

## A Message from Our Board President

The Bangor Land Trust Board is currently drafting a statement of Core Values, both to guide our own decisions and to describe ourselves for the Bangor Community. An early draft of our opening paragraph reads:

“Bangor Land Trust values natural communities: it values the species of plants, animals, and other biological groups that live there; the beneficial effects of these communities on people’s lives; and the added economic vitality they bring to nearby human communities.”

There is no doubt that the energy that propels Bangor Land Trust is our love of nature—whether it is admiring snow fleas, being followed by an owl when biking through the woods at dusk, identifying a rare lichen, finding bear tracks in the snow, recognizing a plant species that has been on our planet since the days of dinosaurs, or just breathing in that wonderful evergreen smell.

And there is no doubt that these experiences and others like them are good for us. Humans evolved in the natural world and in returning to it we exercise our bodies, stimulate our minds and senses, and restore our hearts.



*BLT Board Members develop Core Values*

Then come the questions: are environmentalists and nature lovers opposed to economic development? Can Bangor afford to set aside open space?

Our answers: Bangor Land Trust is not opposed to economic development, and Bangor cannot afford to not set aside open space.

We believe that the carefully planned conservation of special natural areas makes an important contribution to the economic

development of a community. For example, nearby natural areas for recreation and relaxation enhance the attractiveness of the Bangor community for both employers and employees. We need to take advantage of Maine’s niche position in the global economy—our reputation as a state where communities are intrinsically linked to the natural environment, and where each community has a distinct quality of place.

Bangor Land Trust has a vital contribution to make in the greater Bangor area—our ability to preserve that quality of place by working with the City of Bangor, developers, and willing landowners to conserve important wildlife habitat and recreational areas.

In an economy where many businesses can choose where to locate on the basis of the quality of life, such amenities as snow fleas, curious owls, rare lichens and bear tracks exert a distinctive allure.

## IN THIS ISSUE: New Program Coordinator is BLT’s First Staff Position

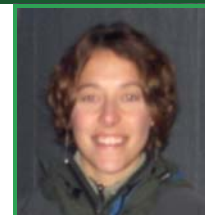
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This past October, Bangor Land Trust hired Lyndsey Monroe as their Program Coordinator. Her half time position is BLT’s first hire since its inception in 2001 and represents an exciting step forward.

Lyndsey is a graduate of the University of Maine at Orono with a degree in Wildlife Ecology and a

special interest in environmental ethics. She is a native of Veazie and has a strong family history in this area and throughout the state.

President Lucy Quimby is delighted: “Lyndsey is an example of what many of us want for our grown children—someone making an opportunity to stay in



*Lyndsey Monroe is BLT’s new Program Coordinator*

the area and contribute to its wise growth.” The new position will allow BLT to grow, develop, and better serve the community.

## Bangor Land Trust Board of Directors



Lucy Quimby  
*President*



Shepard Harris  
*Vice President*



Jim Hinds  
*Treasurer*



Dick Andren  
*Secretary*

Hope Brogunier

Devon Carter

Bob Duchesne

Jim Elmore

Rae Fournier-Wren

Robert Milardo

Lynda Rohman

## Our New Location in Norumbega Hall

Bangor Land Trust has just moved our office space into Norumbega Hall in downtown Bangor. As a new affiliate of Eastern Maine Development Corporation, we have recently joined them in their move to 40 Harlow St. in Bangor.

The new location is a wonderful step for Bangor Land Trust. With the support of EMDC, we can effectively expand our community outreach to continue with our land acquisitions and partnerships while also developing educational programs and increasing our membership.

The new office is both



an efficient space for our Program Coordinator and a more accessible location for the public. In the heart of downtown, foot traffic is heavy and with an established art museum occupying the ground floor of the building, we hope to spark some interest in the immediate area.

We are very excited about our new location and hope to better serve our current and future members with improved focus and efficiency. We can now be reached at (207)942-6389 X 3219 or [bgrlandtrust@emdc.org](mailto:bgrlandtrust@emdc.org). Our mailing address will remain P.O. Box 288 in Bangor, ME 04402-0288.

## 205 Acre Gift Donated by Walden Parke, LLC

This past December, Fritz and Caroline Oldenburg and Dennis and Jane Shubert, principals of Walden Parke, LLC, gifted 205 acres of prime wildlife habitat and recreational lands to BLT.

This is the first installment of a generous gift totaling 410 acres that lies across the old Veazie railroad bed from the 650 acre Bangor City Forest.

At the request of the Walden Parke LLC partners, BLT will maintain the land in its natural state while keeping it open for public access. The Oldenburgs and Shuberts “feel good about having the ability to preserve such a large tract of land in the city of Bangor contiguous to the

Veazie railroad bed and the City Forest” and “look forward to working with the BLT to plan for future generations who will now be able to use this land as a classroom for preserving



*A beaver pond on the property*

land for wildlife as well as recreational access.”

Access to outdoor recreational opportunities so close to our urban center enhances our quality of life here in Bangor and makes our community an ever more attractive place to live.

In addition to being a

recreational resource, the land is a crucial link in the Caribou Bog-Penjajawoc Project, an open-space corridor stretching from the Penjajawoc Marsh through the Caribou Bog, past the north end of Pushaw Lake. This project, led by the Bangor and Orono Land Trusts, is a cooperative effort of a number of partners working together to preserve land for outdoor recreation and conserve wildlife habitat.

The land contains beaver wetlands, bog habitat, and both hardwood and softwood forests of varying ages.

Plans for mapping the rustic trails are in the works.



## Hammond Lumber Transfers 11.18 Acres to BLT

Bangor Land Trust has signed a conservation agreement with Hammond Lumber Company to hold an easement over 11.18 acres of wetland in Levant.

The property will serve as mitigation for Hammond Lumber Company to allow them to expand behind their Bangor retail store on low quality wetland habitat.

Bangor Land Trust will hold



*View of 11 acre wetland from Avenue Road in Levant*

the property as easement until Hammond Lumber is able to gift the 11.18 acres as full ownership.

BLT then plans to monitor the quality of the wetland communities to ensure they remain healthy.

The opportunity may also arise for local schools to utilize the wetland for science classes and research. An unnamed stream

passes through the property and connects to the Black Stream-Kenduskeag River watershed.

## Nature Notes: "Water and Ice" by Dick Andren

Water gives life as a liquid but can cause problems as a solid. Remove energy from living systems, and the abundant water in living organisms expands to form ice. This condition causes immense problems for cells, the basic unit of life. Cells are surrounded by rather delicate highly complex membranes that are torn apart by expanding ice crystals. In frostbite, cold can freeze unprotected areas, damaging tissue, at times beyond repair.

Humans wear insulating clothing, live in heated houses, and travel in heated vehicles, all to avoid the damage caused by freezing temperatures. The other organisms that live around us don't have that luxury. How do they cope with being exposed month after month to below freezing temperatures without having their cells torn apart?

Some organisms survive the winter as eggs or seeds, both of which have only small amounts of water and have high



*A stream trickles under an early snow*

concentrations of substances that prevent ice crystal formation.

Many shrubs and trees move water out of their cells into the spaces between cells in the winter. And some amphibians employ the same mechanism. The ice that forms is outside of the cell membranes. These cells rehydrate when conditions are favorable.

The leaves may fall but the buds formed over the summer will be exposed to freezing temperatures. The plant's buds contain millions of highly organized cells but again with very

low water content. In the spring, water is transported to these buds, the cells swell and burst open into leaves and flowers.

Some insects spend the winter in a larval stage. These larvae produce a chemical antifreeze that allows the water in the cells to remain fluid at temperatures far below freezing. Many of these larvae remain in places sheltered from the bitterest temperature like under bark, in logs, or underground.

Voles are extraordinarily common in our fields. They are active all winter using the insulating snow cover to prevent freezing. They also eat food rich in energy, grow thicker fur, and curl up in insulated nests. This wet fall may prove especially difficult for them if flooded tunnels freeze to block food storage areas and pathways.

Among all of these diverse mechanisms, migration may seem like a simple escape. Clever birds just fly to Florida, the Yucatan or the Caribbean. And You?

## A Lesson in Winter Twig Identification

Wildflower and tree identification are often thought to be activities limited to the summer months. As flowers fade and leaves fall, the task of identifying a deciduous tree with any certainty may seem dismal, but can be a welcome addition to any pleasant winter outing.

Two particular guides have been highly recommended for identifying winter plants and other signs of life in the snow. *A Guide to Nature in Winter* by Donald and Lillian Stokes and *Winter Keys to Woody Plants of Maine* by Chris Campbell and Fay Hyland are especially helpful for keying winter buds, winter weeds, woodland evergreen plants or even wildlife tracks in the snow.

Woody plants can be easily identified with the help of such

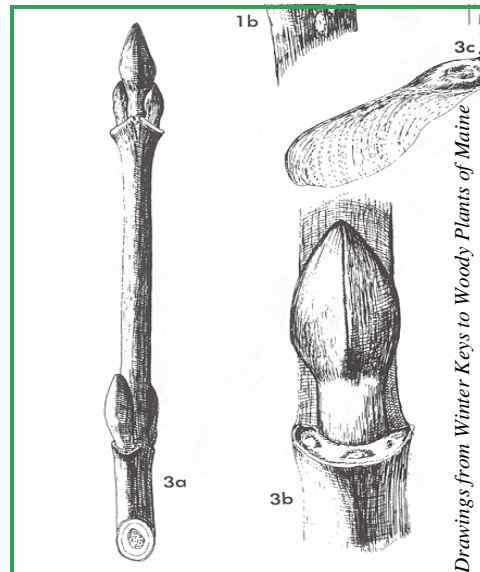


Drawings from *Winter Keys to Woody Plants of Maine*  
American Beech twig, leaf, burr, and nut

useful guides using photos, drawings, or dichotomous keys. There are several factors to be studied on winter twigs including buds and bud scales, leaf scars, leaf arrangement and position, and characteristics of the twig itself. Additional features may include bark, persisting leaves, or habitat.

The particular combination of these features will help you to determine the identity of the plant.

Study the shape, size, color, and texture of each feature to narrow down your options and compare your selection with the optimal habitat for the species to confirm your choice. Enjoy!



Drawings from *Winter Keys to Woody Plants of Maine*  
Red Maple twig, node, and seeds

## Kiosk now located on West Penjajwoc Grasslands



*A new kiosk now marks the 13.1 acre property of West Penjajwoc Grasslands off of Essex St.*

many ways. The property will be maintained as undeveloped open space and will be managed to enhance habitat value. In addition, the fields are open to the public for recreational use, and provide a lovely spot to walk, watch wildlife, or cross-country ski.

In October, BLT members Geoff Gratwick and Bob Milardo volunteered their time to construct a kiosk from materials donated by Hammond Lumber. The kiosk now stands on the property and will soon serve as an educational resource and guide for visitors.

You can access the property by going out Essex St., turning right at Fox Hollow, and going to the end of the road. We invite visitors to explore and enjoy the property throughout the seasons.

This past spring, Fritz and Caroline Oldenburg donated a beautiful parcel of West Penjajwoc Grasslands to BLT. The 13.1 acre property lies adjacent to another parcel previously donated by the Oldenburgs to Maine Audubon Society. Together, the two fields cover 31.5 acres.

Bangor Land Trust members are thankful for this gift of crucial grassland habitat and recreational land that will benefit Bangor in

## Upcoming Events

### Winter Walk

Dick Andren will host a one hour walk to investigate the strategies used by plants and animals to cope with winter conditions. Where are the salamanders? Why are our resident winter birds larger? Why do oaks lose their leaves?

**February 26, 2006 2:00 pm**  
**Bangor City Forest**

### “Building a Community Trail System” with guest speaker Alix Hopkins

BLT and Keep Bangor Beautiful have invited Alix Hopkins, the founding Executive Director of Portland Trails, to speak about her experiences in developing community trail systems.

**March 22, 2006 7:00pm**  
**Bangor Public Library**

# What Can Bangor Land Trust Do For You?

*Please take a moment to fill out this survey* so that our Program Coordinator and Board of Directors can better understand and serve your interests. Your input will greatly help us to prioritize and develop program areas that are most important to our members and to keep you updated on relevant issues. Your answers will be kept confidential and will not be shared with other organizations. *Please help us in serving the Bangor Community.*

**1. How long have you been a resident of Maine?**

- Less than 5 years
- 5-9 years
- 10-19 years
- 20 or more years
- I have lived in Maine my entire life

**2. How many members are in your household?**

- 1
- 2
- 3-5
- 5 or more

**3. How many children under 18 are in your household?**

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5 or more

**4. What is your age range?**

- Under 25
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

**5. What is your profession?**

**6. What is your current employment status?**

- Unemployed
- Volunteer
- Stay at home parent
- Work part time
- Work full time
- Retired

**7. Why do you support BLT?**

- I consider myself an environmentalist
- I want to preserve the lands for wildlife habitat.
- I want to save land for future generations.
- I want to preserve forest lands for recreational opportunities for the community.
- I utilize the Bangor City Forest trails
- I want to keep open space for traditional use
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**8. What programs areas are important to you?**

- Educational programs concerning the bogs, marshes, or other resources that may be threatened if not closely watched
- Engaging youth in experiencing the significance of natural resources
- Community lecture series
- Land acquisition
- Stronger outreach and collaboration with development consistent with the BLT mission

**9. What types of events should BLT offer?**

- Stargazing and planet exploration
- Competitive Races
- Community Clean up Days
- Educational series on ecology and open space
- Forest walks with wildlife and plant i.d.
- Wetland or aquatic trips
- Photography workshops or competitions
- Winter outings
- Other:

**10. Do you have any special interests?**

- I am a birder
- I love to snowshoe, ski, or walk in winter
- My dog loves the forest
- I enjoy open space to run or walk
- Bike and rail bed trail system connections
- Traditional uses, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other:

**11. What other organizations do you support?**

- Audubon
- Arts groups/Theatre
- Nature Conservancy
- Natural Resources Council
- Other Land Trusts (which ones):
- Other:
- Friends of Acadia
- UM
- Symphony
- Sierra Club

**12. What can BLT do next?**

- Accept my membership
- Call me to discuss options for involvement
- Keep Me on your mailing list
- Please remove me from your mailing list

Please return in the envelope provided. We thank you for your support.



## Call for Volunteers



*West Penjajawoc Grasslands*

The West Penjajawoc Grasslands Stewardship Committee is eagerly looking for volunteers to complete the following projects:

- Donation of bird nesting boxes; plans are available from the Stewardship Committee
- Monitoring Bluebird and Tree Swallow Nesting Boxes

- Designing a Bird Observation Platform
- Designing a Vernal Pool to be created at an appropriate site
- Designing educational kiosk stations on nesting grassland birds, marsh birds, bluebirds, and vernal pools
- Designing educational materials or signs for the existing kiosk
- Designing and building a sign for the property

*If you are interested in volunteering for any of these activities, please contact Lyndsey Monroe at (207) 942-6389 ext. 3219 for more information. We greatly appreciate your help!*

*Newsletter printed on recycled paper and created by Lyndsey Monroe, Program Coordinator*

## Become a Member!



*A Birdwalk at the W. Penjajawoc Grasslands*

If you would like to become a member of Bangor Land Trust or renew your existing membership, simply fill out the enclosed envelope and return it with your payment to:

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

We greatly value your membership and every generous contribution helps us achieve our mission and give back to the greater Bangor Community.



**BANGOR LAND TRUST**

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

**Bangor Land Trust**

***“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 region’s natural resources and the need for their preservation; collaborate with organizations having related missions.*