



Bangor Land Trust

# NEWS LETTER

Spring/Summer 2022

## WILDLIFE CORRIDOR PROJECT UPDATE *By Lucy Quimby*

Bangor Land Trust is happy to announce that we have added 67 acres to the wildlife corridor linking Penjajawoc Marsh to Maine's North Woods. This is part of our Corridor Project, begun in 2001 with Orono Land Trust. Conservation of this wildlife corridor is part of why we have occasional opportunities to see animals like bears, bobcats, fishers, moose, and maybe even lynx, that require large home ranges. Last winter our habitat consultant, Kathy Pollard, photographed a track in snowy Penjajawoc Marsh possibly made by a lynx on a "winter walkabout."

This addition brings the size of Walden-Parke Preserve to over 500 acres. We thought you might like to know more about the 22-year history of how we have conserved – in perpetuity! – this remarkable land and some surrounding areas.

In the late 1980s nearly 700 acres in northeast Bangor, including over 500 acres that are now Walden-Parke Preserve, were clear cut for timber. In 2004 two local developers put it up for sale and offered a plan to divide all of it up into 1½ acre house lots. (If you want to see a map of this scary prospect, a copy is available through the Bangor Land Trust office).

Later that same year Fritz and Caroline Oldenburg and Dennis and Jane Shubert (as Walden Parke, LLC,) stepped in and bought the entire ~700-acre parcel, pursuing their vision of more thoughtful developments in the midst of natural areas. They gifted ~205 acres to Bangor Land Trust and subsequently (2009) donated another ~205 acres of their developable land. This



*photo courtesy of  
Kathy Pollard*

has lent a unique value to their properties as well as preserving invaluable wetlands and habitat blocks.

Bangor Land Trust turned to the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program (MNRCP) which administers compensatory wetland conservation for any wetland disturbance related to development. That is, if a developer disturbs a wetland, he or she must preserve another wetland of equal function and value – or pay into the MNRCP fund overseen by The Nature Conservancy. This fund awards money to conservation organizations

*~ continued on page 5*



A LETTER *from* BANGOR LAND TRUST PRESIDENT

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*design and printing by Bangor Letter Shop*



*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

Part of the comfort of living in Bangor is having the company of “All Our Relations”, a Native American phrase expressing an ethos of kinship with all life. This includes the remarkable diversity of animals and plants all around Bangor, from the mockingbird that sings near City Hall to the seals that swim up the Penobscot, from the weasel that leaves tracks in the winter snow to the porcupines that gnaw trees on Bangor Land Trust Preserves.

And we cannot forget the bears! At my home near the Kenduskeag Stream we had a visitor early this spring who found the seeds in our bird feeder irresistible. He also helped himself to a 50-pound bag of cracked corn stored outside in a metal bin. Lacking foresight, he apparently gnawed a hole in the bottom of the bag before opening the top and running off with it. He left a 200-foot trail of corn, I suspect sadly (from his perspective) to be enjoyed not by him but by our crows and wild turkeys.

These creatures give special character to our city and contribute to its vitality. Bangor may be Maine’s third largest city but it’s also important wildlife habitat.

Back in 2001 Bangor Land Trust partnered with Orono Land Trust on the Corridor Project. On a map you can see a relatively unbroken swath of land stretching from Penjajawoc Marsh to Maine’s North Woods. Keeping this habitat area as open and uninterrupted as possible has allowed All Our Relations space to roam, find homes, and raise families.

Our planet needs this wildlife habitat. Penjajawoc Marsh is a nationally recognized Important Bird Area and helps to prevent species extinction. The essential wetland habitats we preserve include not only the actual wet area but also a thousand-foot upland surround and another thousand-foot buffer zone. Wetlands provide better habitat if there are other wetlands nearby forming a “wetland complex”.

In April we were pleased to add 67 acres to Walden Parke Preserve with funding from the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program, Maine Community Foundation, and several generous donors. We have widened the narrow corridor connecting Penjajawoc Marsh to Caribou Bog. Bangor Land Trust has helped our city fulfill its responsibility to foster a healthy ecology and take care of All Our Relations by winning state and federal funds to purchase land at fair market value from willing landowners.

The habitat value of Penjajawoc Marsh has helped Bangor Land Trust secure funds. It is now up to our community to take care of our home in nature. Your support of our caretaking, land management, and educational programs makes these essential activities possible!

Thank you!!

*Lucy Quimby*

# NATURE NOTES

## SIGNS OF THE WILD *By Kathy Pollard*

Spring has a way of calling us outdoors to bear witness to the bursting forth of wildflowers, fiddleheads, new grass, and leaves. To the migration of fish up tributary streams and the flocks of hungry birds pausing to fill up on clouds of newly hatched insects, before the pull of north calls them again to their summer breeding ranges. Spring is a very busy time for wildlings and reproduction keeps parents constantly procuring food for their young. Much of this activity goes unseen by those humans who visit the spaces they call home. Within a Bangor Land Trust preserve you might hear singing birds, or the croaking of a frog or high-pitched song of a peeper as you walk past a wetland. You might catch a glimpse of a deer startled, yet curious of your presence. Perhaps you will encounter a mama blackbear teaching her young to forage (but hopefully not!!). Or hear the motor-like thumping of a partridge drumming in the distance. As dusk approaches perhaps you will hear the mating display of woodcock, or the plaintive call of a whip-poor-will! But many times people can walk through Bangor Land Trust preserves and not see much of any other life at all due to the rhythms of high activity early and late in the day with much rest and quiet in between.

This is why I spend a good deal of time out on the preserves in winter after fresh fallen snow! Suddenly the landscape is filled with the crisscrossing tracks of animals, and little dramas like mouse prints disappearing where wing impressions evidence an owl's success at finding dinner. Snow affords an opportunity to see what animals and birds are active during this time of year. This past winter we explored the newly acquired 67 acre preserve running north from the Blue Jay Trail at Walden Parke. There are several types of habitat within this now conserved landscape, from Upland forest to marshy wetlands engineered by beaver, to mature cedar and sphagnum moss sponge complexes of wetland. It's important to note that the animals who live there or pass through, have access to far more space than what Bangor Land Trust has conserved as there is a contiguous corridor now stretching all the way from Bangor up to Katahdin.



*photo courtesy of Kathy Pollard*

Some wild animals need huge ranges to sustain themselves while others can live very comfortably within a small environment. It's really nice to know that this newly acquired land will add another piece of the puzzle of habitat preserved for them into perpetuity.

Among the tracks that we recorded, were partridge, snowshoe hare, otter, white tailed deer, fox, coyote, porcupine, mice, fisher, voles, red and gray squirrels, raccoon, skunk, and bobcat. Once, I randomly knocked on a hollow cedar trunk, and a white, pink nosed, black whiskered, short tailed weasel with glistening midnight eyes poked her head out of a crack in the trunk—as surprised to see my face so close as I was to see hers!

**Protecting land protects vital habitat! All of these animals will be secure in their homeland!**

On another foray in the deadest cold of winter, we traversed the frozen Penjajawoc Marsh. (I do not

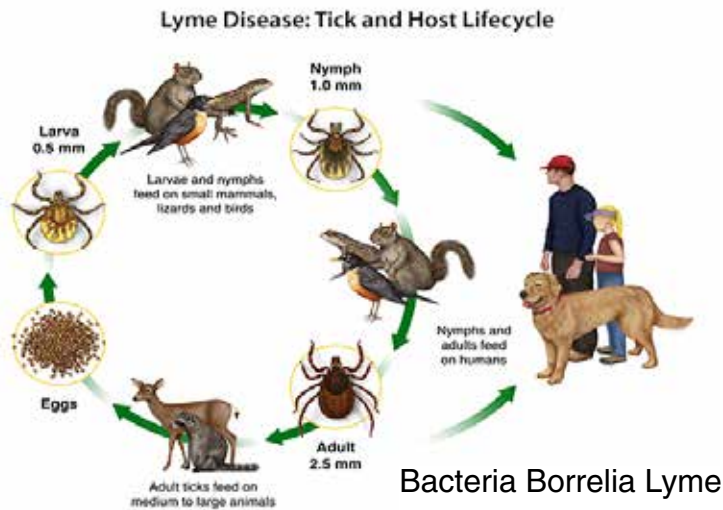
# SAFETY FOR EVERYONE ON BANGOR LAND TRUST PRESERVES

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.



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

Have 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*

recommend trying this unless there has been a week of near zero temps around mid-January!) There was evidence of varied wildlife within this ecosystem, including muskrats, bobcats, coyotes, mice, several species of wintering birds, Whitetail deer crossing back-and-forth, a couple beaver lodges, and deep in a thicket of cattails, a set of incongruous



*Ermine peeking out of a tree  
photo by Kathy Pollard*

feline tracks that was much larger than any of the bobcat prints (*see photo on page 1*). After consulting with Marc McCullough of U.S. Fish and Wildlife services, we agreed that the track might possibly be from a lynx having come down through the corridor from the Northwoods as they are known to occasionally do in what is called a winter walkabout—possibly to assess food resources in areas outside their home range. Soon, the Marsh will be brimming with many migratory birds settling in to raise their young.

With greenup, the bears come out of their winter sleep. We have seen mama and baby bear tracks in the mud at Walden Parke preserve, adding this large mammal to the list of residents enjoying the safe oasis of Bangor Land Trust preserves.

If you are out and come upon tracks that you cannot identify please try to photograph them and send them to us! We always love to hear about what other wildlife people may see evidence of. Sometimes it's hard to gauge from a photograph the size of a track in snow or mud. For that reason it's a good idea to use some frame of reference, be it your hand, or as in the case when I photographed the potential lynx tracks, I had a dollar bill in my pocket that I laid out beside the track. Later the dollar was measured and a good estimate of the track size was therefore achieved.

We are all so incredibly fortunate here in the Bangor area to have places we can visit to get out for exercise, fresh air, solitude, and the ability to feel like we are part of something bigger than ourselves: nature, in all her kaleidoscopic variety and glory!

pledged to conserve wetlands with all their important attributes in perpetuity.

In 2013 and 2018 BLT wrote successful grants to MNRCP and added 178 acres to Central Penjajawoc Preserve. In 2020 MNRCP funded our purchase from Walden Parke, LLC, of a 47-acre addition to Walden-Parke Preserve. Now we have just closed on the final undeveloped 67 acres of the LLC's development, this time with generous funding from the MNRCP as well as the Maine Community Foundation and several individuals. Our success in obtaining these grants lies in the nature of the lands we have preserved. They have unique natural resources with buffer zones, vernal pools, and State-designated significant wetlands, all recognized as essential for the health of our region and indeed of our planet.

An essential element of Bangor's special character is that it is Maine's third-largest city, with urban amenities, and yet maintains an open connection with Maine's North Woods.

A brief addendum: to protect the required buffer zone of a State-significant wetland on our recent acquisition we have closed 350 yards of trail leading off the Blue Jay Trail. It runs parallel and close to two additional trails, so access is not restricted. As always, we are balancing the requirements of our grantors and the needs of Maine residents and visitors.



*photo courtesy of Geoff Gratwick*

# Nature Bingo

# Bangor Land Trust - Summer 2022

How to play: Visit the preserves and look for all the nature items that are in a row, a column, or on one of the two diagonals of 4 boxes. When you find one, enter the preserve name and date in the box below the item's name. When you have completed 4 boxes in a row, column, or along a diagonal, send or bring 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.

	 Common Button Lichen (buttons are tiny black dots on light gray part, 2in. wide here)		
Bracken Fern		Black-eyed Susan	Orange Hawkweed
			
Chipmunk	Narrow Beech Fern	Chicory	Mallard Female
			
Porcupine Chewed Bark	Jewelweed	New York Fern	Beaver Dam
			
Queen Anne's Lace	Viceroy Butterfly	Spider's web	Interrupted Fern

Walden Parke is now even bigger, so more places to explore and play Nature Bingo. Here's an opportunity to play last year's summer bingo with the additional challenge of finding as many as you can on the newly acquired trail. Enjoy your journey!!



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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



**BANGOR LAND TRUST**  
P.O. Box 288  
Bangor, ME 04401

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