

## PINE POND RESTORATION

by Dave Thompson

A Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program grant that the Orono Land Trust received to buy the Dorion land at the end of the Taylor Road required that the ponds be restored to a more natural state. The two shallow ponds - one about four acres and a smaller one of about one-half acre - were built by Robert Taylor to raise bait for sale to fishermen. The ponds contained several concrete structures, as well as a number of pipes, to control water flow. These ponds had been constructed by moving soil (probably with a dragline) from a wetland area and constructing a berm that impounded the water.

After meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USAEC) and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), we proposed to leave the berm intact and remove the concrete water structures and the accompanying drain pipes. These were replaced with three open spillways stabilized with crushed rock. (Con't pg 3)



C.A. Strout's equipment removing concrete structures.  
Photo by Dave Thompson

## New Trails on Caribou Bog Conservation Area

article and photo by Kris Sornberger

The Trail skirting the bottom of Newman Hill directly behind Black Pond recently became a whole lot better for hikers, bicyclists and dog walkers. The

old bridges were re-decked with new rough-milled cedar boards. New cedar board bridges were installed over two perpetually muddy, wet areas. The old decking on the original bridges was cracked in some areas, necessitating replacement. The new bridges of longer-lasting materials are

now more dog-friendly and hiker-friendly because there is less space between the decking boards for a foot or a paw to slip in between. These bridge improvements as well as the Land Trust's newly revised dog policy for the CBCA, which allows dogs to walk off the leash, will all be appreciated. If you have not been to the CBCA recently, check it out again. The insects are gone! The enormous beaver house is still there.



Con't pg 3)



# Accreditation Announcement

In 1989 the national Land Trust Alliance (LTA) issued a set of Standards and Practices to guide land trusts forming all across the United States, and in 2004 LTA revised this document and began designing a way to recognize land trusts that operate according to those Standards and Practices. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission was founded in 2006, as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, and in 2007 it began accepting applications for accreditation.

In 2005 the Orono Land Trust officially resolved to commit itself to operating in compliance with the LTA Standards and Practices. We have been working on this continuous quality improvement project ever since. In 2010 the Maine Land Trust Network awarded us an Excellence Grant to help us meet the expenses of this demanding project.

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Orono Land Trust is pleased to announce it is applying for accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Orono Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For a full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicatorpractices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org), or email your comment to [info@landtrustaccreditation.org](mailto:info@landtrustaccreditation.org). Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 3, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on Orono Land Trust's application will be most useful if received by November 22, 2014.

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## University of Maine



On August 30th, UM first-year students in outdoor industry studies offered their services to OLT. These wonderful volunteers had enthusiasm and energy to make noticeable upgrades to trails. Students were divided into two groups with a UM leader and an OLT steward. Mike Opitz oversaw work at Piney Knoll as students moved stones onto muddy, low, sections of trail. Gail White's students at Jeremiah Colburn Natural Area pulled and cut Buckthorn back from the trails. Many thanks go out to these UM students!

*Photos and article by Gail White*





## (Con't from page 1 Pine Pond)

C.A. Strout & Sons of Bangor used their excavator and a dump truck to remove the concrete water control structures, reshape the berm, and install crushed rock rip-rap. This part of the project was completed on Tuesday, August 26th. All exposed mineral soil was seeded and covered either with erosion control mats or straw.

The only things left to do are to remove the various pieces of pipe, metal, etc. left by Mr. Taylor that are scattered around the site (scheduled for Trail Day), burn the old trappers cabin (this winter), and control the invasive plant species (ongoing). Danielle d'Auria of the MDIFW joined us at the site and gave her approval of the work.

My thanks to Bucky Owen for his help, to Paul Strout for an excellent job with the excavator, the MDIF&W, the USAEC, and Maine Department of Environmental Protection for their input into the project, and Jerry Longcore for his professional advice.

Editor's note: Many thanks to David Thompson for his professional oversight of this project.)



*Rip-rap replaced concrete structures.  
Photo by Sue Owen*

**100% of  
donations and dues  
paid to OLT  
goes to conservation.**

## (Con't from page 1 Caribou Bog)

CBCA is a four-season recreational area that is both bicycle and dog friendly. To find such a diversified area nearby not under the care of the Orono Land Trust would be difficult. Please remember this area if you are considering making a donation or renewing a membership with OLT. The Orono Land Trust cares about the interests and sporting activities of its members and of the people in the surrounding communities. The new bridges were built as part of a mutual effort between the Land Trust and the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA)- Penobscot Region Chapter. Pat Audet and his friend Jake from Maine Tree and Landscape in Bangor donated the cedar.



*Above: Logs ready for milling into boards.  
Below: Cut lumber ready for placement in new trails.  
Photos by Kris Sornberger*



## It's a What? A Pseudoscorpion!

Well it is that time again—autumn—the time for cleaning up the yard, the garden, the garage, the basement, and the house so as to have things in order for the oncoming winter. My wife Joyce and I were sorting through some stacks of catalogues, newsletters, and other accumulated papers when she found a small (4 mm or 0.2 inches long) organism that resembled a small tick. It did look like a tick, but it had some long pincers, more like a crab spider that waits for prey then uses those pincers to catch an unfortunate moth, butterfly or fly. A quick scan of my copy of *SPIDERS AND THEIR KIN*, of the Golden Guides series (authors Herbert and Lorna Levi) revealed that we had found a specimen of the House Pseudoscorpion (*Chelifer cancroides*), a cosmopolitan species that feeds mainly on the clothes moth, carpet beetle larvae, book-lice, mites, and even bed-bugs. Although they are rarely seen because they are so secretive, most species, of which there are nearly 200, live in leaf litter, moss, manure, and under debris. These organisms do have poison glands in their pincers, but poison is used only on the small invertebrates on which it feeds—its pincer is too small to bite a human. It can walk forward and backward and it has a fascinating mating system. Because this is a family newsletter I will not describe the details, but advise you to consult the authors of the guide listed above or “google” for more information online. My encounter with this tiny organism reinforces my amazement of the diversity of the biological world and the role each organism plays in the scheme of things.



Photo by J.R. Longcore  
House Pseudoscorpion  
(*Chelifer cancroides*)  
Enlarged from 0.2 inches

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## Historic Canoe Race

OLT's Webmaster Erik da Silva, with his wife Laura and son Willoughby, (see photo) watch the first boat of the 1st **Bashabez Canoe Run** from Indian Island to Brewer. The race highlighted the historic Native American route and commemorated the free-flowing Penobscot River after the removal of the Veazie and Great Works dams.

Photo and article by Mike Opitz



Save the date: October 18, 2014  
Fall Trail Day





## Orono Festival Day

OLT participated in the Orono Festival again this year. It turned out to be a hot, sunny day rather than the predicted downpour! We enjoyed seeing so many people at our booth. It was particularly exciting to have people offer to volunteer on projects. We appreciate all the towns efforts to make the festival such a special event.

*Gail White and Melissa Burch (seen in picture on left) did a wonderful job of manning the booth. (Photo with Gail White's camera)*

**Save the Date:  
October 18, 2014  
Fall Trail Day**

## Dog Policy

OLT has developed a written "dog policy". Dog owners, please check [www.oronolandtrust.org](http://www.oronolandtrust.org) to read the policy. We have listed places dogs are welcome and expectations of the owners. We welcome questions or concerns. Call or email Gail White.(866-0041 / [gpwhite@maine.edu](mailto:gpwhite@maine.edu))

## Annual Mowing Projects

George Smith mowed Peter's Field with great care on August 15 and is contracted to mow other OLT open spaces. Mowing some field is an important conservation practice to sustain wildlife habitat for ground nesting birds and other species that prefer open spaces.



**Visit our website:  
[www.oronolandtrust.org](http://www.oronolandtrust.org)**

**Board of Directors**

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 Pat Thompson, Treasurer  
 Gail White



Orono Land Trust  
 P O Box 4  
 Orono, Maine 04473

RETURN SERVICE  
 REQUESTED

**Calendar**

**October 1, 2014 - Monthly Board meeting**  
**October 18, 2014 - Fall Trail Day**  
**November 5, 2014 - Monthly Board meeting**  
**December 3, 2014 - Monthly Board meeting**

Please check for membership expiration date on your address label.

**ORONO LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please send my newsletter by: \_\_\_\_\_ Email only, \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Postal Mail

Get involved-VOLUNTEER! Go to ([http://oronolandtrust.org/?page\\_id=16](http://oronolandtrust.org/?page_id=16)) to learn more and to volunteer for OLT projects, activities, and committees by completing the Online Volunteer Questionnaire listed on this volunteer webpage.