

OLT Board of Directors Tackles Strategic Planning

Your OLT board met with moderator Deb Chapman on December 1, spending four productive hours evaluating the role that the Orono Land Trust will take in the next five to twenty years. Deb has a wealth of experience with land trusts and non-profit organizations in Maine. Her job as the "circuit-rider" for the Maine Land Trust Network is to help land trusts meet the challenges of the future in the rapidly changing setting of land use and conservation.

The December 1st session included intense brainstorming around the needs of Orono, Veazie, and the surrounding towns. Working with these ideas and the OLT Mission Statement, participants outlined draft visions, goals, and strategies. The results of this session will be used in future sessions to develop actual action steps to move the OLT into the future. For those who are not familiar with the OLT's Mission Statement it is as follows:

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Photo by Peg Markson

Back: Lin White, Shep Sheppard, David Thompson, David Wardrop, Sue Owen, Dave Clement, John Alexander, Dave Scheidt, Jay Johnson, Ron Logan, Peter Millard, Jerry Longcore. Front: Peg Markson, Pat Thompson, Gail White, Melissa Burch, Sally Jacobs and Jim Hinds.

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, March 28, 2008

It is hard to miss the evidence of beaver activity in Orono, but we rarely get to glimpse the beavers themselves before they disappear with a loud slap. How do they get those huge logs into the water? Your curiosity will be answered when Wildlife Biologist Jerry Longcore talks about beavers at the upcoming annual meeting.

OLT Annual meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 28, 2008 in the Keith Anderson Community Center. Refreshments will be at 6:30 and the talk will start at 7:00. The Land Trust meeting will follow.

Winter Ski Outing

The OLT will host a winter outing Sunday February 3, 2008 at 1 PM. Fill your thermos with hot chocolate and join other skiers in exploring this beautiful area with newly upgraded ski trails. Trail access is well marked, and is about 50 yards beyond the vehicle gate near the town dump off Taylor Road. Park at the new trail parking area and walk around the gate. If the parking area is full, please park on Taylor Road without blocking access. The ski will be easy to moderate and about 1-2 hours in length. Note that this trail is not groomed for skate-skiing. Everyone is welcome—you do not have to be an OLT member. Call Paul Markson for information - 947-9906.

Trail Day



Photo by Gail White

Rebar Work: Bucky Owen, Kathleen Bell, Bob Lombardo, Dave Clement, Jerry Longcore



Photo by Gail White

Marsh Island Bridge: Dave Thompson, Michael Opitz, Jim Rose, Jack Moose, Jack Blease, Peter Millard



Photo by Gail White

The rain poured and the wind blew — all Friday night, but Saturday morning turned out beautifully. The sun peaked through and the temperature soared. At **Brownies Park**, Sally Jacobs and Gail White witnessed a caravan of cars turning into the parking area holding young men. The Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity men had arrived with smiles and ready to work. Chris Dorion motioned for them to follow him and they all went to Newman Hill to clear the trail of raspberry bushes and other bushes. Chris reports they worked very hard and a lot was accomplished.

Jerry Longcore, Beth White, Bucky Owen and Gail White went to work creating a **trail from the new parking lot by Brownie's Park** to the river trail. It turned out very well and hopefully, many of you will use it.

Melissa Burch and Ben Rose cut bamboo from the entrance of the river trail. Sally Jacobs, Leslie Hudson, John Halloran, Sue Owen, Margaret Clancey, Kathy Bourgoin and Nancy Rampe all tackled the tangle of bushes in the "amphitheater" section of **Brownie's Park**. Great bunches of brush were hauled to the street for Town pickup. So many birds nests were found along the banking

that those shrubs were left for the birds.

Bucky Owen, Jerry Longcore, Ben Rose, Gail White, Kathleen Bell and Bob Lombardo staked rebars around some of the trees on the river hoping to save a few from the very busy beavers.

Woody Carville walked the **Reed, Walsh, Cotsirilos, Bruce and Jeremiah Colburn Areas** cutting blow-downs from the trails.

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Brownies Park: Ben Rose, Nancy Rampe, Beth White, Leslie Hudson, John Halloran, Margaret Clancy, Sally Jacobs, Jerry Longcore and Sue Owen

October, 2007

In the **Marsh Island Preserve**, at Vinal Stream, Peter Millard, Dave Thompson, Jim Rose, Jack Blease, Dave Clement, Jack Moose and Mike Opitz were busy dismantling the old bridge and creating a new one. Gail White joined later to help with the railings. The new bridge will be wide enough for a tractor to pass allowing the field beyond to be mowed. The group cut several small trees and shrubs from the field to make mowing easier. Bringing back the field is part of the forestry plan for Marsh Island Preserve.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the day to make the trail experience even nicer for us all.

Gail White

Alpha Phi Omega, a University of Maine service fraternity, provided 10 stalwart volunteers for clearing part of the Great Caribou Bog Ski Trail. Together with longtime "Bog Trail" workers Ron Logan, Julian Wiggins, Ross Brody, and Andy Tonge, approximately 1/3 mile of new trail leading from Newman Hill to Bangor Hill was cleared. A striking stand of large pines on a gladed knoll was discovered, and the new trail will pass through this Colorado-like landscape. Is this the other "Piney Knoll"?

Many thanks to all workers who really made significant headway on the new, permanent trail.

Chris Dorion

Veazie's trail crew was made up of Dan Boss, Chris Cronan, John Manter and David Wardrop. We cleaned up about a pickup load of old trash from Veazie's **Buck Hill Conservation Area**. One photo shows the crew searching for metal pieces from an old mattress spring on the main access trail. The other photo shows an oil tank that I yarded out to the road from a field near the American chestnuts. Anyone want an old oil tank :)

Photos and article by David Wardrop



I helped six others rebuild a bridge over Vinal Stream, as well as clearing dead or opportunistic trees (mostly poplar) from the nearby field on the Marsh Island property. This project was led by Peter Millard.

The above photo shows Dave Thompson about to saw off our leader's nose.

Dave Clement



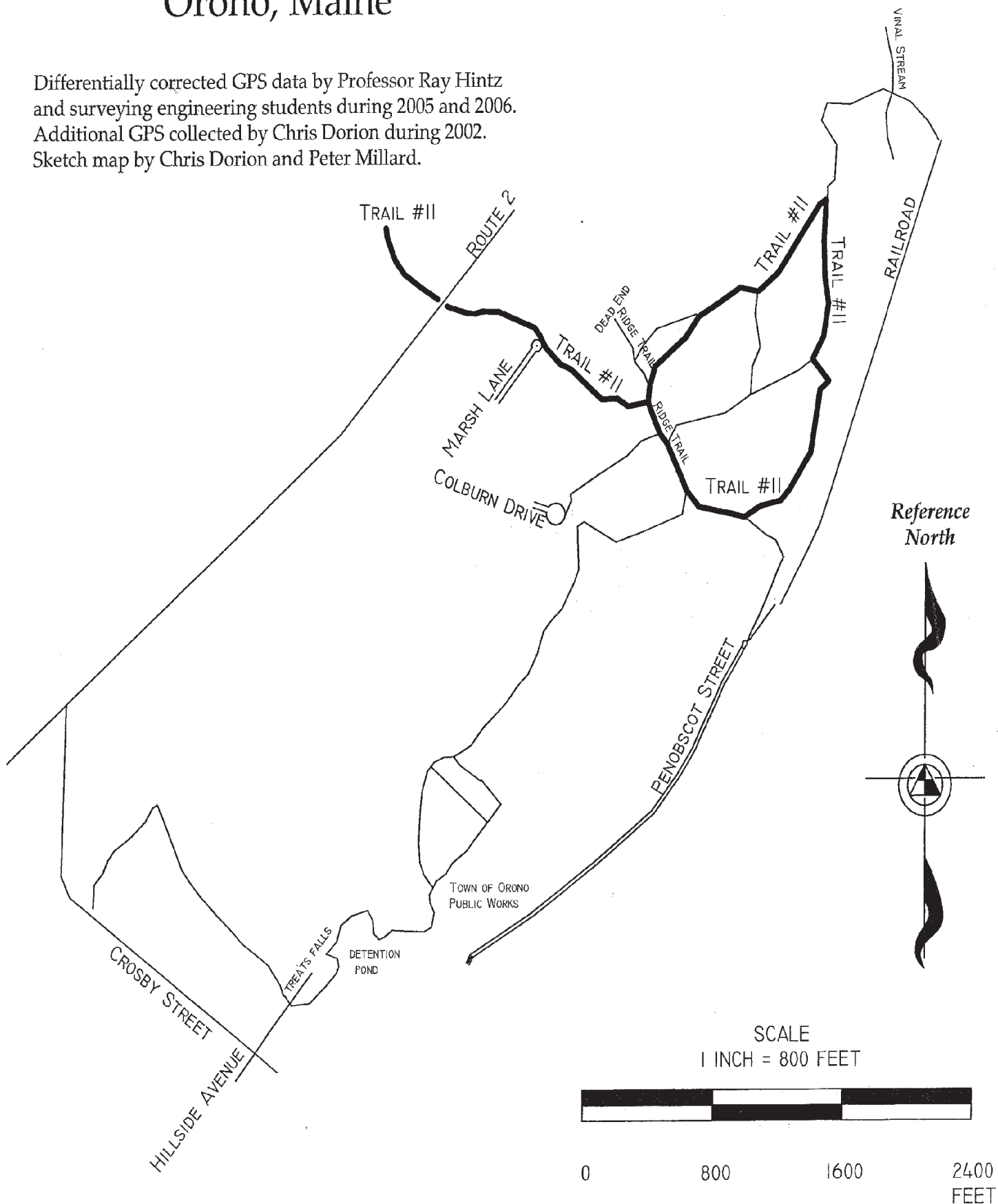
Photo by Gail White

Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity Brothers: BG from Bulgaria, Zachary Mackin, Rolando Barraza, Billy Cox, Brian Chick, Tyler McCaslin, William Hamilton, Sean Malone, Troy Kieran, and Brandon Hartt



Trail Map of the Southeastern Portion of Marsh Island, Orono, Maine

Differentially corrected GPS data by Professor Ray Hintz
and surveying engineering students during 2005 and 2006.
Additional GPS collected by Chris Dorion during 2002.
Sketch map by Chris Dorion and Peter Millard.



Our Vanishing Winter

Just over 30 years ago I drove with my family into Orono on the 4th of July 1976. Within the next two years we were to learn about Maine's "wicked cold wintahs"! The temperatures were brutally low—20 degrees below zero—so low that the snow squeaked when you walked on it. It wasn't enough to have just one nor'easter dump 12-18 inches of snow; it was common to have several storms in succession so that shoveling became a vocation instead of an irregular necessity. In 1978 by mid-winter enough snow had accumulated at the end of my driveway that I had to hire someone with a backhoe to clear it away so that I could see oncoming traffic before I entered Bennoch road. Snow for cross-country skiing and solid ice for skating on the Stillwater River were available most of the winter. Prolonged low temperatures even allowed for creating an adequate ice sheet on the town hockey rink. In 1998 we were reminded of the power of nature and were assailed with a horrific winter ice storm. In contrast, in the most recent 5 years winters have been mostly mild with little snow and with infrequent episodes of sub-freezing temperatures. As the climate continues to warm the ramifications of losing winter are many and they are complex. Effects may be as frivolous as, we can't make a snowman for the lack of snow, to the serious consequences of disruptions of biological cycles and events that affect our food supplies and higher temperatures that allow for an influx of disease-carrying insects from southern climes. The United Nations report on climate change seems to imply that most countries agree that the earth is heating and the cause is mostly from human activities. Because the U.S. produces about one-fourth of the greenhouse gases, isn't it past time for our government to take a responsible position on the issue and to act accordingly?

Members of the Corridor Committee bit off almost more than they could chew when they began writing a proposal to obtain funds under auspices of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) to further land acquisition for the ambitious conservation effort to preserve a corridor of open space. Late night rewrites, and the talents of many OLT and BLT members and a grant writer were meshed to meet the submission deadline. Our proposal did not receive the technical rating that we expected, partly because our geographic location was not in the priority focus area of the NAWCA board. The proposal was good enough, however, to receive a site visit by two NAWCA reviewers. Our strategy to take the reviews on a helicopter tour of the wetlands and to host a luncheon with our partners greatly improved our chances to be funded. We have been encouraged by the feedback from NAWCA folks, but will not know the final decision on funding until early March. Until then we will continue to complete needed work to be in a position to accept the grant funds should our proposal receive final approval. The process was something like having a root canal done, but we hope it will end with a smile of success.

J.R. Longcore



Clean-up of Car Parts on Proposed HINDS CE

On November 4, Jim Hinds, Ben Rose and Jerry Longcore collected a substantial number of old car parts and junk along Forest Avenue at the “Benson” property that Jim has purchased and is willing to make available for use by OLT members through a Conservation Easement. During the early clean-up day a license plate dated 1962 seemed to confirm that the site was once used as a garage site in the 1960s. Because some parts were too heavy to move, on November 21 Dave Thompson brought his



Photos by J. R. Longcore

John Deere with a winch and with the help of Jim and Jerry pulled the remaining large automobile parts to the edge of Forest Avenue.

One of the items unearthed was a large (4 ft. dia.) old Coca-Cola sign that was painted over, in part, with the words “Tony’s Garage”, “Auto Repairs”, “Towing Service”, something not legible, and with “Phone 866-4466” on the bottom of the sign. We were going to take a picture of it for historical documentation but by the time Jim went to his house for a camera and Dave and Jerry returned from the dump road where Dave turned the trailer around, the sign had disappeared! At least the sign confirmed the presence of a garage at the site. This clean-up fulfills the recommendation of the consulting firm that reviewed the parcel for environmental issues. J.R.Longcore



Bottle Recycling for the Boardwalk

This past week I reviewed our account at Burby & Bates and learned that about a dozen folks had donated their bottle and can redemption money to the Orono Bog Boardwalk account. About \$25 had accrued to date. The next time you need to rid the garage of empty beverage containers please consider supporting the boardwalk operations fund by donating the redemption dollars to our boardwalk account. Just inform the clerk that you want to apply the amount on your slip to our account. Thanks. J. R. Longcore

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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.

Common themes running through our identified goals include:

- The need to network and partner with like-minded organizations, especially the town governments.
- The need to become more active reaching out to our members and the public at large.
- And the importance of developing an organizational structure (i.e., enough volunteers to carry out the week to week trail, land, educational, and stewardship activities).

For those of you who have always wanted to volunteer or have a say in OLT's deliberations and activities, please write us at oronolandtrust@roadrunner.com, and log on to our improved website, www.oronolandtrust.org. Your ideas are especially important during these months of strategic planning.

**David Clement, President
Orono Land Trust**

Veazie Chapter News

Reusable Bag Program

The Veazie Conservation Commission has launched a program to encourage residents to recycle while they shop. Conservation Commissioner and land trust member Suzanne Malis-Anderson initiated and carried out a reusable fabric shopping bag project with artistic help from students at the Veazie Community School, support from the Veazie Conservation

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Orono Bog Boardwalk Potluck, Silent Auction, and Contra Dance a Success

Orono Bog Boardwalk volunteers held their 4th annual potluck, silent auction, and contra dance on October 20th at the Keith Anderson Community Center. Based on comments heard during and after the event, it was a huge success. Approximately 50 people attended. Over 40 items for the silent auction had been donated by area individuals and businesses. We raised over \$2100 for the Boardwalk endowment fund.

One special feature this year was the create-a-boardwalk-cake contest. The winning cake, as judged by University of Maine head baker at York Commons, Cheryl McGovern, was entered by Orono resident Erin Murphy. Elizabeth Wieck of Bangor was second. The Marsh Island Band played for our contra dance. A good time was had by all.

We thank all the people who attended, our silent auction donors, and the Marsh Island Band.

Jim Bird

Reusable Bags (Continued from previous column) Commission, and a financial contribution from Casco Bay Energy, LLC.

The bags serve multiple goals, including sending a conservation message to the community, actually reducing the use of temporary throw-away bags, and raising money for the Veazie Land Association, the Orono Land Trust chapter covering Veazie. Bags are only \$2 and may be purchased at the Veazie Town Office or by contacting the Orono Land Trust. Veazie Land Association membership applications are available with the bags. Many thanks to the students, Veazie Conservation Commission, Casco Bay Energy, and especially Suzanne Malis-Anderson for their contributions to this worthwhile conservation project.

**David Wardrop,
Veazie Land Association Chair**

Calendar

February 3, 2008

Winter Ski Outing
(see page 1)

March 28, 2008

OLT Annual Meeting



Orono Land Trust
P O Box 4
Orono, ME 04473

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Please check for membership expiration date on your address label.

ORONO LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

**Orono Land Trust, Membership
100 Bennoch Road
Orono, ME 04473**

- _____ \$25 Individual Membership
- _____ \$50 Family Membership
- _____ \$100-\$999 Supporting Membership*

- _____ \$1000 Life Membership
- _____ \$5000+ Named Fund**

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 the "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 protect green space in Orono.

I am interested in helping on one of the following committees:

- _____ **Lands** – The core committee, always on the lookout for new areas, monitors land-use changes.
- _____ **Stewardship and Trails** – Backbone of OLT, monitors properties, maintains trails for public use.
- _____ **Outreach** – Plans and conducts events and programs of education and entertainment, publicity, newsletter, brochures, website.
- _____ **Membership** – Encourages existing and new members to participate in OLT activities. collects dues, maintains database.
- _____ **Veazie Land Association** – Oversees Veazie Lands, easements, trails, etc.
- _____ **Caribou Bog – Penjajawoc Corridor Project** – Identifies properties in preservation area for acquisition or easements.
- _____ **Orono Bog Boardwalk** – Maintains Boardwalk, organizes programs, budget, fundraising.

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