

OLT Annual Meeting set for March 31

Friday, March 31 is the date for the next annual meeting to be held at The Keith Anderson Community House, 19 Bennoch Rd., Orono. A social gathering will start at 6:30pm, with refreshments, and then at 7pm, the corporate membership meeting will commence. All members are invited. Business to be conducted includes an election of board members. The program this year will feature Dr. Kristine Hoffmann presenting "*Vernal Pools for Me - an outreach project.*" See agenda, page 6.

Mellow: A Great (Blue Heron) story

By Bucky Owen

ORONO -- In late spring last year, Danielle D'Auria with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), students from Old Town High School (OTHS) under the direction of Rad Mayfield, and biologists from the non-profit, "1000 Herons", based in North Carolina, gathered at Pine Pond in the Caribou Bog Conservation area to capture and radio tag a Great Blue Heron with a GPS transmitter. Pine Pond is about ¼ mile from a fledgling heron rookery in a nearby beaver flowage. Last year three active nests produced four young.

On June 17th, the team lured a heron into an area baited with minnows and captured her using modified foothold traps. Within minutes of capture she was measured, a blood sample taken, and the transmitter attached. The team named her "Mellow" because she was so docile.

Mellow immediately returned to her nest site, raised three fine chicks, and spent the rest of the summer visiting many wetlands in the area. She continued using Pine Pond regularly, but expanded her range to include a series of abandoned beaver flowages in the northern

(Continued on page 2)



Photo by Danielle D'Auria

Radio-tagging Mellow the Great Blue Heron last spring.

Conservation IPA is back thanks to Black Bear Brewery in Orono

Tim Gallon of Black Bear Brewery has announced the upcoming 2nd release of "Conservation IPA" in honor of the OLT. On March 24 "Conservation IPA" will be made available to the public. Black Bear Brewery will have a band at their taproom to celebrate the release. A portion of beer sales will be donated to OLT. Come on down to visit and enjoy the fun with family, friends and neighbors at the Black Bear Brewery.

Mellow the heron

(Continued from page 1)

portion of Caribou Bog near Poplar Street and wetlands situated between I-95 and Bennoch Road. Rad and I confirmed that these areas contained many frogs in addition to minnows.

Numbers of nesting Great Blue Herons have been declining along the coast and MDIFW is interested in learning about and protecting key wetlands. These radio-tagged birds are showing us the way! OTHS students embraced this project in several ways. They caught minnows for bait, monitored the capture site with remote cameras, and helped apply the transmitter. I joined one of Rad's students on a bitter December day when he flew his personal drone over the nesting area and adjoining feeding areas. We had a "bird's eye view" of the heron's home range. The pictures were extraordinary! Another student has taken water depth and aquatic plant samples at the nesting area, while a third is correlating Mellow's movements with weather conditions. The latter two students will present their projects at the Maine Science Fair.

In mid fall, the transmitter stopped sharing locations probably because feathers covered the solar panel. This was a disappointment as MDIFW wanted to know about migration routes, stopover areas, and wintering locations. Miraculously in early November, Mellow came back on line. She had taken advantage of President Obama's relaxation of travel restrictions and flown to eastern Cuba, headquartered in a series of wetlands called Playa La Boca on the north coast. As I write this she is still in Cuba and we are expecting her back this spring. A second heron captured in Palmyra

is spending the winter in Haiti while a third is in south-central Florida after a nonstop flight from northern Massachusetts! No one expected such long distance migrations by these wonderful birds.

In the meantime, the Orono Land Trust has seasonally closed some trails and rerouted others to protect the integrity of the new rookery in "Heron Flowage." You can follow Mellow's exploits by going on line to: movebank.org, clicking on the Tracking Data Map, search for "Egrets & Herons", click on the "+" next to it, and then click on the "+" by Mellow. You can even place her sightings on Google Earth and see what types of places she is visiting.

***N**ote: MDIFW is looking for more teachers and students who are interested in tracking the herons and using the data in their classrooms. For more about the Heron Tracking Project, including detailed instructions for tracking the birds online and ideas for incorporating the data into classroom studies, please visit <http://www.maine.gov/wordpress/ifwheron/tracking-project/>, or contact Danielle D'Auria, danielle.dauria@maine.gov. Rad also is willing to discuss the involvement of students as citizen scientist cooperators with anyone who wants to contact him (radaves@gmail.com).*

Mark your calendar!
OLT 2017 Spring Trail Day,
April 22

Bicycling to Bowlin Camps Lodge through the National Monument in February

By Kris Sornberger

MATAGAMON -- Winter bicycling at Katahdin Woods and Water National Monument has great rewards. The 27-mile loop ride was a fantastic day for fat-bike riders, Erik daSilva, Kris Sornberger and Luke Cushman. The day began at the Matagamon gate on the way-North end of the new park. Riding on the packed edge of the groomed Nordic ski trails, we made our way south on a trail paralleling the East Branch of the Penobscot River. However, the trail was not even necessary for biking due to the snow in the woods and everywhere else was covered with a thick hard ice crust from the previous weeks freezing rain weather onslaught. The studded 3-4 inch wide fat tires our bikes rode upon gripped this concrete-like layer on the snow-top for easy pedaling.

We rode with undaunted freedom thru the woods, on the trail, into bowls and channels and onto any other fun environmental feature found nearby. The weather this day was a bone chilling-cold in the morning but by afternoon, layers were shed in the heat.

After passing two Nordic skiers in the morning, we made our way to the first public use cabin, the Haskell Hut. The wood stove was still hot from the previous nights residents. Overlooking the Penobscot River, this was a place to fill our bellies and to contemplate when our next camping trip here will be. Leaving the warmth of the cabin, we made our way toward the Big Spring Brook Hut. This cabin was nestled in the basin area farther away from the river. The air here was colder. There were more signs of wildlife here with moose tracks and moose scat dotting the front yard. The cabin had a scenic view of a stream in the nearby gully. Each cabin was clean and well maintained, offering sleeping quarters, propane lights, and a kitchen with a propane stove.



Photo courtesy of Bowlin Camps

OLT board members Kris Sornberger and Erik daSilva, along with Luke Cushman rode a 27-mile fat-bike trail last month in the new Woods and Waters National Monument lands.

We now headed toward the highlight of the day. On an untrodden trail, after a brief up hill climb, we descended toward the river on the concrete-like, crusted over snow. Fast and treacherous at times, using skidding stops to avoid leaning over trees occasionally led to crashes. The studded tires made a big difference on this ice. The upcoming reward near the river was Bowlin Camps Lodge.

After crossing the suspension bridge over the river, we made our way into the café. Homemade chili, chicken soup and beef stew were on special. We were the first visitors for the day there and the first bicycling visitors there ever. The staff there were outstanding. They brought us hot beverages, hot food, and took our photos for the website. We signed the guest book and explored the lounge's museum of taxidermy. They had a stuffed bear, coyote, marten, fox furs, moose and deer antlers and an ancient, locally-found caribou antler. The garage

(Continued on page 7)

Think of Spring! Build a bee nesting block!

To shake off the doldrums of overcast winter skies, sleet and slush, and bone-chilling cold followed by dreary rain think of spring. Spring, when flowers are breaking into bloom and the sounds of humming bees fill the warming air.

Bee species are essential pollinators of the flowers we love to see and the garden crops we eat. It has been alleged that 1 of every 3 bites of food we eat can be attributed to pollinating activities of bees that pollinate three-fourths of our crops. Of the 4,000 native bee species in North America, about 30% (1,200 species) nest in small tunnels in plant stems, or old, wood-boring beetle holes and such.

Females of these tunnel-nesting species build partitions in the tunnels to create a row of brood cells. The female then adds a mixture of pollen and nectar to each cell in the tunnel before she lays an egg in each cell. These eggs then develop through the larval and pupal stages before emerging as an adult, usually in the following year to restart the cycle.

To help provide nesting sites, 4x4" or 4x6" non-preserved treated blocks of wood can be drilled in a series of holes ($\frac{3}{32}$ " - $\frac{3}{8}$ " in dia.) on one side of the block. The center of the holes should be $\frac{3}{4}$ " apart. Easy to follow instructions can be obtained from the Xerces Society for

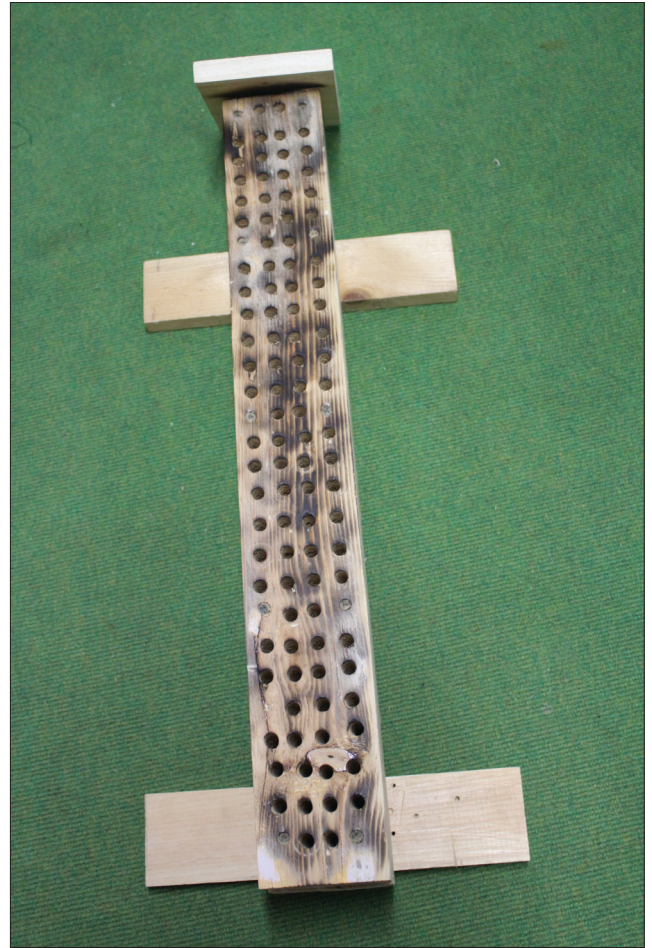


Photo by J.R. Longcore

Provide nesting sites for our pollinator friends by building a bee block, a great addition to your garden.

Invertebrate Conservation (www.xerces.org). The photo above depicts the bee block that I constructed one weekend this winter.

Stewards needed - Join with OLT

Taking the time to know a preserved area can be very rewarding. If you have any interest in becoming an OLT steward, we need you. Please contact Gail White (207-866-0041 or gpwhite@maine.edu) and she will tell you about being a steward and work with you regarding a preserve area. Thank You.

OLT Membership List as of February 2017

Life Members

Janet & John Alexander
Karna Olsson & Phil Brown
Melissa Burch & Jim Bulteel
Woody Carville
Becky & David Chase
Barbara Clark
Sarah & William Clark
Betsy Weiss & David Clement
Ron & Lee Davis
Mary Louis Kurr Davitt
Evelyn Dearborn
Mary Cathcart & Jim Dearman

Chris Dorion
Dorothy & George Dorion
Cindy & Bob Dunlap
Nancy & Charles Grant
Susan & Michael Greenwood
Brent S. Halsey
Joyce & Paul Harris
Lianne & Walter Harris
Sherman Hasbrouck
James & Patricia Hinds
Ray Hintz
Karen Boucias & George Jacobson
Jay Johnson
Steve Keleti
George Kurr

Thela & Roger Leach
Joyce & Jerry Longcore
Nancy MacKnight
John Manter
George Markowsky
Peg Martin
Shane Martin
John & Leigh McCarthy
Rachel & Paul Means
Emily Wesson & Peter Millard
Jane & Robert Miller
Caroline Morris
Janet & Paul Murphy
Michael Opitz
Sue & Bucky Owen

Connie & Tom Perry
Mick & MaryJane Peterson
Nancy & Glenn Rampe
Pernille & David Renado
Kris & Steven Sader
David Sewall
David & Patricia Thompson
Sharon & Paul Tisher
Trudy & Wendall Tremblay
Travis Baker & Holly Twining
Donna & Leith Wadleigh
Gail & James White
Jeremy & Katie Wilson
Jean & Frank Woodard

Annual Members

Randy & Lyn Adkins
Beverly Antonitis
Eisso Atzema & Molly MacLean
John Banks
Katherine Carter & Dave Baxter
Jack & Cindy Blease
Stan Borodko
Kathy Bourgoin
Mary Boyd
Andy & Tonya Brown & Family
Alice & Mitchell Bruce
Todd & Denise Burpee
Polly Camp
Jean Campana
Drs. Adrienne & David Carmack
Mike & Teri Carr
Ed Brazee & Connie Carter
David Cassidy
Lea & Tom Cassidy
Bill & Kathy Childs
Beth White & Margaret Clancy
Beth Cuddy & Harry Cunningham
Merrill Milham & Ann Davidoff
Christina Diebold
Cheryl and Larry Drake
Beth & Tom Drummond
Sandi & Bob Duchesne
Gerald & Donna Dwyer

Mary Ann & Rick Eason
Max J & Stefanie Egenhofer
Shirley Ellis
Sue Estler
Lisa Feldman
Cecile Ferguson
Brent & Paula Folster
Irja Frank
Kathy Lyons & David Frankel
Gretchen Gfeller
John & Carol Gregory
Edward Grew
Conrad & Fran Griffin
Michael & Valerie Griffin
John & Ginny Hackney
Terry & Frances Haines
Fiona Sorensen Hamilton
Kenneth & Cathy Hanscom
Nancy & Tom Harrigan
Amber Roth & Dan Haskell
Francois Amar & Karen Hover
John Halloran & Leslie Hudson
John Maddaus & Elizabeth Johns
Sandra Johnson
Kerry Clark Jordan
Harvey & Patricia Kail
Alice & Joe Kelley
Laurie Hicks & Roger King
Eloise Kleban
Rissa Moore & Linda Koehler

Eric & Janette Landis
Eric Peterson & Kristin Langellier
Valerie & David Levy
Meg & Ron Logan
Stephanie and Greg Lull
Bruce & Terry Malmer
Elizabeth Mares
Irene von Hoffman &
John McCormack
Michael Landry & Holly McDaniel
Debra Merrill
Donald & Paula Moore
Desiree Butterfield-Nagy &
Ed Nagy
Virginia Nees-Hatlen
P. Scott Nichols
Sarah Nickerson
Todd & Laurie O'Brien
Sue Erich & Stom Ohno
Kathryn Olmstead
Richard Brucher & Elizabeth Payne
Bryan & Deta Pearce
Marisue & John Pickering
Paula Pietrowski
Linda Pletka
Oliver Putzeys
Geoff Gratwick & Lucy Quimby
Eloise Ricciardelli
Mindy Crandall & Jim Rose
James & Gillian Rose

Deanna Prince & Phil Ruck
Margaret Russell
Mary & David Sanger
David & Rose Scheidt
Paul & Mary Hough Schroeder
Jessica Leahy & Bob Seymour
Jessica Smith
Jason & Sharon Stoner
Kay & Dick Storch
Jennifer Story
Judy & James Sucec
Linda Swackhamer
Kent Tableman
Brian Tilley
Thomas Spitz & Lenore Tipping
Christa Schwintzer & John
Tjepkema
David Koffman & Michelle Toder
David Flewelling & Gail Tunstead
Norman Van Valkenburgh
Amy VanKirk, M.D.
Jake & Debora Ward
Margo Koning-Wells &
Mark Wells
Tim & Debbie White
Barbara Wicks
Eve Wolinsky
Marian & Clair Wood
Nancy Leavitt &
David Yarborough

Orono Land Trust 30th Annual Meeting

Keith Anderson Community House,
19 Bennoch Road, Orono

Friday, March 31, 2017

6:30 p.m. - Social Gathering with Refreshments
7:00 p.m. - Annual Corporate Membership Meeting
Secretary's Annual Report - Erik daSilva
Treasurer's Annual Report - Gerry Dwyer
Outgoing President's Annual Report - Bucky Owen
Old Business
New Business / Announcements
2017 Spring Trail Day, April 22
MLTN 2017 Land Conservation Conference - Topsham
Outgoing Board members
Election of Board Members: to be announced
Adjourn

Program: *"Vernal Pools for Me - an outreach project "*
by Dr. Kristine Hoffmann

To follow: Board Meeting
Welcome to returning and new members
Secretary's Report - Erik DaSilva
Treasurer's Report - Pat Thompson
Incoming President - Pat Thompson
Old business
New business
Adjourn

Next Annual Meeting: April 2018

Program Featuring: Dr. Kristine Hoffmann

Dr. Hoffmann grew up with a vernal pool in her back yard in Massachusetts. She earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts, and headed south to study invasive treefrogs for her Master's degree at the University of Florida. She then taught biology at the University of Virginia's College at Wise before returning to school to earn her doctorate at the University of Maine.

Kris just defended her dissertation on Unisexual and Blue-Spotted Salamander ecology this January, and conducted some of this research on lands managed by the Orono Land Trust. Kris is now a Post-Doctoral Researcher and continues to work on amphibian ecology.



Photo by L. Swackhamer

Hirundo Wildlife refuge, spring 2016.

Winter biking

(Continued from page 3)

area was home to old logging tools and other relics dating back to the beginning of the industrial revolution. We left there with full minds and full bellies, having a glimpse into the history and life-blood of Maine.

This was the turning point before we rode North again along the river. We took a fresh untouched singletrack trail. The only other tracks were of other forest critters. We stopped to investigate a fresh otter slide down the steep river bank that ended at the river's edge. I think the otters were having as much fun as we were gliding along on the ice-covered snow. Fully satisfied, we ended the round trip route slightly after dark, wondering when we will return.



Photo by Erik da Silva

Kris Sornberger and Luke Cushman cross a bridge on Woods and Waters National Monument trails during a recent trip.



Business Sponsorships

The Orono Land Trust initiated a business sponsor membership in 2015 to help support land conservation efforts serving the Orono area community. Our business sponsors are a model for community partnerships. We appreciate the many ways they further the mission of the Orono Land Trust..

Cardinal Level Sponsors (\$250-\$500)

Black Bear Brewing Co
Dirigo Pines Retirement Community
Hawkes & Mehnert LLC, Orono, Me
Peoples United Bank TD

Chickadee Level Sponsors (\$100-\$250)

Alpenglow Mountain Sports, Orono
Casco Bay Energy, Veazie
Orono-Old Town Kiwanis
Rainstorm Consulting, Orono
Rose Bicycle, Orono

Board of Directors

Melissa Burch
Tom Cassidy
Bill Childs
Erik daSilva, Secretary
Sue Estler
Gerry Dwyer, Treasurer
Jim Hinds
Kate Locke
Jerry Longcore
Molly McLean
Mike Opitz
Bucky Owen, President
Sue Owen, Clerk
Steve Sader
Linda Swackhamer
Kris Sornberger
Carter Stone
David Thompson
Pat Thompson, Vice President
Gail White



Orono Land Trust
PO Box 4,
Orono, Maine 04473

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

**DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY**

Calendar

Monthly Board Meetings - April 12, May 17, June 14
Spring Trail Day - April 22

Please check for membership expiration date on your address label above.

Orono Land Trust Membership Application

Name: _____ Preferred email: _____

Address: _____ Preferred phone: _____

_____ \$10 Student Membership

_____ \$25 Individual Membership

_____ \$50 Family Membership

_____ \$100- \$999 Supporting Membership

_____ \$1000 Life Membership

Business Memberships

_____ \$100+ Chickadee Membership

_____ \$250+ Cardinal Membership

_____ \$500+ Loon Membership

_____ \$1000+ Eagle Membership

Donation only

for _____

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

Please send my newsletter by: email only _____ US Postal Mail _____

Get involved! VOLUNTEER!

Go to oronolandtrust.org to learn more and to volunteer for OLT projects, activities and committees by completing the online Volunteer Questionnaire listed on our volunteer webpage.