



FROM BIRDS TO BIRCHES AND BEYOND

Bangor Land Trust was born from our effort to save an extraordinary bird habitat, one that is now nationally recognized as playing an important part in preventing species extinction. Over the past 20 years as we reached out into the greater Bangor community, we learned that the land we are preserving for its habitat value has an important history. The land that Bangor Land Trust has preserved is part of the Penobscot homeland. Ancestors of today's Penobscots had a respectful and sustainable relationship with their homeland for 15,000 years. Their homeland includes the lands now conserved by Bangor Land Trust. Knowing this has prompted the Bangor Land Trust Board to consider ways we can make our preserves a more welcoming place for Penobscots and other Wabanaki, whose ancestors cared for it so well.

We are now engaged in multiple innovative projects to realize our goal.

Our first is our Edible Landscape Project. It is already underway. We have begun to plant berries and nut and fruit-bearing trees to nurture both wildlife and human visitors.

Signage identifying this edible permaculture will be provided in both Penobscot and English.

A soon-to-be-published map of Bangor Land Trust preserves will contain Penobscot names and information about Native American principles of sustainability.

Last winter we sponsored a Wabanaki speakers' series to

learn more about the people whose homeland we are now stewarding.

We heard about the importance of birch trees for the Wabanaki and their need for access to them for teaching and cultural use. Bangor Land Trust has an abundance of white birch trees on Walden Parke Preserve. We began to think about how to share them with the Wabanaki and to consider a co-management agreement for their use.

As always, the Bangor Land Trust Board had multiple questions, both about the fate of the birch trees themselves (would removing the bark kill the tree?) and about the specifics of an agreement. We saw that the questions we were asking were ones that other land trusts would also ask if they decided to follow our lead with similar outreach. A generous and visionary funder offered to support our work so we could create a Frequently Asked Questions resource, and First Light (*see page 4*) offered to advise us on crafting a co-management agreement. Bangor Land Trust is taking the first step by compiling a list of questions; then we will look to both Wabanaki traditional knowledge keepers, foresters, scientists, and artisans, as well as non-Wabanaki foresters and scientists to reach a consensus on accurate and up-to-date answers. We look forward to the benefits of our project: an opportunity for Bangor Land Trust members to learn from Wabanaki experts and traditional scientists and an appreciation of Wabanaki wisdom about the relationship between humans and the natural world. With this project we also hope to create a resource that will be helpful to other land trusts embarking on a similar journey.

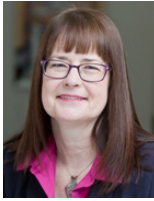


A LETTER *from* BANGOR LAND TRUST PRESIDENT

Lucy Quimby
President



Lucie Estabrook
Vice President



James Hinds
Treasurer



Chris Dalton
Secretary



Brian Ahern
Justin Poland
Dave Thompson
Adam Toothaker



design and printing by Bangor Letter Shop



Dear BLT members and friends,

Several years ago a friend in Northampton, MA sent me an article from the Daily Hampshire Gazette, titled, “Want to save the Earth? Start at home with a land trust.”

Saving the earth begins at home here in Bangor as well. Your local land trust conserves over 800 acres of trees that remove carbon dioxide (the “greenhouse gas” that traps the earth’s heat) from the atmosphere and give us oxygen, on which almost all life depends.

Saving the earth requires more than keeping the earth cool enough to support life, we also must support the vast and diverse web of plant and animal life of which we humans are a part.

In Bangor we have a unique opportunity in addition to the trees that Bangor Land Trust preserves, and a special responsibility: Penjajawoc Marsh and its associated uplands. Penjajawoc is among Maine’s most valuable freshwater marshes.

A relatively impermeable clay underlayer that holds water, and industrious beavers who instinctively dam running water created this marsh. Penobscot ancestors, whose relationship with this region spans 15,000 years, called it the Penjajawoc due to the sound the water makes tumbling down over rocks. We learned recently that wild rice is present in Penjajawoc Marsh. Its Penobscot name translates to “laughing berry”, possibly due to the satisfied murmuring of migrating waterfowl as they fill up on this nutrition-packed seed!

Penjajawoc sits at the southern end of relatively unbroken habitat that reaches northward to Maine’s North Woods. Animals that roam large territories wander down into the marsh; a large (fist-sized) cat track photographed there last winter very possibly belongs to a Canada lynx on a winter walkabout. Nearby wetlands, including Essex Woods wetland and Caribou Bog, comprise a wetland complex, increasing the ecological value of Penjajawoc Marsh. Penjajawoc is a nationally recognized Important Bird Area because of the number of birds, including endangered, threatened, and special concern species, that rely on it for feeding and nesting.

Our community is now responsible for the care of this 350-acre wetland and its associated uplands that are vital to the continued existence of dozens of bird species and extremely important to many other animals trying to survive as our climate changes and humans shrink the areas allocated for wildlife habitat.

Helping Bangor Land Trust care for Penjajawoc Marsh and its CO₂-absorbing upland habitat does indeed help save the earth.

Sincerely,

Lucy Quimby

NATURE NOTES

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS ENCOURAGED *By Lucy Quimby*

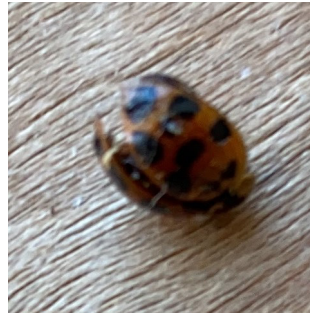
Have you ever wished for an easy way to find the name of a plant that you see in the woods, a caterpillar you don't recognize, or a patch of moss you've admired? Even if you are lucky enough to have an expert naturalist friend, they are not always walking beside you. Carrying a pack load of field guides can be tiring. But there is no doubt that knowing plants and animals by name and knowing a bit about them -- becoming "speaking acquaintances," - enriches our experience of nature.

In 2008 the California Academy of Sciences teamed up with the National Geographic Society to create an app called iNaturalist. You can easily establish an iNaturalist account with your own user name and password. Then you can upload a photo of your observations and enter comments about what you have found. iNaturalist will tag your uploaded observations with both date and geographic location. It suggests visually similar possibilities to help you make your best guess at identification. Other iNaturalist users will usually confirm your identification or offer corrections. When the iNaturalist community agrees on an ID, your observation will reach the status of "research grade" and become part of a global census of plants and animals. This census becomes a valuable inventory of what is still alive in our area. This is citizen science at its best – an international effort to engage ordinary citizens in scientific research with the aim of both encouraging greater interest in science and increasing the capacity of scientific institutions to do research.

SEEK is a new addition (in 2018) available on both iPhones and Google Play. When SEEK works well, a photo of a plant or animal taken with the app will identify it. A trial run with the "ladybug" on your windowsill might tell you the "ladybug" is an "Asian Lady Beetle." That may seem odd but SEEK and iNaturalist add more information, telling you that Asian Lady Beetles were introduced on both US coasts nearly 70 years ago to control aphids and are now well

established. SEEK shares with you what others have found in nearby wild areas (not gardens or house pets), but It does not share publicly what you have identified. It does offer you the option of uploading your observation to your iNaturalist file.

These apps open up the possibility of an exciting Bangor Land Trust project. Working together, we could create a thorough inventory of all the wild plants and animals that Bangor citizen-scientists have found in our city. Stay tuned for future Bangor Land Trust adventures using iNaturalist.



Online identification sites:

- <https://bugguide.net/node/view/15740>
- <https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org>
- <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/>
- <https://www.realtimerendering.com/flowers/flowers.html>
- iNaturalist app and website

FIRST LIGHT

First Light serves as a bridge between Maine's Wabanaki (Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, MicMac, and Maliseet) communities collectively known as People of the Dawnland, and Maine land conservation organizations. Through collaborative work they seek to answer two questions: What can conservation groups in Maine do to support Native American access to and stewardship of currently conserved land?

Equally important is the second question: How can Maine's conservation organizations learn from Wabanaki experts about conserving land and managing it sustainably? First Light offers consultation to land trusts that want to share their land and its resources with the Wabanaki. You can find more information at:

firstlightlearningjourney.net

*H*ave you been thinking about a way to make a difference that will last even after you're gone? You can give an enduring gift of Bangor's wild back yard to future generations by making a bequest to Bangor Land Trust in your will.

For more information call 942-1010
or send a message to
info@bangorlandtrust.org.

"Nature is not a place to visit, it is home."

Gary Snyder



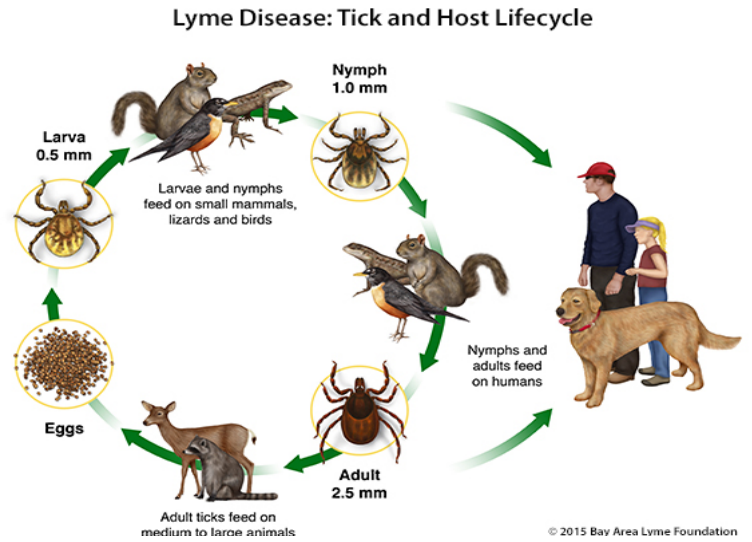
Plan ahead for Valentine's Day
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a Bangor Land Trust Membership.
Email: info@bangorlandtrust.org

or call 942-1010
and we'll arrange it.



WARMER WINTERS MEAN MORE TICK ACTIVITY

If a deer tick is not lucky enough to be feeding on a deer or a moose, it is likely to be buried in some leaf litter, waiting for warmer weather. “Warmer,” to a deer tick, means above freezing – so during a winter warm spell, and especially if there is no snow on the ground, hungry ticks will be looking for their next meal. You can avoid feeding a tick by taking the usual precautions – tuck your pants into your socks and your shirt into your pants, use an effective tick repellent, and do a tick check when you get home. DEET and Picaridin are generally recommended, along with Permethrin applied to your clothing, such as socks.



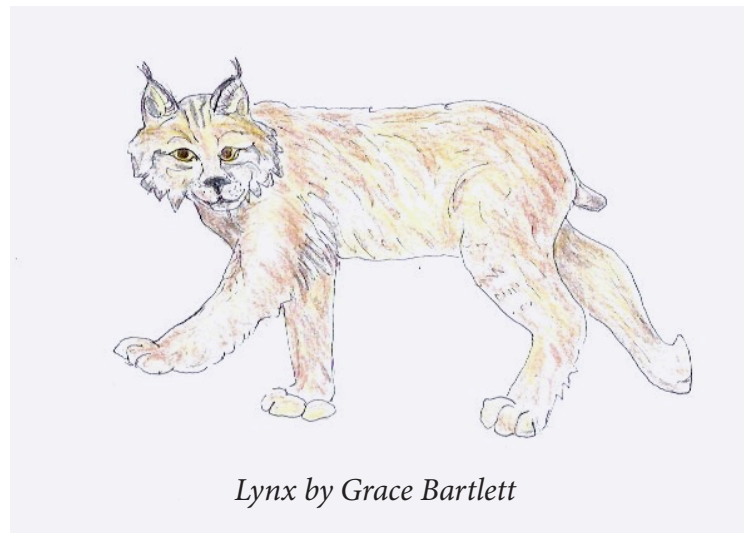
NEWS OF THE BANGOR LAND TRUST OFFICE

We are delighted to welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Andrew Czwakiel (pronounced SWAH-kee-el), to BLT. He is a recent graduate of UMaine, and we first met him when he volunteered to help fix our bridge on Northeast Penjajawoc; he did a great job! When he told us he was finishing an internship at Kennebec Land Trust we jumped at the chance to bring him on board. He brings with him enthusiasm, energy, and a great environmental background.




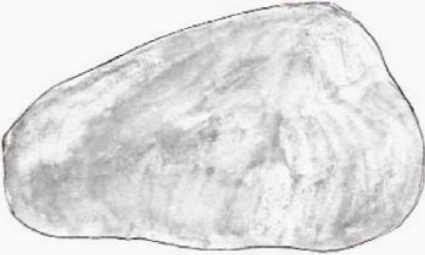

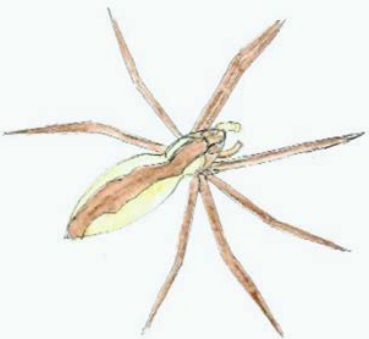



At the same time, we owe great thanks to Patty Brochu who retired as planned in mid-November. She kept us running smoothly even under siege from COVID with resourcefulness, dedication, and courage. We all wish her well-deserved time to relax and recharge.



Large cat, very possibly a Canada Lynx photo by Kathy Pollard



How to play: Visit the preserves and look for the nature items that are all in a row, a column, or on one of the two diagonals of 3 boxes. When you find one, enter the preserve in the box below its picture and name. When you have completed 3 boxes in a row, column, or along a diagonal, email a copy of the completed Nature Bingo Card to info@bangorlandtrust.org to make arrangement to receive a Bangor Land Trust water bottle prize.

		
Yellow leaf	Red squirrel	Mushroom
		
Rock	Flower	Spider
		
Woodpecker	Animal holes in trees	Christmas Fern



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Thank You to Everyone!

We couldn't do what we do without your generous support!

If you would like to learn how to sponsor Bangor Land Trust please visit our website or call



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