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Purchase of DORION LAND Completed



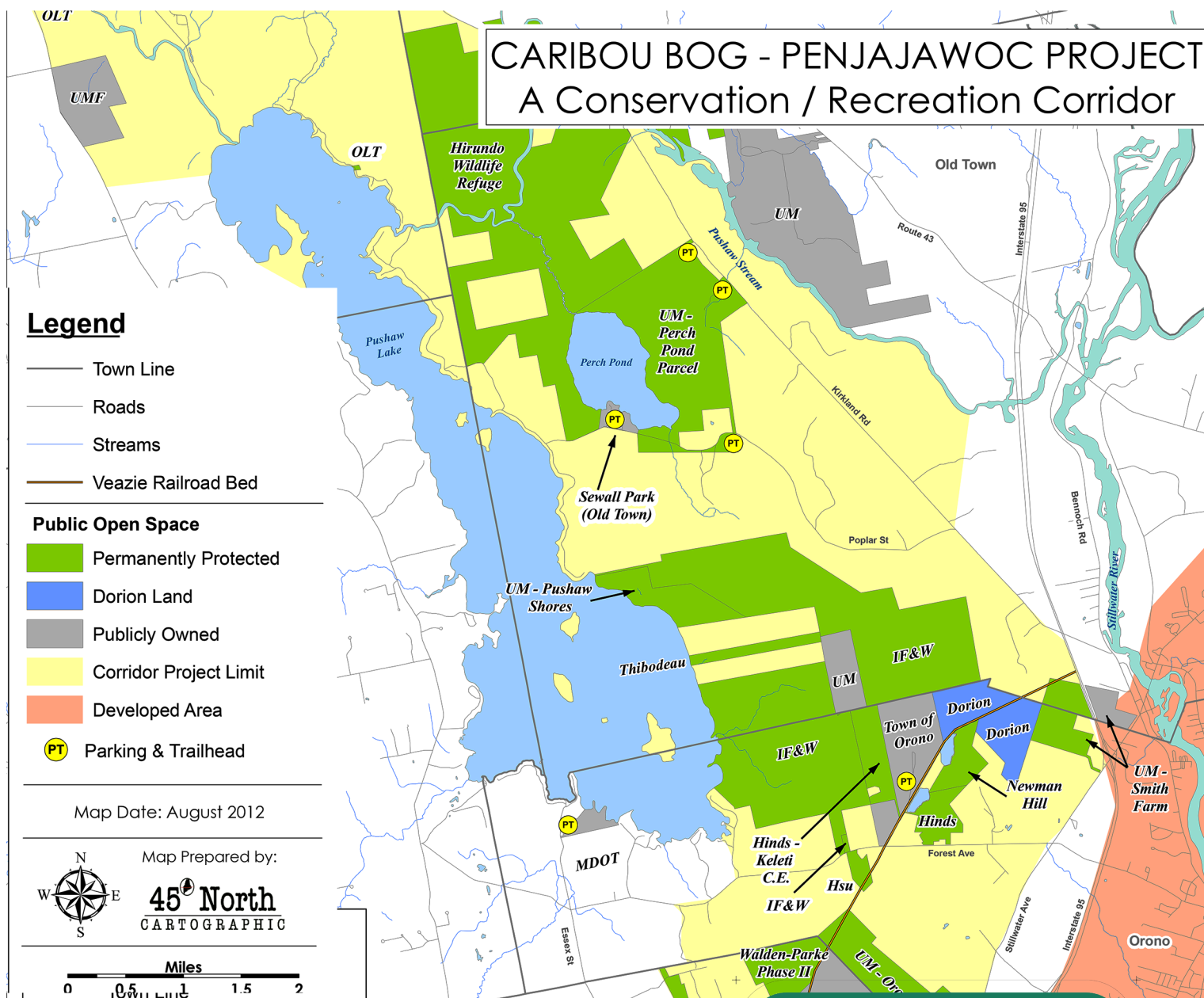
l-r: Karen Huber, Chris Dorion, Jerry Longcore, Jim Hinds OLT President, David Thompson at closing on Dorion Land

On March 5, 2013, Orono Land Trust completed the conservation of a key parcel adjacent to its Newman Hill Preserve by purchasing a 319-acre parcel that had been assembled by long-time friend and former board member of the land trust, Chris Dorion. With the help of a grant from the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program the land trust was able to achieve connectivity with public land owned by the State of Maine, University of Maine, Orono Land Trust and Town of Orono. Like the keystone block in a stone archway, the Dorion property lies in the center of other public lands, and its conservation now means that the wonderful trails that Chris built on his land that connect with trails on the surrounding land will continue to be available for public enjoyment. It also means that the State-significant Caribou Bog ecosystem will be protected from the pollution and increased runoff that would have occurred had the parcel been turned into a housing development. And finally, it means that large and elusive mammals such as moose, bear, bobcat, river otter, and fisher, all of which are known to occur on or near this land, will continue to have habitat to live and prosper.

This wonderful conservation project almost

didn't happen. About eight years ago, a 200-acre upland portion of the land was purchased by a would-be developer from New York with visions of trophy homes on the slopes of Bangor Hill with views of Katahdin. He even started building a house for himself. Orono Land Trust was interested in purchasing the land, but he wasn't interested in selling. He was unable to purchase land in Old Town that would have given him road access for his development, and so he abandoned the project and sold his land back to the original real estate broker. At that point, in 2007, Chris Dorion was able to quickly move and purchase the 200 acres much more quickly than the Orono Land Trust could ever have. In 2008 Chris was able to purchase an additional 95 acres of adjacent land that extended into Caribou Bog, and a few years later another 22 acres on the slopes of Bangor Hill. Chris then spent the next several years building super ski trails, both for ski skaters and classic skiers.

When Chris moved to Portland, he offered OLT first chance to purchase the property, and waited patiently for us to figure out how we could raise the money. We think that Chris is a genuine conservation hero!



OLT is Sprucing up the Town!

Before summer is out, these new signs will be showing up all over town. We hope it will help people who want to get out on the trails know where to look for trails. Perhaps, people will try new spots until they know all the town trails and what they have to offer. OLT has properties with a variety of habitats. Some trails are best in winter while others are good year round. When you see these new signs, see where they lead you.



American Woodcock Singing Ground Survey

In my 2002 Nature Clip (American Woodcock—Harbinger of Spring) I described the dynamic displays of this inland-breeding shorebird in Maine. An annual survey is conducted by volunteers for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) to monitor population status of displaying male woodcock in states in the Northeast and those of the Midwest around the Great Lakes. For nearly two decades I (and my field station colleagues) have been running 22 Singing Ground Survey routes along the Studmill Rd on paper company land east of Milford, Maine. What follows are my observations while I made 10 stops over my first 3-mile route this spring. I usually run 6-7 routes each spring. The survey starts either 15 or 22 minutes after official sunset (depending on amount of cloud cover) and the observer listens for 2 minutes for the distinctive “peent” of the male on the ground. The number of aerial displays heard are also noted, but do not count. As an official volunteer of the F&WS I have set the odometer at 0.0 for Stop #1 on the federal truck known by the field station crew as “Big Dawg”, so named related to its rough ride so no one else likes to drive it!

This first stop is 1.2 miles north on a twitch road from the Studmill Rd. just to the east of Sunkhaze Stream. As starting time (8:04 p.m.) approaches I watch the blackflies assemble outside the truck window then I step out and punch the timer button on my watch and note no rain, that the wind is calm, and no noise disturbance exists from spring peepers. On cue I hear the first “peent” within regenerating woods just off the twitch road. Two minutes later I’m off to Stop #2, but on the way I flush a woodcock in front of the truck.

At Stop #2 I jump out and start my timer, and hear the “peent” call and then the “tukco” call that often precedes the “peent”. This bird flushes to begin its aerial display and shortly alights at the same spot to resume peenting. While I listened I heard a female duck (probably a American Black

Duck) quack as it flew overhead.

On to Stop #3, which is still on the twitch road --all is quiet, so back in the truck and on to Stop #4 that is next to the stream bridge on the Studmill Rd. Again, during the 2 minutes no woodcock peented, but the distinctive call of a Whip-poor-will filled the night air. Stop #5 was at the junction of the powerline and pipeline rights-



of-way with ample display area. It was not surprising to hear 2 males peenting and performing aerial displays there.

Back in the truck and on to Stop #6, which yielded 1 peenting male. At Stop #7, 2 more males were heard; 1 on the pipeline and 1 in the woods, and in the distance I heard the yipping and yapping sounds of a coyote family. Stop #8 contained another peenting male on the pipeline. This male also exhibited territorial behavior as I heard a “cackling” flight that is common when one male chases another from its display ground. A bonus was the welcome call of another Whip-poor-will.

The penultimate Stop #9 contained no woodcock, but another Whip-poor-will call reverberated through the cooling night air. Noise disturbance was rated HI (high) because of the peepers’ loud chorus. The last Stop #10 yielded 1 more male displaying for a total of 9 males during the 39-minute survey. It was now time to head home. I recalled all the images of the Tom (male) and 2 female Wild Turkeys, 2 pairs of Common Mergansers in the stream, 3 different porcupines waddling up the twitch road in front of the truck, and the gleam of 2 sets of White-tailed deer eyes in the powerline right-of-way.

Hope you enjoyed the ride—I did.

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Calendar

June 5 and July 3, 2013 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** - 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: