

Bangor Land Trust News

Spring 2019

Central Penjajawoc Preserve Expansion

by Lucy Quimby

Your land trust added 83 acres to Central Penjajawoc Preserve at the end of November! This includes 30 acres of Penjajawoc Marsh wetland. It protects another piece of one of Maine's most productive freshwater marshes, providing food, nesting, and breeding areas for a variety of wetland birds and other wetland animals, in addition to animals inhabiting the neighboring upland. On one pre-purchase inspection visit we met up with a porcupine, who moved away slowly with the dignity of an animal who did not expect anyone to mess with him.

The upland is mostly tall grasses, with stands of trees and bushes, especially along intermittent streams and other wet areas. Later this spring we will add a spur trail off the existing primary loop, thus providing another approach to the Marsh, another place to explore.

You might ask why Bangor Land Trust is so focused on Penjajawoc Marsh, and how an organization with a very small budget and only one (very able and industrious!) part time staff member can keep adding to its conserved lands?

Our latest addition builds on our history. In 2001 a Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife bird survey of Penjajawoc Marsh found that it was one of Maine's most productive freshwater marshes – because of its number and variety of wading birds and waterfowl, including threatened species. A group of conservation-minded citizens founded Bangor Land Trust to work with willing landowners to conserve this extraordinary resource. In 2005 Bangor Land Trust asked Maine Audubon to write a conservation plan for Penjajawoc Marsh, based on the best scientific evidence about what was necessary to preserve its ecological integrity. We wanted to be sure that the best available science guided

our deployment of resources. Maine Audubon scientists told us that upland within 1000 feet of the wetland edge is actually core marsh habitat. They recommended an additional 1000 feet up from the wetland edge as a buffer zone, for a total of 2,000 feet from the wetland edge. Relying upon that document, we contacted landowners around the Marsh and applied to the Land for Maine's Future Fund, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act program, and the Maine Natural Areas Resource Conservation Program for grants to purchase properties that landowners wished to sell. To date, we've won more than \$1,000,000 in grants, allowing us to pay appraised market value for each purchase.



The Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program awarded Bangor Land Trust the purchase price for the 83-acre addition to Central Penjajawoc Preserve. It receives funds from developers who wish to disturb a wetland and choose to pay a fee rather than buying and protecting an unprotected wetland in compensation. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection receives these “In

Lieu Fees” and transfers them to a fund that The Nature Conservancy administers. The Nature Conservancy awards grants, after careful vetting by the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Environmental Protection, and Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

This program provides a balance of sorts between developers and conservationists – development in one place provides resources for conservation in the same area of the state – resulting in BLT's being able to conserve significant parts of a Bird Life International Important Bird and Biodiversity Area.

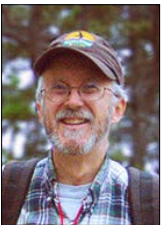
President's Letter



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Dear Friends,

I always read Grace Bartlett's Nature Notes first. This month they sent my mind in several directions. First, each green thing and critter have a story to tell – beginning with “who are you?” and “why are you here?” and going on to “how did you get here?” and “are you getting what you need in this place?”

This is an invitation to develop a more personal relationship with the forests and fields – getting to know each individual better. Some have come long distances, like the Bobolinks returning in the spring from Latin America and that invasive Common Buckthorn brought to North America from Eurasia. Others, like the white-tailed deer and balsam fir, are native, perhaps inhabiting this area since the last glaciation.

I suspect that many of the answers to my questions involve us, humans, and our power to alter the landscape. There is no part of the globe we haven't touched in some way, including changing the climate.

With our power comes the obligation to act responsibly – to choose behaviors with an eye to their long-term effects. This is a daunting responsibility, best taken on as an organized group effort.

In Bangor, we have been given the opportunity to take care of a crucial piece of our earth, a Bird Life International Important Bird and Biodiversity Area where nearly 200 species of birds breed or migrate through, including 40 species on the State's Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Lists. And this is just the birds. We have bear, moose, and bobcats, salamanders, tree frogs, and butterflies. There are so many animals to get to know – so many stories to learn, so many opportunities locally to mitigate the effects on wildlife of climate change.

And for all Bangor Land Trust members and supporters – you are a part of the answer to “why are you here” – you are helping to provide a home for so many animals, including humans, for whom the poet Gary Snyder's words ring true: “Nature is not a place to visit, it is home.”

Thank you for supporting our home in nature.

Sincerely,

Pedal the Penobscot

**Sunday
September 8th**

Register online at
bangorlandtrust.org

Fully-supported routes 12 to 100 miles. Discounted rate before July 15th.
Can't ride? Be a volunteer! For more information contact the office.

In fourth grade we learned to ask questions about the stories we read. You know, the who, what, when, how questions. As I wander the fields and forests, I find these questions valuable tools for an amateur nature sleuth. For example, one day last fall, not far from the trailhead at Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve, I came across some small green apples about 3/4 inch in diameter. They were on and around the trail, but I was in the forest. Apple trees are not known to grow in the woods, so why was the tree and its fruit here? After some looking around to see what other trees were growing nearby, I began to think, “ah, this was probably a field at one time and the apple tree was once in the open.” The other trees sharing the space with the apple were bigtooth aspen, quaking aspen, and eastern white pine. All these are indicators that this was an “early succession forest.” These are the “first-comer” trees once a field is left to grow up. They don’t like the shade.

The who, what, when, why, and how questions are valuable tools to better understand why things are where they are. Why is the Christmas fern in the moist rich shaded forests, but the cinnamon fern seems to prefer the open woods? What is rock and soil beneath the Marsh? Has it always been a wet area? (Hint: The bedrock is sandstone



The snow is melting at Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve.

and shale in this area with glacial marine silt and clay on top of that. The layer just beneath the Marsh is muck, an organic histosol.) By asking questions of what we see, we can better read the woods and fields, streams and marsh where we wander. For me, having a better understanding of who lives where and why, has opened me up to the intricate patterns and connections - the communities and ecosystems.

These questions have served me well and have moved me to a greater appreciation of who is around me, what I am seeing, smelling, and hearing, why a particular species is living in this spot, when it moved into an area, and how it got there. They have led me to a place of greater wonder, curiosity, and respect.

So the next time you are out in the woods or by the water, I urge you to remember the who, what, why, when, and how of your childhood and see what you discover along your way.

Thank you!

- Justin Poland for your help with the January Nature Watch outing when the temps and winds made the outing brutally cold. A few brave souls faced the conditions that day.
- Richard Spinney and Michelle Benoit for sharing photography tips and images at Nature in Focus - the first of more photography workshops to come.
- Aram Calhoun for the informative and inspiring talk at the 18th Annual Meeting held at Dysart’s Broadway Restaurant. And to Dysart’s for their generosity and hospitality.
- Dana Wilde for the very nice time we were able to spend with you. We’ll look for your new book on Maine spiders out this summer.
- Lynn and Ray Bolduc for chairing the Pedal the Penobscot Committee and to new and returning committee members working on the best ride yet.
- Lucy Quimby for guiding Winter Adventure at West Penjajawoc; and to
- Christy Stout and Margaret Beckman for installing new bird houses there and for Daniel and Lukas Modrusan for building them.
- Volunteers that ran a Build An Insect Exploration Station at the 2019 Maine Science Festival - and to all who contributed crafty scraps. That was fun and we’re already thinking about next year.



BANGOR LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 288
Bangor, ME 04402-0288

www.bangorlandtrust.org
info@bangorlandtrust.org

BANGOR LAND TRUST'S MISSION:

“Protect for public benefit
land and water in the Bangor region
that have special ecological, natural,
scenic, agricultural, or recreational
significance while increasing public
understanding of the value of
land and water conservation.”



Upcoming Programs

Saturday, April 13 at 10 a.m.

Nature Watch through the Seasons

Walden-Parke Preserve

meet at the kiosk at the end of Tamarack Trail

Month of May

(all walks are 7 am to 8:30 am unless otherwise specified)

Maine Audubon, Penobscot Valley Chapter

Neighborhood Bird Walks

<http://www.bangorlandtrust.org/calendar-of-events.html>

various locations near YOU!

Saturday, May 25 at 10 a.m.

Lady Slipper Walk

Walden-Parke Preserve

meet at the kiosk at the end of Tamarack Trail

Sunday, September 8

Pedal the Penobscot 2018

High Tide Restaurant & Bar

5 South Main Street, Brewer

To receive your newsletter by email, please contact the office,
942-1010 or info@bangorlandtrust.org.

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Did You Know?

All IRAs require that the owner begin to take a Required Minimum Distribution by age 70 1/2. This amount is usually taxable - BUT you can avoid taxes on any amount that goes directly to a charitable organization such as Bangor Land Trust. You can make the gift by notifying your IRA plan custodian of your intent to make a Qualified Charitable Donation to Bangor Land Trust. The distributions are transferred directly to Bangor Land Trust and are not subject to Federal Income Taxes.

Have you been thinking about a way to make a difference that will last even after you're gone? You can give an enduring gift of Bangor's wild back yard to future generations by making a bequest to Bangor Land Trust in your will.

For more information call 942-1010 or send a message to info@bangorlandtrust.org.

*“Nature is not a place to visit,
it is home.”*

Gary Snyder