessica left for Indonesia, where she will be pursuing her studies at a primate research site.

TRAIL DAY

by Gail White

Fall trail day took place Oct. 22nd. We actually had a warm, sunny day for a change. Lots of work was completed.

Peter Millard, Mike Opitz and Jim Rose worked on Marsh Island laying down corduroy. Chris Dorion, Jay Johnson, Dave Clement, Chris Richard worked on the upper river trail, clearing blow down and beaver spikes. Beth White worked previous to the 22nd. Newman Hill Preserve was attended by Jerry Longcore, Kris and Amanda Sornberger who worked close to Black Pond while Jim Hinds and Leslie Hudson made a new trail and John Halloran, Dave Thompson and Gail White worked on a cedar bridge.

Shortly after trail day, Bucky Owen mowed the trails by MBNA. Chris Dorion and Chris Richards worked on the Caribou Bog Ski Trail. Woody Carville and Gail White replaced a bridge in the Jeremiah Colburn Natural Area.

Thanks to many hard workers, our trails are being maintained for everyone's enjoyment.



Challenge Grant Status (The Boardwalk)

by Jerry Longcore

With a large gift from a benefactor we have matched (and exceeded!) the \$20,000 amount needed by December 15, 2005 to keep pace with provisions of the \$50,000 Challenge Grant. An additional \$20,000 will be needed by December 15, 2006, but more than half that amount has already been raised. Thus, we are achieving our short-term goal as we reach for our long-term goal of \$200,000 to endow the boardwalk. Thanks to all who have supported the fund-raising efforts in many ways and venues.

OLT Seeking Webmaster

OLT is in need of a member that is qualifid to maintain our website. If your are that able, willing person, please contact Gail White (866-0041).



Orono Land Trust
100 Bennoch Road
Orono, ME 04473

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Alex Bulteel and Jessica Yorzinski disguised for the crow mobbing (see inside for article!).
Photo by Pat Thompson.

SAVE THE DATE!
March 31 ANNUAL MEETING

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 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 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.