

2022 Annual Membership meeting: March 25

Once again the Annual Meeting will be a virtual gathering. On Friday, March 25, 6:30 p.m., we have a chance to 'see' each other through Zoom and enjoy an update on OLT's activities, introduce personnel changes to the OLT Board, plus give a view of the year ahead. The membership will receive an email invitation with the link for the online meeting, and we hope you can join in.

Our 2022 Keynote presentation is from Dr. Ivan Fernandez from UMO: "Maine's First Integrated Climate Action Plan and Why It Matters." Please join the membership for this important talk about Maine's response to the most important issue of our time. Details pg. 3.



OLT Accreditation renewed

by Jerry Longcore and Sue Owen

On February 10, 2021 the Land Trust Accreditation Commission notified OLT that it had been awarded renewed accreditation for another 5 years through 2/9/2026. Accreditation is a mark of distinction, recognizing land trusts that meet the national quality standards established by the land conservation community.

A few strings were attached, however, as OLT must fulfill over its entire renewed accredited term a few "Expectations for Improvement", which include (1) preparing financial reports that depict unrestricted, board-designated, and restricted net assets, (2) ensuring that the land trust obtains the required title investigation and updates it within 30 days prior to closing, and (3) completing a management plan within 12 months of acquiring a conservation property. OLT has updated its **Standards and Practices** to comply with the current *Requirements Manual* of the Commission. One latent issue arose when the Commission requested a special Board vote to approve our revised Guidance 1&2 documents that are to be used to acquire Fee lands or Conservation Easements and were part of our Board approved application package. A digital vote was obtained to affirm that these guidance documents were, indeed, OLT policy and the consensus vote was relayed to the Commission. We await final acceptance of this effort to comply.

OLT receives a recreational trails grant to upgrade the Veazie RR Trail

by Bucky Owen

The OLT was recently notified that it will receive almost \$50,000 to upgrade 4.5 miles of the Veazie Railroad Trail extending from its entrance on Kirkland Avenue in Old Town to the Bangor Land Trust trailhead, which lies just beyond the Bangor City Forest. The money is from federal highway taxes that are distributed to the states on a formula basis for recreational trails; funds are administered locally by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands.

As match to the RTP funds, OLT will contribute \$25,000 in in-kind support consisting of volunteer time, use of our tractors and trailers, and donated materials and equipment. The major emphasis of the grant is to improve the surface of the trail by removing roots and rocks and then applying gravel to achieve a firm, level surface. Also, we will do considerable work where the trail crosses the Orono Bog by building a bridge and installing new culverts and beaver deceivers.

The grant extends over two years; however, most of the work will occur this summer. We have contracted with the Maine Conservation Corps for a 3-person team to help for a month in early July. More than 40 OLT volunteers have already signed up for trail work this year; there will be plenty of work to go around! The trail management team, "Trail Blazers", includes Dave Thompson, Bucky Owen, Jennifer Dann, Dan Baumert, and Dave Erker.

Available at these local shops:



Orono:
Rose Bike
Ampersand

Bangor:
Epic Sports
Ski Rack

Brewer:
Pat's Bike

This new book is the project of an all-volunteer land trust in Orono, Maine.

All-season natural history, wildlife information, and recreation trails for visitors and residents of the Greater Bangor area can be found right here: biking, hiking, birdwatching, paddling, winter sports and more.

Inside: The old Veazie Railroad Trail, the Orono Bog Boardwalk, Veazie's Riverside Park on the Penobscot River, ski maps, wildlife, wetlands and local history. Visit, ski, hike, bike local! Designed to fit your daypack, the flip-book style gives easy access to maps and directions.

Visit oronolandtrust.org for more info. **\$15**

Thank you! OLT Trail Guide a success because of you!

You may have heard that the OLT has produced its first book! This Trail Guide is loaded with information about our wonderful trails. The book includes a history of the preserves, things to look for in any season, and many maps. Best of all, it fits in a backpack.

These books can be purchased at our business partners, Rose Bike and Ampersand in Orono; Epic Sports and Ski Rack in Bangor; Pat's Bike in Brewer. We also had help from Black Bear Pub, Marsh Island Brewery and Orono Brew Company.

A hearty thank you to all who have already purchased a copy. Thank you to our business partners who have stocked and help sell our books. We hope you explore new places or just get out and enjoy your favorite trail!

The Orono Land Trust was selected to be a beneficiary of the **Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag Program** during the month of January. We appreciate the awareness for OLT and always encourage the use of reusable bags! For more program information and a link to the marketing toolkit, visit hannaford.bags4mycause.com. The Cause Bags can be found on the reusable bag rack and at various registers.

Your input is necessary to OLT's mission. What skills can you contribute? We could use help with CNC

signmaking, publicity, chainsaw work, trail stewardship, event planning, the sky's the limit! Join a committee today: Contact us at president@oronolandtrust.org.

The **2022 Maine Land Trust Network Conference** will be virtual again in 2022. Weekday webinars will take place between March 8th and the 31st on topics from fundraising to working on climate change in communities. For more info: <https://www.mltn.org/2022-conference/>.



We thank Orono resident Tony Francis and the Town of Orono for a special holiday light walk on the Stillwater River Trail. Many volunteer hours were put in to mount lights and attractions. We hope many of you got to visit and walk the trail to see the wonderful display. What a special community we live in.

Text and photo by Gail White

OLT Wish List

We are in need of a medium to large snowblower to clear the skating pond at the new CBCA Trail Center. This allows for volunteers to clear the ice and benefits the whole community. Contact: buckyandsue@gmail.com, or 866-4892.

Orono Land Trust 35th Annual Meeting

online (an email invitation with the Zoom link will be sent to the membership)

Friday, March 25, 2022

6:30 p.m. prompt: Guest speaker, Dr. Ivan Fernandez

Annual Corporate Membership Meeting

President's Annual Report

New Business / Announcements

Recognitions and awards

Adjourn (virtual refreshments, BYO ice cream!)



Ivan J. Fernandez is Professor in the School of Forest Resources, Climate Change Institute, and School of Food and Agriculture at the University of Maine. Among other honors and awards, he was made a Distinguished Maine Professor in 2007, CASE/Carnegie in Washington DC named him Professor of the Year for Maine in 2008, he was named a fellow in the Soil Science Society of America in 2010 and was the 2018 President's Public Service Achievement Award recipient at the University of Maine.

He has served on various U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board committees in Washington DC since 2000. He recently chaired a panel of the EPA Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) that is evaluating the Clean Air Act's secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for oxides of sulfur, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter and was reappointed to the panel in 2022. He represents the University of Maine in the USDA Northeast Climate Hub and has been involved in leading the Maine's Climate Future assessments in 2009, 2015, and 2020. In 2019 he was appointed to the Maine Climate Council, and serves as co-Chair of its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and is a member of its Natural Working Lands working group. He was also a member of the 2021 Governor's Maine Forest Carbon Task Force. He has taught courses in soil science, forest soils, carbon and climate, and climate adaptation among others, and served as a Department Chair for a decade. He is a soil scientist, with a research program that focuses on the biogeochemistry of ecosystems in a changing physical and chemical climate and is actively engaged in promoting climate change solutions in Maine.

2022 Program Featuring:

Dr. Ivan Fernandez

Maine's First Integrated Climate Action Plan and Why It Matters



In 2020, Governor Mills presented Maine's first integrated mitigation and adaptation climate action plan. The title defines the mission: *Maine Won't Wait!* The Plan was developed by the 39 member Maine Climate Council, with extensive contributions from hundreds of members of supporting subcommittee's and working groups. Since 2020 there has been ever expanding activity in state agencies, the Legislature, businesses, NGOs and communities to move up the implementation curve of our climate response. We will briefly point to elements of the plan and some of the progress made, as well as reflecting on the future.

OLT Membership List as of February 1, 2022

Life Members

Janet & John Alexander	Susan & Michael Greenwood	Peg Martin	Pernille & David Renado
Katherine Carter & Dave Baxter	Conrad & Fran Griffin	Shane Martin	*Judith Rhymer
Melissa Burch & Jim Bulteel	Brent S. Halsey	John and Leigh McCarthy	Kris & Steven Sader
Woody Carville	Nancy & Tom Harrigan	Hank & Mary Metcalf	*David Sewall
Lea & Tom Cassidy	Justin R. Harlan & Sarah M. Haughey	Emily Wesson & Peter Millard	*Jessica Leahy & Bob Seymour
Dan & Dina Cassidy	*James & Patricia Hinds	Jane & Robert Miller	Kay & Dick Storch
Becky & David Chase	Ray Hintz	Caroline Morris	*David & Patricia Thompson
Sarah & William Clark	*Karen Boucias & George Jacobson	Janet & Paul Murphy	Sharon & Paul Tisher
Barbara Clark	Olivier Putzeys & Pauline Kamath	Desiree & Edwin Nagy	Christa Schwintzer & John Tjepkema
Betsy Weiss & David Clement	Steve Keleti	*Stephen and Natalie Norton	David Koffman & Michelle Toder
Jennifer Dann	George Kurr	Sue Erich & Stom Ohno	Trudy Tremblay
Ron & Lee Davis	Thela & Roger Leach	*Kathryn Olmstead	Travis Baker & Holly Twining
Mary Louis Kurr Davitt	Valerie & David Levy	Michael Opitz	Donna & Leith Wadleigh
Mary Cathcart & Jim Dearman	Meg & Ron Logan	*Sue & Bucky Owen	Tim and Debbie White
Chris Dorion	*Joyce & Jerry Longcore	Jeff & Susannah Owen	Gail & James White
Jeff & Janice Graham	Leigh A. Smith & Gretchen Luxenberg	Bryan & Deta Pearce	Jean Woodard
Nancy & Charles Grant	Nancy MacKnight	Connie & Tom Perry	Jane & Joe Zenk
	John Manter	Nancy & Glenn Rampe	(*Legacy Program member)

Annual Members

Joe & Joanne Alex	Lisa Cassidy	Patricia Lynn Eldershaw	Harvey & Patricia Kail	Mr. & Mrs. Donald R. Mitchell
Paul Allen & Madelyn Woods	Polly & Bill Ceckler	Susan Elias	Alex Kates	Sally & Tom Molloy
Janet Allogio	John Chiaramitaro	Shirley Ellis	Alice & Joe Kelley	Emmy Monahan
Cathy Anderson & Steve McKay	Beth White & Margaret Clancy	David & Victoria Erker	Fran & Robert J. Kelly	Donald & Paula Moore
Oral & Heather Applegate	John Clark	Bryn Evans	Gudrun Keszocze & Glen Koehler	Rissa Moore & Linda Koehler
Jamie & Jessica Arsenault	Chandler & Jim Clarke	Charlene Fearnley	George Knightly	Noah Nesin
John Banks & Cheryl Robertson	Jason Clarke	Mikal Federici	Karl & Sara Kreutz	Greg Netland
Jacob Baker	Todd & Kate Crane	Sandra Feher	Steve & Mary Lammert	P. Scott Nichols
Grace Bartlett	Heidi Crahen & Erin Murphy	Lisa Feldman	Eric & Janette Landis	Todd & Laurie O'Brien
Robert Bass, Jr.	*Ken Croatman & Linda Swackhamer	Sharon Fitzgerald	Nancy & Al Larson	Harlan Onsrud & Pam Simon
Robert Bayer	Beth Cuddy & Harry Cunningham	Irja Frank	Belinda & Claustin Lawrence	Christine Payne
Warren Black	Carol Cuddy	Brian Frederick	Nancy Leavitt & David	Elizabeth Payne & Richard Brucher
Linda Basilicato & Clayton Cole	William A. Cunningham	Sadvi Ganesh	Yarborough	Dawn Pelletier
Jack & Cindy Blease	Rose Marie Curtis	*Geoff & Suzanne Gordon	Kate Locke & Julian Wiggins	Eric Peterson & Kristin Langellier
Erik Blomberg	Matthew D'Angelo	Alan Gray	Graciela & Roberto Lopez-Anido	Bill & Gwethalyn Phillips
Stanley Borodko	Farahad Dastoor & Jean MacRae	Marion & Mac Gray	Dan & Nicole Loranger	Marisue & John Pickering
David LaBrique & Kathy Bourgoin	Ann Davidoff & Merrill Milham	John & Carol Gregory	Nick Ludwig	Linda E. Pletka
Bob Brooks	Anthony Diba	Edward Grew	Margaret Lukens	Sarah, Taylor, & Grayson Ploch
Alice & Mitchell Bruce	Alan Dickey	David R. Griffin	Stephanie and Greg Lull	Deanna Prince & Phil Ruck
John Burch	Christina Diebold	Harrison Goldspiel	Elizabeth Lymen	Jeremy Porter
Pat Burnes	Thomas Diebold	Nils Haentjens	Kathy Lyons & David Frankel	Jean Deighan & Glen Porter
Stephanie Burnett	Amy DiFrancesco	John & Ginny Hackney	Molly MacLean & Eisso Atzema	Annie & Matt Powers
Todd & Denise Burpee	Downeast Outing Club	Terry & Frances Haines	Ellen Mallory & Eric Gallandt	Lucy Quimby & Geoff Gratwick
Sandra Butler	Jessica Doherty	Leah & Christine Hakkola	Bruce & Terry Malmer	Brian Rahill
Polly Camp	Larry Drake	Ben Hale	Dorathy Martel	Joseph Reed
Lynn Caron	Beth & Tom Drummond	Fiona Sorensen Hamilton	Ben McAlexander	Christopher Reidy
Drs. Adrienne & David Carmack	Gerald & Donna Dwyer	Kenneth & Cathy Hanscom	Jim McCleave & Eddie Meisner	Hetty Richardson
Mike & Teri Carr	Mary Ann & Rick Eason	Ryan Hanscom	John McCormack & Irene von Hoffmann	Jim & Gillian Rose
Jennifer Carroll	Carolyn & George Eaton	Mike Hendrix	Robert McDonough	Amber Roth & Dan Haskell
Gail & Devon Carter	Madeline Eberly	Laurie Hicks & Roger King	Ed Meadows	Roderick & Karen Rublee
Ed Brazee & Connie Carter	Gregory Edwards	Barbara Hildreth	*Cynthia & Eric Mehnert	Margaret Ryan
Jon Hawley & Cami Carter	Max J & Stefanie Egenhofer	Erin Howell	Kim Miller & Paula Pietrowski	
Mike & Lorri Carroll		Leslie Hudson	Laura Mitchell	
		Nancy Jacobson & Jeffrey Jones		

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UMO Forestry students utilize Halsey Memorial Classroom

Last fall, UMO forestry students in Prof. Jessica Leahy's class joined in a Research Learning Experience course. Field Experience in Forestry, a 1-credit course involves forest measurement skills and redoing the Halsey forest inventory. They also worked to complete a hazard tree assessment exercise with some Orono Land Trust volunteers, who guided them in chainsaw skills.

Prof. Jessica Leahy is the steward for Halsey. She had a number of her students work on the Conservation Easement as part of their coursework (UMO Forestry



Photo by Jessica Leahy

UMaine at Orono Prof. Jessica Leahy's students worked at the Halsey Memorial Classroom site in Old Town last fall.

Department). The students along with several OLT volunteers cleaned the trails of dangerous trees, and resurfaced about 100' of the entrance trail. In two sessions various students presented material relevant to creating a new plan to manage the forest.

OLT Legacy Program

by Bucky Owen

OLT received 14 Legacy donations as of this date. Our Emerging Legacy Endowment Fund is designed to provide long-term financial support for the land trust to protect and manage the conserved lands under its stewardship. The Legacy Program highlights our motto "An Investment for Future Generations."

Knowing that you value the conservation lands and recreational opportunities that OLT offers, **please consider becoming a Legacy Member through a current or deferred gift to the Endowment.** Gifts placed in the Endowment Account will accrue with only a percentage of the earnings, as determined by the Board, available

annually for current use by OLT. Expected use of earnings will be for aspects of stewardship, land acquisition, and possible staff or establishment of a regional land trust.

Legacy gifts may be in many forms; cash contributions during one's lifetime, gifts of securities, or as direct distributions from an IRA. Deferred gifts can be given by listing OLT as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy, pension plan, life income trust, or naming OLT in one's will.

For more information contact one of the OLT Legacy Committee members listed here:

Bucky Owen - buckyandsue@gmail.com

Jim Hinds - jwhplh@earthlink.net

Cindy Mehnert - cmmehnert@hm-law.us

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Annual Members

James Jackson Sanborn
Mary Jo & David Sanger
David & Rose Scheidt
Kathy & Gary Schilmoeller
Paul & Mary Hough Schroeder
John Schuster
Lindsay Seward
Martha Sheppard
Silva Ratio Consulting LLC
Marek Skacel

Don & Nancy Smith
Jessica Smith
Ben Deering & Margaret Snell
Scott Solman
Ronald & Adele St. Pierre
Amy Stabins
Jeff & Brenda Stevenson
Jennifer Story
Elizabeth Stretch
Judith Sucec
Dick & Barbara Sturgeon
Phillip Sullins
Robert Syptkowski

G. Kent Tableman
Emily Taylor
Karin Tilberg
Mike Tipping
*Adam & Joanna Toothaker
Olcott Toothaker
Peter Triandafillou
Gail Tunstead & David Flewelling
Deborah Twombly
Patricia Vadas
Norman Van Valkenburgh
Karl Volz
Judy & Bill Walker

Jake Ward
Tim Waring & Katie Quirk
Tom & Jane Warren
Stephanie Welcomer & Mark Haggerty
Margo Koning-Wells & Mark Wells
Jason White
Barbara Wicks
Marian & Clair Wood
Katrina Wynn

(*Legacy Program member)

Nature Clip

by J.R. Longcore

A male Pileated Woodpecker caught napping!

Last May 2021 a long-time friend, Alma Homola, called to alert us that a Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) was sleeping on a tree in her front yard next to College Avenue. Because birds usually do not sleep exposed in the open often, it is uncommon to even see one sleeping. They find concealed places (e.g., natural cavities, dense vegetation, buildings) to avoid predators or exposure to inclement weather. I grabbed my camera and drove to Alma's house and, sure enough, a large, black, ball of puffed out feathers with a red cap (Fig. 1) clung motionless at the base of a large, rotting, Norway maple.

After taking several pictures I approached the bird to see how soundly it was sleeping. Its only reaction was to pull its head up far enough to expose the red chin stripe, which identified it as a male (Fig. 2). Its eye facing me was partly open, which was not unexpected because I had disturbed his daytime nap. After a bit of internet research, however, I learned about the amazing ability of birds regarding how they sleep. Birds sleep with one-half of their brain asleep and the other half awake, which is called *unihemispheric* slow-wave sleep

(USWS) and allows birds to keep one eye open while catching some needed rest.

Other animals (e.g., whales) sleep this way, but only birds have the ability to control it. A sleeping bird can adjust how much of its brain is asleep by how wide it opens or closes its eye (<https://ca.audubon.org/news/how-do-birds-sleep>). This whole phenomenon is physiologically complicated and not completely understood, but for details visit (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unihemispheric_slow-wave_sleep) if your interest has been piqued.

Although this woodpecker's feet are not visible, they are zygodactyle (i.e., the feet are configured with two toes extended forward and two toes backward, Fig. 3) allowing the bird to hang vertically on a tree trunk even when asleep. This adaptation facilitates the ability of woodpeckers to climb up, down, and around the trunks of trees. Other types of "perching" feet are passerine (Robin), syndactyle with outer and middle toes partly fused (Belted Kingfisher), and raptorial (Bald Eagle). Tendons in legs of birds are attached to the toes; when a bird lands the tendons flex because of the bird's weight thereby forcing the toes to close firmly around a perch. When a bird extends its leg to fly the weight is released and the toes unclamp from the perch. For more insights about adaptations of avian feet and toes visit (<https://birdnationblog.wordpress.com/tag/types-of-bird-feet/>).

I am grateful to Alma for alerting me to this once in a lifetime observation!

J.R. Longcore



Photos by J. R. Longcore
Fig. 1 Sleeping Pileated Woodpecker



Fig. 2 Visible red chin stripe of male.



Fig. 3 Sketch of zygodactyle foot by JRL



Photo by Bob Seymour

Bob Seymour measures a "big, old pear tree" in Orono.

The Pear is the champion, my friends!

by Jennifer Dann

Traveling on the OLT Orchard Trails trail easement that runs from Hillside Road to the Piney Knoll Conservation Area, you'll pass by a great, big, old, pear tree. It stands a little off the trail behind the former town maintenance buildings. Tall and gangly, it doesn't command attention. But when Bob Seymour spotted the tree, he recognized a potential champion in our midst.

Bob, a retired emeritus professor from the University of Maine School of Forest Resources, thinks the pear could be the biggest tree of its species in the state of Maine. He

has measured its trunk circumference, height, and crown, and submitted those measurements to the Maine Forest Service's Big Trees Program.

If the pear tree is confirmed as the largest recorded specimen in the state, it will be recorded in the Maine Register of Big Trees (joining two other Orono big trees: an Eastern Cottonwood, and an American Chestnut). It will then go on to compete nationally in the American Forests National Champion Trees Program. A quick look at both the Maine and National Champion Trees registers shows no pear tree currently recorded on either, so the Orono pear may be the champ by default! To learn about the measurements and calculations that go in to determining whether a tree is a champion, and the stats on this particular pear tree, check out the 'Giant Pear Tree in Orono' video on Bob Seymour's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/tmimotf>).

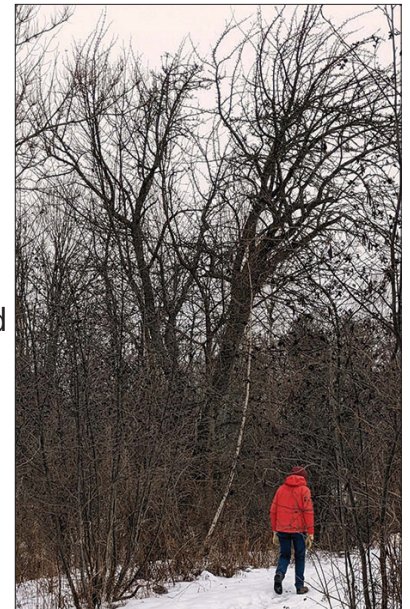


Photo by Jennifer Dann

A pear tree that may be a champion!

Interested in helping with OLT trail work? Contact Bucky Owen (buckyandsue@gmail.com) 866-4892

Bucky has assembled a master list of volunteers and sends out a weekly project description, where to meet, and any tools or equipment needed. Note: We will be working both during the week and on weekends, in season.



2022 Business Members

Contact info@oronolandtrust.com if you would like to join this program.

\$1000+ Eagle Membership

Cynthia Mehnert,
Rudman & Winchell
Black Bear Brewery
Penobscot Valley Ski Club
Versant Power

\$500+ Loon Membership

Joseph Reinzo,
Excavating and Recycling
Vistra Energy, Veazie

\$250+ Cardinal Membership

Bangor Savings Bank

\$100+ Chickadee Membership

Alpenglow Outdoor Adventures
Rose Bicycle
Orono-Old Town Kiwanis
Castine Kayak Adventures
ND Paper

Thank you!

Board of Directors

Frank Alley, Treasurer

John Banks

Dan Baumert

Tom Cassidy

Jennifer Dann

Ken Fergusson

Ben Hale, Vice President

Karl Kreutz

Jerry Longcore, Bog Boardwalk

Molly MacLean, Membership

Bucky Owen

Sue Owen, Office & Records

Glen Rampe

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Linda Swackhamer, Outreach/News

David Thompson, Lands

Pat Thompson

Adam Toothaker, President

Gail White, Stewardship

Tim White, Secretary/Tech



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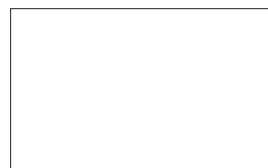
Orono Land Trust
PO Box 4,
Orono, Maine 04473

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**



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DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY



Calendar

• Next Board meeting: Wed., March 9, 6:30pm, online

• All Membership Meeting Friday, March 25 6:30pm online

Membership renewal dates are printed next to your address on mailed print versions of this newsletter. Electronic versions of the newsletter do not contain your info. To renew your membership, contact our website oronolandtrust.org. Thanks!



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

Orono Land Trust Membership Application / www.oronolandtrust.org

Name: _____ Preferred email: _____

Address: _____ Preferred phone: _____

Business Memberships

_____ \$10 Student Membership

_____ \$25 Individual Membership

_____ \$50 Family Membership

_____ \$100- \$999 Supporting Membership

_____ \$1000 Life Membership

_____ \$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 _____

