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www.oronolandtrust.org

Vol. 78 Fall, 2007



Margaret Manter and her son John receive the Veazie Garden Club's **2007 Community Improvement Award** for their conservation easement donations. (See article page 7)

**ORONO BOG BOARDWALK TOUR
FOR OLT MEMBERS - Oct 14th, 2 pm**

Join Wendall Tremblay and other boardwalk guides for a walk through fall. Some plants are retiring for winter as others are already preparing for spring while the never-ceasing transition of life on the bog continues. Dress warmly as it is shady in the wooded fens and windy on the open bog.

All participants are invited for warm beverages and more bog discussion afterwards - location to be announced. Call Wendall with any questions: 866-4531 or 949-3691.

Dear Orono Land Trust Members, Family and Friends,

We, the citizens of Orono, are very fortunate to have several trail systems for public use. The Land Trust is equally fortunate to have people who work to maintain the trails. There are various projects going on all the time. We have service learning students from OHS who develop projects and carry them out. We have Eagle Scouts and other groups doing the same. We have an Audubon grant for Marsh Island Preserve that requires us to do some work. We are asking for your help.

The board members have served as supervisors for all the past projects and have enjoyed doing so. We currently have 3 service learning students who would like to work on their projects during the weekdays. Two students are rerouting a trail off Forest Avenue to the High School. The work entails cutting a few trees (some with chainsaws), laying corduroy, marking a new trail and eliminating the old trail. Another student is working in the JCNA to rid a small area of Buckthorn. Of vital importance is that work does not

spill onto neighboring properties and that habitat and plants are protected as much as possible. In the near future we will be looking for people to help mark trail boundaries and build a bridge in the Marsh Island Preserve and bridges along the Stillwater River Trail. If anyone could spare an hour or two a week to help us, especially working with the students, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Gail White, Trails Chair, to volunteer and/or get more information. Phone # 866-0041 E-mail: gpwhite@maine.edu Thank you.

FALL TRAIL DAY IS HERE!!!!

Mark your calendars. October 20, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. Plan to bring gloves, clippers and saws to any of the locations. Pick your neighborhood or visit a new one. Drinks and snacks will be provided along with lots of camaraderie. After a morning's work and afternoon break, plan to attend the Orono Bog Boardwalk dinner at the community center. (Continued page 3)

ORONO BOG BOARDWALK !! RECYCLE your BOTTLES and CANS

We have established an arrangement with **Burby & Bates beverage company (7 Oak Street, Orono)** so that money from bottles and cans that you redeem there are accrued in an account for the Orono Bog Boardwalk. Please start taking your empties to this redemption center to help amass funds for the boardwalk endowment and maintenance funds. Be sure to mention the Boardwalk so it goes in the right account. Thanks!! Jerry Longcore, Chair, Fund-raising Group

Orono and Old Town Reconnected after 52 Years by Penobscot River Trail and Boardwalks

A group of Orono Land Trust and community members worked this winter to re-connect Penobscot Street which once connected Orono to Old Town, directly on the banks of the Penobscot River. When part of Penobscot Street was abandoned by the Town of Orono in 1955, it was converted into a public easement. Subsequently, gravel was excavated from part of the road along the river, a large culvert was washed out by a flooded beaver dam, and the connection was lost.

After building a bridge over the beaver dam this winter, community members built 200 feet of boardwalk through the wet areas to connect to the uplands along the Penobscot River. The boardwalks suffered some damage in the high water last spring but has been repaired. Walkers and bikers can travel directly from Orono to Old Town on the new Penobscot River Trail. The public easement ends where Penobscot Street in Old Town is visible, but the road along the RR tracks is within the railroad easement so walkers/bikers can go directly to Route 2 (stop before the mill).

Orono Land Trust and community volunteers were: Peter Millard, Mike Opitz, Bob Lombardo, Mohammed Khan, Wes Haskell, Clay Kirby, Ian Cayer, Jim Rose, Chris Dorion, Paul Schroeder, Bill Breen, and Walter Doerfler.

- Peter Millard

Maine Land Conference

The Maine Land Conference took place on May 5th at Brunswick High School. It was a beautiful day at a wonderful facility. Nine board members attended and participated. As always, it was a very informative event. The guest speaker talked about easements and how their purposes can change. The attendees divided up and each sat in on 3 different classes on Saturday. Several people attended the Friday events as well. Unfortunately, there is too much information to pass on in a small space. The event is well worth the time spent and something to look forward to next year. The board will begin work on some of this years suggestions. The attendees were: Dave Clement, Jim Hinds, Ron Logan, Dave Scheidt, Sally Jacobs, Dave and Pat Thompson, Jay Johnson, Gail White and Cheryl Daigle.

River Clean Up

On May 19th the Town of Orono sponsored a river clean up. Although the day was overcast, many people arrived at the council chamber to get assignments. The Town is part of a multi-town unit that is working together in a five year effort regarding rain drainage flow into the rivers. Part of the plan is community involvement and education. The Town started the rubber duck campaign which shows how something that enters the drainage systems can end up in our rivers. Five groups were formed to clean up areas along our two rivers and loops around the school and down Mill Street. Unfortunately, or fortunately, many very large bags of trash were picked up. Special thanks to the efforts of many people who pick up litter all the time as they walk the trails. Thanks to them, the Stillwater River Trail, Brownies Park and Webster Park were in nice shape. Thanks also to Old Town residents who walk their trails and pick up trash. At the end of the work, the firemen grilled hot dogs and hamburgers for all. Ruth Vaughn handed out door prizes. All in all, it was a very successful event. We hope to see you there next year.

Mission Statement

The Orono Land Trust exists to protect, manage and preserve portions of the natural environment in Orono and surrounding communities, for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. We work to balance conservation and development, extend and maintain trail systems connecting natural areas, encourage appreciation of natural habitats and ensure perpetual access to public lands and waters.

OLT is very fortunate to have a friend like Julian Haynes!

On July 2, 2007 Julian signed a 35 foot wide trail easement along his property boundary. This easement provides a vital trail connector. Thanks to this easement, OLT has been able to permanently protect a trail system from Jeremiah Colburn Natural Area across Forest Avenue to the High School land. Julian's generosity is greatly appreciated.



Dave Clement, OLT President with Julian Haynes

Fall Trail Day - *con't from page 1*

- 1. Brownies Park** - Bennoch Road - Leader: Sally Jacob. Clear out the "amphitheater" area.
- 2. Marsh Island** - end of Colburn Drive - off Park Street - Leader: Peter Millard. Build a bridge over Vinal Stream. Bring hammers and shovels.
- 3. Caribou Bog Ski Trail** - meet at Chris Doiron's - 79 Bennoch Rd. The ski trail is being rerouted. Chainsaws, saws and clippers are needed. Lots of brush to be moved from the new trails.
- 4. Veazie** - meet at the American chestnut plantation, top of Mutton Lane behind Greystone Trailer Park. Please call Dave Wardrop at 356-8747 for better directions. Pick up trash and debris near chestnut trees. Please wear gloves, pants, boots and bring a trash bag. This will begin as a Veazie Land Association meeting.

photo by Peggy Markson
photo by Peggy Markson

**Gail White, Trails Chair - 866-0041 or
Dave Thompson - Stewards Chair - 827-4615.**

OLT Office Development

During its first 18 years of existence, the Orono Land Trust did well with a decentralized infrastructure, using a safe deposit box and members' homes and computers to store and safe-guard documents, maps, financial, land and stewardship information. With the rapid growth of properties associated with the OLT, and the increased need for accountability of all land trusts, the Board established a bona fide office in the basement of the Tredwell Building. The Town of Orono has been especially accommodating.

The purpose of establishing the office is to provide a central storage and access site for OLT and reference information.

Bookshelves have been built

(thanks to Jerry Longcore), filing cabinets installed, desks donated, and, most recently, a computer, scanner and printer have been purchased. We hope to have Internet access by the end of the summer. As such, the office should be an excellent resource for researching the Trust's records, documenting properties, writing easements, and, for those looking for general information, a place to obtain educational information from various other organizations (for example, Maine Department of Conservation, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Land Trust Alliance etc.).

But these resources, maps and documents will not be available to anyone at a moment's notice.

Therefore, the Board plans to

place the most important of these on the OLT website. This will make information like maps of trails and properties and easement documents available to anyone with an Internet connection. So if you want to take a walk on an Orono Trail or look into the history of an easement, you will be able to find an up to date map or document on:

www.oronolandtrust.org

The website will also contain other useful information, such as upcoming events, planned trail or stewardship projects needing member help and the newsletter. The remodeling of the website is starting now, and should provide you with a great deal of useful information by late fall. Check it out.

David Clement

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

The 4th annual event will be held on Saturday, **October 20th**, 6:00 pm at the Community Center on Bennoch Road (next to the Orono Post Office). Held as a fundraiser for the Orono Bog Boardwalk maintenance and endowment funds, the event will feature the Marsh Island Band. \$10 per person (\$5 for students) or \$25 per family.

This year, for the first time, we will have a "create-a-boardwalk cake" contest. Use your imagination to bake and decorate a cake that you feel best represents the Orono Bog Boardwalk. All decorations used must be edible. Three judges will confer and prizes will be awarded. Cakes will be auctioned to benefit the Boardwalk.

A silent auction will follow dinner. In addition to merchandise from area businesses, we hope that we can include a number of services. Some possible ideas of services that you might consider donating include: knitting lesson, resume writing, music (guitar, violin, voice, etc.) lessons, escorted bog boardwalk walk for viewing spring bird migration or plants, fly tying, tips on organizing, cooking and delivering a fancy dinner for two, skiing lesson, guided hike, ice skating lesson, one hour legal or business consultation, sewing lesson, pet or plant sitting, baby sitting, spinning lesson, weaving lesson, etc. The list of possibilities is endless. Please consider offering your service to our auction.

Or donate a quality 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, cookbook, house plant, etc.

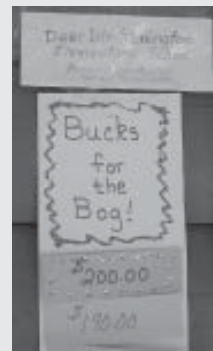
Call by October 12th with your pot luck donation and list of auction items. Let me know if you will be entering the "create-a-boardwalk cake" contest. Plates, cups, and utensils will be provided.

Volunteers will be needed before, during, and after the event. Please let me know if you can help. The Marsh Island Band and dancing starts around 8pm. **Please – let's make this event another big success.**

Jim.Bird@umit.maine.edu, or call (after 6pm) 866-2578)

Deer Isle-Stonington Kindergarten Class Sponsors Boardwalk Section

Mrs. Darlene Allen's and Mrs. Lucy Astbury's kindergarten students embarked on a project to raise 20,000 pennies to sponsor an Orono Bog Boardwalk section. Their "BUCKS FOR THE BOG" project (see picture of money ladder) was successful and in May the students and teachers visited the boardwalk and presented the check for \$200, which sponsored Section #162. The students are already talking about raising money for another section next year. What a positive example these young people are setting for the long-term care of the boardwalk! The OBB Management Board extends its thanks and congratulations to the students for such a novel and innovative project. Jerry Longcore



*Girl scouts present check to
John Daigle*



Abnaki Council Girl Scout Troop 641 sponsors another section of the Orono Bog Boardwalk

Troop 641, for the second year in a row, has sponsored a section of the popular bog boardwalk, which is accessible from the Bangor City Forest at the end of Tripp Drive. By donating \$200 to support the boardwalk endowment fund, these girls are ensuring that adequate operating and maintenance funds will be available for future educational and recreational activities at the boardwalk. John Daigle, Director, accepted their check with thanks for their contribution to the endowment fund to benefit inhabitants of the greater Bangor community. The Troop Leaders are Erin McDonald and Jennifer Williams.

Orono Festival Day - 2007

The day started in rather cloudy weather with a few sprinkles and ended as a hot humid day. Many people stopped by the Orono Land Trust booth and the Orono Bog Boardwalk booth. Several people signed up to work on trails. Many people learned where trails and the Bog Boardwalk are located and expressed desire to visit soon. Several people took envelopes to join OLT and VLA. Thank you to everyone who stopped by the booths.

Gail White

NEWS FROM THE CARIBOU BOG – PENJAJAWOC CONSERVATION PROJECT

For the last nine months members of the Caribou Bog – Penjajawoc Project Committee (Corridor Committee), a joint venture of the Orono Land Trust and the Bangor Land Trust, have been working at a frenzied pace to put together a massive grant to the federal government that follows the guidelines of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). And we thought the grants to the Land for Maine's Future Program (LMFP) were tough to put together! This grant proposes to purchase two parcels, a 54-acre parcel forming part of Penjajawoc Marsh and an 850-acre parcel in Old Town just east of Perch Pond that forms a connecting link between the open part of Caribou Bog and land of the Hirundo Wildlife Refuge. Eight parcels are being used as match: three owned by the University of Maine, one owned by the University of Maine Foundation, two owned by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), and one each owned by the Orono Land Trust and the Bangor Land Trust. Altogether, 3,918 acres of land are involved in this grant proposal, with a total appraisal value of \$2,003,400. The total land proposed for purchase is valued at \$1,085,000 with \$666,566 being proposed to come from the NAWCA grant, and the rest from the remaining funds in the Corridor's already awarded LMF grants.

The Caribou Bog-Penjajawoc project area contains many thousands of acres of wetlands of state and regional significance. The proposed acquisition of the Old Town parcel is pivotal in maintaining the connectivity between the extensive wetland complexes to the south and the diverse wetlands just to the north. The proposed parcel in Bangor helps protect the southern end of the Penjajawoc Marsh, which is rated by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) as one of the state's most significant fresh-water wetlands for wading birds and waterfowl. The Maine Natural Areas Program, The Nature Conservancy, and MDIFW have all called for the protection of the critically important wetlands of the Caribou Bog – Penjajawoc project area, which are still relatively pristine. This area, however, is under intense commercial and residential

(See *Corridor Update* page 6)

Nature Clip _____ by *Jerry Longcore*

Gardening; A Humbling Experience!

You may not think that tracking the biological events happening in your garden as an appropriate subject for a nature clip. The relationships among the many biological entities are usually vexing, but at times fascinating. Late summer and early fall reveal the survivors of striped cucumber beetles, Colorado potato beetles, squash bugs, cabbage butterflies, Japanese beetles, corn earworms, and slugs, to name a few. I won't try to name the fungal blights that brown the tomato leaves or the tiny borers that kill the terminal leaders of the raspberry bushes. The occasional woodchuck is often seen munching along the carrot row, but the rapidly set out live-trap usually catches only the meandering striped skunk on his nightly hunt for grubs, frogs, moths, or whatever it can find. The overwhelming challenge this season has been a half-inch long snail that has slithered up every plant in the garden—even the onions! — Like an onrushing tide—flowing in with wet, cool weather and ebbing away with increasing heat and no rain. This phenomenal increase in snails is recent, with increasing numbers since 2004. My only solace this year has been the crows that usually pull up my emerging corn plants seemed to be walking about the garden and eating snails! Trying to produce some of your own food is a humbling experience; it makes you appreciate those farmers who try to produce enough food to feed the world.

Corridor Update *(Continued from page 5)*

development pressure, activities that will increase disturbance of and fragmentation to important forests and wetlands. The project area is located in the fast suburbanizing Bangor/Orono area adjacent to I-95. With the University of Maine located within a few miles of the project, and the ability of people to find skilled high paying jobs away from major urban areas, the region is one of the fastest growing areas in Maine.

This enormous undertaking has been spearheaded by Bucky Owen, whose dedication and persistence in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles has been a source of wonder and admiration to all the members of the Corridor Committee. In particular, Bucky is probably the only person who could have successfully negotiated with the owner of the Old Town land as well as with the many layers in the administration at UM, up to and including the Board of Trustees. Jerry Longcore was “recruited” specifically for this project because of his wealth of experience in wildlife biology in the project area, a crucial aspect of putting together the grant, which had pages and pages of technical information about wildlife species, especially birds. We received enormous help from Lois Winter of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who coordinated the making of detailed habitat and wildlife maps needed for the grant application. Finally, as we came to the crunch time just before the grant deadline of July 26, 2007, we received able help from a professional grant consultant, David Houghton, who has helped with many of these “big” NAWCA grants and knew just how it all should fit together.

We won't know until January 2008 whether our efforts will result in funding, but we are all hopeful that it will succeed – and that we will never have to try to pull off anything of this magnitude again!

The genesis of this enormous effort came late last fall when Corridor Committee members, among them Bucky Owen, Sally Jacobs, Lucy Quimby, Dick Andren, Chris Dorion, Dave Thompson, Ron Davis, Jay Johnson, and myself, along with Jerry Longcore, decided it was now or never for this effort. One of the first things we did was to organize a fundraising effort under the able

leadership of Sally Jacobs. We sent out fundraising letters to members of the Orono Land Trust and a few others. They responded in a most gratifying manner, and we raised more than \$20,000! Below is list of the donors that responded.

\$5000 Chris Dorion, in honor of his parents' 50th wedding anniversary

\$2500 Holly Twining

\$2000 John Alexander

\$1000 Chris Dorion, Peter Millard and Emily Wesson, Jerry Longcore, Sharon Tisher

\$500 Ron Davis, John & Bethel Dearborn, Michael & Susan Greenwood, James W. Hinds, Jay Johnson, Bucky & Sue Owen

\$100 to \$250 - Randall & Marilyn Adkins, David Clement & Betsy Weiss, Steven & Lisa Colburn, Vance & Evelyn Dearborn, Eva & John Dimond, David & Susan Edson, Joyce & Paul Harris, Richard C. Hill, Ronald & Margaret Logan, Margaret Lukens, Henry Metcalf, Edwin Nagy, Kathryn J. Olmstead, Michael H. Opitz, Eric Peterson & K. M. Langellier, Nancy & Glenn Rampe, John Tjepkema & Christa Schwintzer, Elizabeth C. Trefts, Gail White, Nancy and George Wood.

Up to \$100 - B. & D. Tandy Berkey, Milos Blagojevic, Richard Brucher & Elizabeth Payne, Paul & Polly Camp, Christopher & Margaret Campbell, Constance Carter, David & Rebecca Chase, Charles Crockett, Christina P. Diebold, Charles & Barbara Guidotti, Yu & Martha Hsu, Harvey & Patricia Kail, David Labrecque & Kathryn Bourgoin, Eric & Janette Landis, Nancy M. MacKnight, John Manter, Judy Markowsky, V. Nees-Hatlen & B. N. Hatlen, Terry Porter, Kewal Puri, Frederick & Thalma Robie, Steven & Kristi Sader, Ruth H. True, Pat & Robert Vadas, John McCormick & Irene Hoffmann, William H. Walker III, Lucinda & Alan White, Marie Whitehall-Mairhuber.

Jim Hinds

Veazie Chapter News



Photo by David Scheidt

David, Emma and Riley Wardrop on the new stairs entering

MANTER FAMILY is Honored

On June 19th, the Veazie Garden Club presented their **2007 Community Improvement Award** to the Manter Family for their conservation easement donations to the Orono Land Trust. The easements are located across State Street from Arbor Drive, in Veazie. Barb Dalton, garden club president, presented the award to Margaret Manter and her son, John, at the club's annual banquet, which included dinner at the Lucerne Inn.

The **Manter Woods Trail** signs and stairs are in. Thank you to David Scheidt for his digging ability and to Matt Thomas for a beautiful laser-engraved wood sign. Similar signs will be erected at the head of all public trails in Veazie. Stay tuned.

Volunteers Wanted in Veazie!!!

It's amazing how much the Orono Land Trust accomplishes, given that it is a 100% volunteer driven organization with no paid staff members. Given the huge workload, which is ever-growing, we desperately need more volunteers to contribute their time so that board members and traditional leaders can dedicate more of their time to Land Trust Alliance accreditation and other administrative duties, and less time on projects that can be accomplished by volunteers. The following volunteer jobs are needed in Veazie, but may also apply to Orono lands. Please note that these tasks can be accomplished at your convenience in no more than a few hours.

Trail stewards...to periodically clear walking trails of debris, cut back bushes, pick up trash, monitor signs, touch up painted blazes and note potential hazards.

Conservation easement stewards...to annually inspect an easement and document findings.

Membership liaison...to grow our membership and to forward emailed information to members who don't utilize email.

Please call **David Wardrop at 356-8747** if you would like to volunteer in Veazie or **Gail White at 866-0041** if you would like to volunteer in Orono. The more volunteers we get, the more we can accomplish for the community!!!



Photo by David Wardrop

Emma in Veazie Chestnut Plantation

Audubon Grant Update

Progress has been made on the Marsh Island Preserve grant program. The latest accomplishment is the management plan which was researched and written by Dave Wardrop. Dave presented the OLT board with a wonderful piece of work, which is greatly appreciated. Dave, thank you very much. A couple of work items for this fall will be marking boundaries and building a new bridge over Vinal Stream that will allow for a tractor to cross and mow the field. If you can help, please contact Peter Millard (pmillard@mac.com), Gail White (gpwhite@maine.edu) or Dave Wardrop (wardrop@adelphia.net).