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Trail Day, October 3rd

Volunteers needed beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Hello Volunteers. We have projects that anyone can help with this year. Bring your family and friends for an "improve the trails" morning. We have jobs for all ages. People should meet at their chosen work assignment by 8:00 a.m. All work requires gloves, loppers and hand saws. Choose one of the sites you have never seen or go to an old favorite.

Orono Bog Boardwalk. Leaders: Jerry Longcore and/or Jim Bird. Meet at the Bog Boardwalk cabin in the Bangor City Forest. Cut brush back away from the boardwalk.

Veazie. Leader: Dave Wardrop. Meet at the end of Davis Drive. Cut brush back from the trails. Cut fallen limbs from the trails.

For the next two projects, meet at the Tredwell Building, 8 Bennoch Road, Orono.

Newman Hill. Leader: Jim Hinds. Cut brush and limbs from the trails.

Jeremiah Colburn Area. Leader: Dave Thompson. Chip brush in Sally's Field and place chips on trails. Pull buckthorn from trails. Additional tools for this site include wheelbarrows, rakes, pitchforks and shovels.

We hope a lot of you will join with the leaders. It is always fun to be outside and working with others. Refreshments will be provided. Please call Gail White, trails chair, at 866-0041 with any questions.

Fall Photography Excursions

Sunday, October 18, 2:30 p.m.

Leaders: OLT Board Members
Jim Hinds, Mike Opitz, Dave Wardrop

Join the Orono Land Trust on a photography excursion. Take along your camera and enjoy a gorgeous foliage filled trail. Capture nature's beauty for a November / December photography display at Fields Pond Audubon Center and the OLT annual meeting.

Please bring one or two of your printed 8x10" favorites of an OLT trail to Holly Twining in Orono (866-3294) by October 25th. Your picture does not need to be mounted. All ages are encouraged to participate.

Three Locations to choose from:

- Newman Hill (parking on Taylor Road);
- Marsh Island / Penobscot River (parking at the end of Colburn Dr);
- McPhetres Farm (parking behind the Veazie cemetery). Holly Twining
Program Naturalist, Fields Pond Audubon Center

NEW TRAIL MAPS of Orono & Veazie

From the shores of Pushaw Lake to the Penobscot River—there are miles of walking trails located throughout the towns of Orono and Veazie, thanks to the land conservation efforts of the Orono Land Trust (OLT).

Many of these trails were once hard to find, but now they are outlined in detail and available on a comprehensive trail map recently published by the (Con't page 4)

----- 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.

Nature Clip by Jerry Longcore

Pied-billed Grebe —

No Longer A Species of Special Concern

More than five years ago I summarized data on the occurrence of Pied-billed Grebes (often called “Hell-diver”) across several study areas for personnel of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The population status of this species in the state at that time had been a “species of special concern.” As of 2009 it no longer merits that designation. You can imagine my surprise, however, when on May 31, 2009 I heard a raucous, *cow-cow-cow-cow-cow-cow-cowk-cowk*, call resembling that of a Pied-billed Grebe coming from the Orono Tech Park pond during my morning walk. I never heard the call again, but on July 6th I saw two young grebes; later I saw 4 young with an adult. The heads of these young, summer birds were distinctly streaked with white, still prisoners on the wetland until their primary wing feathers matured to allow for flight. While I watched they slowly sank in the water until they were completely submerged, and they did this when swimming and from a stationary position — a remarkable trait to escape predators or an intruding biologist! I have seen several “Hell-diver” nests, which are mostly floating mats of rotting, slimy-looking vegetation, usually anchored to the edge of shrubby vegetation. As the vegetation in this wetland has become established it has now become suitable for marsh-dwelling birds. In the last two springs a Sora (a small rail) has called from the pond during the Birding Before Work tours; this year Soras acted as if nesting and have remained on the pond until mid-August giving their *keek* calls. The dense ring of alders around the pond provides visual isolation from intruders, whereas the emerging clumps of pickerelweed and bur reed provide concealing habitat and substrate for invertebrates that are food for these marsh birds. These observations affirm the resilience of nature; if suitable habitat develops they will come.



Photo by Jerry Longcore

Immature and still flightless Pied-billed Grebes at the Orono Tech Park in late summer, 2009.

Reminder to OLT Stewards

The annual inspection of the land or trails you steward is due at the end of October. Take advantage of fall’s beautiful weather and conduct your inspection before the cold winds from the north arrive in November. If you have any questions, please call either Dave Thompson or Gail White. Dave Thompson

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

Land Trust Trail Magic

On Labor Day, six land trust members were working to pick up a 29 foot log for a new bridge. A man on a motorcycle drove by then turned around to pitch in and help. We all proceeded to get the log onto Dave Thompson’s trailer in short order. Thank you, Joe, where ever you are.

Gail White

Geocaching Proves to be a Popular Event

There's one activity which combines a love of the outdoors, with high-tech gadgetry, and clue-solving ability. This very popular activity is called geocaching—and the Orono Land Trust offered a hands-on beginner's workshop for area residents in August.

"Geocaching 101" was held at our Gould Landing hiking trail located near Pushaw Lake. Experienced "cachers" led by Mike Marino demonstrated how to use satellite technology to locate the hidden treasures.

Each participant used a Global Positioning System (GPS) handheld device--which Jim Ecker of the Maine Forest Service provided--to locate the various "caches." A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook and small items for trading, usually toys or trinkets. Geocaching is often described as a "game of high-tech hide and seek," sharing many aspects with orienteering and treasure-hunting. When a cache is found, oftentimes the participant signs a logbook, and in some cases, removes a trinket from the cache and leaves a new trinket for the next cacher to find.

Orono resident Kathy Marks-Molloy and her teenage son Connell participated in the event and enjoyed it so much that, when they left the event, they went out and purchased a GPS device that afternoon. She notes that they are having a lot of fun with their new outdoor activity.

According to the international resource for geocaching, www.geocaching.com, there are more than 250 caches in the Greater Bangor, including several on OLT and Veazie Land Association properties. To learn more about these sites, visit www.oronolandtrust.org and click on the "geocaching" link.



Geocachers records his find.



Geocachers register at OLT booth

Membership Dues Reminder

To simplify the membership renewal process, all membership contributions are due by January 1 of each year. Our first year of this system understandably caused some confusion, but seems to be working well now. For your 2010 membership, due January 1, 2010, you can obtain membership forms at the OLT website, www.oronolandtrust.org, or use the envelopes found at trail kiosks and in the Newsletter. We depend on our members for funding our many activities, and appreciate all the kind and supportive members who donate.

OLT's New WEBPAGE

www.oronolandtrust.org

Check our beautiful new website.

The new maps are up!

NEW TRAIL MAPS (Con't from page 1)

land trust. A copy of the map is included with this newsletter mailing.

“The Orono Land Trust has a trail-oriented focus and this map will help area residents discover the vast network of walking trails that are available to them—now, and in the winter when we have designated trails for skiing and snow shoeing,” explained David Clement, OLT president.

It is important to note that a number of local private land owners and others have graciously allowed the public to traverse their land to access the trails. The Orono Land Trust does not own most of the property where trails exist. On the enclosed map, the light green colored areas denote preserved properties and all other lands are private. In addition to private property, we utilize and maintain trails on properties that are owned by the University, State of Maine, and municipal lands. Without these entities, we would not have these precious resources in Orono and Veazie. We encourage members and others to especially thank those private land owners who allow access to the trails.

Individual trail maps are available at the land trust's brand new web site: www.oronolandtrust.org, at several downtown businesses, and at the town library. For example, the trail map and description for the Gould's Landing trail near Pushaw Lake details where to park, and describes the location of a scenic lookout, glacial erratic boulder, a hidden geocache site, and birds to look for on Pushaw Lake. (See <http://www.oronolandtrust.org/pdf/gould.pdf>.)

There are maps and trail descriptions for three properties in Veazie and nine in Orono. The map was created thanks to a grant from the Maine Department of Conservation Recreational Trails Program which helped underwrite the cartography, design, and printing costs. Over the past year, several Orono Land Trust volunteers worked on finalizing the map details.

Peg Markson

Redemption! Of Bottles and Cans, That Is

More than a year ago we established an account with Burby & Bates to raise money by redeeming bottles and cans for the Orono Bog Endowment Fund. To synchronize transfer of accrued funds with the University of Maine fiscal year, we requested and received from Burby & Bates a check for \$150.45 on June 30th. This collection now aligns us with the current fiscal year, which began on July 1st. We appreciate and thank Mr. Patrick Wheeler for providing the Orono Bog Boardwalk the opportunity to participate in the Burby & Bates charity accounts program. Land Trust members can participate too, just take your empties to Burby & Bates and ask them to apply the redemption amount to the “Orono Bog Boardwalk account”. It is as easy as that!

Thanks.

Jerry Longcore

Volunteers of America Help OLT

During the third week in June, a group of eight men, who were members of Volunteers of America, worked for six days on several projects for the Orono Land Trust. They moved over 50 tons of gravel, by wheel barrow, into the trail connecting Cal's Parking Lot and the entrance to the Newman Hill Lot. They cut and piled brush from the edges of Sally's Field on the Colburn Lot and they worked on the Caribou Bog Ski Race Trail near Newman Hill. They also cut and pulled buckthorn from the trails and built three bridges on the Colburn Lot.

All of the OLT's Stewardship Committee worked at least one session with them! Upon completion of the week we presented them with a Bog Boardwalk t-shirt and a certificate of appreciation. Several of them live in the local area and indicated they would like to help on future projects. The Stewardship Committee was impressed with the hard work performed particularly during several wet days.

Be sure to make a trip to the Newman Hill parcel and see the trail they surfaced with gravel.

Dave Thompson

Orono Festival Day

Orono Festival Day was September 12th and turned out to be a very busy day. The Orono Land Trust booth had a different look this year. The center display showed off our new trail map, new canopy, and new banner.

Ron Logan provided a dozen pictures of animal, reptiles and birds which kids and adults enjoyed. The booth had new OLT brochures and our bags. Peg Markson, Mike Opitz, Gail White, Melissa Burch and Wendall Tremblay were on hand to talk with people.

Next door, Jerry Longcore, Jim Bird and John Daigle ran the Orono Bog Boardwalk booth. The weather cooperated and many people were out and about. It was nice to visit with everyone.



Photo by Peg Markson

Gail White shows OLT's display at Orono Festival Day. Note the new canopy, the new banner, and especially, the new maps..

OLT WISH LIST

We need to form a **Membership Committee**.

Need a Chair and several members for that committee.

Call David Clement 866-0420

Need someone to **Steward SKLAR PARK**

Call David Thompson 866-4615

Veazie Chapter News

Notice: This coming month, the town of Veazie will utilize herbicide with backpack sprayers to combat the various invasive species found under the forest canopy on its Buck Hill Conservation Area. Although we can't give an exact date, it will likely only be for a few days, when the weather is calm and dry, during the latter half of September. Trails will be closed during spraying and for a short period thereafter.

For more information, please contact Veazie Town Forester, David Wardrop, at 356-8747.

Board of Trustees

John Alexander
Melissa Burch
David Clement, *President*
Jim Hinds
Sally Jacobs
Jerry Longcore, *V. President*
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Mike Opitz
Sue Owen
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Orono, Maine 04473

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Calendar

October 3, 2009 Trail Day (see page1)
October 7, 2009 Monthly Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
October 18, 2009 Fall Photography Excursions (see pg 1)

Please check for membership expiration date on your address label.

ORONO LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone _____

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:**