



Contents: Davis CE 1, OLT Shopping Bags 1, Photo Contest 1, *Nature Clip* by Jerry Longcore 2, Facebook 2, Trail Day 3, Winter Outings 4, Photo Quiz 4, Volunteers Needed 5, Jerry Longcore Honored 6, Geocaching 7, Recycle Electronics 7, Calendar 8.

www.oronolandtrust.org

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OLT given the Davis Conservation Easement

After a year of planning, on November 24, Ron and Shirley Davis formerly gave the Orono Land Trust a new conservation easement. This is the eighth conservation easement held by the OLT. This 37 acre easement at the end of Gardener Road was special to the Davises for several reasons.

The southeast end of the easement is a three acre field which contains the rare Orono sedge (*Carex oronensis*). This sedge is found only in central Maine and the Penobscot River



l to r: Ron Davis, Dave Clement, Gail White, and Lee Davis.

Valley. Because it grows best in a mowed field, one of the stipulations of the conservation easement is that the OLT mow the field once a year.

The Davises have asked that the remaining acreage containing forest of various ages and types be treated as "forever wild."

This means that except for hand removal of invasive species and a few trails, no forest management will occur. This is different than other easements held by the OLT, and will provide the public with a fine example of a forest completely (Con't page 6)

Order your Orono Land Trust SHOPPING BAGS Today

The Orono Land Trust is now offering lightweight polypropylene shopping bags

The bags are \$5 each or five bags for \$20. They are tan in color, with a large blue and green Orono Land Trust logo on one side. The bags measure 20" wide by 16" high and are 6" across (depth) with a 28" long carrying strap. A special feature is deep side pockets on each end which are perfect to carry an iPod, cell phone or eyeglasses. An order form is on page 5 or at www.oronolandtrust.org. FREE LOCAL DELIVERY.



Photo Contest

Enter our first photo contest which will be held at our Annual Meeting, March 27th. The contest rules are: - photos must be taken on OLT or Veazie properties protected by the OLT - no framed pictures - it is fine to have people or wildlife in photo - should have title or explanation - color or black and white - must be 8x10 " and mounted on foamboard - limit three entries per person

Entries may be brought to the Owens house at 26 Noyes Drive in advance, or bring them at 6:30 p.m. on March 27th, the day of the annual meeting, being held at the Keith Anderson building.

Entries will be judged by **Joni Dunne from Bangor Photo.**

Nature Clip by Jerry Longcore

Wardrobe Change Enhances Survival

Throughout the fall and approaching winter we all grouse about the waning daylight hours - "It is only 4 o'clock and it's dark already!" This phenomenon has to do with the seasonal change in the length of daylight hours as we near the Winter Solstice that culminates in the shortest day of the year on December 21st. I discussed the Winter Solstice in a previous nature clip. For the snowshoe hare and our three native weasel species (least, shorttail, and longtail) in Maine, the shortening photoperiod elicits a remarkable change in their winter coats. For the snowshoe



Summer pelage of snowshoe hare

hare the brown summer coat begins to shed and be replaced by a white one that blends with the snow. The hare's pituitary gonadotropins (i.e., hormones) decline in response to the shortening daylight hours and the brown pelage is molted and replaced by a white coat. The molting process starts in September and takes 70 days or more. The female changes pelage faster than the male, perhaps important to survival of the most critical component of a reproductive pair. The new pelage provides multiple benefits for the hare. With radio-collared wild hares researchers reported a higher rate of predation during full moon nights in snowy seasons and a lower rate of predation under a new moon when hares were not as visible. Hares also reduce movements on full moon nights, which lessens exposure to predators. The new, white pelage has about 27% more insulation value than summer pelage, thus protecting hares from extremely low temperatures. For now this pelage change enhances survival, but what of the future? If the planet warms too much will the hares overheat in winter, and if snowfall is only fleeting during winter months will the white pelage of hares stand out like beacons and be viewed by predators as "white flags of surrender"? Only time will tell.

facebook

Join the OLT's New FACEBOOK Group

The Orono Land Trust is always looking for new ways to reach out to community members to keep them informed of activities and events. Recently we created a free "Facebook" group called "Friends of the

Orono Land Trust" to reach a younger demographic.

If you haven't heard of Facebook yet, it is a means of communications that has replaced the common form of email for many people. It is a social networking phenomenon that allows a user to keep in constant contact with friends and family -- share photos, a daily note, or just log in to see what your friends are doing or saying. For nearly four years since its creation by two Harvard students, the network has been sweeping the U.S. and the world.

For example, within a couple of days of creating the free Orono Land Trust group, nearly two dozen members had joined it, and now there are 50! To find our group, log in to your Facebook account, go to the "Groups" tab and search for "Orono Land Trust." Then click on "Join" -- and be sure to invite all of your friends to join it as well. Facebook's "viral" setup makes it very easy to invite others and spread the word about the important mission of the OLT.

Facebook is no longer limited to students at high schools and colleges, people of all ages can easily create a free account at www.facebook.com and join. Ask your children or grandchildren about it, chances are they have an account and access it several times a day to learn what their friends are doing! Even if you don't create an account, be sure to tell your family members to add the "Friends of the Orono Land Trust" group to their Facebook profile so we can continue to reach this new audience.

Fall Trail Day - October, 2008

Outside was where everyone wanted to be on Fall Trail Day. A lot of work was done.

In Sklar Park there were 2 teams. Joyce Lovely, Linda Platka, Nancy Rampe and Jay Johnson with dog, Sam, took to the field and cut small trees in preparation for bush hogging, then they headed to the water tower and improved the trail from there to Dirigo Pines, a trail which Melissa Burgess and Gail White had previously marked. Michael Burgess, Sue Owen, Bob Miller and Gail White repaired 3 bridges. Dave Thompson and Gail White cut and removed trees that had trees fallen on them.



L to R - Sally Jacobs, Nancy McKaig, Brian Frederick, Michael Kein; Front row - Conor McKaig, David Frederick, Ethat Hall and Nathan Frederick - from Orono's Troop 478.

On the MDIFW land off Taylor Road, Dave and Pat Thompson, Ron Logan, John Alexander and Gail White worked previous weeks to smooth out hummocks on the trail around the privacy parcel. On trail day, John Alexander, Dave Thompson, Ron Logan, Todd Burpee, Mac Gray and Marion Gray worked at spreading gravel along the trail to make it wide and more or less level. Dave Thompson and John Alexander worked on the trail several different weekends.

At the boardwalk, Jim Bird was the only volunteer, but that didn't stop him. Jim swept the boardwalk then hauled the items out from under the cabin, sorted and stacked wood, shims and boards. He removed nails on the boardwalk and pounded other nails in.

Bank of America employees pulled together to improve the trail entrances behind their building's parking lot. Woody Carville mowed the paths, then around 15 Bank of America employees, with Terese Sinclair in the lead, spread chips. They have expressed an interest in caring for that trail.

Chris Dorion has led many different groups all summer and fall to improve the Caribou Bog Ski trail. Thanks to all the hardy folks who attempted to keep up with Chris!

Kris Sornberger and Greg Sivik worked all summer to keep the trails passable on Newman Hill.

The Lackey bypass trail had trail smoothed with tractor and shovels, etc. and gravel applied.

In Veazie, Dave Wardrop, John Manter and Dan Boss removed plastic signs and painted trail blazers. Previously, Buck Hill had been bush hogged.

Shep Sheppard has worked with the boy scouts and a few adults to place chips on the Chapel Road trail and the trail from Brownies Park lot to the River Trail. Those scouts are hardy souls and say they had fun!

OLT deeply appreciates all the volunteers that work year round keeping trails open and safe for people of all ages.

Gail White



Bob Miller, Sue Owen, Michael Burgess, and Gail White repair bridges at Sklar Park.

SAVE THE DATE

OLT annual meeting

March 27th, 2008 6:30 p.m.
Keith Anderson Building, Orono

Sally Jacobs

will bring us up to date
on the Penjajawoc Marsh Corridor project.

MOVING?

Be sure to send us a change of address:
PO Box 4, Orono, ME 04473

NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL?

Do you prefer to receive
this newsletter only online?
Call Dave Clement at 866-0420

Which OLT property is pictured here?
Answer below.



Photo by Gail



Winter Outings for 2009

The outreach committee is planning two trips this winter.

#1: **Orono Trek:** On Saturday, January 24, Gail White will lead a group on skis or snowshoes from the boy scout building on Kelly road across Orono to the Tech Park. To make this a one-way trip, meet first at the Tech Park and a carpool can be arranged to the starting point. The trail will cross Sklar Park, skirt Sky meadow, cross the High School Cross Country trails and the Rampe easement, then across Forest Avenue for the home stretch to the Tech Park. Energetic skiers could double the length of the trip by returning to the Boy Scout building on their own. Contact Gail at gwhite@umaine.edu for updated information, including exact start time and meeting place.

#2: **Marsh Island:** On Sunday, February 8, skiers and snowshoers can explore the Marsh Island property and look over the Piney Knoll property which the Land Trust is working to purchase for conservation. See the impressive stand of tall pines and the snatches of view out over the Penobscot. This was a grassy picnic spot fifty years ago, but the knoll is now surrounded by woods. Trail Steward Mike Opitz will lead this trip. For more info and exact time and starting location, contact Mike at mopitz@verizon.net.

Trips will go pretty much regardless of weather. If there is no snow, we can walk!

Answer: The Hinds-Kelet!
Conservation Easement, OuterForest Avenue.

OLT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Help on Spring and Fall Trails Day – clean up litter, trim trails, spread wood chips on trails and other simple tasks.
- Build and maintain trails for walking, hiking, biking, running or skiing - build bridges, boardwalks and other facilities for trails and areas.
- Steward a trail or property.
- Check boundaries of OLT owned and maintained properties.
- Attend public meetings to learn what is happening in the area which impact natural areas.
- Lead tours and outings and provide information to school groups and other visitors.
- Assist in improving habitat, such as removing invasive species and re-establishing native plants along a riverbank or a trail.
- Help with special projects such as recruiting new members.
- Perform clerical and administrative duties.
- Maintain volunteer skills and interests directory.
- Work with computers and other technical equipment.
- Photograph a variety of natural and cultural resources.
- Help planning outreach activities.

No special skills are required to be a volunteer. Some on-the-job training can be provided if needed. We work to match your skills and interests with OLT opportunities.

For more information

*www.oronolandtrust.org, click on 'Volunteer'
or call Wendall Tremblay 866-4531*

Two OLT Members Honored by The Maine People's Alliance

The Maine People's Alliance (MPA) honored Jerry Longcore and Mike Belliveau as heroes at their annual Rising Tide Dinner in Bangor on October 10, 2008.

Jerry received a "Rising Tide Award" for his environmental work and advocacy with the MPA where he played a leadership role in helping to pass bills to phase out Deca, a dangerous flame-retardant and set a statewide framework for evaluating the use of toxic chemicals in products . He has worked to ensure clean-up progress at the HoltraChem site in Orrington and the downriver study of the Penobscot River. In recent years, he has consistently joined phone calls with the DEP to make sure the company is held accountable for the mercury they dumped in the Penobscot River.

We feel fortunate to have Jerry as "one of our own" in the Orono Land Trust where he serves as Vice President of the Board and as a member of the Penjajawoc-Caribou Bog Corridor Project Committee. He also has served on the Management Committee for the Orono Bog Boardwalk (a joint project of OLT, UM and the City of Bangor) since its inception.

Mike Belliveau received a Rising Tide Award for his work in Public Health. He is the executive director of the Environmental Health Strategy Center, a non-profit organization that promotes public health by advocating for safer chemicals and sustainable economic development. Through Mike's leadership, the state of Maine recently enacted landmark legislation requiring manufacturers to disclose the use of dangerous chemical products and authorizes the state to require safer alternatives whenever available.

Mike and Jerry are shown in the photo with Representative Hannah Pingree who also received a Rising Tide Award.

Congratulations to these three heroes who have worked on initiatives that will serve as the rising tide that will float all our boats to healthier lives and a healthier environment. *Sally Jacobs*



Mike Belliveau, Hannah Pingree, Jerry Longcore are honored by the Maine People's Alliance

(Con't from page 1 Davis CE) left to Nature. A conservation easement is a permanent restriction placed on a piece of property by the owner to protect that property's natural resources and conservation value. The restriction almost always prohibits development. To ensure that these restrictions are honored by future owners, conservation easements are monitored and carried out by a separate organization such as a land trust or a governmental body. In the Davises case, they felt strongly enough about the natural qualities of this land that they gave the conservation easement to the Orono Land Trust for stewardship.

In the future the OLT will not only mow the field, but will maintain a few trails to allow the public to view this land. This is not the first time that the Davises have given the community access to a wonderful natural resource. Ron Davis was instrumental in developing and building the Orono Bog Boardwalk near the Bangor City Forest. We thank Ron and Shirley for their foresight and generosity. *David Clement*



GEOCACHING at the OLT

Come on out and enjoy the excitement

Since the end of September when the four OLT caches went online, 82 people or groups of people have found them. As owner of the caches, I enjoy the emails I receive each time a cache is found. Some comments include: "will come back and check out trails", "I remember Piney Knoll as a grassy picnic area", "will be back to snowshoe with the family", "awesome area", "never would have seen this beautiful spot", "my kids enjoyed the hide", "never knew of a trail on this side of the river", etc etc.

Geocoins are items found in one cache and then planted in another. These items can be tracked online as they travel from cache to cache. Three geocoins have passed through our caches.

Geocachers take and leave little treasures for the next cacher to find. Some items mentioned in the emails are: golf tees, chapstick, a friendship string, snowflake earrings, a wooden nickel, a heart shaped carabiner, and a little cactus notepad.

Our plan to get people outside enjoying our lands seems to be very successful through the use of Geocaches.

Go to www.geocaching.com, enter the Orono zip code 04473, and among the many caches hidden in this area you will see the three OLT caches. Enter the coordinates into your GPS and you are ready to hunt.

Sue Owen

Recycle ELECTRONIC WASTE

On *60 Minutes* Scott Pelly (who was in Orono recently for the "global warming conference") told about the enormous electronic wasteland in China. Much US electronic waste is shipped there for disassembling.

Now Maine has an electronic recycling company, [eWaste Recycling Solutions](http://www.ewastesolutions.com). Accepted devices include monitors, televisions, computers, printers, copiers, fax machines, and cell phones. See their website or call 449-1709. www.ewastesolutions.com

Orono Land Trust shopping bag order form

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone or e-mail so we may notify you when your bags are available.

Phone:

E-mail address:

Number of bags = _____ (\$5 each; or five bags for \$20)

Total amount enclosed: \$_____

NOTE: We cannot ship bags. A member of the OLT board will contact you when your shopping bags are available and will arrange to meet you at a mutual pick-up point.

**Mail this completed form
along with a check made out to "Orono Land Trust"**

Orono Land Trust, Attn: Bag Orders, PO Box 4, Orono, ME 04473

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Calendar

Jan 7, 2009 Board Meeting
March 27, 2009 OLT Annual Meeting pg 4
January 24, 2009 Ski Orono sTrek see pg 4
February 8, 2009 Ski Marsh Island see pg 4

Please check for membership expiration date on your address label.

ORONO LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

_____ \$25 Individual Membership

_____ \$100-\$999 Supporting Membership*

_____ \$50 Family Membership

_____ \$1000 Life Membership

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

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

Please send my **newsletter** by: _____ Email, _____ U.S. Postal Mail, or _____ both Email and U.S. Postal Mail

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:**