

OLT developing policy on invasive species

Recently a group of Orono Land Trust members were tasked with making recommendations towards a policy for dealing with invasive species on the lands OLT owns or manages.

Kate Locke, Dave Thompson, Jim Hinds, Mike Opitz, Gail White and Linda Swackhamer are researching policies established by other organizations, and

have made a trip to one property to see what may be specific to our own lands.

Mike and Kate showed us examples of eradication methods that have been used for honeysuckle, glossy buckthorn, etc. Pulling, cutting, mulching, and painting stumps with herbicide are standard methods, although we agreed there must be caution with disturbing the soil: dormant seeds or root material suddenly exposed to sunlight can

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Beaver deceivers installed by OLT team

On Sunday, October 2nd, a new beaver deceiver was installed on the Hyland Tract. The beaver deceiver was constructed for us by the Penobscot County Inmates work release team. Installing the deceiver was completed by Dave Thompson, Bucky Owen, Jim and Gail White and Ron Logan.

From a USDA publication "How To Keep Beavers from Plugging Culverts:
"The rapid flow of water through the culverts and noise of running water trigger the beaver's instinct to build a dam..."

...If the speed of flow and the noise of running water can be reduced, beavers may leave culverts alone. Waterflow and its associated noise are directed away from a culvert, reducing the cues that cause beavers to build dams. If beavers do attempt to halt waterflow, the area they must block is considerably larger. ...The deeper the water, the more difficult it is for beaver to pile up enough materials to restrict waterflow."



Orono Land Trust had a nice nature walk on October 23 in the CBCA. Steve Sader identified different trees. Bucky Owen showed people the beaver lodge built this year at Pine Ponds. He also spoke about bird migrations. Gail White showed where beaver dams were removed and how water can now flow and renew a wetland. Dave Thompson explained what a beaver deceiver is and how it works. Although the day was our first cool, overcast day, it didn't discourage people from getting out and enjoying the remaining foliage.



Invasive Species: OLT develops a policy

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regenerate the problem. Observing the plants throughout the seasons is important to harvest and destroy seedheads if possible (e.g., loosestrife, garlic mustard).

Jim talked about the work he and Bucky have been doing near Pine Ponds on Dorion North. They have had success painting stumps of glossy buckthorn. They have had a hard time with purple loosestrife. They hired someone to work on eradicating the Japanese knotweed, and they are also dealing with honeysuckle.

Dave will add a spot on stewardship reports for stewards to report invasives. Kate talked about apps that would help in identifying plants and

recording treatments by use of smartphones and GPS coordinates. Carl Sandborn in Orono is writing management plans for all the town properties; we need to recommend that they do not cut/disturb the soil in the part of Colburn that does not have invasives.

The group discussed who should make treatment decisions: Board, land stewards, committee. We thought specific decisions should rest with the committee, but overall policy approval is with Board. The yearly budget deadline is a time that the Board can look at activities going forward.

Dave and Kate will work on training for the stewards to ID invasive species and on reporting them, and that OLT should have a group of people available to help stewards survey their properties. Dave and Kate have decided to put off the training for stewards until next spring.

Meet new OLT Board member: Molly MacLean

I am a faculty member with the School of Biology & Ecology at UMaine. I have a lifelong interest in preserving green space in our world. I have used the extensive trail system in Orono and Bangor for skiing, walking & jogging over the past 17

years. When I volunteered time for the vernal pool survey in Orono, I discovered other areas of Orono land with which I was not as familiar. I now live in Old Town and am looking forward to exploring green space in Veazie over the next few months.

Bog Boardwalk Fundraising Success

The 13th annual Orono Bog Boardwalk yard sale held on Saturday, September 10th was a success! We made \$3,330, which was excellent considering that the highest price paid for an item was \$75! All of this money will support the Boardwalk Reconstruction Campaign Fund administered through the University of Maine Foundation. This year's yard sale would not have happened without the help of 33 dedicated volunteers and the people in the community who donated items. A BIG thank you to our volunteers: Jerry Longcore, Al and Nancy Larson, Ron Lamb, Becky Van Beneden, Barbara Cole, Tish Carr, Paul Markson,

Dick McClay, John & Sharon Fitzgerald, Nancy Rampe, Erik Blomberg, Christina Diebold, Christa Schwintzer, Phyllis Leeman, Jen Lund, Nancy Michaud, Jen and Cason Snow, Ann Surprenant, Paul Robinson, David Cox, Norah and Will St. Peter, Phil Locke, Ray Fort, Rissa Moore, Donna and Gerry Dwyer, Rocky Robichaud, and Jim and Mary Bird. A "thank you" as well to the Golding brothers, owners of Kelley Road Storage, who donated a storage unit to hold our sale items.

Because of our fundraising success this year, we have ordered 48 new Boardwalk sections at a cost of \$93,000 and they will be delivered in mid-October. Volunteers will remove the old sections and install new ones, we hope before the first snow. We are now focused on raising \$87,000 for the next 48 sections. If you would like to donate to this community effort please visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/OronoBogBoardwalk) and click on the donate button. You can also send donations to the University of Maine Foundation, 2 Alumni Place, Orono, ME 04469-5792. Please be sure to make checks payable to the University of Maine Foundation and write Bog Campaign on the memo line.

Jim Bird
Director, Orono Bog Boardwalk



Mystery Mole – In the basement!

About a week ago I retreated to the basement to cool down from the outside ambient temperature in the 80's F, which has been rising each summer related to a changing climate. About the moment I sat down I heard some noise emanating from behind the television table. Momentarily I saw a small, coal black animal making its way along the floor – thinking it was a mouse or worse, a rat, I grabbed the stove poker and pursued it into the corner. I soon realized that it was neither, because it was not the correct size for a mouse or a rat and its nose was surrounded by short (2-4 mm long), fleshy projections. No other mammal species in New England has these tentacles so it had to be a Star-nose Mole (*Condylura cristata*).

Moles are seldom seen because they are adapted to spend most of the time underground. They have tiny eyes, but appendages around the nose contain super-sensitive structures that allow navigation in the dark underground. Their shovel-like feet are as broad as long, thus, allowing them to dig and move through the soil to feed on earthworms and other invertebrates. On manicured lawns or golf courses the ridges of their tunnels are evident. Occasionally I have seen these ridges in my back yard and even mounds of soil, which is further



Photo by J.R. Longcore

Star-nose mole in pan, caught in my basement in Orono.

evidence of their activity.

The question that lingers, however, is how did it enter the basement? The seemingly logical route was through the sump drainpipe, but the end of the pipe is covered with a large-mesh screen. Even if it could reach the sump it would need to climb the 1.5-foot sump wall—not likely with its short, shovel-like feet. When I encountered the mole in the corner, I herded it into a large pan. Later, when the light was low, I released the mole in the garden with thanks for an opportunity to observe up close one of Maine's more reclusive species. I am still trying to figure out how it entered the basement!

Fall Trail Day Projects October 22

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS! Fall trail day was again a success due to the wonderful volunteers. At Orono High School, the Eagle Scout trail was improved. Carts full of gravel were moved to wet areas on the trail and the gravel spread out. The OHS cross country runners ran through during their practice and agreed the trail was much improved. Thanks go to Glenn and Nancy Rampe, Eric Gallandt, Ellen Mallory, Bill DeSisto, Gail White and Gillian Rose.



Photo by Gail White

Ellen, Glenn and Nancy at work on Fall Trail Day in Orono.



Photo by Tonya Brown

Veazie Trail Day, with Sigma Phi Epsilon men and neighbors at the new Davis Lands trailhead.

Veazie had a good Trail Day, 22 people showed up, including some Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity brothers from UMaine, and a new neighbor who saw us and dropped by. Another neighbor came by to offer us apples from her backyard tree.

We cut and hauled brush to clear new trails on the Davis Land, a recent gift to the town from Tom Davis, in memory of his sister. An area has been cleared for a future gravel parking area, and a kiosk. New

maps need to be made to reflect this new access point for hikers and skiers to connect to the Manter Wood, an OLT easement, and McPhetres Forest, by the Veazie cemetery. Wood chips were hauled and spread to create good trails, and mitigate walking hazards and water runoff. The weather held off and everyone had a fine, productive day. We will have another Trail Day on Nov. 6

OLT updates by Dave Thompson: Improvements on Sklar Park and Heron Pond

During the week of August 15 thru 19th the Penobscot County Sheriff's Department Inmate work crew participated in two OLT projects.

The first project was constructing a new bridge on a feeder stream to Johnny Mack Brook on Sklar Park. OLT serves as a steward for the parcel owned by the Town of Orono, which paid for the materials used for the bridge. The first day was spent removing the old bridge, which was severely deteriorated. The old timbers and boards were hauled out on my trailer, pulled by the recently purchased Kabota tractor, to a trailer, placed by the Orono Public Works Department, to the end of Mainewood Street.



The second day was spent building the center pier and installing the 2"x8" pressure-treated bridge stringers. On the third day we put in the cross pieces located between the stringers, and made sure the stringers were level and square. The last step was to attach the 2"x8"x4" cross pieces and the 2'x4' toe rails. Completed!

The second project was to construct two beaver deceivers, that are modeled after the one Skip Lyle helped us build and install on the Hyland Tract. They are constructed by stapling 6"x6-1/4" epoxy-coated, welded meshwire to pressure-treated 2" by 4"s. They are 5' wide, 10' long and about 44" high. They are placed over the ends of a culvert to prevent beavers from filling the interior of the culvert with sticks, stones and mud to stop the water flow.

The first one has been installed on a culvert set in the beaver dam on the Heron Pond. The culvert was placed to direct the flow from the pond westerly along the south side of the old Veazie Railroad Bed to reflood an abandoned beaver pond to improve habitat for wildlife. The Sheriff's crew was helped on this project by Bucky Owen, Jerry Longcore and Bucky's dog Cricket. I used my tractor to position the deceiver over the end of the culvert, while Bucky and Jerry secured it to two metal stakes driven into the pond bottom by two of the inmates. Cricket was making sure we had it at the right water level.

The members of the Sheriff's crew worked hard all week and were a major reason that we were able to complete these two projects.

Work continues on improving the old Veazie Railroad Bed that traverses this tract. Last year we brush hogged, pulled out the old piling poles and erected a beaver deceiver at the mouth of an old stone culvert. We also improved the beaver dam on the upstream side of the railroad bed. This year we installed a 20"x 20' culvert about midway across the bog.

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Hyland Conservation Easement Trust

On August 19th Paul Strout sent us 5 loads of bank-run gravel to cover the culvert. These were loads of about 3 cubic yards apiece on a one-ton truck that came in from the Bangor City Forest. The driver had to back all the way down to the culvert because there was no place to turn around. I leveled the gravel with my John Deere tractor. Because of the distance to the pit and the fact that the driver had to back in, it took almost all day. A week before the gravel arrived we brush hogged the railroad bed from the Bangor City Forest to the rock cut entrance.

The Penobscot Sheriff's Department workers have built a beaver deceiver to be placed in front of the new culvert in early October. The end result is you can now travel across the bog on the Veazie railroad bed without getting wet.



Business Sponsorships

In the 2015 membership year, the Orono Land Trust initiated a business sponsor membership to help support land conservation efforts serving the Orono community. Our business sponsors set a new standard in community partnerships. We appreciate their support and hope they inspire similar collaboration.

Eagle Supporter: (\$1000+)

Hawkes & Mehnert, LLP PO Box 458,
Orono, ME 04473
Black Bear Brewery, 19 Mill St.,
Orono, ME 04473

Cardinal Supporter: (\$250+)

Casco Bay Energy, 125 Shore Rd.,
Veazie, ME 04401

Chickadee Supporter: (\$100+)

Dirigo Pines Retirement Community,
9 Alumni Drive, Orono, ME 04473
Orono/Old Town Kiwanis
The Advertising Specialists of Maine,
80 Banair Rd., Bangor, ME 04401

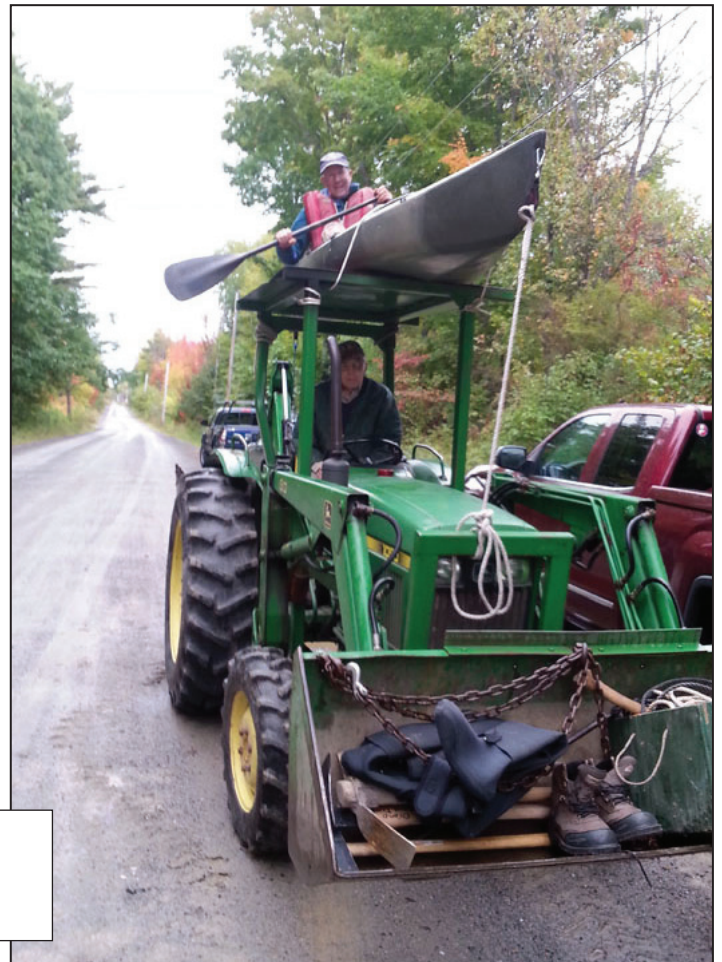


Photo by Gail White

A new kind of amphibious vehicle brought to you
by the Orono Land Trust.

Board of Directors

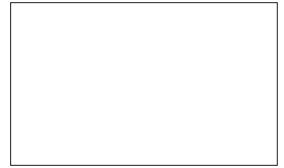
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Orono Land Trust
PO Box 4,
Orono, Maine 04473

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Calendar

**Monthly Board Meetings - November 2, December 7,
January 4**

Please check for membership expiration date on your address label above.

Orono Land Trust Membership Application

Name: _____ Preferred email: _____

Address: _____ Preferred phone: _____

_____ \$10 Student Membership

_____ \$25 Individual Membership

_____ \$50 Family Membership

_____ \$100- \$999 Supporting Membership

_____ \$1000 Life Membership

Business Memberships

_____ \$100+ Chickadee Membership

_____ \$250+ Cardinal Membership

_____ \$500+ Loon Membership

_____ \$1000+ Eagle Membership

Donation only

for _____

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

Please send my newsletter by: email only _____ US Postal Mail _____

Get involved! VOLUNTEER!

Go to oronolandtrust.org to learn more and to volunteer for OLT projects, activities and committees by completing the online Volunteer Questionnaire listed on our volunteer webpage.