



We are accredited!

Quite an accomplishment for an all volunteer group.



l-r: OLT Board members toast our accomplishment: President Bucky Owen, Bob Seymour, Jerry Longcore, Sue Estler, Sue Owen, Jim Hinds, Genevieve Smith, Gail White, Dave Thompson, Pat Thompson., and Mike Opitz.

We are pleased that our efforts to improve our organization for the long-term have been recognized by the announcement that we have fulfilled all the requirements for Accreditation. The greatest benefit, in my view, is that the process compelled us to assemble and duplicate all of the essential records of the trust to be preserved in perpetuity, and yet accessible by a few strokes on a computer key! Achieving the status of an Accredited land trust should serve to enhance the public's view that we seriously engage in our efforts in the community to conserve open space and recreational areas for use of current and future generations.

Jerry Longcore
Chair, Accreditation Committee

Seeds: Pre-packaged propagules

Every fall plants prepare for the next year by producing some type of propagule to generate a new individual plant in the next growing season. Some plants produce tubers or bulbs that stay underground but many, if not most plants, produce seeds directly from the flower or with seeds encased in its fruit. Many seeds are adorned with practical appendages that enhance dispersal by wind. Examples of these appendages are the wings that surround the seed (i.e., achene) of maple and ash trees or the willowy “parachutes” at the end of thistle or dandelion seeds. Other plants (e.g., burdock and beggar ticks) take the Velcro approach and have hooked spines or awns on the seed or its covering, which stick to your dog’s fur or your pants. Many plants engage the services of mammals and birds to disperse seeds by gift-wrapping their seeds in showy and edible fruits. A good example of this is portrayed in the photo of the contents of the crop of a Maine wild turkey. Note the yellowish pieces of apple and the bright red berries in this mass of food. The berries are that of multiflora rose, which is an introduced species that can aggressively crowd out native plants. Some of the seeds in these berries may be transported miles from where the turkey was obtaining its morning meal, thus widely dispersing this unwelcome plant.



*Contents of a wild turkey crop, including mostly grass, apple pieces, and multiflora rose berries, Monroe, ME.
Photo by J.R. Longcore*

CORRECTION: In Nature Clip Vol. 109, the Latin name of ostrich fern should be *Matteuccia struthiopteris* and not *Pteridium aquilinum*. I have no excuse for the error! JRL



Caribou Bog has New Signs

Many informational signs were created and have been placed on trails in the Caribou Bog Conservation Area. These signs are meant to help folks get around the area and also to allow fire/safety to find someone if needed. Your membership dues helped pay for the sign materials. The photo is of Jim Hinds putting up the Bangor Hill sign.

Article and photo by Gail White

Thank you UM students and UM Bodwell Center

On August 29, the Bodwell Center for Service and Volunteerism organized “Welcome Day” for the UM freshman class to inform them about volunteer opportunities with local community organizations. Twenty-eight students from UM Oxford Hall, led by senior student Aaron Ortiz, volunteered for the Orono Land Trust on Piney Knoll. They helped Steve Sader attack invasive buckthorn and helped PKCA steward Mike Opitz smooth trail surfaces by filling potholes with rocks and gravel.

On September 2, OLT participated at an Organization Fair for student, community and UM campus organizations at the UM Mall. This Fair was an opportunity to introduce OLT to the campus community and to attract student volunteers to assist on OLT projects. Steve Sader, Carter Stone, Sue Estler and Gail White were at hand to talk to students. Ten students filled our Volunteer Questionnaire and others intend to do so online. Many students inquired about our mission and expressed strong support and interest to get involved. *Photo Mike Opitz at OLT booth by Gail White.*



On September 6th, 15 students from the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and their friends, recruited by student Eddie Gonnella, helped Gail White and Mike Opitz with trail work at the Cota land and on the Piney Knoll Conservation Area. They cleaned up the Cota trail by moving stones to another trail for future work, raking gravel and hauling out pieces of the old bridge for the town to take to the dump. The men picked out flat stones offered by the Scofields (thank you, John and Lynn) and placed them on the frog pond trail. On PKCA the students re-set two trail waterbars and then lifted a dozen big heavy boulders that protruded above the trail surface to smooth out the trail surface. All tasks required heavy work and they did it with a smile.

We really appreciated all the help we received. Thank you students! It made a big difference to our all-volunteer organization. The students helped to complete all the work planned for this day and we hope the volunteers also had a good experience and that many will stay involved as volunteers. We look forward to seeing many of these students on our trails and them being good stewards of the Natural Areas preserved by the Orono Land Trust.

On the BOARDWALK

If Orono Land Trust members want to get out in the crisp, fall weather and enjoy the peaking array of brilliant colors consider visiting the Orono Bog Boardwalk during the scheduled work session that starts the weekend of October 17-18. Work will continue until 48 of the old wooden sections are removed and replaced by the new composite sections, unless the weather becomes unbearable! So, bring your boots and gloves and join the robust cadre of volunteers to improve another segment of this well-used community facility. By the time you receive the Newsletter some of the work will have been completed, but many tasks will remain so please join the effort.



For more information visit the website <http://umaine.edu/oronobogwalk/> Photo by: J.R. Longcore



Another New Bridge

On Sept. 26th a group lead by Kris Sornberger removed a plank bridge and put in a stone bridge in the Jeremiah Colburn Natural Area. This job required several strong people to gather and place huge, flat rocks. The new bridge is spectacular. Helping Kris were his children, Paige and Cole. Also Bob McDonough with dog, (Ellie), Jon Erikson, Greg Sivik, Mark Erhardt and Gail White participated.

Article and photo by Gail White



Fall Trail Day

A Big Successful Thanks to wonderful volunteers!

With the the help of 11 hardworking volunteers, including 4 UM students, 3 OLT board members, 2 OLT members, 1 Orono resident and 2 eager kids, we completed 4 trail improvement projects on Piney Knoll Conservation Area (PKCA). We repaired a bog bridge that was shifted during the last big storm, dug a drainage ditch along a hill, completed graveling a low trail segment, and cleaned up and leveled a trail segment that was recently modified with an excavator by the Strout company under the guidance of OLT Chief Steward Dave Thompson. Our volunteers were UM students Nick Lynn and Jake Spaulding (both of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity), UM students Benton Schwartz and Joe Burger, Chris Kirby, OLT members Steven Sader, Nancy Rampe, Mike Opitz, Erik da Silva, and Laura Leighton and their kids Wynn and Willoughby also participated.
Mike Opitz

Veazie workers cleared trails on the Manter CE and McPhetres Forest. When done, everyone ate some of the nuts they found on the properties. Emma found a huge oak leaf which Sammy is shown holding. Workers were Sarah Hartford, Ama Ruiz-Nelson, Dave Wardrop with kids, Emma and Sammy.
David Wardrop

Joyce and Jerry Longcore cleared the blowdowns on the Wiclett property.
J.R. Longcore



Some of the volunteers on the Hsu property: Julian Wiggins, Jim White, Ben Hale, Dave Cassidy and Kate Locke.

We had a great turn out for the Trail Day project on the Hsu property. Dave Thompson, Gail White, Jim White, Sue Owen, Bucky Owen, Dave Cassidy, Ben Hale and Julian Wiggins cleared blowdowns and cut brush and overhanging limbs along the trail on the Hsu property. We had such a good group that we then went over to the CBCA and worked on the Caribou, Beaver, and Porcupine Trails in anticipation of the coming ski season. Thanks for the good work!
Kate Locke

Thank you Volunteers for making this day such a success! *Gail White, Co-Chief Steward*

Orono Land Trust Receives Stewardship Assistance from the County

During the week of August 16 thru 23, a crew of three Penobscot County Community Works Project workers and a Deputy Sheriff “Mike” worked on Orono Land Trust Lands. They arrived in a van pulling an enclosed trailer with their tools ready to assist with three projects.

The first stop was the “Cota Trail”. Gail White and a crew of volunteers had started the project and had completed about 100 feet. During the next two and one-half days this crew moved about 22 cubic yards of 2 inch minus ledge gravel and about 10 cubic yards of small rocks. The material was moved by three small dump carts that the crew loaded and pulled in by hand. It was hot and humid but they worked with only a few breaks for water. We installed a 9” diameter culvert where an intermittent stream crossed the trail. There were several places of deep fill (12” to 18”) that was shored up with 6” diameter round poles held in place by wooden stakes driven into the ground. About 600 feet of the trail is now completed, which takes us past the wet areas and through the worst holes. Next year we plan to complete the last 100 feet to the OLT-Colburn line.



The second project involved installing several water bars on the Penobscot Street end of one of the Piney Knoll Conservation Area trails. When this was completed they used five-foot long iron bars (crow bars) to remove 65 rocks from Trail Eleven to the main trail and then down the main trail to the top of the hill. PKCA Steward, Mike Opitz, subsequently had a crew of volunteers who filled all the holes with small stones cleared from the trail and topped with gravel.



The third project was to clear the bank of brush and small trees between the grassy area of Brownie’s Park and Bennoch Road. This involved the use of OLT’s DR mower that did a great job grinding up the smaller brush while a chainsaw and several brush saws cut the larger brush on the bank. All the material cut was hauled down to the flat area cleared by the DR mower and piled for the Town Maintenance crew to chip. (Chipping was done several days later,)

I worked with this crew all week accompanied by Gail White on Cota Trail and

Brownies Park, Jerry Longcore on the Cota Trail and Mike Opitz on PKCA. The three workers and the Deputy Sheriff in charge worked hard and efficiently all week without any problems. They were courteous and pleasant and I thanked them all when they left on Friday. OLT was grateful for work well done!!

Photos by Gail White and Dave Thompson, Co-Chief Stewards, Article by Dave Thompson

Thank you to Dana Smith

Dana Smith of **Yardsmith** donated this small tractor to the Orono Land Trust. The tractor already has been put to use on PKCA for moving rocks and gravel for trail improvement projects.



Article and photo by Mike Opitz

Beaver Deceiver

In August Skip Lisle, of Beaver Deceivers International, helped install a beaver deceiver along the railroad bed. This will maintain water level in the wetland, dry out the trail, and prevent flooding.



Inaugural Sponsorships by Orono Businesses

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

Cardinal Supporters: \$250-\$499

Casco Bay Energy
125 Shore Road, Veazie

People's United Bank
69 Main Street, Orono

Black Bear Brewery
19 Mill St. Orono

Rainstorm Consulting
148 Main St. Orono

Hawkes & Mehnert LLP,
6 State St. #600, Bangor

Orono - Old Town Kiwanis

Chicadee Supporter: \$100 - \$249

Dirigo Pines Retirement Community

Contact oronolandtrust@gmail.com if you would like information about this program.

Board of Directors

Melissa Burch
 Erik daSilva, Secretary
 Sue Estler
 Jim Hinds, Past President
 Kate Locke
 Jerry Longcore
 Mike Opitz
 Bucky Owen, President
 Sue Owen, Clerk
 Steve Sader
 Bob Seymour
 Chuck Simpson
 Genevieve Smith
 Kris Sornberger
 Carter Stone
 Kent Tableman
 David Thompson
 Pat Thompson, Treasurer
 Gail White



Orono Land Trust
 P O Box 4
 Orono, Maine 04473

RETURN SERVICE
 REQUESTED

Calendar

November 4, 2015- Monthly Board meeting
December 2, 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

_____ Business Sponsor \$100 to \$1000

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) to learn more and to volunteer for OLT projects, activities, and committees by completing the Online Volunteer Questionnaire listed on this volunteer webpage.