

Frogs, Logs, and Bogs Road Ride Adds New Loop and Carries a Message

Many cities around the world have a dedicated fleet of bicycle-riding messengers who fly by the cars and trucks stalled in traffic jams to deliver crucial documents in a timely fashion. There is camaraderie among these riders as well as competition to make sure that the best service is delivered to their waiting customers.

On September 13th Bangor Land Trust will be sending off a couple of hundred bike messengers carrying very important information.

Their message will not be the latest financial transaction or legal document but rather the enthusiastic support of friends of the natural world in the Bangor area. These riders will be carrying the message that Bangor Land Trust has preserved hundreds of acres in the Bangor area. In addition, it has worked with Orono Land Trust to preserve thousands of acres in Penobscot County. These riders will have raised money to support the ongoing stewardship and educational programs of the Land Trust while enjoying the companionship of fellow cyclists.

As the powerful Penobscot River flows silently to the sea it mirrors the noiseless power of the bicyclists as

they carry our message of connection to the natural world and the support of our community.

Last year a number of riders told us they enjoyed the 28-mile "Greenprint" loop but wanted something more ambitious as well.



This year we have added a 76-mile loop through Howland. Both loops will be well-marked and supported with rest stops and sag wagon patrols.

Here are some ways to increase the pleasure of this year's ride:

Take several small preparatory rides to get in shape and make sure your equipment works well.

Wear clothing that is brightly colored and expresses your spirit.

Get your sponsors to raise additional support and receive raffle tickets to win prizes donated by area merchants. Each additional \$25 raised gets the rider an additional raffle ticket. See the back cover for a list of prizes.

Better yet, join with friends and co-workers and enter as a team. It's more fun in a group!

You can register by calling the BLT office at 942-1010, picking up a brochure and entry form at bike and sporting goods stores around town, or online through www.bangorlandtrust.org.

We extend our warm and hearty thanks to our major sponsors, **BANGOR HYDRO** and **MAINE DISTRIBUTORS**.

Many other area businesses have given money, prizes, and volunteer time. Please look inside for our thank you list and remember to support these folks with your business.

Please join us! The 28-mile loop around the "Greenprint" towns and 76-mile loop through Howland promise to be exceptional and enjoyable opportunities to support Frogs, Logs, and Bogs!

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Our New Database

Thanks to a grant from the Davis Conservation Foundation, we now have a new database to help us keep track of members, donors, and volunteers. Board member Bill Phillips courageously tackled the technological challenges of transferring all our membership information into the new Giftworks database.

Now is a good time to let us know if we have your name and address

correct, and if there are any other corrections or additions you would like to make. Errors creep in, in spite of our best efforts.

Our members are the heart of our organization and we want to communicate with you in the way you would most prefer.

Please call the Bangor Land Trust office, at 942-1010, or e-mail info@bangorlandtrust.org

Bangor Land Trust Board of Directors



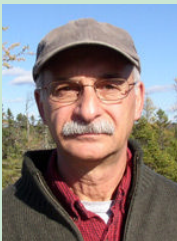
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A Message from our President: The Accreditation Challenge

At our July meeting Bangor Land Trust board members unanimously voted to seek accreditation from the national Land Trust Alliance. This is projected to be a 3-year process requiring significant organizational work. What is this all about and why would we undertake such a project?

Land trusts across the nation protect an extremely valuable resource—our natural areas—with the obligation to do so in perpetuity. We benefit from the support of IRS and other governmental regulations that create federal, state, and local tax benefits. In 2003, serious questions raised by The Washington Post about tax deductions claimed on transactions with The Nature Conservancy prompted Senate investigation into land trust practices and the threat of close Internal Revenue Service oversight. In response, the Land Trust Alliance persuaded Congress to give the land trust community the opportunity to regulate itself through an accreditation program.

In 2004 the Land Trust Alliance updated its *Land Trust Standards and Practices*, a 2-volume set of “guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust, which is run legally, ethically and in the public interest and conducts a sound program of land transactions and stewardship.” By 2006 the independent Land Trust Accreditation Commission had incorporated. Since the fall of 2008, a total of 78 land trusts nationwide have passed the extensive scrutiny of the Accreditation Commission and won accreditation.

After careful deliberation the Bangor Land Trust board based its decision on the following considerations:

- All of the things we have to do to become eligible for accreditation are

things we should be doing anyway. There are 12 LTA Standards, comprising 88 practices, that define the criteria for a sound conservation program. These include standards for record-keeping, financial transactions, stewardship, land and easement acquisition, and others. Preparing for accreditation will help us have a more sound, efficiently run organization.

- Accreditation will demonstrate to our community that our organization has met national standards for operation. This is especially important given the size of the resources entrusted to us.
- As more land trusts become accredited, un-accredited land trusts are likely to be at a disadvantage in applying for grants and perhaps in other ways as well.
- This year and next, there are grant moneys available to help small land trusts such as ours with the accreditation process.

Further information about the Land Trust Alliance and the accreditation process can be found at landtrustalliance.org and landtrustaccreditation.org.

*Would you like to receive
monthly reminders of
upcoming events and
be the first to know about
BLT news and happenings?*

**Sign up now for our email
listing by sending an email to
info@bangorlandtrust.org.**

Please Join Us!

If you received this newsletter, but you aren't a member of Bangor Land Trust, please join us by filling out the enclosed envelope. As you can read in this newsletter, we have a lot to offer you and the entire community, in terms of maintaining the health of our environment, learning, and just plain fun.

If you're already a member, thank you for your support. After you've read the newsletter, please share it with a friend, and encourage her or him to become a member by filling out the enclosed envelope.

We hope to see you soon!

Thank You to our Frogs, Logs, and Bogs Corporate Sponsors!

Conservator \$5,000-\$9,999

Bangor Hydro Electric Company

Maine Distributors

Protector \$2,500-\$4,999

Dynegy – Casco Bay Energy

Loiselle, Goodwin, and Hinds

Land Steward \$1,000-\$2,499

Bangor Daily News
Boeing Corp.
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Guardian \$500-\$999

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Keeper \$250-\$499

Advertising Specialists of Maine
Miller Drug
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City of Bangor
Northeast Cardiology

Supporter up to \$249

Bangor Nature Club
Everlasting Farm
Orrington Garden Club
The GE Foundation

Edwards, Faust & Smith
Full Circle Acupuncture Healthcare
Paul Bunyan Snowmobile Club
Woodard & Curran



Photo by Tom Sawyer.

***There is still time
to sponsor the
2009 Frogs, Logs,
and Bogs Road Ride.***

A complete list of sponsors will appear in our next newsletter.

Bangor Land Trust Annual Meeting Program: Invasive Species

The topic for Bangor Land Trust's Annual Meeting, October 28, 2009, will be "Invasive Species – What Are They and What Can We Do about Them?" Our shrinking planet has in many ways become our garden. We need to think about how we want to manage it - - not just on Bangor Land Trust preserves, but as a larger community as well.

Our world is undergoing an accelerated process of habitat re-arrangement as a result of three types of human activity. First, humans are changing the landscape by clearing (or sometimes planting) forests, creating farms and agricultural fields, and laying down pavement and buildings. Second, humans are traveling the globe and, purposely or not, transporting plants and animals to new places. And finally, scientists predict that climate change will result in habitat changes as areas become hotter, or wetter, or drier.

Land trusts are well equipped to preserve undeveloped land where nature can take its course – but what

if nature's course causes harm to local habitat? Those lovely-looking spikes of magenta flowers along the roadside are purple loosestrife, a very aggressive foreign invader that takes over wet-

SAVE THE DATE!

Bangor Land Trust Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

7 p.m.

**WBRC Architects & Engineers
Conference Center**

lands, choking out other vegetation and spoiling the nesting habitat for rails, sedge wrens, and other marsh birds. Common buckthorn is another aggressive invader that produces berries that birds like to eat to increase their fat stores for their long migrations. The problem is, Common buckthorn berries are less nutritious than those of indige-

nous shrubs, and they give the poor birds diarrhea.

We have problems with invasive animals as well. The hemlock woolly adelgid, emerald ash borer, and Asian longhorned beetle live too close to us for comfort and could have a devastating effect on our forests.

These are problems not just on our preserves, but over the regional landscape as well.

Bangor Land Trust and Maine Audubon representatives on Bangor's Marsh/Mall Commission contributed a piece of the solution by helping to craft a City Ordinance, later adopted by the City Council, that requires site plans for new construction to avoid plants that are listed as invasive by the Department of Conservation.

What can we, as homeowners, landowners, and gardeners, do? What is Bangor Land Trust going to do about our preserves? Should we be taking action as a city?

Come to our Annual Meeting to learn about the latest thinking on this topic.

Nature Notes "Ecology for Bikers" by Dick Andren

As a bicyclist and a naturalist, I have had a great deal of experience with roadside ecology. Singing birds pierce through some of the road noise telling me who is about - defending territory, calling to young or keeping in contact with flock members. Even when the song cannot be distinguished as I peddle by, the symphony is soothing.

Other animals that are encountered on the road-side show an unmistakable dorsal-ventral flattening. This characteristic is common in skunks, raccoons, beaver and porcupines who have made poor pedestrian decisions. Frogs and snakes also share the distinction of having dubious judgment.

There are some organisms that I cannot see from the roadside but are evident by their odor. Even up very

close you cannot see them but olfactory senses tell you they are quickly and efficiently recycling other organisms. Their unmistakable "fragrance" advertises that nature's recyclers are on the job. Thanks!

On less traveled country roads I occasionally interrupt a snake sunning itself on the dark pavement, raising its body temperature and thus its speed so that it can hunt more efficiently.

But it is all the greenery that really draws attention. Closest to the roadside are the hardiest plants - the pioneer species that are seeing just how close they can come to the road and still survive. They can reproduce quickly (their main job) and withstand the occasional tire, the pollution, the temperature extremes, and scarce nutrients. Most are perennials - in the game for the long

haul. Many are legumes which are able with the help of bacteria to add useful nitrogen to the soil. Clover species fill this bill. The ancient and honorable horsetails (*Equisetum* spp) also can thrive here by maintaining an extensive underground root and stem system. Growing fast and flowering quickly are great advantages to life on the edge of the fast lane.

All these plants along the roadside hold the soil in place, preventing erosion and helping the road maintain its integrity - but root systems and stems may take advantage of faulty engineering and construction and help turn the road back to a more natural ecosystem. These tenacious species have been around much longer than roads and patiently await their turn.

Volunteers Needed For Trail Work on Northeast Penjajawoc

Our wet and muddy trails on Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve at the end of the Kittredge Road will be fixed this fall, weather permitting. Trail crews from the Maine Conservation Corps, funded by grants from Maine Recreational Trails, the Land for Maine's Future Fund, and Bangor Land Trust's generous members, will lead the work.

The 6-person crew will work for 5 weeks, beginning September 15. They will use a combination of ditching, water bars, and bog bridging to make trails that will be a pleasure to use and won't damage the environment.

The amount of work to be done is huge. This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity to get some healthy exercise, help your community, and develop your trail-building skills. Call or e-mail the Bangor Land Trust Office at 942-1010 or info@bangorlandtrust.org, and let us know when you'd like to pitch in and help.

Penobscot Valley Community Greenprint Maps and Report Available

The long-awaited Trust for Public Land Penobscot Community Greenprint is now available on line. Go to bangorlandtrust.org for the link. There's a report you can download in pdf and an interactive map that you can look at layer by layer if you have a fast connection.

The Trust for Public Land survey of area citizens in 2008 found that a great majority are happy with where they live and enjoy engaging in outdoor activities close to home. Access to nature and working landscapes are an important part of the quality of life for local residents.

Without effective land use planning, we could lose all that. The purpose of the Greenprint is to map, on a regional basis, the areas that our communities indicate should be high priority for conservation and, conversely, the areas that are the most suitable for development.

Mapping is an essential tool, but it's only part of the solution. Greenprint participants also saw the need for continued regional planning around land use, economic

development, transportation, and other issues. They asked for more dialogue among various recreational groups and landowners and more active, responsible community stewardship of land that is open to public use. They also wanted more maps and trail markers. And finally, participants wanted our communities to support local food production.

This ambitious and forward-thinking agenda grew from seeds planted at the 2006 Bangor Land Trust Annual Meeting, nurtured by the work of Orono, Brewer, and Holden Land Trusts, and Landmark Heritage Trust. Our thanks go to the managers of the 12 Greenprint municipalities who carried the process forward, and especially to the Trust for Public Land who provided the financing and expertise that made this plan possible.

The next chapter is ours to write. What regional landscape do we want for our future? Stay tuned for opportunities for participation.

Welcome Nick Stahl, Bangor Land Trust's New Office Manager



When you call the Bangor Land Trust office, the friendly baritone answering the phone is most likely to be Nick Stahl, Bangor Land Trust's new Office Manager.

Nick grew up in the Brunswick area and went into the Army after graduating from Brunswick High. He served as a National Guard medic in Baghdad and post-Katrina New Orleans. He attended college in Louisiana before deciding

that Maine really *is* the best place to live. He moved to Bangor and currently serves as a National Guard medic locally and is a member of the Capital Ambulance crew.

In his free time, Nick enjoys a variety of outdoor recreational activities. He's usually in the BLT office three days a week, so if you don't find him in, leave a message or send an e-mail.

Frogs, Logs, and Bogs Road Ride Prizes

Every \$25 raised in sponsorships gets a raffle ticket for a generous prize from one of our ride sponsors.

The raffle drawing will be held at noon at the post-ride celebration.

A Cannondale F9 with CO2 Frame Technology Bike from Ski Rack Sports (color and size of winner's choice)

A month's FREE membership to Gold's Gym to ALL participants

A year's free membership at Gold's Gym in Bangor

Four \$25 gift certificates to Miguel's Restaurant in Bangor

Two \$25 gift certificates to Rose's Bike Shop in Orono

A Bike Computer from Rose's Bike Shop in Orono

A gift certificate from the Penobscot Valley Country Club for 18 hole green fees w/ carts for two people

FREE tuition for one course at Beal College

Four \$25 Gift certificates worth \$100 from Dysarts Restaurant

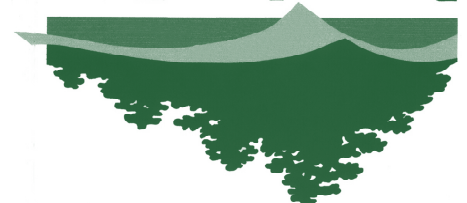
One cord of firewood from Dysarts

Lithium Ion Skill Screwdriver from Advantage Gasses and Tools

*Newsletter printed on recycled paper and created by Trish Hansen, volunteer.
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**"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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