

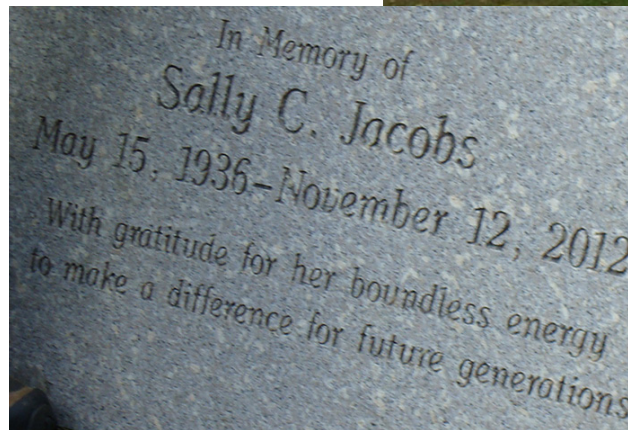
## Sally's Sculpture

Fifty people gathered in Brownie's Park to view a new sculpture erected in honor of our dear founding President, Sally Jacobs.

Sally, a woman responsible for many miles of Maine trails, passed away in November 2012 after a battle with cancer. Her legacy includes the Orono Land Trust, the East Coast Sunrise Trail and other conservation and trail projects throughout Maine.

The granite sculpture, the work of Steuben artist Ray Carbone, was commissioned by Alix Hopkins, a fellow conservationist. The sculpture is an abstract representation of a bird's wing, symbolic of Sally's vibrant energy and knack for transforming her dreams into realities.

It will be enjoyed for years to come.



Photos by Gail White and Sue Owen. Article by Sue Owen

**"With gratitude for her boundless energy to make a difference for future generations."**

**Save the date: March 27th, 2015**  
**OLT Annual Meeting**

## OLT Awarded National Park Service Grant

The Orono Land Trust was successful in attaining a technical assistance grant from the National Park Service (NPS), Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program ([www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm)) in October of 2014. The benefit of the grant is to utilize the NPS for technical assistance to help complete an off-road, rail trail on the former Veazie Railroad bed that runs from Bangor thru Orono to Old Town, on the portions of the old railroad right-of-way that are currently kept in the public domain. This rail trail will be a core link in the Caribou Bog - Penjajawoc Corridor and will physically connect many other non-motorized, 4-season trails and trail systems in Orono, Old Town and Bangor. The possibilities for multi-use, recreational, off-road trail use will be staggering after this project is complete.

*Kris Sornberger*

# Volunteer Opportunities:

All the OLT does is done by volunteers. If you would like to volunteer too, we have listed some of the projects below that we would like to do in the first quarter of the 2015. Pick a project you would like to help with and contact the project supervisor about the details and arrange a date and time that is convenient for both you and the project leader.

1. Walking, brushing out and painting (if necessary) the boundary line of PKCA. Approximate work time is 2 hours in February or March (weather dependent) . Project Leader. Mike Opitz (mopitz@myfairpoint.net) (866-3329).
2. Clear downed trees on property lines on Wickett fee land. Tools provided, two volunteers needed. Project Leader: Jerry Longcore (jnlongcore@myfairpoint.net) (866-3104). Will do in late January or February when bog is frozen (WATCH OLT WEBSITE FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OR CALL JERRY).
- 3., OLT Annual Meeting planning and preparation: March 27th, 2015. Project Leader: Melissa Burch
4. On your own time walk any trail this winter and pick up, cut, or pull off any trail obstructions. Use clippers or a hand saw if you want to. You may do this on your own or with a friend. You don't need a project leader for this. This would be a great help keeping our trails open and passable.

**OLT is a 100% volunteer organization**

## A Heron Colony!

In April the Orono Land Trust received some great news... we were going to have babies! In April we found what appeared to be 3 heron nests on OLT property in the middle of a beaver flow-age. After consulting with Danielle D'Auria, a Biologist at the Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, members of the OLT Board decided to close off two, little-used trails that surround the pond. Herons scare easily, especially at this critical stage of nest building. Herons are in decline in Maine and Danielle, with the help of citizen scientists, heads a project to monitor their colonies. One possible reason for the decline is the very successful efforts to bring back Bald Eagles.

Heron nests in colonies, sometimes containing scores of nests. Three nests were under construction in April, but a month later two were removed, apparently by a storm. The remaining nest fledged 4 chicks. If we're lucky, the successful pair will get out the word and bring in their friends next spring. After all, it's in a quiet neighborhood, with easy access to many amenities, like Orono, a great place to raise kids!

*article and picture by Ron Logan*





# Fall 2014 Trail Day News

THANK YOU to all our wonderful volunteers. It is you who make this day so special. Our preserves can become even better places with many helping hands. Some volunteers worked in two places. A great benefit of working on trail day is that so many knowledgeable people are working who are willing to provide a great education about the preserve and its environments. This fall's work took place in four places.

**Frog Pond:** A path was cleared from Shadbush Lane to Frog Pond, a vernal pool that is a breeding place for wood frogs, spotted salamanders, which have yellow spots, and blue spotted salamanders. Buckthorn was also removed. Thanks go to John Maddaus, Gail White, Kris Hoffman, Melissa Burch, Steve Sader, Nancy Rampe and Gillian Rose. Also, a thank-you to Ron Logan who came a few days earlier and cut fallen trees.

**Caribou Bog Conservation Area:** Fourteen volunteers arrived ready to work and put in 43 hours. Pipes and other debris from this summer's work were cleaned up, drains were removed, branches were chipped and the chips placed on the road to the ponds, and Invasive plants were pulled from around the ponds. Our wonderful volunteers were Sue Estler, Helen and Torsten Halwarm, Dave Thompson, Jerry Longcore, Mike Greenwood, Harry Cunningham, Jim Hinds, Kris Sornberger, Jim White, Ron Logan, Tim Wilson and Bucky and Sue Owen.

**McPhetres Forest:** Six volunteers worked very hard dismantling and removing old rotten bridges. The old bridge material was skidded out with an ATV. New cedar logs were hauled in for construction of a new walking bridge. Some trails were groomed and some hazard trees removed. Thanks go to Mark Leonard, Robyn and William Roope, Don Mackay, Michael Flanders and Dave Wardrop.

**Piney Knoll Conservation Area:** The entrance to the PKCA was stabilized by installing two water bars, building a ditch and filling the area with rocks and gravel. The work was completed by 9 volunteers donating 21 hours. Preceding Trail Day, Rob Yerxa and his crew deposited a load each of rocks and fine gravel at the work site. Erik da Silva, Tim Waring, Jim Rose and Corey Oderman carried two old heavy rail road ties to the site. On Trail Day graduate student Matt Scaccia, along with Melissa Burch, Steve Sader and Mike Opitz, completed the work project by installing the water bars, digging a ditch and filling the eroded area with gravel. Melissa Burch put a special touch to the project by filling and skillfully placing rocks in the ditch. Thanks to all the volunteers for completing this important trail improvement project.



*Jim Hinds, Harry Cunningham, Ron Logan, Bucky Owen, Jerry Longcore and David Thompson (in the tractor) at Pine Ponds.*

*Gail White*

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

Thank you to the friends and family of  
**John Lyman**

who have donated funds to OLT  
per John's wishes.

John was a life member and lands committee  
member with OLT.

His insight and humor are greatly missed.



*Kris Sornberger and his crew at the Orono Landfill*

## Curiosity: Essential for Science, Adds Spice to Life

We probably all have smiled upon hearing the old refrain, “Curiosity killed the cat, but satisfaction brought it back”. This line is related to the original form of the metaphor (i.e., “Care killed the cat”; care is worry or sorrow) and attributed to British playwright Ben Johnson in 1598 (see online Wikipedia). This saying contains a lot of truth, which I hope will emerge in the following. All of us have had to respond to questions from our siblings, offspring, relatives, and friends because of their curiosity. We have all heard the questions: Why? How did that happen? Where did it go? What elicits that flavor? How much did it cost? Are you going home for Christmas? As we near Christmas curiosity will rise for little kids and even some of the big kids about what is in the packages under the tree, which were perhaps purchased on Black Friday. The version of curiosity that I advocate is that of the natural world in which all of the weekdays have some green, even during this stormy winter quarter. In the following example you can see that being curious can be rewarding. Last summer I found a cocoon (a) of an insect species that I did not recognize. I marked its location in the field behind my house and made a note to check it every few days. About 5 days later my curiosity was fulfilled as I found a recently emerged and beautiful Cecropia moth (*Hyalophora cecropia*) (b) drying its wings. As for science, it goes without saying that a researcher without curiosity lacks an essential and inherent quality that allows him/her to seek truth and explain complex phenomena in the environment. I hope that you are curious, but experience (even someone else’s experience) can sometime temper curiosity; therefore, don’t stick your tongue on the metal sled runner when it is below freezing—that action will quickly cure your curiosity and leave you speechless momentarily! You will, however, have the satisfaction of knowing what will happen, and it is not life threatening I can assure you!



Photos by J.R. Longcore Cocoon and adult Cecropia moth

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## Maine Court Affirms Conserved Lands are Tax Free

A small land trust received a major court victory for all land trusts in Maine when the Town of Limington sought to tax conserved property within their town. The court’s legal decision clarified Maine’s property tax exemption stature confirming conserved lands are tax free.

Many land trusts voluntarily pay some or all of the property taxes on their preserves. OLT has fee lands of Piney Knoll Conservation Area, Hsu, Wickett, and Thibodeau in tree growth and pay taxes due to the Towns of Orono and Old Town.



## Storm Damage

The early snowstorm did considerable damage to OLT preserves. Hemlocks, Firs and Cedars were uprooted. Pines and birches lost tops and limbs. All this damage was a heartbreak to see and was also a mammoth effort to clear. A handful of volunteers worked many hours for three weeks to re-open trails. OLT cannot THANK these volunteers enough. Without these dedicated, caring people, our trails would be impassable or OLT

would have to pay for services to have trails maintained.

If you see someone using a trail, ask them to join OLT. Their small dues will go to care of all preserves. Stewards constantly need to rebuild bridges, put wood chips or gravel on trails, corduroy trails and clean up natural and unnatural (litter) debris. Volunteer to help by contacting Mike Opitz at: [mopitz@myfairpoint.net](mailto:mopitz@myfairpoint.net)

*Gail White*

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## Piney Knoll Timber Harvest

The forest harvesting operation on the Piney Knoll Conservation Area began in July and was finished by mid-October. Dave Thompson arranged the contract with logger Gary Frost, who worked with his Timberjack 230 cable skidder. Bob Seymour, assistant steward for the property and professor of silviculture at the University of Maine, marked trees for harvest and retention, and helped to supervise the operation with David. This project was a small step in implementing the forest management plan prepared by consulting forester David Wardrop in 2012, and affected the northern third of the property. Piney Knoll is under Maine's Tree Growth tax program, which requires some level of commercial harvesting.

The project netted \$4,587 of stumpage revenue. The goal was to harvest mature short-lived tree species that would otherwise soon die (aspen and paper birch), plus thin some oak sprout clumps and the overly dense white pine stand. In patches where aspen dominated, about 10% of the trees were marked to stay. The harvest removed 205 cords of hardwood pulpwood (22% of the hardwood pulp on the property), 7,650 board feet of pine sawlogs (5%), 755 board feet of oak (2%), and a small volume of spruce and fir (6 cords, 5%). No hemlock or other species were harvested.

For a more complete pictorial review of this project, see the OLT Facebook page. A tour is planned for later this winter.

— Bob Seymour

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## Inaugural Business Sponsorships

Beginning with the 2015 membership year, the Orono Land Trust initiated a business sponsor membership to help support the land conservation efforts serving the Orono community. We are pleased to welcome our first two business sponsors and appreciate their support:



148 Main St. Orono 04473



9 Alumni Dr, Orono ME 04473

Contact [oronolandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:oronolandtrust@gmail.com) if you would like information about this program.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

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 David Thompson  
 Pat Thompson, Treasurer  
 Gail White



Orono Land Trust  
 P O Box 4  
 Orono, Maine 04473

RETURN SERVICE  
 REQUESTED

**Calendar**

**January 7, 2015 - Monthly Board meeting**  
**February 4, 2015 - Monthly Board meeting**  
**March 4, 2015- 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.