



**BANGOR LAND TRUST**



# Bangor Land Trust Newsletter

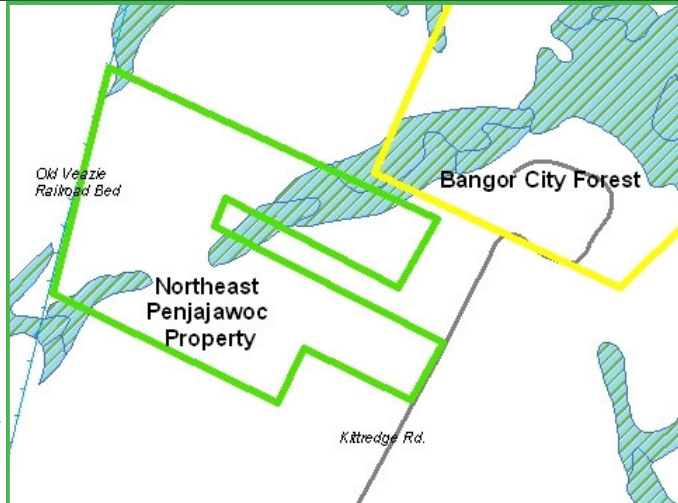
Spring 2007

## Northeast Penjajawoc Property grows by 52 Acres!

In our last issue, we proudly shared news of the purchase of 28.4 acres off of Kittredge Road near the City Forest. Since then, we have purchased 52 additional acres next door to this existing property!

Like its neighbor, this new parcel is home to valuable wildlife habitat and features three wetlands of special state significance. In its southwest corner lies the tip of the Penjajawoc Marsh and a large vernal pool. On its northern boundary that it shares with our existing property, is another significant tributary marsh. Each is sure to feature many species throughout the year for visitors to enjoy.

This new parcel gives access from Kittredge Road to the old Veazie railroad bed and to our adjoining 28.4 acre parcel that does not have road frontage. A network of old woods roads and



*BLT's new Northeast Penjajawoc Property is located near Walden-Parke Preserve and the Bangor City Forest*

smaller trails currently exists, but will need a great amount of work to repair and possibly reroute the trails to ensure that water quality and wildlife are not adversely affected.

BLT volunteers and staff have already begun marking the boundaries of the property with flagging and signs so that visitors can easily see where our ownership ends and private

ownership begins. As always, we strongly encourage everyone to respect the rights of neighboring landowners and to not cross our boundaries onto private property.

We have also begun collecting data for our baseline inventories. Dave Thompson, a BLT Board member and retired forester, has graciously led volunteers on repeat outings to study the forest types and densities throughout the property.

Beginning this month, Sally Rooney and Jill Weber will be conducting our studies on plant communities, soils, and resident wildlife. This data will all be compiled to help us responsibly manage the property for multiple uses.

The two parcels will be managed as one Northeast Penjajawoc property.

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We are very excited to announce that we will be hosting our first ever annual fundraising event this fall.

Our Bangor Land Trust Frogs, Logs, & Bogs Road Ride will be a 20 mile fun bicycle ride beginning at Bangor's waterfront and looping through Veazie and Orono back to the starting

location with a celebration to follow.

The specific route and other details are still in the planning stage, but we want to make sure that you mark your calendar for Sunday, October 14th at 9:00am!

With such a big event, there will be plenty of volunteer opportunities—

from help with planning to fitting helmets and teaching about bike safety the day of the event.

There will be much more information to come, but in the meantime if you would like to get involved, contact Chandra McGee at 9 4 2 - 1 0 1 0 o r chandra.mcgee@verizon.net.

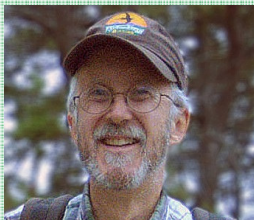
## Bangor Land Trust Board of Directors



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## A Message From Our President

Bangor Land Trust now owns nearly 300 acres near the City Forest. You may be wondering—where are our trails? Good question. Our spring/summer project is to answer them thoughtfully and here's what has to be done:

First, we need to mark the boundaries. Our neighbors rightly object when people wander onto their property looking for the new Land Trust Preserve. BLT staff and hardy volunteers are already hard at work at this. There is much more to be done, so please sign up and give us a hand. You may be rewarded by seeing moose tracks, bear scat, porcupine trees, and other signs of wildlife.

The next step is to find out who—and what—already depend upon this land as a place to live. Land Trusts collect baseline data when we acquire property. We

inventory the plant and animal life – from spruces to sphagnum and from bears and birds to bugs.

We need to be sure that whatever human uses we invite do not harm or displace the flora and fauna we are trying to protect. Of course, we can't possibly count every living thing in the first year; but we need to do enough to understand and protect conservation values.

These plant and animal inventories are a golden opportunity for exploration and learning. Birding, botanizing, animal tracking, all bring the pleasures of discovery and new learning.

The lay of the land – its boundaries, who lives where, what the plant and animal needs are, the wetlands and hills – all these will tell us where our trails should be. Yes, there are trails now on our preserves. But the current

trails through Walden-Parke and our newest properties have some problems and need attention to correct paths that are eroding or pass through wet areas. We don't know enough yet about the wildlife impacts. Many people have told us that they want trails that are more natural and wild than those in the City Forest. This will take careful planning and support from our members and users as we locate and implement the optimal trail layout.

When we have done our homework, *then* we will be able to publish maps and put up trail signs. Doing it right is a challenge – one that we can meet. Our whole community, plants and animals, including us, will benefit. If you're not already on our volunteer list, sign up and join the fun.

## Land for Maine's Future Support

BLT's recent success in purchasing two parcels on Kittredge Rd. is a result of the support of the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program and our partners in the Caribou Bog-Penjajawoc Project.

LMF was created in 1987 by the Maine Legislature to secure "the traditional Maine heritage of public access to Maine's land and water resources or continued

quality and availability of natural resources important to the interests and continued heritage of Maine people."

Working with a wide variety of partner groups, LMF has already assisted in acquiring over 440,000 acres from willing sellers. BLT and Orono Land Trust have so far been awarded two matching grants as partners in the Caribou Bog-Penjajawoc

Project.

These funds have been used to purchase the two Northeast Penjajawoc parcels in Bangor and three other properties in Orono. More acquisitions will be pursued as the Project proceeds in creating a conservation and recreation corridor connecting Bangor, Veazie, Orono, Alton, Old Town and Hudson.



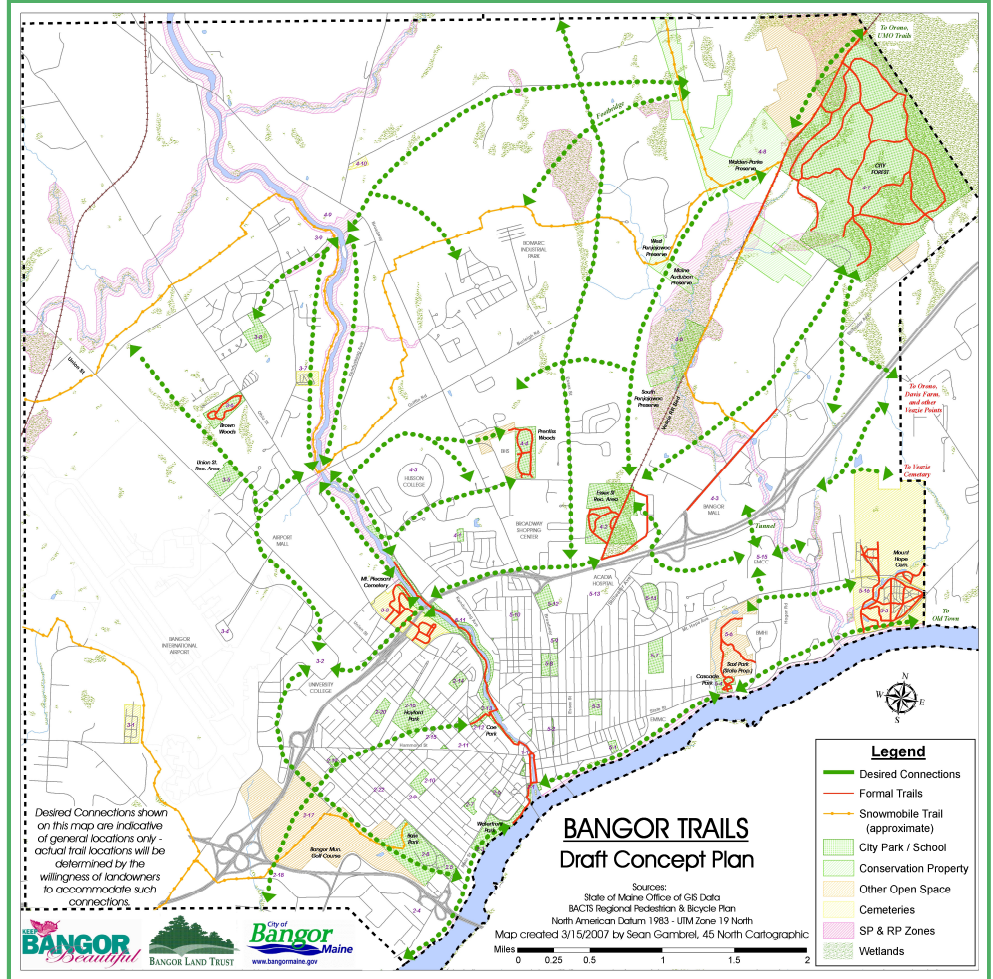
# Bangor Trails is Moving Ahead

The Bangor Trails Committee has reached a new milestone: we have created a Draft Concept Plan for a city-wide trail system based on public feedback and months of discussions with a wide array of resources.

The map was officially released to the public for the first time at this year's Garden Show in March. The Committee held a public meeting where we asked for comments on our existing plan and how to change or improve it as we proceed. Since then, the map has been on display at the Bangor Public Library and at Epic Sports to gather more community input.

A year's worth of work has resulted in this draft map that includes city open spaces, existing trails, and "Desired Connections" (dotted arrows) that indicate general locations of where the public has shown interest in having a trail of some form. The arrows do not indicate any actual locations on the ground—those will be determined by the willingness of landowners to accommodate such connections.

The Committee has also assembled a list of points of interest across the City that will help to determine routes of new trails or where sidewalks or bike lanes should be created. Connecting special places will give the trail system unique value to residents and visitors. We have



also considered areas that connect to neighboring towns to make the trail system more regional where possible.

The Committee is currently categorizing the "Desired Connections" into focus areas and smaller segments. As possible routes for each segment are drawn out, they are evaluated and ranked in a grid to help us consider overall feasibility of each proposed project. The routes that stand out

in this process will be the first on the list for implementation.

We welcome your feedback on our progress and hope to continue an open dialogue with the community as we plan specific routes and begin construction.

Please send us your comments in the provided envelope or contact Lyndsey at 942-1010 or bangorlandtrust@verizon.net.

## Thanks to Sean Gambrel

Our mapping consultant, Sean Gambrel, has been a huge asset to BLT over the past year. His GIS expertise has allowed us to embark on the ambitious task of creating boundary maps for all of our properties as well as creating beautiful maps for Bangor Trails and the Caribou Bog-Penjajawoc

Project.

Our GIS and mapping needs are ever growing and we are very grateful for the diverse support we have received—from technical assistance to acquiring the latest GIS software for our new office. Many thanks to our GIS partners; we look forward to learning more.

## Thanks to Ames A/E

We would like to express thanks to Ames A/E Architects & Engineers Corporation for again providing valuable time and resources to assist us in acquiring our latest parcel in the Northeast Penjajawoc property.

We greatly appreciate such generosity and participation.

## Nature Notes “Beech Trees” by Dick Andren

The graceful gray ladies of the Northern Hardwood Forests are suffering greatly from globalization!

Globalization of pathogens, that is. This sturdy, long-lived, shade tolerant species is being mercilessly attacked by an insect-fungus combination that originated in European beech species. The disease was accidentally transported to North America with a shipment of beechwood to Nova Scotia shortly after 1900. The disease has infected beech trees in an ever widening circle ever since. This so called “beech bark disease” not only disfigures the wonderfully smooth gray bark and underlying wood, it also interferes with nutrient transport and thus weakens the tree.

Beech trees now have very little commercial value and their die-off is influencing wildlife such as bears, deer, turkeys and many other bird and mammal species that use their energy-rich nuts as a major food source. European



*A healthy Beech tree is located on the left. The trunk on the right is afflicted with Beech Bark*

beech trees evolved defenses to this disease over long periods of time and currently suffer only minor damage. Once these organisms came to North America, our defenseless species were highly susceptible. This situation is comparable to Dutch elm disease.

There are many “Beech Ridge” locations in Maine because these majestic trees thrive in rich, well-drained soils. Early European settlers looked for beech trees as places to establish farms. In addition the beech trees can withstand repeated cutting because they reproduce extensively by root suckers. These saplings are a rapid form of asexual reproduction resulting from special areas on the shallow root being stimulated to

sprout.

Disturbance to the roots by logging often results in an explosion of new saplings. Thus beech trees “hold their ground” in either a clearcut or selectively cut forest. The fact that they can grow in the shade of other trees makes them a significant part of the forest ecosystem.

There is only one species of beech in North America whereas their oak relatives are represented by more than one hundred species. One explanation is that these trees have been in North America for a relatively short period of time. Chile, Australia, New Zealand and New Britain all have several species.

A small percentage of the American beech trees seem to be unaffected by the disease. It is hoped that these trees will allow beech trees to regenerate and populate our forests sometime in the future. But, as of now, there are going to be substantial changes in our hardwood forests.

## Composting 101

Composting is the process in which organic materials are decomposed to form a nutrient rich mixture that improves and fertilizes your soils.

Having a compost heap, bin, or barrel in your backyard will not only provide as much free compost as you are willing to produce, it also considerably cuts back on food waste, yard waste and paper products entering our waste stream. Composting is a great opportunity to reduce your impact on the environment and save money at the same time.

The speed in which you produce this valuable resource will be determined by the type of

system you use, what materials you collect, and how often you tend to the pile.

*These are just a few of the materials you can add for excellent compost:*

- Grass clippings & Yard Waste
- Manure
- Sawdust or Wood chips
- Paper & cardboard
- Dryer lint
- Fruit & Veggie scraps, coffee & filters, eggshells and other appropriate kitchen refuse

*Materials that you should avoid include:*

- Cat and dog waste
- Ashes from coal or charcoal

- Soil
- Kitchen refuse that contains grease, fats, meat, dairy, or bones
- Glossy newsprint or treated paper

The key to composting is finding the right balance of green and brown materials (about 30:1) while controlling temperature, moisture, and aeration. You can manage your compost as passively or actively as your time and interest will allow. For smaller spaces or if you have meddlesome wildlife neighbors, consider a contained system that makes composting even easier.

## Earth Friendly Cleaners

As spring turns into summer, we all have to face the fact that both the yard and the house need to be cleaned eventually.

Choosing household cleaners is just one of the many choices we must make that play an important role in protecting the environment for future generations.

The chemicals that we use don't simply sit in our cupboards; they get poured down drains and thrown away to a landfill or dump when mostly or partially gone. Depending on their ingredients, cleaners can have significant impacts on the surrounding water quality—especially for homeowners with wells or who live close to water bodies—and we must remember that we all live in a watershed of some form.

Before you restock your cleaning supplies with the latest high-powered grime fighter, consider what you may already have at home that can do the trick.

These are a few household products that you can substitute for harsher, more toxic cleaners.

### **Furniture Polish:**

Mix 1 tsp lemon oil in 1 pint of mineral oil.

### **Linoleum cleaner:**

Mix 1 cup white vinegar and 2 gal. water.

### **Scouring powder:**

Use baking soda

### **Toilet cleaner:**

Mix 1/4 cup baking soda and 1/2 cup white vinegar and warm water

### **Window cleaner:**

Mix 2 Tbsp. vinegar and 1 qt. warm water.

### **Copper, brass and bronze cleaner:**

Rub with lemon juice and salt

### **Mildew cleaner:**

Use vinegar, rinse and let dry.

### **Drain cleaner:**

Pour 1/2 cup baking soda into drain with 2 cups boiling water. Use a drain snake.

There are many brands now available locally that contain more environmentally friendly ingredients (no phosphorous, etc.) in household products and cleaners. If you don't find a homemade alternative here for your cleaning needs, consider picking up a "green" cleaner and help show businesses that Bangor area residents care about our environment!

And always remember to use all products safely.

## Share with a Friend

We've said it before, but we hope you know just how important you are in encouraging people to become members of Bangor Land Trust.

Pass this newsletter on to a family member when you're done. Or if you've given recently, share our donation envelope with a neighbor or friend.

We're growing, but we're still a small & local organization that counts on the positive experiences of our members and volunteers to recruit new participants and help share our mission with the community.

Our members are our best ambassadors! We thank you all for your support.

## Volunteer Today!

Our hardy and loyal volunteers have been busy this season with community activities and stewardship projects to ready our lands for continued use.

We would like to give sincere thanks to all of our volunteers, including:

Snow Shelter experts: Maine Bound's Guy deBrun and Cat Holmberg who showed us how to build a snow shelter in Pickering Square.

Timber Cruise leaders and participants: Dave & Pat Thompson, Geoff Gratwick, and Ellen Robertson.

Boundary Marking & Brushing crew: Fritz Oldenburg, Sean Gambrel, Gwethalyn Phillips, Gail Downs, George Elliot, Moe Kelleher, Ellen Robertson, and Joan Reif.

Garden Show Booth attendants: Matt Young, Joan Reif, Leslie Forstadt, Herb & Judy Crosby, Joan Andren, and Gwethalyn Phillips.

Walkers' Group Leaders: Paul Pasquine and Catherine Schmitt.

We will also have many more opportunities for volunteering throughout the year—hopefully something that may interest you:

- Boundary brushing and marking
- Constructing and installing kiosks
- Leading monthly walkers' groups
- And a wide variety of needs for our upcoming BLT fundraiser bike ride.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Chandra McGee at 942-1010 or [chandra.mcgee@verizon.net](mailto:chandra.mcgee@verizon.net).



## Upcoming Events

### **Bangor Walkers' Group**

Volunteer Dina Page will lead walkers through Brown Woods.

**May 17th 5:30pm**

*Meet at Epic Sports*

### **Spring Peeper Walk**

BLT and the Discovery Museum are joining up again for a fun & muddy outdoor walk with Tony Sohns to listen for frog calls near Essex Woods. BLT members have free admission, but attendance is limited so sign up with Chandra soon!

**May 18th 6:00pm**

*Meet at Kiosk at the end of Garden Way*

### **Bird Walk at Walden-Parke**

BLT and Maine Audubon are partnering up for a spring outing to find birds along the trails of Walden-Parke Preserve.

**May 24th 7:00-8:30 am**

*Meet at the BLT parking area at the end of Tamarack Trail*

### **Bird Walk at Northeast Penjajawoc**

Come explore our newest property while searching for birds with Hope Brogunier, Judy Markowsky, and Joni Dunn.

**May 31st 7:00-8:30 am**

*BLT parking area on Kittredge Road at the end of the pavement.*

### **Bangor Walkers' Group Special Event**

Join us and Epic Sports for a special Walkers' Group outing this month! Kristel Hayes will be giving a lesson on Nordic Walking and attendees will receive an extra discount on walking merchandise.

**June 9th 10:00 am**

*Meet at Epic Sports*

### **Wildflower Walk**

BLT's Dick Andren will host an outing at Walden-Parke Preserve to identify wildflower species.

**June 23rd 2:00pm**

*Meet at BLT parking area at the end*

### *of Tamarack Trail*

### **Photography Workshop with Joni Dunn of Bangor Photo**

Join us for a summer photo workshop with expert Joni Dunn at Walden-Parke Preserve. Call to register in advance and please let us know what type of equipment you will be using.

**July 15th 11:00am**

*Meet at BLT parking area at the end of Tamarack Trail*

### **Bangor Walkers' Group**

Join us for another outing of local walkers!

**July 19th 5:30pm**

*Meet at Epic Sports*

### **Members' Picnic**

Our members can relax and enjoy the summer with a fun evening picnic.

More info to come.

**July 20th 6:30 pm**

*Newsletter printed on recycled paper and created by Lyndsey Monroe Marston, Program Coordinator.  
Printing generously donated by Furbush-Roberts Printing Company Inc.*

**"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.

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