



# NEW BRIDGE FOR NORTHEAST PENJAJAWOC PRESERVE HELPS MEET A PERSISTENT CHALLENGE

Bangor Land Trust must balance the competing needs of wildlife and people, while at the same time help people develop a rewarding relationship to the natural world. Our Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve (NEPJJ), 83 acres off the Kittredge Road, challenges us to find this balance. Some wildlife need a large territory to roam. NEPJJ is a crucial part of the relatively undeveloped stretch of land that connects Penjajawoc Marsh to Maine’s North Woods. This connection allows animals who need large territories to roam south as far as Penjajawoc Marsh, where people may have the pleasure of discovering evidence of their presence. For example, a BLT member shared a photograph of a footprint likely made by a Canada Lynx in the snow in the marsh a couple of winters ago.

People also want to roam large territories in natural areas. When they are looking for easy access to the old Veazie RR bed they sometimes cut across NEPJJ, (although one can also easily get access to the RR bed from Walden Parke Preserve or the Bangor City Forest.)

Bangor Land Trust preserves offer special opportunities for people to experience the natural world,



*An example from another land trust of how the future bridge will look*

including many birds and other animals like fox, deer, and bears in their natural habitat, and a wide variety of plants – all within one of Maine’s largest urban areas. It is a challenge to give people the access that they want, while at the same time allowing wildlife to feel comfortable as they go about their daily routines.

To help us meet this challenge we are creating a more durable trail on NEPJJ that will be pleasant to use for



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## A LETTER *from* BANGOR LAND TRUST PRESIDENT

*Dear Members and Friends,*

Several years ago the Maine State government asked Fermata Inc, a consulting firm that specializes in sustainable tourism and recreation, to describe what tourists want. The answer: a comfortable bed, world-class meals, and an authentic experience of nature that helps them learn new things about the world around them. When Bangor Land Trust incorporated in 2001, we defined our mission to *Protect for public benefit land and water in the Bangor region that have special ecological, natural, scenic, agricultural, or recreational significance, while increasing public understanding of the value of land and water conservation.* This aligning of the BLT mission with tourist desires could have been a happy coincidence, or it could speak to a more profound phenomenon. The biologist E.O. Wilson wrote a book titled Biophilia in which he proposed that it is part of human nature to seek out and love the natural world.

But then it can get complicated. Love is not always altruistic. People who love something can harm or destroy it. This is why it is necessary to increase public understanding of why conservation is important. We thank our Programs Committee for finding ways to offer everyone opportunities to enjoy learning more about our “wild back yard.” We also count on you - our members and friends - to participate in this learning project. Please tell us what you see on BLT preserves, share your adventures, help everyone appreciate what is in our wild back yard, and how we can nurture and care for it.

And finally – we need your financial support to do all this. We’ll be sending an appeal letter soon with more information – but you don’t need to wait for that to write your check or support us online at [bangorlandtrust.org](http://bangorlandtrust.org).

Thank you!

*Lucy Quimby*  
President, Bangor Land Trust



# NATURE NOTES

## TREES ARE ABOUT TO STEAL THE SHOW!

By Jim Contino – BLT Board Member and Professional Forester

A good friend recently visited Iceland and posted many scenic pictures. The landscape was beautiful but stark because there are no trees. I have always been a tree guy. I feel renewed after taking a walk through the trees. BLT has many trails that the public is invited to enjoy. By the time this newsletter is published, the trees should be in full color and putting on a show that you don't want to miss! As a kid, I always thought the color changes in the fall leaves was a kind of magic. In forestry school, I learned that the chlorophyll of the hardwoods allows the green pigments of the leaves to dominate giving it the green color during the active growing season. As autumn approaches, chlorophyll is destroyed faster than it is produced and the other carotenoid pigments reveal themselves. Maples turn orange, birches and aspens turn yellow, ashes become purple, and the oaks finish off the season in brown. Its quite a show and I urge you to get to a BLT trail in October so you don't miss it.

Most of our BLT trails are located in what I call the riparian forest zone of Penjajawoc stream. These riparian zones are sometimes referred to as a "green ribbon of life along a stream" (USU extension). Soil conditions and tree species change from upland to lowland. Wildlife habitat changes from terrestrial to aquatic. Since all forms of wildlife require water to live, these zones are among the most diverse and ecologically rich areas of the Maine Forest. The next time you are on a trail that crosses a stream, take a look around because you are in a very special place that is worthy of protection. The protection, wise use, and conservation of these areas is the mission of BLT.

The ME Dept of Conservation publishes a booklet of Forest Trees of Maine. They identify 66 native species in the Maine forest. All of these trees have a unique and profuse ability to naturally regenerate themselves. Pines, aspens, and



birches will be the first pioneering species that grow into an abandoned field. Many of our BLT parcels used to be in agriculture within the last 50 years so you will see these forests widely. Upland forests will naturally morph into more shade tolerant species as the forests consolidate and mature. These areas will favor maple, beech, spruce and hemlock. You will see these trees in the older denser forests. Cedar, tamarack, and alders will dominate the lowland sites closer to the streams and wetlands. If you walk any of the BLT trails, you are sure to see all of this wonderful diversity.

And remember – The very best time to take that walk in the riparian forests of the BLT is on an early fall day when the trees are showing off their magic!



# SAFETY FOR EVERYONE ON BANGOR LAND TRUST PRESERVES

As the poet Gary Snyder wrote, “Nature is not a place to visit, it is home.” It is indeed our home. It is where human beings evolved over millennia. That is why a walk in the woods, looking for birds, photographing flowers, or just sitting under a tree is such a good way to calm our minds and reduce stress. In these difficult times, beset by COVID, we want to be sure that everyone seeking wellbeing in our preserves is safe there.

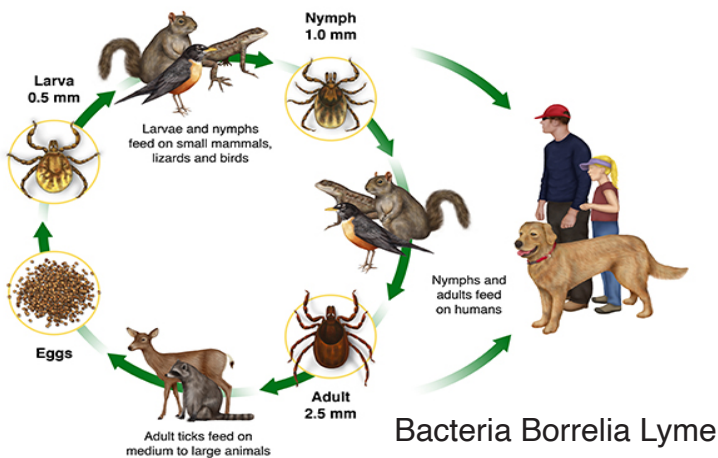
Two major threats to our health are bacteria carried by deer ticks that cause Lyme and other diseases, and the COVID virus. Safety requires taking precautions against both.

To avoid tick-borne diseases, dress defensively with pants tucked into socks and shirt tucked into trousers, wear light-colored clothing to make it easier to see ticks that may have climbed aboard, and do a thorough tick check when you get home. Treating your clothes with permethrin is a good way to repel ticks. The Maine CDC website has excellent information on ticks.

Having BLT preserves be safe in the time of COVID requires that each of us be thoughtful of others that we may meet. The COVID virus spreads through aerosols – from the lungs of someone breathing deeply. People who are not yet showing symptoms and unaware that they are sick can and do spread COVID. Please stay at least 6 feet from everyone not masked or fully vaccinated. If you are moving fast along a trail, please yield to more slow-moving walkers. If you are on a bike, please stop and figure out with the person you are passing how you can maintain physical distancing in a way that is comfortable for both parties.



Lyme Disease: Tick and Host Lifecycle



**We still have T-Shirts** left to give out to anyone who would like to support Bangor Land Trust and the work that we do

**All new members that donate \$35 or more can get a FREE edible landscape project T-Shirt while supplies last.**



Donations not only help with our edible landscape project, but they also help conserve land for everyone to enjoy. Your support also helps to:

- Maintain a 10-mile network of trails
- Protect the forests and grasslands that help air quality and against climate change
- Provides educational & nature-based events, and games
- Brings you our newsletters, and other great information for an entire year

**Thank you to everyone who has already donated and received a T-Shirt, we appreciate your support!**



The Bangor Land Trust newsletter is available to view in full color on our website [www.bangorlandtrust.org](http://www.bangorlandtrust.org) (use your phone's QR code reader to bring you to the website!)



Bangor Land Trust can also be found on facebook, follow us for updates



## NEW BRIDGE ~ *continued from page 1*

many years while still maintaining that feeling of being close to nature that a more “primitive” trail offers. We are happy to announce we are replacing the aging bridge at NEPJJ with a locally crafted composite bridge from Advanced Infrastructure Technologies in Brewer, paid for by American Rescue Plan funds from Penobscot County! The cutting-edge composite material of the new bridge is expected to last 120 years, ensuring an enriched experience for visitors while enhancing the preserve’s natural beauty for future generations.

Our dedicated BLT volunteers are carrying all the parts of the new bridge to the site this fall. We’re very much looking forward to our new bridge that will provide advanced technological support for more ancient, low-tech, nurturing activities like walking in the woods and wildlife watching, while protecting the stream that flows beneath it into Penjajawoc Marsh.

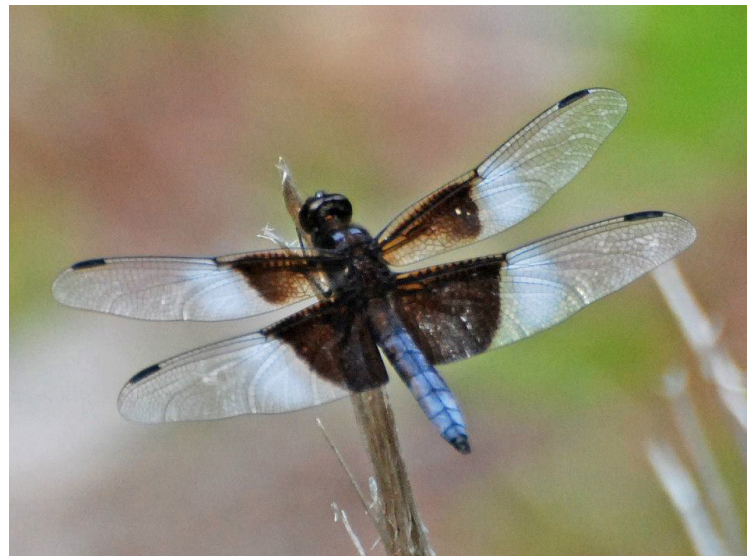


*H*ave you been thinking about a way to make a difference that will last even after you’re gone? You can give an enduring gift of Bangor’s wild back yard to future generations by making a bequest to Bangor Land Trust in your will.

For more information call 942-1010  
or send a message to  
[info@bangorlandtrust.org](mailto:info@bangorlandtrust.org).

*“Nature is not a place to visit, it is home.”*










*Gary Snyder*



Widow Skimmer (*Libellula luctuosa*)  
Dragonfly Photo by Lee Snyder.



**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](mailto:info@bangorlandtrust.org) to make arrangement to receive a Bangor Land Trust water bottle prize.

		
<p>Bigtooth Aspen</p>	<p>American Beech</p>	<p>Balsam Fir</p>
		
<p>Northern Red Oak</p>	<p>Eastern Hemlock</p>	<p>Gray Birch</p>
		
<p>Red Maple</p>	<p>Red Spruce</p>	<p>Eastern White Pine</p>

*Walden Parke is now even bigger, so more places to explore and play Nature Bingo. Here's an opportunity to play last year's spring bingo with the additional challenge of finding as many as you can on the newly acquired trail. Enjoy your journey!! Bingo sheets can also be found in color on our website*

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*We couldn't do what we do without your generous support!*  
If you would like to learn how to support Bangor Land Trust, please visit our website.



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