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Orono Festival Day

It was a great, blustery, almost sunny, day for festival day. Workers had to hold down all informational brochures and the canopy. The wind did not stop the fun. It was so nice to talk with our neighbors and share stories. Steve Sader led an "Aliens of Orono" walk. In just a 20-minute walk around one block of downtown Steve pointed out many invasive plants, including Norway Maple, Burning Bush and Bamboo. Thanks to many of you who stopped by our booth. Special thanks to people who signed up to volunteer on trail projects.

Gail White



During a moment without the wind blowing, Jerry Longcore, Gail White and Melissa Burch show the OLT booth at Orono Festival Day.
Photo by Genevieve Trafelet Smith

Guided Nature Tour: In Search for Alien Invasive Plants

Lise Albert, a B.Sc. in Biology has deep roots in Maine. She also loves the diversity of our native plants and animals. But she is alarmed by the spread of non-native invasive plants. "Garlic mustard is taking over in many places, we have to do something" she said, "I can't do it alone". So we invited Lise to lead a walk to share her concerns and create greater awareness among trail users about the effects of non-native invasive plants. On a beautiful summer day in June Lise lead a small group of friends of the Orono Land Trust on a 90-minute walk on Piney Knoll Conservation Area. And sure enough we saw how Garlic Mustard or Gout Weed had covered large patches right at our feet along trail edges. Honeysuckle had almost completely taken over an area around the remnants of a dwelling from the early 1800's, Buckthorn shrubs had spread in lightly wooded areas along some trail sections, and even Japanese Knotweed and Norway Maple has a foothold in places. Lise had no problem convincing attendees of this walk, that non-native invasive plants have invaded our forests, but with her optimism she also convinced us to help stop the spread.



l-r: Harry (last name unknown), Delores Mekrut, Ann Davidoff, Jessica Smith, and Lise Albert.

You can see it in the misty fog of morning— you can feel it in crisp, chill air as a rising sun burns away the fog— you can hear it in clamorous calls of migrating geese at dawn, and what our senses tell us is confirmed in our soul as we feel the incremental change from summer to fall— and to what lies ahead, winter! We humans and legions of other biological organisms in the environment prepare for winter in diverse and remarkable ways. For insects, the transitions are fourfold: from egg to larva to pupa to adult in a recurring cycle. This fact was recently brought to mind when my wife, Joyce, summoned me to the front window to “look at that colorful larva”. Indeed, these larvae (two different sized instars) were striking in their yellow, blue, and reddish-orange hues as they munched on a late-season aster. This species of caterpillar is a member of the large moth family Noctuidae that inhabits northeastern U.S. and Canada. The adult moth is a drab brown with darker brown on the outer wings and a dark brown streak down its back, not showy compared with the larva. The markings on the adult provide a basis for its common name; Brown-hooded Owlet or even more descriptive, Brown-



bordered Cucullia as associated with its Latin name, *Cucullia convexipennis*. Before too long these larvae will transition again to pupate in silk and earthen cocoons to over winter in the ground. Next May the adults will emerge, lay eggs, and emerging larvae will again display their primary colors.



Small caterpillars on left are early instar larvae and large caterpillars (right) are late instar larvae.

Photos by J.R. Longcore

Volunteer Day on PKCA's Peter's Field

On September 15th six optimistic volunteers ignored the rain forecast and started to work on the control of non-native, invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn surrounding Peter's Field (named after Dr. Peter Millard, a local physician and one of the original volunteers for the Land Trust) on Piney Knoll Conservation Area (PKCA). It is a triangular 2-acre meadow bordered by Vinal Stream, the railroad line, and the Old Town boundary line. The field is crossed by a popular recreational trail that continues on the other side of the railroad to the Penobscot River. Peter's Field was open farm land from the 1830's for 100 years. When the farmland was abandoned in the 1930's, some non-native ornamental plants were left behind and they started to out-compete some local plants and hinder the regeneration of native plants. Peter's Field is now rimmed by invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn. But thanks to the efforts by the six hardworking volunteers this ring has been broken. But much more work is left to be done. If you would like to help to continue the work begun today, please contact the steward for the area Mike Opitz at mopitz@myfairpoint.net or 866-3329.



l-r: Becki Scarce, Gail White, Genevieve Smith, Mike Opitz, Jim White, and Laura VanDyke.
Photo by Sue Owen

Expanded Archery Season on Piney Knoll Conservation Area

In 2011 OLT joined the effort to reduce the white-tailed deer herd on Marsh Island where the population had grown to numbers that were damaging gardens, reducing horticultural plantings, and serving as hosts of deer ticks that vector Lyme disease to humans. Last year the OLT Board approved a hunt on its Marsh Island Preserve, which was renamed Piney Knoll Conservation Area to reflect the diversity of interests and activities on that property. Hunting was by permit only and 43 individuals requested permits, but 18 individuals did not hunt for various reasons of work or lack of time. An additional 14 individuals did not respond to our request for information. Of the 21 hunters who did spend time on PKCA, 9 successfully harvested 1 deer (or more) as a total of 14 were reported as harvested. Eight adult females, 4 adult males, and 3 immature males were harvested. The largest deer was a 9-point, 230 lb male according to the hunter. Eight hunters reported finding ticks on themselves and 4 reported them on the deer they harvested. One hunter who thought that his cat had contracted Lyme disease from ticks that crawled off his clothes took his cat to the vet. The cat was treated for symptoms of that disease and recovered.

Hunters avoided other users of the property, but when encounters were made no negative interactions were reported. Two issues among hunters did arise---“stalking” of deer and use of another hunter’s tree stand without permission.

For the current 2012 season that opened September 8th and will close December 8th, 26 hunters have been issued a permit, mostly just for PKCA, but a few hunters requested permission for all OLT lands open to hunting. Seven of the 26 are new hunters and 19 individuals hunted PKCA last year. Instructions for the current 2012 season addressed the hunter issues of “stalking” and unauthorized use of tree stands. No hunting, of course, is allowed on Sundays. If community members are hiking PKCA during the weeks ahead, be cautious and wear blaze orange or yellow to ensure that hunters see you, because you probably will not see them.

Jerry Longcore

New Bridge in SKLAR PARK

The Orono Trail Committee recommended to the Town of Orono that the two bridges over Johnney Mack Brook be replaced with a new bridge half-way between the existing bridges. Both of the two bridges were in need of extensive repair.

About the same time, Zach Palmetier, a local Boy Scout, was looking for an Eagle Scout project. I met with him and described the bridge project to him. We looked at several crossing sites on the brook and visited several recently completed bridges in Orono.

He accepted the project and started the preliminary work including: bridge location, bridge design, obtaining Maine Department of Environmental Protection permit and approval by the appropriate town officials.

After receiving the MeDEP permit and approval of his project from the Boy Scout Council, he started construction. Part of the Eagle Scout project is to take charge and arrange for procurement of any materials needed and to put together a crew to do the work needed to bring the project to completion. Zach did an excellent job and everything went smoothly. The bridge was built and the connecting trail completed in August.

The Town Trail Committee is responsible for installing ramps at either end of the bridge and removing the two old bridges, which we have to accomplish during the next couple of weeks.

The new bridge is 6 feet wide so that small tractors or ATV’s can be used to move materials to future construction projects on the trails beyond the bridge. For example: next year we plan to replace a bridge over a small stream located beyond the new bridge. The Orono Trail Committee views this project as a start towards upgrading the Sklar Park Trail System.

Dave Thompson, Orono Trails Chair

New Bridge

Thank you to Mike Greenwood who donated pressure-treated boards to OLT. Not only did Mike donate the boards, he worked with Glenn Rampe and Gail White to tear down a very dilapidated bridge and replace it with a new bridge using his own lumber. Now that trail is much more manageable for people. Great work!

Gail White

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Calendar

October 3, 2012 Monthly Board meeting

Please check for membership expiration date on your address label.

ORONO LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Telephone _____

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

I am interested in helping on one of the following committees:

_____ **Finance** - formulates budgets, grant writing, fund-raising events.
_____ **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** - Handles publicity, newsletter, brochures, website, events and programs of education and entertainment.
_____ **Membership** - Encourages participation 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: