

## BLT Purchases Northeast Penjajawoc Property

BLT is now the proud new owner of 28.4 acres near the Penjajawoc Marsh off Kittredge Road. This prime conservation site contains 4.5 acres of a wetland of special significance that forms a belt across the center of the property and flows into the Penjajawoc Marsh.

In total the property is home to seven acres of wetlands and forested wetlands surrounded by uplands. Its proximity to the Penjajawoc Marsh makes it a key location for wildlife habitat and continuous open space within the



*4.5 acres of a wetland of special significance cross the center of Northeast Penjajawoc*

Bangor region. Thanks to your support, ownership of this parcel will help us preserve this contiguous space as well as public recreational access from the Penjajawoc through the City Forest and Walden-Parke Preserve to Caribou Bog.

The new property lies adjacent to the Bangor Hydro power line and abuts the old Veazie railroad bed—the only current access point to the property and its meandering trails. You can reach the railroad bed and our property through both the Bangor City Forest and Walden-Parke Preserve. We urge

visitors to respect property rights of neighboring landowners and be aware of where BLT and City of Bangor lands end.

We will be conducting baseline inventories for wildlife, vegetation, and overall status of the site beginning this spring. Gathering this information will allow us to create a management plan and properly monitor the property for many years to come.

We hope you will find time to visit and enjoy this new location. As we develop management and monitoring plans, we will need thoughtful stewards to help us care for these special places.



*A network of wooded trails winds through the uplands of the new 28.4 acre parcel*



*Forested wetlands are just one of many habitat types on BLT's new property*

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### Community Educator/Volunteer Coordinator Hired

We are very pleased to announce that Chandra McGee has joined our staff as the Community Educator & Volunteer Coordinator.

Chandra has a strong background in ecology and environmental sciences and will be a wonderful addition to BLT.

As we have grown over

the past year, our list of stewardship activities and educational programs has expanded as well. Chandra will help us grow our network of volunteers and organize groups to accomplish our many tasks.

She will also be helping to fill our annual calendar with new and exciting events. Stay tuned for new



*Chandra McGee is BLT's newest staff member*

events throughout the year!

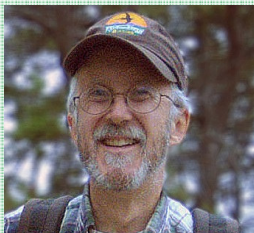
## Bangor Land Trust Board of Directors



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## A Message From Our President

After our recent snow, I had the good fortune to accompany Judy Markowsky of Maine Audubon in scouting Walden-Parke Preserve for animal tracks and signs. First to greet us were paths, everywhere, of snowshoe hares. There were big paws and little ones, far-spaced tracks of fast moving bounders with back feet hitting the ground in front of their front feet, and bowl-shaped body prints where the hare had sat—alert or contemplative—at the edge of the path long enough to melt some snow before moving on.

We hoped the hares were able to take comfort in finally having a snow cover to match their white coats.

Judy pointed out how to tell where a hare, rather than a deer, had bitten off some browse. Hares bite the branch so cleanly, with top and bottom teeth, that you can sometimes see the teeth marks. Deer have to manage with only bottom teeth and often leave

behind a small torn tag of bark.

Next we came to my favorite—a porcupine trail—a regular porcupine highway. It was a ditch in the snow and we could see the ridges left by quills as they dragged themselves along. We saw evidence of their feeding—a 10 foot hemlock thoroughly denuded of bark. Its top narrowed to less than an inch in diameter, and I wondered how the porcupine had managed not to break the tree and fall.

Next, beside the open woods road we saw the precisely aligned three-toed tracks of a ruffed grouse. The tracks turned to cross the road and became much more widely spaced. They then reverted to their regular march in the relative safety of cover on the other side. She must have been in a hurry to cross that open space. We amused ourselves by trying to march, grouse-like, in our snowshoes.

The snow was too wet



*Signs of wildlife remind us that we share our living spaces with a variety of other species*

and heavy to record the movements of the smaller animals, but we did see several sets of weasel tracks (ermine that turn white in the winter), red squirrel, mice, and the remains of the tunnels of shrews and voles.

None of these creatures show up at Planning Board meetings, write letters to the editor, or fundraise for new Bangor Land Trust acquisitions. Bangor is their home. They share their territory with us.

A major part of Bangor Land Trust's job is to ensure that they have space to live their lives, to do those things that they have done since time immemorial. By so doing we increase the richness, resonance, and pleasure of our own lives.

## Sharing is Caring

Here at BLT, our Board Members and Staff love to give everyone a chance to become a member.

If you have become bogged down with membership envelopes from this newsletter or previous issues, we urge you to share with a friend!

As our members and friends, you are our greatest ambassadors for conservation and outreach in the community.

We encourage you all to share our mission with friends and family members and pass along your unused envelopes so that they may join us too!

The need for land conservation and education in the community is urgent. We hope you will inspire your friends, families, and neighbors to join in our efforts and support Bangor Land Trust this winter. We need your support.

## We've Moved to a New Office!

Another year has passed and BLT has again moved into new office space! With great enthusiasm, we have struck out on our own and have a lovely new office with plenty of space for growing staff within the heart of downtown Bangor.

Eastern Maine Development Corporation was our home for the past sixteen months. They provided a wonderful atmosphere for cultivating partnerships and resources within the community. EMDC's knowledgeable, helpful staff and efficient office space created a perfect opportunity for BLT to establish ourselves and grow over the past year.

We thank EMDC for their support and will greatly miss our friends at Norumbega Hall. We wish them the best as they invite

new staff and affiliates into their offices.

Our new home is on the second floor of 27 State Street. It is just right for serving the needs of our two staff members and Board of Directors.

We hope to hear from you soon as we continue to serve the needs of the community.

### NEW CONTACT INFO:

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P.O. Box 288 (mailing)  
27 State St. Suite #25 (physical)  
Bangor, ME 04402-0288  
207.942.1010 phone  
207.942.1044 fax

bangorlandtrust@verizon.net or  
chandra.mcgee@verizon.net

Visit us at  
[www.bangorlandtrust.org](http://www.bangorlandtrust.org).

## Kickoff Finale

BLT recognizes the need for conservation within the Bangor region and the importance of community support and collaboration. We launched the Kickoff Campaign to help us respond to these needs and meet our strategic plan over the next 5 years by raising \$100,000.

The Campaign began just over a year ago with its major public launch occurring this past fall. We had great ambitions to meet such a lofty goal, but our need was clear and our Board of Directors was determined to succeed. Our hard work paid off. ***Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, BLT has successfully met and surpassed our \$100,000 goal!***

This special capacity-building opportunity has helped BLT to grow and become a more efficient and effective organization over the past year. We now have an additional staff member, new office space, and more conservation lands. A variety of new educational programs and events are on the horizon.

We thank you for your support and recognize the significant role that our members and friends have in shaping the future of Bangor and surrounding communities. We owe our success to your thoughtful consideration for the importance of conservation and open space.

Here are just a few of the goals that we hope to achieve thanks to the support of your Kickoff Campaign contributions:

- Help landowners conserve more natural areas
- Expand public trail networks
- Develop our educational program
- Partner with other organizations
- Help the City of Bangor to plan and guide wise growth

## Thanks to Epic Sports and Sub 5 Track Club

On New Year's Eve, Epic Sports held their first 5K road race through the streets of downtown Bangor with the help of Sub 5 Track Club.

The wintery race drew in over 100 participants and raised \$1000 for Bangor Land Trust. On January 8th, Epic Sports owner Brad Ryder officially presented BLT



*Epic Sports owner, Brad Ryder, presents BLT with the proceeds of their first ever 5K road race*

staff and Board members with the generous proceeds of the race.

This race is just one of many opportunities where BLT and Epic Sports have partnered to increase conservation and recreation activities for the Bangor community. Our Walkers' Group meets each month at Epic to gather before their outing and Epic has also generously provided window space for BLT's display that

highlights wildlife, trails, conservation, and education opportunities.

Both BLT and Epic have plans for additional road races that incorporate off-road trails as well as roadways. Stay tuned for more news of these events!

For more information on Sub 5 Track Club, visit [www.sub5.com](http://www.sub5.com). Epic Sports is located at 6 Central St. in downtown Bangor.

## Glacial History of Maine

As we make our daily travels around Bangor and across the State, it is easy to overlook the distinct geological features that serve as reminders of our icy past. If you look closely, rock formations and contours in the landscape may reveal traces of the ice sheet that once covered Maine over a kilometer in thickness.

Maine was once home to a portion of the Laurentide ice sheet that spanned the majority of northern and eastern North America, as far south as Long Island, New York. Its growth began around 40,000 years ago, peaked at 18,000 years ago, and finally ended in Maine near 12,000 years ago.

Glaciers leave their calling cards everywhere—random boulders whose compositions are unlike the surrounding bedrock, long snake-like ridges of sand and

gravel deposited from streams that once ran below the glacier, rocky outcrops along roadsides, and deep scratches in the bedrock that mark the movements of the glacier itself.

Consider Mt. Katahdin and its bowl-like sides that create the impressive “knife edge” arête. Its surface was completely covered by the continental ice sheet—carved and shaped by the enormous weight of the formation.

Even closer to home is Alton Bog, which was once a large shallow pond created from the meltwaters of the glacier. As the ice melted, the pond slowly filled with sediment and vegetation to become the peat bog that exists today.

And the Porcupine Islands or “sheepback” formations seen from Mount Desert Island—their distinct shape is a direct result of the glaciers that once resided here.

As the ice sheet retreated, ocean waters advanced on the depressed surface of the land in coastal regions of Maine and up the Penobscot Valley as far north as Millinocket. The sea levels rose from the increase in meltwaters, but without the weight of the ice, the land was able to rebound more rapidly than the ocean waters could rise.

In present day, the land we live on continues to rise and fall, but at much slower rates than during the last ice age.

Our State has changed significantly since this last ice age. Soil chemistry, vegetation, wildlife, and humans have all been interacting to create the ecosystems we currently know. Perhaps next time you drive by Bubble Rock or visit Gulf Hagas, you will stop to ponder the forces that created such wonderful places.

## Keeping Warm in Winter

No matter what your favorite outdoor winter activity may be, it is essential to be prepared for cold weather and take proper precautions for staying warm.

First, pay attention to the temperature and wind chill and consider where you will be—on an exposed mountain, snowy fields, or tucked away on a forested trail. Your location and level of activity will play a big role in helping you to stay warm.

Then consider your clothing in relation to these factors. Your three basic layers are

- Base Layer
- Insulation Layer
- Outer Shell Layer

The *Base Layer* will be in direct contact with your skin and serves to pull sweat away from your body to keep you dry and

comfortable. With new clothing technologies, a base layer can be synthetic or wool but should never be cotton. Cotton absorbs moisture, leaving your clothes damp and your body cold.

The *Insulation Layer* serves to retain your body heat by trapping the warm air your body creates. This layer can be down, wool, fleece, or other synthetic materials. Its level of warmth should be suited to your specific activity in order to keep your body at a comfortable temperature.

The *Outer Shell Layer* serves to protect you from wind, rain, and snow. It keeps out water droplets while allowing water vapor from your body to escape.

Dressing in layers will help you to regulate your body temperature by adjusting for

activity level and properly allowing your body to heat and cool as needed. Just as hypothermia and frostbite are a winter threat, overheating can also be dangerous in winter—especially when you do not have proper wicking clothes.

Pay attention and look for the signs of frostnip or hypothermia. And always remember the essentials: hat, gloves, and proper footwear.

One last note, don't forget your four legged friends this winter. Jackets, boots, and paw wax are readily available at local retailers and can greatly help your pets to stay warm while still enjoying the outdoors. And when the temperature really drops, sometimes it's best to just keep yourself and your pets indoors.

# Nature Notes “Conifers vs. Deciduous Trees” by Dick Andren

Some people are slow and steady long-term investors, socking away a bit at a time over the long haul. Others seize the moment and put a lot on the line, then get out when conditions turn less favorable. Both strategies can work if you are rigorous in applying established rules.

These two approaches have been used for millions and millions of years by our good friends—trees.

The area around Bangor with our current climate is host to forests that contain both conifers (pines, spruce, firs, cedars, etc.) and deciduous trees (oak, maple, beech, aspen, ash, etc.).

These two major types of trees have evolved different strategies for survival. The conifers keep their leaves for many years. Healthy white pines can have

*Conifers and Deciduous trees have both adapted to Maine's climate to suit their needs and energy consumption*



leaves—needles—that are five years old. Once a leaf is formed, it can be used for a long time. The long term investment in these leaves pays off another dividend—they are able to start photosynthesizing earlier in the spring and can continue later into the fall than the deciduous trees.

While the conifers are not as efficient at photosynthesis as deciduous trees, their slow and steady plan allows them to live in the far north.

Deciduous trees in this area

have only a few months each year to photosynthesize to grow and store energy to get ready for a whole new set of leaves in the next growing season.

Their window of opportunity may be shorter, but the efficiency of deciduous trees' photosynthetic process is several times greater than that of conifers. This heightened efficiency is essential for a four-month growing season.

Both groups of plants must shut down during the winter due to frozen ground that prevents the trees from getting the necessary water to support their photosynthetic activities.

Thankfully, the strategies of both tree types are successful in this area. They provide us with rich plant diversity that in turn creates a great diversity of animal species.

## Want to Lend a Hand? Volunteer!

BLT is always in need of ambitious volunteers to help us accomplish the many tasks we have facing us this year. At the top of our priority list are the many stewardship activities that will help us inventory our properties, create management plans and trail maps, and properly care for the land and the wildlife for which we are responsible.

We need your help and the help of your friends, family, and neighbors to become stewards of the land and help care for the places we all enjoy. Here are the tasks we are looking to accomplish immediately:

- Constructing bird boxes for wood ducks and saw whet owls. These need to be done right away in order to provide spring nesting habitat.
- Brushing and marking

boundaries along Walden-Parke Preserve. *We have scheduled the morning of Saturday, March 10th to start this project—please come and bring a friend!*

- GPS trails in Walden-Parke Preserve. We need to inventory what trails there are so we can properly evaluate and implement our management plan.
- Biological Inventories of all BLT properties. We will be conducting baseline studies of our properties this spring and summer.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these tasks, please contact Chandra at [chandra.mcgee@verizon.net](mailto:chandra.mcgee@verizon.net) or at 942-1010. We thank you very much for your help in caring for these lands.

## Join Us Today!



*Become a member of BLT and help us preserve more precious lands*

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.

## Upcoming Events

### **Bangor Walkers' Group**

Volunteer Catherine Schmitt will lead walkers on a downtown pathway along Bangor's beautiful waterfront.

**February 17th 2:00pm**

**Meet at Epic Sports**

### **Bangor Walkers' Group**

Chandra McGee will lead the next outing of the walkers' group along the trails of Walden-Parke Preserve as we look for signs of spring!

**March 17th 2:00 pm**

**Meet at Epic Sports**

### **Bangor Walkers' Group**

Our first spring walkers' group outing will be led by Sarah Nelson along the streets and sidewalks of downtown Bangor. The walk will highlight unique architectural features of local buildings.

**April 19th 5:30pm**

**Meet at Epic Sports**

### **Winter Trails with the Maine**

#### **Discovery Museum**

BLT is very pleased to be invited to partner with the Maine

Discovery Museum for this fun winter event. We will be offering a variety of activities for kids that focus on keeping warm in winter, wildlife, and outdoor fun.

**February 25th 1:30-3:00 pm**

**Maine Discovery Museum**

### **Bangor Garden Show**

BLT will have a display at this year's Garden Show that features our progress with Bangor Trails over the past year. We will also be participating in a Bangor Trails Committee public meeting on Friday the 23rd from 6-8:00 pm.

**March 23rd-25th**

**Bangor Civic Center**

*We have many more exciting events planned for the year— including spring peeper walks, vernal pool walks, and more photography workshops with Joni Dunn. Stay tuned for dates and locations!*

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

*Printing generously donated by Snowman Printing & Presort Express.*

**"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.

**Bangor, ME 04402-0288**

**P.O. Box 288**

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