

BLT Appoints Executive Director

The Bangor Land Trust Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Randolph “Rand” Erb as the organization’s first Executive Director.

His responsibilities will include establishment of a firm financial base for operations and programs, support for BLT acquisition and easement efforts, and assistance to the Board in developing long range strategic plans.

Rand has been impressed by the dedication of Bangor Land Trust’s directors and volunteers, as well as by the positive collaboration with municipalities and conservation groups in the region. He has noted that “The expertise and dedication of the Bangor Land Trust family is truly



BLT welcomes Randolph “Rand” Erb as its first Executive Director.

remarkable.”

Rand has spent most of his professional life in the Penobscot Valley in coalition-building and

advancement positions with the University of Maine and Maine Maritime Academy. He has recently returned to his native state after three years of service as Director of Philanthropy for The Nature Conservancy in West Virginia.

Rand begins his new duties with thirty years of leadership experience, an admiration for the traditions of Central Maine, and a commitment to preserving the region’s natural heritage.

He and his wife Diane live in Glenburn on the western shore of Pushaw Lake. His interests include enjoying the company of their two grown children, classical music, vintage films, hiking, cross country skiing, and eating well.

May Birding

Spring has sprung! To celebrate, BLT is again partnering with Maine Audubon Penobscot Valley Chapter for a series of early morning bird walks on BLT lands.

We’ve had many bird walks in the past, and we hope you will again join us in welcoming home beautiful bobolinks and other species as they return to Maine.

All walks will take place from 7:00am to 8:30am. Our first outing will be on **Friday, May 16th** at West Penjajawoc Grasslands. Jim Hinds and Lucy Quimby will be leading the walk. Meet at the dead end of Fox Hollow Lane, off Essex St.

Make a weekend of it and come along to our next bird walk on **Saturday, May 17th** at Walden-Parke Preserve, led by Bill Glanz. From Essex St., turn right

onto Walden-Parke Way, then turn right again onto Tamarack Trail to meet at its end.

Finally, we’ll have one last bird walk on **Monday, May 19th** at Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve with Bob Milardo and Elizabeth Payne. Meet at the BLT kiosk on Kittredge Rd. It is located on the left just as the pavement ends.

If you would like to get a closer look at these special birds, we will gladly loan you a pair of binoculars for the day. We’ll bring a few to each walk or you can call ahead at 942-1010 to reserve a pair. We hope to see you there!

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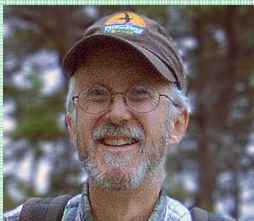
Bangor Land Trust Board of Directors



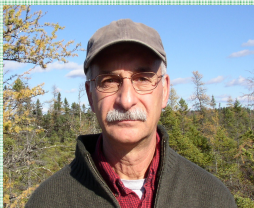
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A Message From Our President

This spring brings a burst of new growth for Bangor Land Trust – in addition to the green that we expect will soon transform the great outdoors!

We have just hired Rand Erb as our first Executive Director. Rand is a Maine native and brings considerable wisdom accumulated during his years of working on development projects for the University of Maine, Maine Maritime Academy, Kents Hill School and The Nature Conservancy.

Inspired by his experience at The Nature Conservancy in West Virginia, Rand returned to the Bangor area and investigated local conservation activities. Luckily for us, his explorations coincided with ours. We are delighted that he chose us!

Rand joined us just in time to participate in the creation of two very important organizational plans. The first is to protect community open spaces in our region of the Penobscot Valley. *If there are landscapes you love in this area, come help us make a plan to work together as a region to save them.*

You may remember that BLT brought the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to Bangor to speak at our 2006 Annual Meeting. Since then, the City of Bangor and eleven surrounding communities have joined in the computer-assisted regional open space planning process that TPL calls **Greenprinting**. This process really works *only* if people who know and love their community's open spaces make their voices heard. *We need*

your presence at one of two public listening sessions on May 28 at Hampden Academy and 29 at Old Town High School. Both sessions will be from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

The second project is Bangor Land Trust's 3-year strategic plan. We have reached a size and degree of complexity that require serious strategic planning. We received a grant from the Maine Coastal Protection Initiative and are beginning to map our - and your - future.

Following this 3-year strategic plan will make BLT ready to begin the first steps of the Land Trust Alliance accreditation process in 2011. It all sounds somewhat dry, but it will help our wonderful, visionary Board to operate more effectively.

Regional Open Space Planning *by Ed Barrett*

Twelve communities have now signed on to a regional open space planning process and work has begun.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), which is coordinating this effort, convened a gathering of approximately 30 stakeholders selected from individuals nominated by the partner municipalities in late March to begin the conservation visioning process.

The goal of this

process is to identify the conservation values and goals that will guide this regional planning process. TPL staff also spent several days interviewing local residents and exploring their visions for the region's future.

Upcoming activities include a telephone survey

of a scientifically selected sample of local residents and two open meetings where members of the public will be asked to share their vision and priorities for open space preservation in our region.

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Public participation is now needed.

We urge you to participate in one of these meetings:

May 28th Hampden Academy 6:30-8:30pm

May 29th Old Town High School 6:30-8:30pm.

UMaine Students Get to Know BLT *by Caroline Noblet*

After 3 months of listening to me over-enthusiastically talk about environmental policy during this semester, the students in my environmental policy course needed a break.

Fortunately, in a downtown office not too far away, the Bangor Land Trust Board and staff had just proudly unveiled a new 'Speakers Bureau' presentation to be used for connecting BLT to the world - and Board members were just itching to try it out: Clearly this was a match made in heaven!

And so it came to be that Shep Harris, founding Bangor Land Trust Board member and guest speaker extraordinaire, came to speak to INT 105 Environmental Policy students at the University of Maine.

Earlier in the semester, my class and I had discussed the importance of grassroot initiatives in environmental policy, and so Shep's description of the humble beginnings of BLT was a perfect example for students. He was also very forthright with the students when he described his own personal real estate background, and why as a business person he was interested in land conservation.

Shep's talk was particularly timely as my students and I had just been discussing an economic concept known as a 'positive externality'. This event occurs when a third-party outside of a market transaction benefits from the market transaction.

Shep's discussion of conservation land, and the role that it plays in increasing the value of surrounding residential areas, was the perfect example of a positive externality. So perfect in fact, that the positive externality created by Bangor Land Trust was a component of our most recent exam!

His personal perspective also helped many students whose majors have nothing to do with environmental management or policy. They were able to see why environmental decisions are something that impact folks in all walks of life and in all professions. This perspective also led to a lively discussion about the "best use" for land in the Bangor area, where some students had previously seen conservation land as a 'wasted' resource that could have been used for a more "financially rewarding" enterprise.

Additional interesting

questions centered on what pieces of Bangor BLT is particularly interested in, our plans for the future, and one that took us a little by surprise regarding how we chose to select our Board members [I think my students wanted a little information about why an economics professor ended up on a land trust board.....].

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the day was the ability to reach a whole new audience regarding Bangor Land Trust. If Shep didn't talk them into being members -- well, I'm still working on them! However, all in all student feedback on Shep's presentation was an enthusiastic thumbs up!

Clearly, BLT presentations can be interesting, funny, timely and rewarding - why not consider one for your organization? Feel free to give Lyndsey a call to arrange for the Bangor Land Trust Speakers Bureau to visit a classroom, office, church or other meeting site near you!

Many thanks to both Caroline and Shep for arranging this "match made in heaven!"

Regional Open Space Planning *by Ed Barrett*

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Public meetings will be held on May 28th at Hampden Academy and 29th at Old Town High School. Both sessions will be from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Everyone in the region who is interested in open space and who supports regional efforts to work together is urged to participate in one of these meetings.

The stakeholder group will then reconvene to formalize and prioritize the conservation goals that will guide the detailed planning process.

Examples of such goals might be protecting/improving water quality; habitat; wetlands; scenic views; cultural/archeological sites; public access; working lands such as farms and forests; and trail

connectivity.

The second phase of this project will involve developing a GIS map of the region that will visually portray those areas that best meet the conservation goals that have been established and a financing plan to guide local efforts to address the area with the highest priority for preservation.

Nature Notes “Voles for Lunch” by Dick Andren

The meadow vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) is probably the most common mammal on Bangor Land Trust property. It frequents grasslands of all types as well as the woodlands and stream corridors.

Voles are seldom seen because they often construct runways under matted grass and in the leaf litter in woodlands. Depending on the season there may be forty voles or more per acre scurrying around eating seeds, roots, tubers, grass and the inner bark of young trees and shrubs.

The meadow vole is preyed upon by almost all the animals that are found in Maine. I have watched the foxes in our fields not wait until haying is finished to pounce on the confused voles whose runways and nests have been exposed.

Skunks, raccoons, cats, dogs, weasels, coyotes, snakes, hawks, owls, gulls, bass and pickerel is a short list of potential predators. It must be a stressful life.



Meadow voles are common on BLT properties and are preyed upon by almost all the animals that are found in Maine.

To balance this high rate of predation, meadow voles reproduce prolifically - up to ten or more litters per year. The average litter has about five offspring. In addition, the females are sexually mature at four weeks of age and the males at five weeks.

Voles are active all winter under the snow cover. They store

some food but also are always searching for new food sources. Foxes can hear this activity under the snow and again seek them out for quick meal.

When the snow melts in the spring many of the runways heavily used during the winter are readily visible.

Our walks through the woods seldom allow us to see all this activity but surely it is occurring. A good source of information about voles and other mammals is a book by Alfred Godin entitled *Wild Mammals of New England*.

Road Ride 2008

You've all been waiting for it and the time has come to pull out your calendars and mark Sunday, September 14th as BLT's 2nd Annual Frogs, Logs, & Bogs Road Ride.

We'll keep you updated as we progress—including when registration opens and details on the ride and route.

It's never too early to express an interest in volunteering for the road ride. Its success last year was in thanks to a large group of dedicated volunteers.

If you are interested in helping out this year, please contact Lyndsey for more information and details on the event.

Volunteers Greatly Needed

If you've ever considered volunteering for BLT, right now is the perfect time to start. The spring and summer seasons are shaping up to be very busy and we have big plans to start in on many projects as soon as the weather is appropriate. And in the meantime, there are plenty of other tasks to accomplish.

Here are some of the volunteer projects we have coming up for the new few months:

- Bird box construction, installation, and cleaning
- Post event flyers
- Address envelopes
- Install kiosks

- Vernal pool, woodcock, and other monitoring surveys
- Brush and blaze boundaries
- Lead monthly events
- Trail work
- Property stewards
- Guest Speakers

If you are interested in helping with any of these items, please contact us at 942-1010 or at info@bangorlandtrust.org to sign up for our volunteer contact list.

Don't forget to bring a friend when you volunteer with BLT. The more the merrier, and many hands make much lighter work!

Green Lawns

Lawns have become part of the American culture—from backyard barbecues to snoozing in a hammock or reading a good book. They are a source of pride and even have an impact on the value of our homes.

But lawns aren't all perfect and problems often arise in how homeowners create and maintain their lawns. The April 2008 issue of *Organic Gardening* showcases these problems in a very informative article: "The Dark Side of Lawns."

The article highlights the dangers of common lawn practices, but thankfully presents very useful tips—a 6 Step Plan—to making your lawn organic.

Chemical Dangers

When homeowners apply fertilizer multiple times per season or apply more than the recommended amount, the grass cannot absorb all of these nutrients and the excess washes out into the watershed.

Herbicides like those found in "weed and feed" products target a very small portion of our lawns,

causing the remainder to leach into groundwater or wash into open water bodies.

Pesticides also pose a threat to water quality, whether it's lakes, streams, and rivers or our own water supply. A U.S.G.S. national assessment found that "90 percent of the stream and fish samples surveyed contained at least one pesticide".

They also pose a serious risk to wildlife. "Of the 30 most commonly used lawn pesticides, 16 pose serious hazards to birds, 24 are toxic to fish and aquatic organisms, and 11 have adverse effects on bees." The dangers to wildlife are additionally compounded by the destruction of natural habitat for the creation of lawns.

Our own health is also impacted by the lawn chemicals we use. From indoor air to floors and surfaces, these chemicals can pop up just about anywhere after application—not just on our lawns where they were intended. This poses a potential threat to our health and that of our children and

pets that play and live in these spaces.

So what can we all do to have healthier, safer lawns? Start here:

1. Thicken your lawn.

Spread seed over an existing lawn to create a thick carpet of grass so that weeds cannot germinate.

2. Feed with compost.

This increases the soil's organic matter and improves water retention.

3. Water wisely

"In summer, lawns account for 40-60% of residential water usage." Reduce these numbers by watering early in the morning and in smaller amounts according to your grass species and soil type

4. Cut high

Cut grass 3 inches high and mow often with a sharp blade to minimize ragged edges.

5. Leave the clippings

Clippings add organic matter to the soil.

6. Feed responsibly

Organic fertilizers release nutrients slowly as plants need them, but you still need to follow the label for suggested amounts to avoid overfeeding.

For more information or for a copy of the article as a helpful brochure, visit www.organicgardening.com

BLT Presents Open Space Map to St. Joseph Healthcare and Merrill Bank

BLT recently presented St. Joseph Healthcare and Merrill Bank with a Limited Edition signed print of the "Open Spaces of the City of Bangor" painting by

native Maine artist & cartographer Molly Holmberg.

St. Joseph Healthcare and Merrill Bank were presented with the gifts as a thank you for their premier sponsorships of BLT's 1st Annual Frogs, Logs & Bogs Road Ride.

When presenting the beautifully framed artwork, BLT's president Lucy Quimby expressed gratitude to these two partners for stepping forward and supporting BLT with such a generous sponsorship. The gifts demonstrate their commitment to



Lucy Quimby (center), presents a Limited Edition Open Space Map to Merrill Bank. From left: Paul Pasquine, Sr. Vice President of Trust & Investments (and BLT Board Member) and Bill Lucy, President and C.E.O.



Lyndsey Marston (left) and Lucy Quimby (center) present a Limited Edition Open Space Map to Sister Mary Noberta of St. Joseph Healthcare.

the City of Bangor's land conservation efforts.

Upcoming Events

Bird Before Work

Join us for a series of early morning bird walks May 16th-19th. See page 1 for more info.

May 16th-19th 7-8:30am
Various BLT Lands

Insect Walk

Have you ever wondered how to observe insects in your backyard? Come and learn some methods to make them come to you! Bring a field guide to help with the identification or a camera for capturing that strange looking insect. This will be a no kill observation experience; collecting will not be encouraged. Black lights, spot lights and more will be used as the evening hours progress. Twilight hours offer a range of insects.

June 19th 8:00pm
Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve

Wildflower Walk

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

June 28th 1:00pm
Walden-Parke Preserve

Fern Walk

BLT's Jim Hinds will lead fern enthusiasts throughout our Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve to learn about the different types of ferns present.

July 26th 9:00am
Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve

Photography Workshop

Bangor Photo's Joni Dunn will instruct photographers of all experience levels on an exploration of Walden-Parke in Summer. Please sign up in advance and let us know what kind of camera equipment you have.

July 27th 10:00am
Walden-Parke Preserve

Spread the Word



Fresh snowfall at Walden-Parke Preserve this winter.

We greatly appreciate your support and participation—you are our greatest connection to the future, including new volunteers and supporters. When you have finished reading this latest issue, put a new spin on recycling by sharing it with your neighbors, friends, or family.

We hope they'll like what they see and consider attending a few events or becoming a volunteer or member. We've enclosed a membership envelope to make it even easier.

Thank you for all of your thoughtful support.

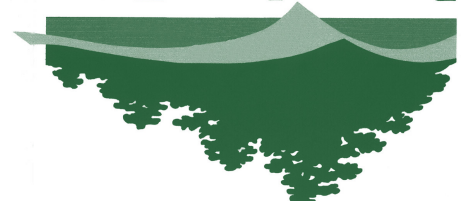
*Newsletter printed on recycled paper and created by Lyndsey Monroe Marston, Program Coordinator.
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Our mission is to protect in perpetuity for public benefit significant lands and waters, and their natural, agricultural, scenic, and traditional values 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.

"Conserving Bangor's Natural Heritage"

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