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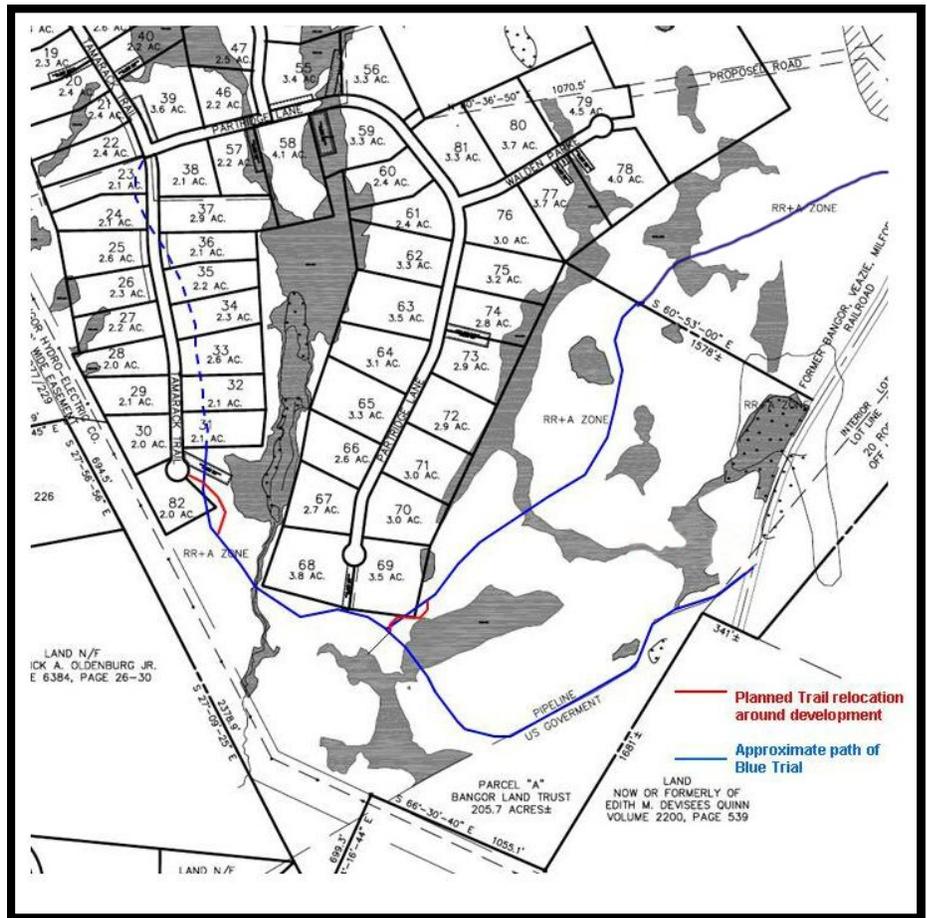
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www.bangorlandtrust.org



Celebrating our 10th Anniversary conserving Bangor's Natural Heritage

Beavers and People at Work on Walden-Parke Preserve

If you've visited Walden-Parke Preserve in the past few months, you've noticed some big changes. Walden Parke, LLC, has moved into Phase II of its development plan, and extended its road, Tamarack Trail, to its planned full length. Bangor Land Trust's trailhead kiosk has been moved to the new end of Tamarack, and will be placed in its new spot as this newsletter goes to press. Visitors to Walden-Parke Preserve may park along the edge of the cul-de-sac. We'll evaluate the need for additional parking as needed.



Bangor Land Trust re-routed the Blue Trail in two places, removing it from future house lots and avoiding a wet area. We are also digging some ditches and bringing in gravel to dry out the mud holes. If you notice a tree down across the trail or other trail problems, please call or e-mail and let us know.

The trailhead is now closer to the Walden-Parke beaverworks, making it easier to stroll down to the stream and

see what our friends have been up to. These beavers have been around for years and constructed several dams and large lodges. Because the sound of running water stimulates beavers to dam the flow, in 2007 they blocked the culvert that runs under the Blue Trail. We cleared the culvert and they re-blocked it within a few days. Our next move was to build a “beaver deceiver,” a fence that keeps them away from the mouth of the culvert. It includes two wood and screen water conduits to allow water to flow

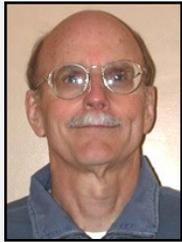
through even if the beavers build their dam all around our fence. The fence alone has protected flow through the culvert for 4 years – but we noticed recently the beginnings of a dam around it. Beavers are resourceful, industrious, and determined. Take a walk into the preserve and keep an eye on this unfolding drama!

**Bangor Land Trust
does not allow trapping on
Walden-Parke Preserve.**

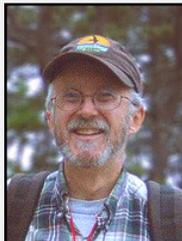
President's Letter



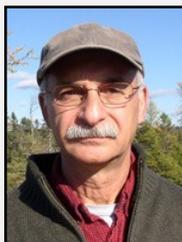
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Celebrating 10 Years of Bangor Land Trust

Bangor Land Trust* met for the first time on August 28, 2001, in Shep Harris's office at UBS. All of us lived here because we loved this land. It was part of our lives as Mainers. Each of us had experienced the ache of taking to heart a bit of wild land and then losing it. We knew that legal ownership was the only way to preserve undeveloped land, and that we needed to buy it or be prepared to receive it as a gift from someone who shared our vision. An e-mail from our archives said, "It's time to get going on the Land Trust - it's part of moving forward and giving people something they can support."



Dave Thompson and Jim Hinds lay out trail re-route

The 10 years that followed brought hard work, occasional setbacks, exciting successes, gratitude for generous gifts, and the pleasures of local and regional partnerships. Columbia Street Baptist Church gave us part ownership of 10 acres on the Penjajawoc Marsh, Fritz and Caroline Oldenburg gifted 13 acres of bobolink habitat near the Marsh, and (together with Dennis and Jane Shubert) created the 205-acre Walden-Parke Preserve. Orono Land Trust invited us to help create the Caribou Bog-Penjajawoc Lands, and together we won funding from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and Land for Maine's Future funds to purchase Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve and Central Penjajawoc Preserve. To date, Bangor Land Trust has conserved over 400 acres for wildlife habitat and public recreation – and we expect there will be more on the way.

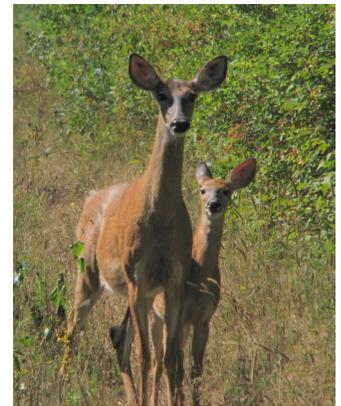


Photo by Ron Logan

New to our Staff



Terry Delargy joined us at the beginning of October as our new Office Manager, bringing expertise in management, marketing and advertising for both non-profit and commercial business. She and her family have lived in Bangor for over 7 years. You will find Terry at our office on Mondays, Wednesday afternoons, and Thursday and Friday mornings. If she isn't at the office, you just might see her enjoying BLT's trails with her husband Mick, son Ty, and Obi, their big shaggy dog.

In September, we bid a fond farewell to Deb DeForest, who found a position at the Mt. Desert Historical Society and gave up her long commute to Bangor.

The land is a treasure, and will be even more valuable to our children and grandchildren. Less tangible but equally important are the human connections – the deep satisfactions of doing together what none of us could do alone, of knowing how many others are willing to give time, money, and other resources because we all share the love of the wild outdoors, including bears, multiple bebies of lady's slippers, fields of bobolinks, abundant blackberries, ferns and lichens, and fresh snow on pine boughs.

* Shep Harris, Laurie Brown, Rae Wren, Lucy Quimby, Bob Milardo, Hope Brogunier, Pete Dane, Dick Andren, and Geoff Gratwick.

10th Anniversary Celebration at Historic Barn

On October 6, 2011, BLT's Corporate Sponsors helped us celebrate 10 years of conservation progress. Judi Perkins hosted the event in her historic barn, the old Bangor Stage Coach rest stop on outer Ohio St. Sherry Huber, Executive Director of the Maine Tree Foundation, spoke to us about "Keeping Maine's Forest: How to Make Sure the Forest Resource Endures." New developments in forest products are essential to Maine's economic health, and access to the forest is an essential element of the Maine experience.

Bangor Land Trust gave certificates of appreciation to our Corporate Sponsors with special thanks to each of them for their generous contributions to the success of our work and to the quality of life in our community.



The Perkins's historic barn was formerly the Bangor Stage Coach rest stop.



Keynote Speaker, Sherry Huber, addresses a barn-full of supporters at BLT's 10th Anniversary dinner.



Guest mingle in Judi Perkins's historic barn before enjoying a tasty barbeque.

Pedal the Penobscot



Bangor Land Trust's 5th annual Pedal the Penobscot Road Ride was a great success. We created a Century Route in response to rider requests, allowing 150 participants to ride their choice of 14, 28, 76, or 100 mile routes. Riders began at the Bangor waterfront; most of the route followed the Penobscot River, upstream and then downstream. As is our tradition, Pedal the Penobscot was a fully supported ride with rest stops at Old Town Canoe, Health Access Network in West Enfield, and the Bradley Municipal Building. Members of the University of Maine baseball team cheered our riders on to the finish line at the Sea Dog, where they enjoyed a complimentary barbecue. Linda Stearns won the kayak, and John Osborne won a Bangor Land Trust Guardian biking jersey.



We thank all of our riders and our many volunteers and sponsors. Please consider supporting them with your business, and thank them for their generosity. Be sure to save the date for next year's ride - Sunday, September 9th.



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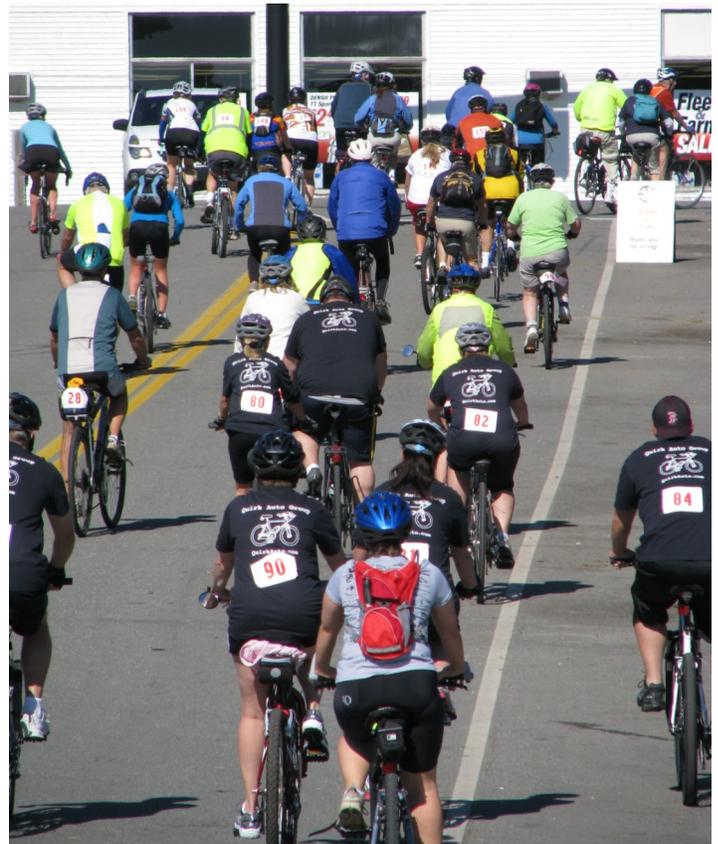
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Option to Purchase Essex Woods Parcel Signed

On November 1, 2011, Bangor Land Trust (BLT) signed an option to purchase a key 11-acre parcel adjacent to the City's "sliding hill" in Essex Woods. This parcel contains wooded wetlands and associated upland habitat adjacent to the Essex Woods Wetland. Birders and other nature watchers frequent the loop trail around the wetland, enjoying great views of waterfowl and wading birds such as herons, rails, egrets, mergansers, and

various ducks. One State-threatened species (Common Moorhen) nests there and 14 State species of special concern use the wetland.

The trail around this wetland forms one end of a new Bangor Trails Project trail from Cascade Park to Essex St. In addition to protecting the wetland, this parcel will contain parking off Essex St. to provide convenient access to the popular wetland.

Under the terms of the option agreement, BLT has until February 15, 2012, to close on the purchase. Generous anonymous donors at the Maine Community Foundation have gifted \$29,000 towards the amount needed to purchase the property and prepare it for public use, leaving Bangor Land Trust to raise an additional \$24,000.

West Point Cadets

Nature Notes by Dick Andren

In the morning when I leave the house a group of small winged West Point cadets commands my attention with their call. And what a call! While we are familiar with "jay," "jay," "jay," they are able to make a wide range of vocalizations and are great mimics like their other relatives in the crow family. What brings them to the oak trees adjacent to the house? In addition to the acorns, I poured sunflower seeds on the packed snow of the driveway during some brutal winter weather several years ago. The neighborhood jays watched me and within minutes several descended and greedily loaded up on the seeds. Eventually more than twenty came.

Now they have one or more sentinels on watch. When I leave the house to get the paper early in the morning, even before the snow flies, I am greeted by a call which tells others, "He just left the house." There is no way for me to leave without that announcement. They talk to me all the way to the road (400 ft.) pleading with me for seeds. They fly about from branch to branch. "This is only November," I tell them. "You are going to have to wait."

Blue Jays are part of a large Corvidae family that includes crows, ravens and magpies. Large seeds like acorns or beechnuts are a diet staple and blue



Photo by Ron Logan

jays cache seeds relentlessly. An impressive study by Darley-Hill and Johnson on a flock of blue jays in Virginia illustrates this well. In one season the jays cached 133,000 acorns, 54% of the entire crop in the study location. They ate 49,000 acorns or 20% of the crop. The jays are able to distinguish viable seeds from duds and only take the viable ones. The cache sites were up to a mile and a half away. Organic debris covered the stored seeds facilitating the germination of seeds not recovered. But these birds have remarkable memories and retrieved most of the seeds for a later meal.

As our open space becomes more and more fragmented, these noisy, nose-y neighbors are essential for seed dispersal. They help keep isolated natural areas supplied with genetically diverse trees. They also are probably responsible for moving forest trees north and west as the glaciers retreated thousands of years ago, and may have a role to play in redistributing vegetation as our climate changes.

Hail to the cadets!



Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011 **Moonlit Walk in** **Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve**

Early December is well into Maine's Dark Season. The fall foliage is long gone, birds have flown south, days are short, and there is seldom much snow to reflect the sunlight that does reach the ground. But don't stay home and curse the darkness! Brisk air, firm ground and a lack of bugs make this a great season for a walk, before or after sunset.

Join us at 6:00 pm for a moonlit walk in Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve. With the trees bare (and cooperation from the weather) the moon should cast enough light that we can follow the trail. We'll stop at times to listen to the sounds of the night, and see how many we can identify. Wear sturdy, non-skid boots as the leaves tend to be slippery. Please bring a flashlight!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012 **Annual Meeting**

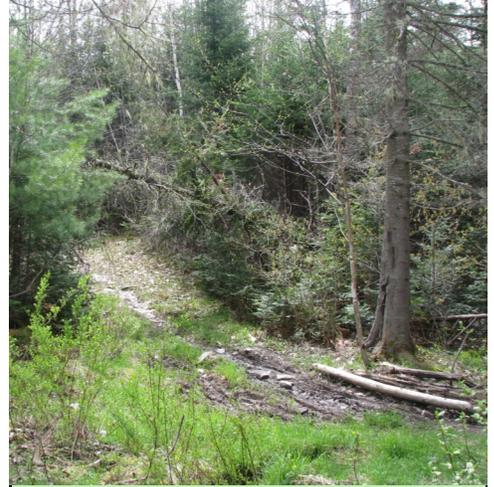
No, you didn't miss BLT's Annual Meeting—we changed the date. We changed our fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year.

Our next Annual Meeting will be February 23, 2012. We will meet, mingle and have the pleasure of hearing guest speaker, State Representative Bob Duchesne—renowned birding guide and author of The Maine Birding Trail. Please save the date! Location and other details will follow.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2012 **Pedal the Penobscot**

Don't miss this great event in 2012. Save the date!

Check out
www.bangorlandtrust.org
for more details & the most
up-to-to-date information.



*"What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and wildness?
Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet,
Long live the weeds and the wildness yet."*

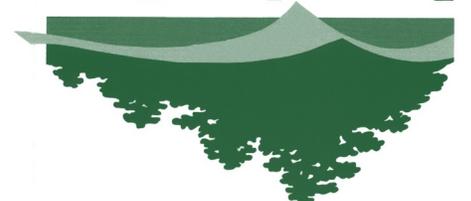
~Gerard Manley Hopkins

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*"Conserving
Bangor's Natural Heritage"
Our mission is to protect in
perpetuity for public benefit
significant lands and waters
and their natural, agricultural,
scenic, and traditional values
and characteristics; promote
general and scientific
understanding of the regions
natural resources and the need
for their preservation;
collaborate with organizations
having related missions.*

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