

OLT crew finishes new facility: 'Dave's Depot'

by Gail White

On June 2, current and former OLT Board members gathered to stain the new OLT garage now to be known as "Dave's Depot," named for Board member Dave Thompson. We all worked hard and had fun. Many hands made light work and we were done by noon. The garage is now protected from the elements (and found a pesky porcupine that was gnawing the boards). While most were painting, Dave T. and Jim White built a



Photos by Gail White

'Dave's Depot' gets the finishing touch.



All hands on deck for staining the wood at "Dave's Depot."

Invasive scourge: The Emerald Ash Borer is found in Maine

by Linda Swackhamer

State and federal entomologists have reported and confirmed the presence of a deadly foe to Maine's ash trees. According to the Portland Press Herald, "The emerald ash borer was found in a tree in Madawaska on May 22, just five days after Canadian officials announced the pest's discovery just across the river in Edmunston, New Brunswick. Although Maine forestry and insect experts long had anticipated that the

Borer, Continued on page 2

canoe rack, a rack for the ladder, and attached the brush-hog to the tractor. Bucky Owen hung the hand tools and Bob McDonough built a rack for the oil and gasoline storage. Jim White mowed some of the trails. The OLT will share this facility with the Penobscot Valley Ski Club, which will store trail-grooming gear inside. Thanks to all!



The "Dave's Depot" crew finished the new facility at Caribou Bog Conservation Area in Orono. Bob McDonough, Bill Childs, Melissa Burch, Jerry Longcore, Dave Thompson, Kate Locke, Ron Logan, Tim White. Missing from the picture are Bucky Owen, Rob Cady, Jim and Gail White.

emerald ash borer (EAB) would eventually be detected in Maine, many suspected it would first arrive in southern Maine because the emerald-colored insect is already established in neighboring New Hampshire counties."

A native of Asia, emerald ash borers have killed millions of trees in 30 states and Canada since being discovered in 2002.

It is regarded as a scourge of forests in North America, reducing diversity similar to the loss of elm and chestnut trees in past invasive or disease attacks. This is very unwelcome news to some of the craftspeople who rely on the wood. Ash is used for baseball bats, snowshoes, furniture, canoe paddles and other products in Maine. Wabanaki people in Maine have used ash for generations to weave baskets, for the thwarts and gunwales of birch-bark canoes and in other tribal crafts.

The emerald ash borer can be spread through firewood brought to camp, as can numerous other insects and diseases. The Maine Forest Service encourages the use of local firewood and visitors should be aware of state and federal rules that ban movement of untreated firewood (maine.gov/firewood). Sources of treated or local firewood can be found at: firewoodscout.org/s/ME/.

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry posted a bulletin

on June 12 calling for a meeting in Frenchville to discuss the bureau's proposed emergency order to stop movement of ash from Frenchville and Madawaska: "The EAB was recently discovered in Madawaska, less than 200 yards from the Frenchville town line. This is the first detection of EAB in Maine. Because EAB attacks and kills all species of ash (except mountain ash), it presents a serious threat to Maine's forest and shade trees. It is also a federally and internationally quarantined pest, which further adds priority to Maine's response. As a first step the MFS is proposing to place a temporary, emergency "stop movement" order on all live ash, ash logs and pulpwood and on all untreated firewood from Madawaska and Frenchville, Aroostook County."

Cindy Blease from the Orono Tree Board spoke to students from Asa Adams School in Orono during the annual Tree City event in May. She asked them to be on the alert for the EAB and showed them examples of what to expect. Maine's ash trees are in trouble, get informed!

For more information go to: www.maine.gov/eab

New OLT 2018 Board members

At the last OLT annual meeting in March, new Board members were welcomed, and we said thanks to departing members:

Welcome!:

Rob Cady, Bob McDonough, Dan Hayes

Thank you!:

Mike Opitz, Erik DaSilva, Bill Childs

Thank you to Black Bear Brewery!

Cheers to The Black Bear Brewery in Orono! Gail White picked up a check in the amount of \$1,000 from Tim at Black Bear Brewery. This represents proceeds from the sale of Conservation IPA.

Raise a pint and raise funds for OLT! Our thanks to Tim!

Proposed Summer 2018 Work Plan - Volunteers needed!

- A. Heron Pond Trail – start after August 1st.
- B. Rampe CE to Forest Ave. – clear trail ASAP
- C. Hyland Tract
- D. Kirkland Road Trail
- E. Seed Veazie RR bed. ASAP
- F. Mow trails at CBCA.
- G. Mow Peters Field
- H. Mow Sklar Park and Sally's Field.
- I. Contract to mow Davis Easement.
- J. Spread gravel on Veazie RR bed along Black Pond to Pine Pond intersection.

- K. Spot gravel on RR Bed from Pine Pond Intersection to Heron Pond.
- L. Improve short bypass trail at Heron Pond.
- M. Smooth and fill trail along Beaver Dam at Heron Pond.
- N. Complete Otter Point Loop Trail.
- O. Plant B3F3 chestnuts (3) at Otter Point and Dorion.

If you would like to be alerted to upcoming volunteer opportunities, please fill out the OLT Volunteer questionnaire to indicate your volunteer preferences – (it is easy and will take no more 3 min.) at oronolandtrust.org and click on "volunteers."

Spring trail work at Piney Knoll

On April 28, volunteers came together at Piney Knoll Conservation Area to attend to trail work.

They planted 24 three-to-four year old forest trees, including White and Red Pine, Eastern Hemlock, White Cedar, Eastern Red Cedar, White and Norway Spruce, and Tamarack. The group cleared out invasive honeysuckle sprouts and collected 2 bags full of trash along the boundary line.



On behalf of the OLT, we thank you!



More reports from the field

April 12: Herons are back in Heron Pond. Three arrived Wednesday. This morning there was a pair in the big nest and a single at the small nest. All heron trail-closure signs are up. -Bucky Owen



Photo (at left) of 'Mellow' the heron, visiting CBCA in 2017, hooded and being fitted with a tracker. She was tracked all the way to Haiti before we lost her signal!

Photos (middle and bottom right) show trail work in progress at Caribou Bog Conservation Area. A large group of volunteers showed up to work at CBCA on spring trail day. A huge number of improvements were made. Half the volunteers headed to the foot of Newman Hill. These volunteers dug out rocks from the trail and placed them together to form a smooth, dry path. Beside the path, a trench was dug and a culvert installed to move water away from the walking/biking area.

The other volunteers filled wheelbarrels with gravel and placed the gravel onto the trail from Grant Road to Dorion Road. There were several holes in the trail that were filled with rocks and then covered with gravel. One area was filled with logs and covered in gravel. It is now possible to enter from Grant Road and go to Dorion Road and Newman Hill without getting muddy and wet.

Andrea Sornberger brought a variety of refreshments to volunteers to "keep our strength up." Thank you volunteers: Gabe Crooker, Bob McDonough, April Kochis, Ben Hale, Greg Sivik, Gail White, Michele Benoit, Jim Wilson, Reeves Wilson, Daniel Benecke, Ricky Klatt, Karl Kreutz, Marek Skacel, Martin Skacel, Tom Cassidy, Andrea Sornberger and leader, Kris Sornberger.

- Gail White



Nature Clip

by J.R. Longcore

The Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) – A well-marked and versatile, but unintelligible songster!

During my many years of fieldwork I have always admired this gray ghost of a bird that prefers shrubby habitats, although it can be readily identified in dense vegetation by its cat-like “mewing” sounds that reveal its presence. On adult birds the black crown and forehead contrast slightly with the mostly uniform gray of the body with one prominent exception! The feathers under the base of the tail are a strikingly chestnut or orange-brown color (Fig. 1a).



Fig. 1a

It seems that the rambling assemblage of notes in the catbird’s song goes on endlessly. The explanation of the ability of the catbird to have such a large and varied repertoire of notes is that the structure of its syrinx is such that both sides of this vocal organ are able to operate independently (Smith et al. 2011).

Catbirds nest (Fig. 1b) in our yard and I have found nests in northern white-cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) and in a copse of juneberry (shadbush) (*Amelanchier* sp.). In my opinion the eggs of the catbird are the most pleasing, being a deep “turquoise green” (Smith et al. 2011), however, if you approach the nest too closely it is rapidly defended by the female (Fig. 1c) and is usually joined by the male to warn you away.



Fig. 1b



Fig. 1c

Maintaining a yard with a variety of trees and shrubs, including fruit and berry producing species, can fulfill the habitat needs of this interesting member of the Mimidae family of birds. Also, trying to decipher the species represented by the notes in the catbird’s song will provide entertainment for you.

Smith, R. J., M. I. Hatch, D. A. Cimprich, and F. R. Moore. 2011. Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) Version 2.0. In *The Birds of North America* (A. F. Poole, Editor), Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA.

Milford dam trip connects conservation on land and water



On June 8th, OLT members and friends were invited for a tour of the Milford fishway. People saw fish hauled up the ladder and dumped to an elevated fishway to be counted and then to continue on their journey upstream to spawn. Visitors could view the fish behind glass as they made it to the upper Penobscot River. Some fish are put in a holding circle and may go to other places such as to stock ponds or a hatchery.

OLT member hosts Downeast Outing Club at the Orono Bog Boardwalk

OLT Board member Jerry Longcore agreed to lead a group from the Downeast Outing Club (DOC) around the Orono Bog Boardwalk on May 10. Jerry was such a draw that 52 members of the DOC showed up to listen to Jerry. The DOC members were from Penobscot, Hancock, Piscataquis and Kennebec counties.

A gentleman always, the group was divided up and Jerry gave two tours of the boardwalk. All comments to the DOC Facebook page are positive and clubmembers want to come back.



OLT Board member Jerry Longcore (far right), on the Orono Bog Boardwalk.

Photo by Gail White

New easement: Birch Stream Conservation Easement in Argyle

Lane Construction has granted a Conservation Easement on 837 acres of property in Argyle, Maine to the Orono Land Trust. The Easement ensures the conservation and recreational use of this property for the future. The property is a mixture of forested upland, scrub-shrub, and emergent wetland, including a deer yard, significant vernal pools, and several large beaver ponds. The scrub-shrub, along with adjacent peatlands totaling about 300 acres, are the northern extension of the Alton Bog, a bog of statewide significance. It also includes about two miles of riparian habitat along Birch Stream.

In summary, it is a property that contains many different habitats along with timber production and recreational opportunities.

- Dave Thompson



Contributed photo
OLT President Pat Thompson recently signing the easement paperwork for Birch Stream Conservation Easement in Argyle, with Lane Company representative, Joel Wardwell.



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Orono Land Trust business sponsor membership helps support land conservation and outdoor recreation serving the Orono, Veazie, Old Town and surrounding communities. These business collaborators contribute to the quality of life that draws and keeps residents in this area. We appreciate their support and urge support, in turn, as well as expressions of appreciation for their contribution to the quality of our community.

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Orono Land Trust
 PO Box 4,
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Calendar

Next Board meeting: August 8 (no July meeting)

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

Orono Land Trust Membership Application

Name: _____ Preferred email: _____

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	Business Memberships	Donation only
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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.