

2023 Annual Meeting: Save the Date, May 19!

OLT is sending you this short newsletter to update you with some changes to the calendar this year. The **2023 OLT Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, May 19** this year, hopefully in-person. We are delaying to allow for better weather, when we might be able to open windows and offer a safe, fresh-air gathering for our members. There will be another newsletter in April with more details including OLT Board announcements, and we will reveal the keynote speaker for 2023. Mark your calendar!

Classic and freestyle events slated for at Caribou Bog Ski Race

Note: At press time, we realize that this newsletter will be reaching readers approximately about the time of the CBCA Ski Races. This info bears repeating. OLT Board member Dan Baumert is Race Director and has prepared this (edited) report.

The 2023 Caribou Bog Ski Race will be held in February on the Caribou Bog Conservation Area (CBCA) trails, Taylor Road in Orono. A separate classic and freestyle race will be held on consecutive Sundays. The scheduled days for both races and backup dates, if needed, are as follows:

Sunday Feb. 5th, 2023 Classic Race
Sunday Feb. 12th, 2023 Freestyle Race
Saturday Feb. 18th, 2023 First Backup Date
Saturday Feb. 25th, 2023 Second Backup Date

This year the classic race may be part of the New England Nordic Ski Association (NENSA) marathon series. A bid was submitted to NENSA to include the classic race as part of the marathon series. If chosen for the NENSA marathon series, the classic race will have a long marathon distance of about 30K with a shorter 20K marathon distance option and a 10K distance option for the more recreational skiers. Snow conditions would dictate the actual course. If lighter snow conditions prevail, multiple laps can be done to get the longer race distances.

After the freestyle race, a short "kids" race is also being planned for this year. All skill levels and ages are welcome.

A portion of both races will be on some of the trails that have been improved with the Veazie Railroad Trail grant this past

summer. The new CBCA Outdoor Center will be used for registration, timing and awards.

As always, **volunteers are essential** for running a smooth race. As the race date approaches, specific volunteer needs and sign-up will be posted on the Penobscot Valley Ski Club (PVSC) web site. Online registration and race updates also will be on the PVSC web site. Last year over 100 skiers participated in the classic and freestyle races combined. This year it is anticipated those numbers will increase. The Caribou Bog Ski Race is a great opportunity to showcase the winter use of the Caribou Bog Conservation Area trails and new trail center.

Dan Baumert, Caribou Bog Ski Race Director
djbbaumert123@gmail.com, ph. 207-951-4711

Sunday Fun Day set for February 26



Guided snowshoe treks, skiing, skating and more are planned for Sunday, February 26 at 11:30-2:30pm, at the new Caribou Bog Outdoor Center, Taylor Road, Orono. Ski, observe tracks and signs of the wildlife at CBCA on snowshoes (starting 1pm), skate on the pond, and enjoy winter play. Warm up by the fire pit, bring a chair. Weather permitting. Bring your own snowshoes, skis, skates, and warm-weather gear. All ages welcome ...And join a fundraising party and brewery tour at Orono Brewing Company with proceeds supporting the new Outdoor Center afterwards, 61 Margin St., Orono, 3-5pm.



Trail cams reveal the wildlife that surrounds us

Recent photos capture the wealth of wildlife in the Orono area.

OLT has done extensive work over 30+ years to restore wetlands and steward forests for recreation and habitat. Our work is a balance – you may have seen signs for seasonal trail closures for nesting, as well as trails opened and groomed to encourage winter sports.



OLT is studying the lands in the Caribou Bog Conservation Area (CBCA) area. Timber cruises provide a survey of trees that supply food and shelter for animals, insects and birds. Trees enrich the microscopic life in the soil. Plants are identified, both native and invasive, as a baseline for future study. Watersources are recorded, especially vernal pools so essential to amphibious life. Migrating birds can often be seen at CBCA wetlands. Forestry at OLT is practiced with an emphasis on birds, as so many species have disappeared from these regions in the last few decades. An inventory provides information through time.

Trail camera photographs remind us of the creatures we don't always get to see. Wildlife and humans live and play side-by-side here: We hope these photos inspire wonder and a love of this beautiful place that the Penobscot people call "the Dawnland."

Get involved: info@oronolandtrust.org.



Winter work at CBCA



Photos by Adam and Joanna Toothaker.

The mild fall and winter weather allowed for late-season work on the Veazie Railroad Trail. Tough (crazy?) OLT Board members wet-suited up for the culvert project and installed a beaver deceiver before more winter snow. Bucky Owen, Dave Thompson, Joanna Toothaker, President Adam Toothaker, Jake Ward, and employees of the Town of Orono worked over three days to complete this task. Yes, that pond is icy cold.



...And new ice skates for OLT's Sue Owen!

Our January Board meeting featured a birthday tribute to Sue Owen (at right), a founding member of OLT. Sue has served in many capacities over the years, including, at present, sharing the duties of office management with Joanna Toothaker. Here she celebrates her 85th birthday with cake and song. We hear that Sue just bought new ice skates and you can catch her at CBCA, enjoying the winter sports that she and her husband Bucky Owen love so well. Congratulations!



Photo by Gail White

Wish List: OLT is looking to acquire a pro cordless weed-wacker for trail work, can you help?
 Contact: info@oronolandtrust.org. Thank you!



2023 Business Members

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

\$1000+ Eagle Membership

Cynthia Mehnert,
 Rudman & Winchell
 Black Bear Brewery
 Penobscot Valley Ski Club
 Versant Power
 Bar Harbor Bank & Trust

\$500+ Loon Membership

Joseph Reinzo,
 Excavating and Recycling
 Vistra Energy, Veazie

\$250+ Cardinal Membership

Bangor Savings Bank
 Hannafords Supermarkets
 Ampersand, Orono

\$100+ Chickadee Membership

Alpenglow Outdoor
 Adventures
 Rose Bicycle
 Castine Kayak Adventures

Thank you!

Board of Directors

- John Banks, Lands
- Dan Baumert
- Tom Cassidy
- Jennifer Dann, Treasurer
- David Erker
- Ken Fergusson
- Ben Hale, Vice President
- Karl Kreutz
- Jerry Longcore, Bog Boardwalk
- Bucky Owen
- Sue Owen, Office & Records
- Chris Reidy
- Linda Swackhamer, Newsletter
- David Thompson, Trails
- Pat Thompson
- Charlie Todd
- Adam Toothaker, President
- Judy Walker, Outreach
- Gail White, Stewardship
- Tim White, Secretary/Tech



DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY

Orono Land Trust
PO Box 4,
Orono, Maine 04473

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED



Visit us on
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Calendar

- Winter Fun Day at CBCA, Taylor Rd., Orono. Sunday, Feb. 26, 11:30am.
- Next Board meetings: Thurs., Feb. 9, & Weds., March 8, 6:30pm
- OLT Annual Meeting, Friday, May 19, details to be announced.

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 Note: This newsletter is distributed in 2 versions: A printed, black & white, US Postal-delivered format and an digital, all-color, PDF-emailed format. We are proud to showcase color photos of OLT activities, and currently, that is best seen by requesting the paperless, digital version. If you would like to switch, please notify linswak@gmail.com.

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 | _____ \$100+ Chickadee Membership |
| _____ \$25 Individual Membership | _____ \$250+ Cardinal Membership |
| _____ \$50 Family Membership | _____ \$500+ Loon Membership |
| _____ \$100- \$999 Supporting Membership | _____ \$1000+ Eagle Membership |
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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 _____

