

Serving Orono and surrounding Communities



Visit to former Mill Site in Veazie

On May 22, 2016, folks gathered at the former Veazie Dam site to listen to Laura Rose Day, Director of the Penobscot River Restoration Trust, speak about the amazing transformation of the area. The dam has been removed along with all buildings. The Town of Veazie is being offered the area as a recreation park. Laura spoke about the return of several fish species including alewives, shad and salmon. Along with the fish returning, birds such as eagles, ospreys and hawks are right behind. This site, with the lowered river, reveals the boon area for the former large logging companies. There used to be 30 or so saw mills between Orono, Veazie and Bangor. Laura told people that the power generation from the Orono dams on the Stillwater River in Orono and Stillwater are producing more energy than the removed dams at Veazie, Bangor, Great Works and Howland together. The gift of land from the Trust to the Town of Veazie is currently in it's final stages. This is a beautiful sight with significant water frontage. (Con't pg 3)

Gail White and Dave Wardrop



Laura Rose Day describes the transformation at the former Veazie Mill site.

Picture by Sue Owen

Trail Day May, 2016

Spring Trail Day was an excellent day to get outside. Many Thanks go to all volunteers who gathered to make a difference to the trail systems in and around Orono. Accomplishments were as follows:

Cota Trail & Cromwell Drive Entrance:

Gail White was joined by 5 excellent volunteers, Julian Wiggins, Ben Alexander, David Levy, Jim White and Gillian Rose. The boundary lines on the Cota land were cut and brushed out. Ben hoed out a brook bed so the water on the Cota land would flow better. After the work on the Cota Land, Julian, Gillian, Jim and Gail went to Cromwell Drive and cleared several trees semi blocking the trail entrance.

CBCA - Newman Hill:

Jim Hinds and Harry Cunningham each put 35-45 pounds of flat rocks in backpacks and carried them up to a depression in the Newman Hill Trail that has water in it after a rain or in the spring. Then they trimmed the woody plants on the side of the trail. Harry then joined the work crew on the Heron Bypass Trail for the rest of the morning.

Piney Knoll:

Mike Opitz and John Tjepkema worked to uproot invasive non-native honeysuckle plants. Left to clear is only a small area of about 2 acres that was covered completely with this plant 4 years ago.

Orono Bog Boardwalk:

Beyond our usual work crew, Jerry Longcore and four volunteers spent most of the day in clean-up and preparing the boardwalk for opening on May 1st. The volunteers were Emily Murray (Wellness Center in Brewer), Nathan McCarthy (Milford), Sean Joyce (UM student) and Ben Hale (Orono). This crew helped remove and transfer two rotten wooden sections to the junk pile, put caps on pipes, mark section tags, remove kiosk covers, clean debris off the boardwalk, and performed many spur-of-the-moment requests.

CBCA – Railroad bed:

Dave Thompson hauled 4 large loads of rocks to repair the Veazie Railroad bed where it was disintegrating near Black Pond. Dave did all the work by himself.

CBCA – Dorion South:

17 Volunteers gathered at the far end of CBCA to work on a large trail re-route project. This was a lot of very hard work, but by the end of the day the new trail was complete. This new trail brings users away from a very sensitive conservation area.

Private Property adjacent to OHS land:

On the morning of April 24th, Gail White, Greg Sivic and Grant Miles re-routed a section of trail too close to a landowner's home at the end of Westwood Drive. Glenn and Nancy Rampe, along with Gail, did some finishing work on the new trail in the afternoon. On Trail Day weekend the Rampe's did some trail clearing and yellow blazing of trails. These are beautiful woods, which are blazed in yellow to denote private property. Please be respectful of the homeowners' privacy. We are grateful for their generosity in allowing public use of the trails.

Gail White and David Thompson

Elections at the Annual Meeting

Elected for a three-year term ending in 2019:

Jerry Longcore, Carter Stone, Pat Thompson, Gail White

Election of Officers

Bucky Owen - President

Pat Thompson - Vice President

Gerry Dwyer - Treasurer

Erik daSilva - Secretary

Sue Owen - Clerk



Emma and Sammy Wardrop in large White oak.



David Wardrop leads hikers (r)

Pictures by Sue Owen

(Con't from pg 1)

Board visits Veazie Properties

Following the tour of Veazie's proposed riverside park at the old Veazie Dam site, members were led by Town Forester David Wardrop on a tour of Veazie-owned McPhetres Forest, newly town-acquired Davis Forest, and the Manter Easement. The Davis Forest now formally connects McPhetres Forest with Manter Wood, a connection long desired since Manter Wood became a public trail. New maps will be available later this year.

American Robin Nests are Where You Find Them — Everywhere!

The American Robin (*Turdus migratorius* L.) is a common bird of the thrush family (Turdidae) distributed throughout North America and is no stranger to the backyards of human dwellings throughout its range. As a common and abundant species in contact with humans in urban areas it is easy to forget that even deep in the north woods of Maine they are a common nester. Several years ago I found two robin nests, one on the top of a snapped off, dead tree, and one on an outer branch of a live balsam fir tree, both in Baxter State Park miles from structures built by humans. Closer to home a robin nest usually can be found on one of the logs projecting from the Cabin at the Orono Bog Boardwalk trailhead in the Bangor City Forest. I also noted a robin nest on the top of a steer skull that was nailed to the wall of a greenhouse on Essex Street in Bangor. In my backyard on Bennoch Road a few years ago a bird flew out from under my over-turned canoe, and sure enough, I found a robin nest there. This year every time I walked by my canoe rack a robin flew out from a roll of wire lying next to a canoe. When I looked into the roll I saw the nest (a), which contained 3 eggs (b), that ultimately hatched 3 young (c) and these young fledged later. Robins continue to frequent the backyard and I believe it is to feed on the fruits in the serviceberry (*Amenlanchier* sp.) copse, but a robin continued to flush from the grape arbor and I found another robin nest with one egg; two more eggs were laid and now the female is incubating. Nesting materials vary somewhat, but mud is used in most to build up walls of the nest, which is lined with grass stems and blades. I always find it fun to find a bird nest, especially for those species that are creative in choosing a nesting site.



b



c



Photo captions: (a) Robin nest in roll of wire, (b) three eggs in nest, and (c) three newly hatched young in nest.

Photos by J. R. Longcore

Special Volunteers

The Penobscot County Sheriff's inmates work detail participated in several projects for the Orono Land Trust this spring. The Cota trail leading from Forest Avenue to the south side of the Jeremiah Colburn reserve took a big step towards completion as another load of screened gravel was spread by the inmates along the trail. The trail improvements now extend from Forest Avenue across the Cota Parcel and about 100 feet into the Colburn Lot. Later this year, we hope to get another load of 2" minus ledge gravel to surface the last 200 feet of the trail. We anticipate moving this material with the recently purchased tractor and a small trailer.

In addition, the inmates worked one day with Mike Opitz on PKCA removing invasive species. Mike has done a remarkable job of removing invasive species, especially honeysuckle from PKCA. Although he has been assisted by volunteers and inmates, Mike has done much of the work himself. Mike continues to watch the restored area and to make recommendations for subsequent steps to continue restoration to its native species.

The last task performed by the inmates was to cut and pile the small trees and shrubs around Sally's Memorial at the "bubble". A number of hazardous dead poplar trees also were cut and piled.

Dave Thompson

ON THE BOARDWALK

It is financial crunch time for the Orono Bog Boardwalk reconstruction project! The job is half done, that is, 251 new composite sections have been installed. We lack about \$14,000 to have the needed funds for the next 48 new sections. To keep on schedule we need to raise these dollars by August 17th to ensure that our supplier has the time to manufacture the 48 sections by early October when we would start installing them. As you can see in this image, the reconstructed boardwalk is a gem!

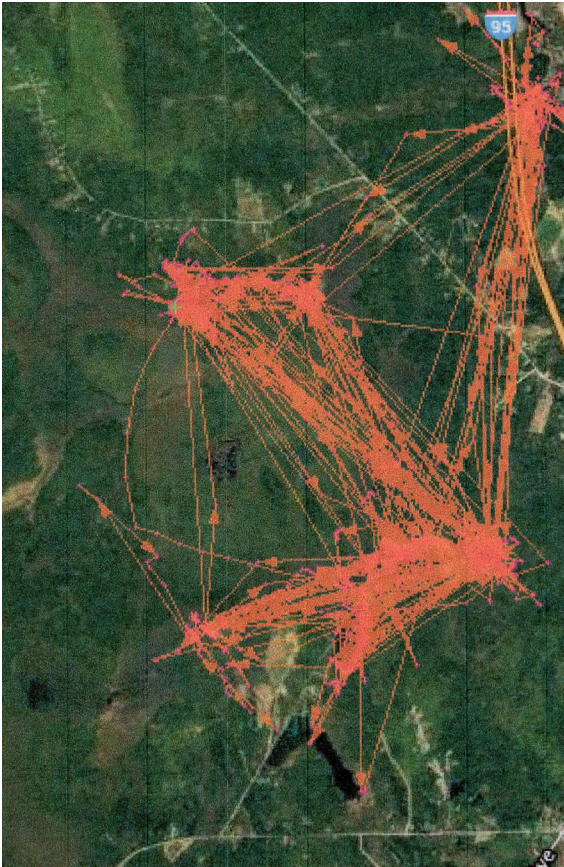
J.R. Longcore



Welcome Bill and Molly to the OLT Board

Bill Childs is a retired engineer from Bangor who is a hands-on, get-things-done kind of guy. Bill's wife, Katie, is right there with him for most field activities. Bill has helped with the Bangor Land Trust and is currently the steward at our "Otter Point" (Husson) property.

Molly Mclean got started with conservation working with the Youth Conservation Corps for 3 summers as a teenager. She works at UMaine, has been on the Orono Tree Board and works with the Bicycle Coalition of Maine. She is interested in trail building and stewardship, and cheerful and ready to get involved in whatever needs to be done.



a

b



Kate Locke works at a fast pace, with Cricket helping, to create a new trail around the heron rookery at Pine Ponds during May Trail Day. Photo by Sue Owen

Great-blue Heron "Mellow" Really Gets Around!

On June 17th, a heron, "Mellow", from the beaver flowage on Dorion South was captured at Big Pine Pond and equipped with a satellite transmitter, which will track its movements for more than a year. This is a cooperative study with MDIFW, Old Town High School, and OLT.

The picture above (a) shows "Mellow's" movements over the past six weeks. Note the concentration to the east at it's home beaver flowage (b) and flights to other wetlands for feeding. We already have learned about the importance of several new foraging areas previously unrecognized. Happily, six young herons fledged from our small rookery (i.e. nests) on Dorion South this year.

Bucky Owen

Purchase of Small Tractor

In May, OLT had the good fortune to purchased a Kabota Tractor from former Board member, John Alexander. It is a 4-cycle 3-cylinder 16-horse power diesel. It is about 8 feet long, 44 inches wide and weighs 1200 pounds. Included in the sale was a 48" brushhog and a three-point hitch which provides a means to tow small trailers. It is equipped with a bucket that can be used to move material and to load a trailer. It is four-wheel drive with a locking rear differential.

Already the tractor has been used to transport lumber to repair the Vinal stream bridge on PKCA. It is small enough so that it can be used to move gravel when repairing trails. Later in the year it will be used to mow the trails on CBCA and Peter's field.



Picture and article by Dave Thompson



Business Sponsorships

In the 2015 membership year, the Orono Land Trust initiated a business sponsor membership to help support land conservation efforts serving the Orono community. Our business sponsors set a new standard in community partnerships. We appreciate their support and hope they inspire similar collaboration.

Eagle Supporter:

Hawkes & Mehnert LLP, PO Box 458, Orono ME 04473

Rainstorm Consulting, 148 Main St. Orono 04473

Black Bear Brewery, 19 Mill St. OronoME 04473

Cardinal Supporters:

Casco Bay Energy, 125 Shore Rd., Veazie ME 04401

Peoples United Bank TD, Main St. Orono ME 04473

Chickadee Supporters:

Dirigo Pines Retirement Community, 9 Alumni Dr., Orono ME 04473

Orono/Old Town Kiwanis

The Advertising Specialists of Maine, 80 Banair Rd, Bangor, ME 04401

Board of Directors

Melissa Burch
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
P O Box 4
Orono, Maine 04473

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Calendar

Monthly Board meeting - August 3, 2016
Monthly Board meeting - September 7, 2016

Please check for membership expiration date on your address label.
ORONO LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Preferred Email: _____

Address: _____ Preferred Telephone _____

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------|
| _____ \$10 Student Membership | Business Memberships | Donations Only |
| _____ \$25 Individual Membership | _____ \$100+ Chikadee Sponsor | _____ |
| _____ \$50 Family Membership | _____ \$250+ Cardinal Sponsor | for _____ |
| _____ \$100 - \$999 Supporting Membership | _____ \$500+ Loon Sponsor | |
| _____ \$1000 Life Membership | _____ \$1,000+ Eagle Sponsor | |

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