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www.oronolandtrust.org

Vol. 84 Spring, 2009

March 27th, 2009

OLT Annual Meeting

SALLY JACOBS

**Penjawoc Marsh Corridor Project
a big undertaking cooperatively
between the
Bangor and Orono Land Trusts**
see page 3

Spring Trail Day

save the date April 18, 2009

Maine Land Trust Conference

May 1 and 2, 2009

Brunswick, Maine

For carpooling call Gail White 866-0041

Ski Paradise

Although I was on the OLT Board when we acquired the Newman Hill property which included part of the Veazie Railroad bed, I hardly envisioned the ski paradise that the property and its surrounding hundreds of acres would become. I have fond memories of negotiating with the owner, Bob Taylor and trekking back and forth over the site to do our "due diligence" which means we made sure there was no dump debris or other hazardous materials on the property before we bought it.

And now! Newman Hill is the nexus of a trail system that stretches for miles in every direction! The surrounding and abutting properties and additional portions of the Veazie Railroad were acquired through the efforts of several conservation buyers. Jim Hinds and Steve Keleti bought 900 acres of the Caribou Bog to protect it until OLT could buy the land from them with

funding from a Land for Maine's Future grant. The land was gifted to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and will be forever open to the public. Our neighbor and hero Chris Dorion subsequently bought several hundred additional acres abutting Newman Hill and then put incredible effort, not to mention impressive work with heavy equipment, into designing and clearing the ski trails. They are idyllic, just the right slope for speed without significant peril, and regularly groomed for classic cross-country skiing (thanks again to Chris).

After parking at "Cal's Parking Lot" on the dump road, you can access one trail that goes over Newman and Bangor Hill and another that takes you (in just about 15 minutes) onto a corner of the Great Caribou Bog and then through wild woodland and marsh to Forest Avenue.

Traveling from Cal's Parking Lot on the trail to the north and then along the Veazie Railroad bed, a snowmobile trail takes off to the west and leads to a much longer, but spectacular trek through woods, through the heart of the bog, then more dense and wild woods, to the undeveloped shore of Pushaw Lake. This took us 3 1/2 hours round trip including a snack break on a day that the trail was broken out. We saw big bear tracks and a huge red crested woodpecker swooped within a few feet of my head in the densest of the forest by the lake.

We are so fortunate to have the OLT and private citizens who are so passionate about conserving land for public use right within our town. I hope you all will get your skis and snowshoes out on the trails around Newman Hill. You are sure to enjoy a gentle ski on your own or traveling these trails as a part of the Great Caribou Bog Wicked Winter Ski Race and Tour to be held on Sunday, March 1st starting at the Bangor City Forest.

Sharon Tisher

**Bicentennial of
CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN (1809-1882)**

As we contemplate spring and the diversity of organisms that will soon emerge on the scene, we should marvel at the differences among these creatures and how each fills a special habitat niche. Understanding why these differences existed was initiated by a 22-year-old Cambridge graduate, who signed on to serve as a dining companion for the Captain, Robert Fitzroy, of His Majesty's Ship *Beagle* in 1831. From this inauspicious start Charles Robert Darwin emerged as the ship's naturalist during the 1831-1836 voyage about South America, including the Galápagos Islands, and contributed to his amassing volumes of information about species differences. It wasn't until 1859, however, that Darwin published his theory about differences in organisms and why they were different. This controversial manuscript entitled *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life* was not readily embraced by scientists or laypersons, and outright rejected by many clergymen because of the implied evolution of humans, although Darwin clearly warned against making that assumption. The noted English zoologist Thomas Huxley became Darwin's most effective defender and he soundly defeated Bishop Wilberforce at Oxford in a debate about Darwin's theory, which forever lessened religious opposition to scientific knowledge in England. It wasn't until the 1930s-1940s that the tenets of Darwinism and genetics merged in a modern synthesis that solidified the principals of evolution. I especially respect Darwin's personal belief that he wrote about himself; "I have steadily endeavoured to keep my mind free so as to give up any hypothesis, however much beloved, as soon as facts are shown to be opposed to it." As you enjoy the diversity of life this spring, tip your hat to Charles Darwin, who helped us understand why, and how organisms became so different.

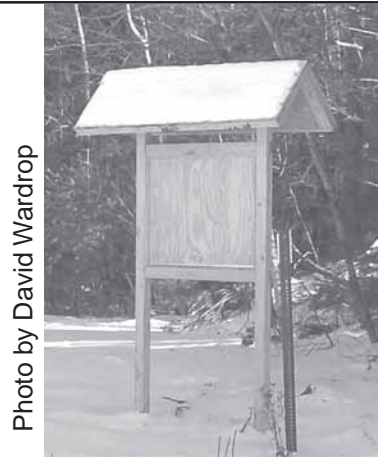
Note: Facts from an article by David Quammen (National Geographic, February, 2009) and The American Peoples Encyclopedia (Vol. 6) were used.

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



New kiosk at McPhetres Forest

Veazie Chapter News

Veazie's Buck Hill Conservation Area and McPhetres Forest now have informational kiosks at their parking areas. They were constructed and erected just before our first snowfall. On them, you will find maps, land use policies and educational information about the public forests. The kiosks, like the trail maps, were created as part of Veazie's 2008 Project Canopy grant from the Maine Forest Service. The Project Canopy Assistance Program is funded by a grant from the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program, a national initiative designed to strengthen the connections between people and their environment. If you would like to add information to the kiosks, please contact Veazie's Town Forester or the Veazie Conservation Commission. *David Wardrop*

March 27, 2009

23rd Annual Meeting of the Orono Land Trust

Orono Community Center (Keith Anderson Building)

6:30 Social with Refreshments

7:00 p.m. Annual Corporate Membership Meeting

Secretary's Report of 2008 Annual Meeting - Pat Thompson

Treasurer's Annual Report - Gail White

President's Annual Report - Dave Clement

Old Business

New Business

Election of Directors

Returning Directors for three year terms ending 2012: Melissa Burch, Dave Clement, Peg Markson, Mick Peterson, Dave Thompson, David Wardrop.

Continuing Directors: John Alexander (2011), Jim Hinds (2011), Sally Jacobs (2011), Jerry Longcore (2010), Sue Owen (2011), David Scheidt (2010), Shep Shepard (2011), Pat Thompson (2010), Wendall Tremblay (2010), Gail White (2010).

New Directors: Phil Ruck (2011), and Chris Winstead (2010).

Adjunct Directors: Chris Dorion, Ron Logan, Norm Poirier

Photo Contest

Announcements

Spring Trail Day: April 18th

MLTN Land Conservation Conference: May 1st and 2nd in Brunswick

Bird Walks in May co-sponsored with **Fields Pond Audubon**

Program

SALLY JACOBS

will update us on the Penjajawoc Marsh Corridor Project

Adjourn Annual Corporate Membership Meeting

To follow, approximately 8:15 p.m. March Board Meeting of the Annual Meeting

Welcome to returning and new Directors

Secretary's Report: March 4, 2009 meeting - Pat Thompson

Treasurer's Monthly Meeting Report - Gail White

Nominating Committee - Election of Officers

Dave Clement – President

Jerry Longcore - Vice President

Gail White - Treasurer

Pat Thompson - Secretary

Sue Owen - Clerk

Old Business

New Business

Adjourn Next Board Meeting April 1st, 2009.

Members

Adkins Randy and Lyn
Alexander Janet and John
Antonitis Beverly
Baxter Katherine Carter and Dave
Beattie Betsy and Ken
Bell Bob Lombardo & Kathleen
Borodko Margaret Russell and Stan
Boss Dan and Sara
Bradford Richard
Brown Karna Olsson and Phil
Butterfield Edwin Nagy & Desiree
Camp Polly and Paul
Carr Mike and Teri
Carter Ed Brazee and Connie
Carville Jean and Woody
Chase Becky and David
Clancy Beth White and Margaret
Clark Barbara and David
Clark Sarah and William
Clement Betsy Weiss and David
Cronan Chris and Karen
Curtis Rose Marie and Ted
Davis Ron and Lee
Dearborn Evelyn and Vance
Dearborn Mary Cathcart and Jim
Diebold Christina
Dimond Eva and John
Dorion Chris
Dorion Dorothy and George
Dunlap Cindy and Bob
Egenhofer Stephanie
Erker Victoria and Dave
Feldman Lisa
Fortier Jay and Susan
Frank Irja
Grant Nancy and Charles
Greenwood Susan and Michael
Gregory John and Carol
Grew Edward
Griffin Michael and Valerie
Hackney John and Ginny
Hamilton Lois
Hanscom Kenneth and Cathy
Harris Joyce and Paul
Harris Lianne and Walter
Hasbrouck Sarah and Sherman
Hawkes Merrill Bank c/o Darlene
Hinds James and Patricia
Hsu Yu Kao and Martha
Hudson John Halloran and Leslie
Jacobs Sally
Johnson Sandra
Johnson Jay
Johnson - Dirigo Pines Dev Co
Kail Harvey and Patricia
Keleti Steve
Kierstead Stephanie
King Laurie Hicks and Roger
Kleban Eloise
Koehler Glen
Kurr George
Kurr Mary Louis
Landis Eric and Janette
Langellier Eric Peterson & Kristin
Leach Thela and Roger
Levy Valerie
Longcore Joyce and Jerry
Lyman Viola and John

MacKnight Nancy
Mallett Virginia
Manter John and Margaret
Markowsky George
Markowsky Judy
Marks-Molloy Katherine
Martin Peg
McCormack Irene von Hoffman
and John
McCormick Bev
Means Rachel and Paul
Metcalf Hank and Mary
Millard Emily Wesson and Peter
Miller Jane and Robert
Monahan Emmy S.
Morgan Rick Morrill and Dawn
Morris Caroline
Mumme Alice and Kim
Murphy Janet and Paul
Nees-Hatlan Virginia
Nichols P. Scott
Nichols Barbara and Ken
Noyes Gladys and Ronald
Ohno Sue Erich and Stom
Opitz Michael
Osberg Priscilla and Philip
Owen Sue and Bucky
Payne Richard Brucher & Elizabeth
Pearce Deta and Bryan
Perry Connie and Tom
Pickering Marisue and John
Porter Terry
Pratt Dorothy
Puri Rajesh and Kewal
Quick Bronco
Quimby Lucy
Rampe Nancy and Glenn
Rice Jeannette and Dick
Robie Thelma and Fred
Rose Jim
Ross Ruth
Sader Kris and Steven
Sands Richard
Scheidt David and Rose
Schilmoeller Kathy and Gary
Schroeder Paul
Sewall Kathy and Douglas
Sewall David
Sheppard Stevenson and Sara
Sheppard Martha and Edmund
Simon Harlan Onsrud and Pam
Smith Alice and Charles
Smith Alden and Dianne
Smith Dana
Soule Lois and William

Storch Kay and Dick
Sucec Judy and James
Tableman Kent
Taylor Robert
Thompson David and Patricia
Tisher Sharon and Paul
Tjepkema Christa Schwintzer and John
Toder David Koffman and Michelle
Tremblay Trudy and Wendall
Twining Holly and Travis
VanKirk, M.D. Amy and Jim
Wadleigh Donna and Leith
Walker Judy and Bill
Wardrop David
Weiss Minnie
Welcomer Mark Haggerty & Stephanie
White Lucinda and Alan
White Gail and James
Whitehill Marie
Wicks Barbara
Wilson Jeremy and Katie
Wood Nancy and George
Wood Marian and Clair
Woodard Jean and Frank
Yarborough Nancy Leavitt and David

Dues Overdue

Allen Bob and Linda
Allen Marybeth and Robert
Arata Bill & Sally
Asnis Lisa
Bauer Nancy
Belliveau Dianne Kopec and Mike
Bird Jim and Mary
Blagojevic Milos
Blease Jack and Cindy
Bodaly Drew
Bruce Alice and Mitchell
Bulteel Melissa Burch and Jim
Burgess Michael
Burpee Todd and Denise
Buschner Marci
Butler Adrienne & Alan
Cain Emily
Campana Jean
Campbell Margaret and Christopher
Carmack Adrienne
Casco Bay Energy Brian Ahern,
Catelle Marit
Cloutier Janet and Dave
Colaninno John and Rebecca
Colburn Steve
Crockett Chick
Crosby Judy and Herb
Cunningham Beth Cuddy and Harry
Daigle Cheryl and John
Dearborn John and Bethel
DeSiervo Hazel and August
Drummond Beth and Tom
Duchesne Sandy
Edson Sue and Dave
Fer Morris
Folster Brent

Frankel Kathy Lyons and David
Frederick Brian
Fritz Nancy
Furth Abe and Heather
Goldenberg Bruce Lackie and Jennie
Gray Marion and Mac
Guidotti Barbara
Hart Suzanne K.
Haynes Julian
Hill Dick
Hover Francois Amar and Karen
Hutchinson Terri and Alan
Johns John Maddaus & Elizabeth
Kelley Alice and Joe
Kelly Fran and Robert J.
Koehler Linda
Labrecque Kathy Bourgoin and Dave
Leighton Melanie L.
Logan Meg and Ron
Lovely Joyce
Lukens Ken Dupuis and Margo
MacKay Don and Susan
Malis-Andersen Suzanne
Malmer Bruce
Mares Chris
Mares Liz
Markson Paul and Peg
Martin Madeline
McDaniel Michael Landry and Holly
Melrose Paul and Kasey
Miller David R.
Monroe Lyndsey
Monroe Julie and Stephen
Moose Sylvia and Jack
Morse Jane
Oliver Jason
Olmstead Kathy
Owen Jeff and Susannah
Page Brian and Paula
Peterson Mick and MaryJane
Pletka Linda
Reed/Hillary Mr & Mrs William
Renado Pernille and David
Rock Pauline
Rose Betsy and Mark
Rymph Georg L.
Schneider Elizabeth
Stone Mellissa and Tom
Story Jennifer
Tandy Dan and Family
Trefts Betsy
Tuholski Gerald and Susan
Utley Lindsay
Vadas Patricia and Bob
Walsh Lynne
Weatherbee Rita and George
Wells Margot and Mark
Whelden Jane and Harry
White Lin
Woodworth Charles C.

Neighborhood Bird Walks - May 2009

Monday, May 4 **Gould's Landing on Pushaw Lake, Orono**
Co-sponsored by Orono Land Trust, Leader: Paul Markson
Meet in Gould's Landing parking lot at the end of Essex Street.

Tuesday, May 5 **Wetlands, Hampden** Leader: Wally Jakubas
Meet at dead end of Ichabod Lane, off Meadow Road.

Wednesday, May 6 **Mt. Hope Cemetery, Bangor**, Leaders: Jim and Kathy Zeman. Meet in the parking area inside the State Street entrance.

Friday, May 8 **Ecotat Gardens and Arboretum, Hermon**
Leaders: Laura Levenson and Elizabeth Payne, Meet in the Ecotat parking lot on Annis Road, just off Route 2.

Saturday, May 9 **Fields Pond Audubon Center, Holden**
Leader: Bob Duchesne. Meet in Fields Pond Audubon Center parking lot.

Tuesday, May 12 **Indian Trail, Brewer**, Leaders: Jane Rosinski and Gordon Russell. Meet in Indian Trail Park parking lot at end of Indian Trail Lane, off Main Street 0.6 miles north of the intersection of Main and State Streets.

Wednesday, May 13 **Saxl Park, Bangor**. Leader: Tom Hodgman. Meet in Cascade Park parking lot, just off State Street.

Thursday, May 14 **Essex Woods, Bangor**. Leader: Julie Keene
Meet in the parking lot at end of Watchmaker St, off Essex St.

Friday, May 15 **Kenduskeag Stream Trail, Bangor**. Leaders: Hope Brogunier, and Joni Dunn. Meet in the parking lot upstream of the intersection of Valley Avenue and Bruce Road.

Monday, May 18 **University of Maine campus, Orono**.
Leader: Sandi Duchesne. Meet in the parking lot of the University Credit Union on Rangeley Road.

Tuesday, May 19 **Technology Park, Orono**. Leaders: Jerry Longcore and Jim Bird. Meet in the parking lot behind the Microdyne Building on Godfrey Drive.

Wednesday, May 20 **Marsh Island Natural Area, Orono**

Co-sponsored by Orono Land Trust. Leaders: Judy Markowsky and Joni Dunn. From the end of North Main Street, turn left onto Penobscot Street and park at its far end. Be prepared for an initially steep trail.

Thursday, May 21 **Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve, Bangor**. Co-sponsored by Bangor Land Trust
Leaders: Bob Milardo and Elizabeth Payne. Meet at BLT kiosk on Kitteridge Road just before the power lines.

Saturday, May 23 **Walden Parke Preserve, Bangor**. Co-sponsored by Bangor Land Trust. Leader: Bill Glanz. From Essex Street turn into Walden Parke Way, then right onto Tamarack Trail to meet at its end.

Tuesday, May 26 **West Penjajawoc Preserve, Bangor**. Co-sponsored by Bangor Land Trust
Leaders: Todd Miller and Lucy Quimby. Meet at dead end of Fox Hollow Lane, off Essex Street.

OLT Board Tackles Governance Issues

The Land Trust Alliance, an umbrella organization which helps American land trusts conduct their business, has developed model standards and practices. These encourage land trusts to become more accountable to the public and more professional in their deliberations. In 2008, the Orono Land Trust embarked on a program to update their policy and procedures to match that of the LTA. For instance, the OLT now has a records policy which standardizes and organizes the storage and retrieval of documents. There is also a conflict of interest policy which prevents board members from becoming involved in OLT deliberations when they have a personal interest in a topic or piece of property. The LTA identifies 75 practices, so this is a major undertaking by the OLT board. It is likely to take a couple years to bring the OLT up to all LTA standards. But in the end it will be a stronger organization and will serve the public better.

David Clement

All walks are from 7:00 to 8:30 a.m.

All walks are free. Beginning birders are particularly welcome, but please – no dogs.

Waterproof footwear is recommended. Binoculars are helpful.

Sklar Park Outting

1-24-09

It was a glorious sky blue sky day and even though it was a bit chilly, about 20 people joined Bucky Owen and Gail White on a ski/snowshoe of the Sklar Park area.

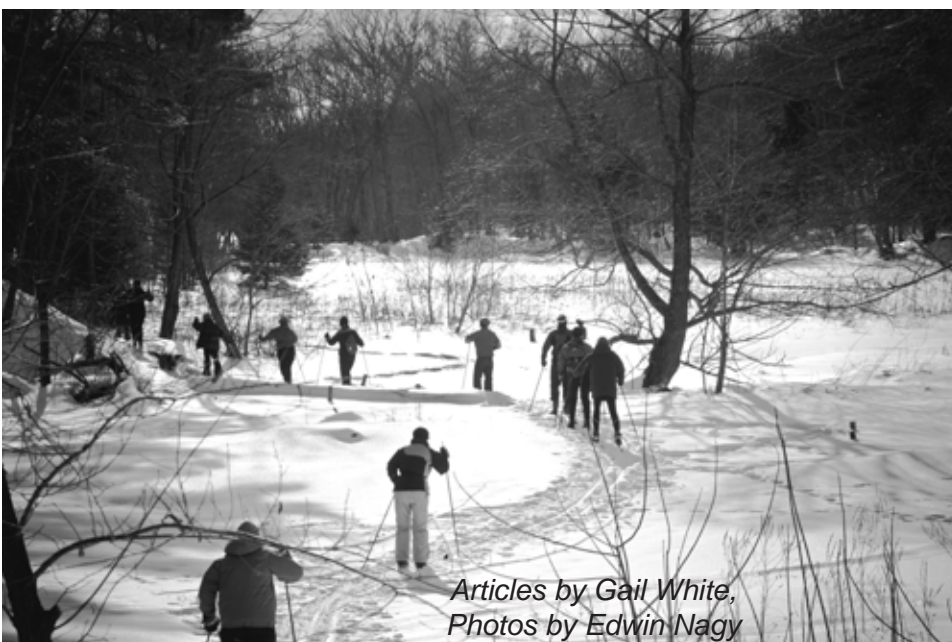
The trails were perfect and new to lots of people. Bucky pointed out deer stands, animal tracks, trees and porcupine homes. Betsy Weiss provided chocolate chips cookies at the end. A great time was had by all and most people said they will come back to explore again.



Marsh Island Walk

2-8-09

14 people of all ages on skis and snowshoes joined for a delightful tour of the Marsh Island Reserve. Mike Opitz, Sally Jacobs, Jerry Longcore and Bucky Owen told stories about the property and pointed out trees, animal tracks and historic places. The overcast morning turned into a beautiful afternoon. People has a great time outside. Mike provided hot chocolate, hot cider and granola cookies for all at the end of the journey at Piney Knoll.



*Articles by Gail White,
Photos by Edwin Nagy*



Photo by Gail White

New Orono Trails along the Stillwater and Penobscot Rivers

The Orono Town Council has approved the acceptance of a grant that will help finance the construction of two pedestrian trails in the Village of Orono.

The first called a “Lunchtime Trail” of about one half mile starts at a new small park at the end of Summer Street and loops along Summer Street and Pleasant Street to Pine Street near the new library, then up Pine Street to Main Street. It continues along Main Street to the Stillwater River, then turns south along the river to the starting point.

The second trail, the River Front Loop Trail, starts at the same place as the first trail. It will follow the bed of the “Orono Canal” along the Stillwater to its confluence with the Penobscot, near the PPL Hydro Electric Plant. From there it will continue along the old canal bed to a pocket park near the Waste Treatment Plan. A future trail will connect to Pine Street and the “Lunch Loop” and continue back to the beginning via Pine and Main Streets.

Part of the project includes building a sidewalk along Pine Street from the new library to Main Street. Also included are two small (pocket) parks. One is located on Town property at the end of Summer Street. It will have a small parking area, a river overlook with several benches and a hand carry access to the Stillwater River. The second park is located near the Waste Treatment Plant and will have an overlook and seating area.

This project was made possible by an easement over much of the land along the two rivers by (PPL) Pennsylvania Power and Light. A huge debt of gratitude is owed PPL for not only granting the easement but doing so in a timely manner. The project was spearheaded by Evan Richert, Town Planner, Cathy Conlow, Town Manager and the Orono Trail Committee.

It should be noted that the project will be done in phases. Phase one includes the two pocket parks, the sidewalk along Pine Street, and about a quarter mile of trail. It will be completed as additional rights-of-way are obtained and accompanying trail segments are completed.

This project is a big step forward in creating a trail and park system along Orono’s waterfront.

Dave Thompson, Orono Trails Chair

New Snowshoe Trail Open

In addition to the numerous groomed ski trails located near the Newman Hill area, a new snowshoe loop trail has also been established.

To find it, follow Forest Avenue to Taylor Rd, drive 4/10 of a mile, go left at the split at Putnam Road and park in the OLT parking lot here. Look for signs to the ski trails entrance (located just past the gate on the old dump entrance).

Follow the orange blazes (for snowshoe trail) along the ski trail and eventually branch off to a scenic snowshoe-only trail that traverses the top of Newman Hill— where there is a bench with a terrific view of Pushaw Lake in the distance. Just past the bench at Newman Hill, there is a split in the trail. At this point there are two options:

- Go left to take the Newman Hill trail which goes down the railroad bed and eventually back to the parking area (shorter trip).
- Or, go right to continue along, up and over Bangor Hill. You can either backtrack from this point to do a loop, OR continue to the very end of the snowshoe trail where it intersects the ski trail (go left) back toward the railroad bed and eventually back to the parking area.

Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy the views!



Photo by Edwin Nagy

Board of Trustees

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Calendar

March 27, 2009 OLT Annual Meeting pgs 1 and 3
April 7, 2009 Board Meeting
April 18, 2009 Spring Trail Day
May 1 and 2, 2009 Maine Land Trust Conference
May Bird Walks See page 5

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:**