

Photo by Sue Owen



The HOME DEPOT Volunteer Team

Paul Corcoran, center front, an employee of Home Depot, organized a team of fellow employees to help on Spring Trail Day at the Halsey Forest. Present were : Aileen Clarke, Kyle Corcoran, Justin and Jamie Fournier, Eric Robitaille and Shara Marquis. *More on page 3.*



Seen closing on the Thibodeau property are l to r: Jerry Longcore, OLT President signing the document; Jim Hinds, OLT Treasurer; Cindy Mehnert, OLT lawyer; John and Patrea Thibodeau.

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IF WE ABUSE IT, WE WILL LOSE IT

The 'IT' in this instance is ACCESS to the entire STILLWATER RIVER TRAIL. Unfortunately some vandalism of private property and the deposits of unleashed dogs on the property of one landowner have prompted him to post each side of his property with a plea for consideration. Although the trail across his land is still open to the public as of this date, the landowner would appreciate the consideration of trail users to respect his private property and that of the 13 other landowners whose properties make up part of the Stillwater River Trail. We concur with his concerns and his request. We urge trail users to treat the trail as if it were their own private property. Keep the trail in good condition (i.e., clean up after your dog) and be thankful that these gracious landowners are willing to share their property with you. If we work with the landowners and support their rights and appreciate their contribution of access to the trail, this wonderful community asset will likely remain available for the public to enjoy.

Jerry Longcore, President, OLT

Closing on THIBODEAU Parcel

Fifty-seven acres was added to the Caribou Bog-Penjajawoc Corridor Project on April 16, 2010. Using North American Wetlands Conservation Act funds, the property was purchased from John and Patrea Thibodeau, long-time residents of Old Town. Orono Land Trust will own and steward the land which has over 400 feet of frontage on the eastern shore Pushaw Lake.

A Foraging Red Fox

In the early morning light last week my wife, Joyce, called from the bedroom, "There's a fox in the backyard!" And sure enough, a large red fox in beautiful, tawny orange-red pelage was strolling across the lawn, stopping momentarily to sniff the air and investigate clumps of vegetation. It appeared to be a male because of its large size; males on average weigh 1 to 2 pounds more than females that average only 8.5 pounds. At this time of year a female fox will likely have pups in a nearby den because they breed from February to April. After a gestation period of 7-8 weeks most likely there will be 5 or more hungry mouths to feed. One vivid memory of a fox, probably a female, taking food to its den occurred several years ago. Johnny Trefethen, a neighborhood boy who lived across the road and who played on the youth hockey team that I coached, kept two large, domesticated, mallard ducks. He called the large, white duck "Mister Big;" a well deserved name for a fat duck that could barely waddle. One morning we looked out our kitchen window and saw a red fox coming along our picket fence heading for the woods with "Mister Big" in its mouth. "Mister Big" had waddled his last steps, but at his expense a litter of pups, undoubtedly, enjoyed a good meal provided by a successful foraging parent. Although I scrambled for my camera, the fox in the yard this year vanished among the red-osier dogwood clumps, thus I have no visage of the fox to illustrate this clip.

Book Review:

MIRAGE – Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S.

by Cynthia Barnett

University of Michigan Press, 2007

ISBN-13:978-0-472-11563-1

Florida's population has increased from 2.8 million in 1950 to 17 million today. Ninety percent live in the coastal area. In order to supply water, Floridians are pumping groundwater out of their aquifers faster than they care refilled. Most of Florida is limestone which collapses when the water levels fall causing sink holes and as the level decreases contaminated water seeps in from the sides.

This book presents a comprehensive picture of Florida's development and its effect on the water supply and the effect on the ecosystem, particularly the Everglades. It also discusses the overall effect of increasing human populations in other parts of the U.S. and the world.

Nancy Ellen Klas, Capital Bureau Chief, of the Miami Herald said, "Never before has the case been more compellingly made that America's dependence on a free and abundant water supply has become an illusion."

I have a copy that can be borrowed and it is listed as being available at Borders. The book is very well written and informative. I highly recommend it.

Dave Thompson,
Chief Steward, Fee Land



Trail Day, April 24, 2010



Photos
by
Sally
Jacobs



Halsey Forest

In addition to the Home Depot Team pictured on page 1, workers from OLT were – Sally Jacobs, Mike Opitz, Jack Blease, Dave Thompson, John Alexander, Sue Owen, and Pat Thompson.

We moved the equivalent of about a 14-cubic yard dump-truck load of chips with wheel barrows out onto the Halsey Forest Trails. Chips came from a pile that volunteers had chipped last fall and from a load donated by Old Town Fuel and Fiber. We finished shortly before noon and enjoyed donuts, cookies, and cold drinks.

About half of the trails in the Forest have a new chip surface. The rest of the trails will be surfaced during the summer. The resurfacing is part of a year-long project to improve the appearance of the forest including new signs and benches, and repairing the kiosk.

Dave

Thompson

Boardwalk

We started at 8:30 am and finished up at about 12:15 pm. The following people helped out - Jim Bird, Phil Locke, Jerry Longcore, Karen Hover, and Adam Bramucci. We were able to get most of work done that we



needed to prior to our May 1st opening. We leveled approximately 15 sections, uncovered the kiosk sign and the seven interpretative stations, removed broken deck boards and railings from under and behind the cabin, put up signage in front of the cabin, and removed leaves/pine needles from between deck boards of the first 185 sections. We had a very productive day!

Jim Bird

Membership/ Volunteer Coordination Committee

At the May Board of the Directors meeting the Membership Committee was re-activated. The current activities of the committee include the maintenance of an up to date membership list and to increase the membership. The committee also was expanded to include coordination of volunteer activities.

The Orono Land Trust is entirely run by volunteers: from the President to the Board of Directors, officers and committees. But its future depends on its entire membership. The committee encourages the membership to stay actively involved with the organization. One step to do this is to stay in touch by keeping your postal and E-mail addresses current. Please report any changes to OronoLandTrust@roadrunner.com or mail to Orono Land Trust, PO Box 4, Orono, ME 04473.

If you don't get your quarterly newsletter by E-mail (preferred) or mail, chances are that your address on file is incorrect. Also encourage friends to become members. A membership form can be downloaded from **Facebook** accessible via the OLT website <http://www.oronolandtrust.org>.

Please note that the membership categories have recently been expanded to include college and high school students (not enrolled in family membership) at the annual fee of \$10.00.

The Orono Land Trust also depends heavily on volunteer support from its membership and the public at large. The various volunteer opportunities are listed on the website <http://www.oronolandtrust.org>. New members can fill in on the membership form which activities they would like to get involved in. We will update a volunteer list in the near future and will ask you about your interest and skills. Available projects and the project leaders will be listed on the website. Project leaders will coordinate all aspects of the projects with potential volunteers. Stay tuned.

Members of the membership/volunteer committee include David Clement, Glen Koehler, Wendall Tremblay, James Passanisi, Jenifer Plowden and Michael Opitz (Chair). Thanks to David, Glen and Wendall for keeping the membership list current.

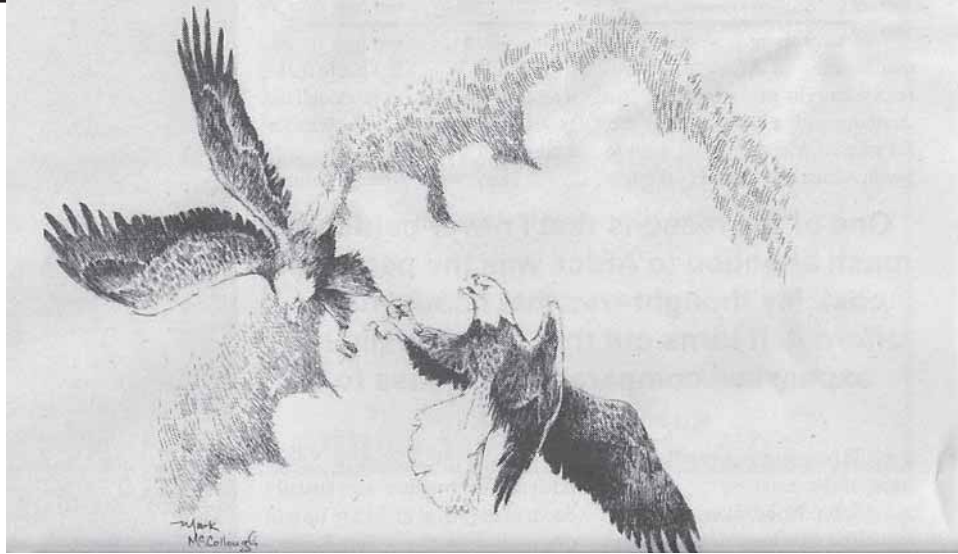
Maine Land Trust Conference

Nine people associated with the Orono Land Trust attended the Maine Land Trust Conference in Brunswick in early May. Five of those attending were our Board members. We are fortunate to have so many members interested in learning more about operating a Land Trust and willing to bring that knowledge home.

Receive your Newsletter Digitally

What do you do with your OLT newsletters? Hopefully you read and enjoy each quarterly newsletter. But then what? The electronic version is easy to save if that is your preference, and all past newsletters are available on the OLT Website; www.oronolandtrust.org. Many of the postal, hard-copy newsletters end up in the trash as clutter and food for landfills. And the hard-copy version consumes paper, ink and postal and printing charges which can be avoided when you receive the newsletter electronically.

SIGN UP TODAY for electronic delivery of the newsletter by emailing or calling OLT: oronolandtrust@roadrunner.org or 866-0420 (David Clement, past president). Help OLT do more for conservation by going digital.



Eagle Amour

Feathered meteors blaze headlong across a blue arc
 Streaking toward a tryst at the zenith
Swept wings tucked, beaks glistening, talons clenched
 Pinions chattering in a torrent of wind
Auburn eyes burnished in the glare of the rising sun
Calculus of eye, feather and muscle measuring the point of impact

Talons outstretch and two become one in a choreographed collision
 The concussion sending both into a tight gyre
 Hallux and claws grapple in a death grip
 Outstretched wings strain for balance
 As the pair tumbles in an earthward spiral

 Instinct battles against the pull of the earth
 Quill and shaft straining for control
 What ancient, remembered aquiline emotion
 Is it fear, panic, or raw ecstasy?
As the river and forest rushes toward you at dizzying speed
 To certain death would it not be for the trust in each other

Poet and artist Mark McCollough is a Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has studied eagles at Cobscook Bay.

MOVING?

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

Board of Trustees

John Alexander
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Orono Land Trust
P O Box 4
Orono, Maine 04473

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Calendar

June 2, July 7, August 4, 2010 Board Meetings

Please check for membership expiration date on your address label.

ORONO LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

_____ \$10 Student Membership _____ \$50 Family Membership _____ \$1000 Life Membership
_____ \$25 Individual Membership _____ \$100-\$999 Supporting Membership*

* All but \$50 of your donation will go toward future land acquisitions and stewardship of existing conserved land.

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

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 – Penjawoc 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:**