

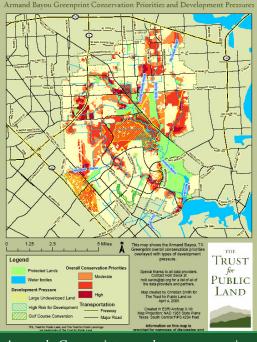
# Bangor Land Trust Newsletter

Autumn 2006

# The Trust for Public Land Speaks at BLT's 5th Annual Meeting

BLT held its fifth Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 25th with a presentation by The Trust for Public Land (TPL). David Queeley-Director of the Parks for People New England program, Wolfe Tone-Project Manager for TPL's Maine office, and Breece Robertson-Director of TPL's Geographic Information Systems gave a wonderful presentation on Greenprinting to an enthusiastic crowd of BLT members, Board of Directors, City councilors, and community members.

Greenprinting is TPL's "comprehensive approach to helping communities identify land for conservation and strategies for protecting it." TPL uses "state-ofthe-art computer models created with GIS software to analyze community based data." The process "helps communities make informed decisions about land conservation" and "asks communities to identify, before it's



A sample Greenprint map shows conservation priorities identified as moderate to high.

too late, what lands shouldn't be developed. The challenge then is to turn that vision into a protected system of parks, trails, watersheds, and working landscapes like farms and forests."

"Greenprinting not only helps

growing communities come up with a widely embraced conservation vision, it takes the necessary next steps to turn vision into reality—finding funding and negotiating the land deals."

BLT and TPL are excited at the possibility of Greenprinting technologies coming to Bangor. TPL has not yet penetrated this region of Maine, but the need is certainly here if partners can collaborate to reach a common goal.

BLT hopes to continue the momentum generated by this presentation and work with the City of Bangor to bring these progressive technologies to the Bangor area. With TPL's assistance, we can informatively outline Bangor's conservation goals, plan open spaces and trails, and preserve these areas for future generations. For more information on The Trust for Public Land, visit www.tpl.org.

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Bangor Land Trust is pleased to announce that our Board of Directors is growing in size! Thanks to our strategic planning exercises in the past year, we have added three new board members to our talented team. We are very proud to share that Fred Costlow, Laura Mitchell, and Bill Phillips have all joined BLT and will be bringing their own special skills and talents to our Board.

We are sad to have lost Joni Dunn, Rae Fournier-Wren, and Lyndy Rohman during the past year and would like to thank each of them for their volunteer service to the Bangor community. Each Board member brought a wonderfully unique energy and skillset to our Board and will be greatly missed.

We are all very excited to work together over the next year and help BLT succeed in its conservation and education goals for Bangor.

#### Bangor Land Trust Board of Directors



Lucy Quimby President



Shepard Harris Vice President



Jim Hinds *Treasurer* 



Dick Andren Secretary Hope Brogunier Devon Carter Fred Costlow Bob Duchesne Jim Elmore Robert Milardo Laura Mitchell William Phillips

# A Message From Our President

The Brookings Institute and GrowSmart Maine just spent 18 months and \$450,000 developing a remarkable blueprint for economic development in Among their Maine. findings: "As the search for quality places grows in importance [in the global economy] Maine possesses a globally known "brand" built on images of livable communities, stunning scenery, and great recreational opportunities." The workforce needed to grow Bangor's economy will choose to live in a "quality place," with access to unique natural areas, not "anywhere, USA."

When we founded Bangor Land Trust in 2001, we envisioned a broad coalition of businesses, developers, landowners, those who love the outdoors, and other community-minded citizens working together to conserve the natural areas that make Bangor special. Conserving enough land to preserve Bangor's quality of place is a huge undertaking; the Brookings report gives us ever more reasons to do so.

Even though we have been fortunate in the generosity of landowners and developers, we also need environmental scientists to guide our conservation and land management plans, fundraisers and grant writers to help raise money for the purchase of more land and easements, trail planners and builders, foresters, mappers, environmental educators, volunteer coordinators, newsletter writers, and people to coordinate all this activity. Most of all, we want to share the joys and pleasures of our conservation work with everyone in and around Bangor who loves these places.

In 2005 we launched our Kickoff Campaign, with the goal of raising \$100,000 to get us started. Thanks to generous and communityminded individual donors, businesses, and foundations, we've raised \$90,000.

We need \$10,000 to reach our goal. If you are already a supporter, Thank You ! Please pass this newsletter and membership envelope on to a friend.

If you have not yet contributed to our Kickoff Campaign, and want to join your neighbors in preserving Bangor's quality of place, *please mail your contribution in the enclosed envelope with "Kickoff" labeled on the memo line.* <u>We need</u> <u>your support!</u>

And a holiday suggestion: a Bangor Land Trust membership or donation in someone's honor makes a perfect holiday gift. Just enclose instructions to us with your payment and we'll send your recipient a card with a wonderful Bangor Land Trust photo.

## Thanks to AMES A/E Corporation

BLT would like to express great thanks to AMES A/E Architects & Engineers Corporation for providing valuable time and resources to assist BLT in acquiring a property along the Penjajawoc Marsh.

As a non-profit organization, Bangor Land Trust greatly appreciates such generosity from local businesses and is very much encouraged by collaborative partnerships throughout the Bangor area.

BLT is currently awaiting transfer of the property and is very much excited about this next step in preserving land around the Penjajawoc Marsh as part of the comprehensive Caribou Bog - Penjajawoc Project. We are honored to be able to protect more wildlife habitat and preserve public access to such special natural areas.

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# **Bangor Trails Committee Signs Memorandum of Understanding**

The Bangor Trails Committee is now official! In addition to planning projects and sketching out an overall trail plan, the committee has been working steadily over the past few months to draft a Memorandum of Understanding. The document works to solidify the structure of the committee and set the roles and responsibilities of each party in developing, constructing, and maintaining Bangor's trail system.

Bangor Trails first presented the Memorandum of Understanding to the City of Bangor's Transportation & Infrastructure Committee with success. Both Bangor Land Trust and Keep Bangor Beautiful then brought the document back to their respective Boards for approval and were met with continued support.

The final step was to present the document to Bangor's City Council on October 23rd. The City Council approved the Bangor Trails Project Memorandum of Understanding and appointed its three committee members to participate in the next stages of planning. The Bangor Trails Committee is now officially comprised of these members:

- Bangor Land Trust—Lucy Quimby, Devon Carter, and Lyndsey Monroe
- *City of Bangor*—Jim Ring, Frank Comeau, and Ed Barrett
- *Keep Bangor Beautiful* Kathy Guerin, Mike Pullen, and Heather Parent

We are all very much looking forward to the next stages of the Bangor Trails Project.

#### **Community Outreach**

Our Community Outreach Program was developed in response to the growing need for open space and community awareness in the Greater Bangor Area. While the City of Bangor has provided wonderful parks and trails systems, these efforts are not keeping up with the rapid pace of land development and Bangor area residents' requests for public open space and conserved lands. We developed the Community Outreach Program in March 2006 as an opportunity to provide several community services:

- Environmental education
- Establish a monthly Walkers' Group
- Involve the community in local stewardship
- Encourage local schools to utilize BLT properties as an educational resource
- Inventory Bangor's trails and publish a city-wide trail map

In September, BLT hired Heather Campfield as a part time Community Educator and Volunteer Coordinator to help us implement each of these outreach goals over the next year. Heather proved to be a great asset and quickly charged ahead with the tasks set for her.

We soon began planning educational events for both adults and children and met with the Maine Discovery Museum to discuss collaboration on upcoming programs. We also created an annual events calendar that will continue to grow throughout the years.

The Walkers' Group has been running for three months with great success thanks to our volunteer leaders. We also have the next three months lined up with enthusiastic volunteers! If you are interested in leading an upcoming walk, please contact Lyndsey at 942-6389.

Unfortunately, Heather had to leave the Bangor area after only one month of work with BLT. We are again looking to fill the Community Educator/Volunteer Coordinator position as soon as possible. If you are interested in applying for the position, please contact Lyndsey at 942-6389 or send a resume and cover letter to our return address.

#### **Volunteer Efforts**



Volunteers tear down free ride structures in Walden-Parke Preserve.

Our thanks go out to the wonderful volunteers that helped dismantle aging bike structures in Walden-Parke Preserve this month. The free ride structures had not been maintained in the past few years and were presenting a safety problem for visitors—they simply had to come down.

Volunteers spent a beautiful October day tearing down the wood structures and carefully removing nails, spikes, and wire from the remaining logs. Many thanks to Heather Campfield, Devon Carter, Curtis Marston, Bill Phillips, Jeremy Porter, Jeremy Ryan, Ben Shultz, Kent Tableman, and Bronco Quick for their superb efforts in rallying volunteers and laboring to clean up Walden-Parke Preserve.

# Star Gazing in Bangor by Geoff Gratwick

Now that I look at the night time sky through bifocals the stars aren't so distinct. The second star in the handle of the Big Dipper is really two—entry into the Roman Legion required you to be able to distinguish them. I no longer qualify.

In late August I went on a walk through the skies with two guides from the Penobscot Valley Star Gazers: Dave Clark and Wade Smith. With high-magnification binoculars, filters, and a large 8 inch telescope in tow, our guides began our journey by revealing these stars' separate identities.

They traced the constellations across the sky and made order out of chaos. What was blurry became clear, but of course what had been invisible now became blurry. We realigned the scopes and could just make out the jumbled blush of the 100 billion stars of the Andromeda galaxy, our nearest galactic neighbor.

As I stood in quiet reverie in the West Penjajawoc Grasslands, I found my mind wandering to thoughts of what the deep hollows of space and time think of our tiny, marvelous spec of green and blue drifting through a remote corner of their universe. In such vastness do we still shimmer when seen from afar or have we dulled with time?

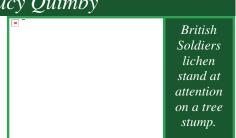
I came back to Earth just in time to see meteors of the Persid shower flash through their evanescent final act and lose Uranus in the light pollution over the auto malls on Hogan Road.

When my feet became quite thoroughly wet with new dew I grew cold and went home to bed.

#### BLT Photo workshop by Lucy Quimby

Bangor Photo's Joni Dunn arrived at our Photo Workshop on a bright sunny morning carrying several bags of camera equipment. As we enthusiastically experimented with the new toys, Joni gave tips, shared advice, and helped us get the most from her equipment. She patiently explained the finer points of camera functioning to those of us who had never taken the time to read the detailed explanations in our user manuals.

I happily spent the next two hours on hands and knees, enthralled by a vision of the world seen through a close-up lens. Armies of "British soldiers," little green lichens with red-tipped stalks, paraded before me and allowed me to capture them. My friend Holly lay on her back under big pines, getting just the right perspective to capture them against blue sky and white clouds.



Using a camera helps you focus your vision, makes you think about what you are seeing, and challenges you to find a way to share it with others. Joni's generous guidance backed up our amateur enthusiasm with expert know-how and a wealth of intriguing equipment.

We made a pact to return at least once each season, to record the changes in one place through the cycle of a year. I can't wait to photograph a horde of snow fleas through a close-up lens! Watch our newsletter, our upcoming website, and the Epic Sports display window and join us for our next BLT photo workshop!

# **GrowSmart Maine**

Maine's diverse history of farming, forestry, fishing, and tourism has created a unique image of the state that attracts visitors and new residents to seek the Maine lifestyle.

As noted in *Charting Maine's Future*, Maine "possesses a globally known 'brand' built on images of livable communities, stunning scenery, and great recreational opportunities." As we all search for quality places to live and work, this "brand" undoubtedly draws people from near and far.

As a means of protecting the state's character, natural places, and quality of life, GrowSmart Maine has emerged to lead the way in planning Maine's future. The non-profit organization is comprised of several diverse interest groups who "share a commitment to finding and promoting new ideas and new approaches that build bridges between people across different parts of the state that will lead to common ground to move Maine forward."

Maine is undergoing rapid changes that require significant restructuring in the economy, education, housing, and long-term planning. We are at a transition point where Mainers must seize the opportunity to take charge of the state's future and determine a course for a "more prosperous, sustainable, and ultimately more equitable future."

GrowSmart Maine will surely help guide the state in order to preserve Maine's 'brand'. After all, "Maine's rooted, committed citizens—who love their state have a talent for figuring things out. They've done it repeatedly in the past. We believe they will do it again, when it matters most."

# Nature Notes by Dick Andren

Shrieks of amazement were heard on the banks of the Kenduskeag Stream on Sunday, September 17th. A large diving beetle in a water-filled plastic container was rapidly swimming about looking for lunch. The big brown beetle then spied a small black stonefly larva and the lunch menu was settled. Isaac and Finnuala, both five years old, were entranced. This was not on the TV or the computer or phone—this was really happening before their



Stream Study enthusiasts collect samples in the Kenduskeag Stream

eyes and they were very excited.

Earlier in the afternoon they had been wading in the Kenduskeag Stream, turning over flat rocks and looking for the creatures that earn their living by staying out of the current and out of the mouths of predators.

Isaac and Finnuala used brushes to scrape organisms clinging to the wet rocks into white pans. Then they identified the organisms that were removed by comparing them to pictures. Small, flat riffle beetle larvae called water pennies were abundant. There were also many different types of caddis fly larvae, stone fly larvae, sponges, crayfish, snails, and damselfly larvae. Isaac and Finnuala, their parents, and others learned that many insects spend part of their life cycle feeding in streams. Since these organisms can't move far, they can



Finnuala, Isaac, and Esme explore the catches of the day

live only where clean, good quality water flows by.

Scientists have determined that different species have different tolerances to pollution. After witnessing the many types and numbers of species found that Sunday, it seems that the Kenduskeag Stream is in good health.

It was a great, sunny afternoon in and on the Kenduskeag in Bangor!

## **Our Thanks to Dr. Bill Wood**

BLT is very grateful for the generous volunteer efforts of Dr. Bill Wood. We owe him many thanks for creating our very first website and for keeping it updated throughout the years.

More recently, Dr. Wood courageously offered to format a membership database for our office computer. After receiving a long list of requests, Dr. Wood put together a fantastic database that will make office life here at BLT just a little bit easier.

We thank you very much, Dr. Wood, for your wonderful work and applaud such a thoughtful and talented volunteer!

# **BLT Hires Mapping/GIS Consultant**

In early October, BLT hired Sean Gambrel to complete GPS mapping for each of our properties and coordinate GIS information from City data and aerial photos on Bangor's parks and open spaces.

His temporary position is part of the Bangor Trails Mapping project for which BLT received grant funding this spring. Sean is recording data and flagging BLT property lines as well as major roads and trails on our four properties. His next step will be to utilize volunteers in brushing and permanently marking all BLT property lines.

Sean's work will contribute to both BLT's trail maps and the comprehensive city-wide map that Bangor Trails is developing.

## Visit our New Website!

We are very proud to announce that BLT has a brand new look to our website! Alayna White, a student at the University of Maine, has been working with us to update our design and incorporate a new wealth of information in our website.

The new site features information on the people behind the organization, descriptions of our properties, an annual events calendar, trail maps, and so much more.

Thanks to Alayna for all of her hard work in creating the web site throughout its many stages!

We hope you will visit our new website to learn more about BLT and our activities. You can find our newly updated site at www.bangorlandtrust.org.

Bangor, ME 04401 Permit #23 Bangor Land Trust ₽AID **US POSTAGE** Nonprofit Org.



Bangor, ME 04402-0288 P.O. Box 288 RANGOR LAND TRUST

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Newsletter printed on recycled paper and created by Lyndsey Monroe, Program Coordinator. Printing generously donated by Bacon Printing.

If you have not already joined BLT or have not renewed your membership, we ask that you become a member so that you can continue to enjoy this newsletter and receive updates on conservation issues, BLT programs, and upcoming community events. To continue receiving our

contacts, but simply need to and land acquisition costs.

the Bangor community and beyond. We would love to continue spreading news of BLT activities to our long list of conserve precious resources for our many other program activities

Since last January, BLT has

been producing this informative

newsletter and providing it to

members and friends throughout

Become a member today and continue to receive our BLT Newsletter for the next year!

Don't Let this be Your Last Newsletter!!!

newsletter, please join us by enclosing your tax-deductible donation in the envelope provided and mail your contribution to

**Bangor Land Trust** 

Bangor, ME 04402-0288

We greatly appreciate your

membership and hope that we can

continue to serve you by keeping

you informed of conservation

issues for the Bangor area and

working towards the goals of our

mission. Please join us today.

P.O. Box 288

December 16, 2006 2:00 pm Volunteer Kristel Hayes will introduce Nordic Walking to our Walkers' Group while exploring

Volunteer Leslie Forstadt will lead walkers on an adventurous outing through Brown Woods.

the Kenduskeag Stream Parkway.

The technique uses poles while

walking to produce an all over

body workout for all ages and

Volunteer Paul Pasquine will

Meet at Epic Sports for each outing

lead walkers on a winter outing in

to begin walking or carpool to our

fitness levels. Poles provided.

January 20, 2006 2:00 pm

the City Forest.

walking destination.

## **Upcoming Events Bangor Walkers' Group Outings**

November 18, 2006 2:00 pm