



Presumpscot Regional Land Trust

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www.prlt.org

Winter 2007 Newsletter

Celebrating over 20 years of land protection along the Presumpscot River corridor.



2007-2008 PRLT Board of Directors

Senator Phil Bartlett, Esq., *Maine State Senator Dist. 6*
Forrest Bell, *Owner, FB Environmental, &*
Executive Director, Presumpscot River Watch
Allene Bowler, *H&R Block &*
Gorham Parks & Conservation Commission member
Joanne Chessey, *Consulting Group Analyst,*
Smith Barney
Richard Curtis, *Principal, Artel, Inc.*
Marylee Dodge, *Executive Committee Member,*

Forrest Society of Maine
Dennis Irish, *Handyman/Owner, Iryshe Enterprises*
Harold Parks, *Retired, Former Town Manager, Brewer*
Will Plumley, *Marketing Strategist, Ethos Marketing &*
Design, & President, Presumpscot Regional
Watershed Coalition
Michael Shutts, *Deputy Chief, Portland Fire*
Department

Robert Alan Wake, PhD, JD, *Attorney, Maine Bureau of Insurance*

Tania Neuschafer, *Development Coordinator* (part-time)

Capacity Building Campaign- A campaign to raise funds to hire an Executive Director is underway. This is an on-going campaign until we reach our goal of hiring our first-ever staff position. Many foundation requests are pending to support *Year One* of this salaried position. Thank you to the Norcross Wildlife Foundation for a recent grant to help us purchase computer and office equipment. **Thank you** to the following PRLT members who have already responded to this campaign! We look forward to hearing more from all of you in response to this campaign.

Peter Allen, Gorham Peter Bass, Gorham
Joanne Chessey, Sebago Mary Collins, Gorham
Paul Emery, Westbrook Craig Stirling, Gorham
Bevalie Marean, Standish Jane Nelson, Scarborough
Carol & Al Curran, Gorham
Jeff & Andrea Varricchione, Gorham

McLellan House- A recent walkthrough of our home at the historic McLellan House at 77 South Street gave us some new insight into its historical integrity. Built in 1890, the front part of the McLellan house was built during the Federalist period, shown by the simple handrails out front. The back part of the building was added during the Victorian period in the early 1900's, as demonstrated by the ornate woodwork around the doors. A shed attached to the back of the building still has the original "two-holer." Owned by the Town of Gorham, the PRLT signed a lease in 1995. We are the managers of the property and have our offices there. We also rent office space to Gorham Times and the Presumpscot River Watch, as well as a 2nd floor residential property. This 2-bedroom apartment is available for rent on January 1st. Know someone who might be interested? Contact Mike Shutts for more details- (207) 854-5269.

PRLT receives \$10,000 grant from the Maine Coast Protection Initiative- In June 2007, the PRLT received a \$10,000 Capacity Building grant from the Maine Coast Protection Initiative through the Land Trust Alliance. This grant is a designated award to hire a consultant to focus on our development and

marketing efforts in order to raise the funds necessary to hire an Executive Director. We've extended our contract with our current part-time Development Coordinator, Tania Neuschafer, to lead us in this effort. The Presumpscot Regional Land Trust qualified for this grant award because the Presumpscot River and its associated estuary in Casco Bay provide important coastal habitat, including fringing salt marsh, intertidal mudflats and subtidal channels. The estuary provides habitat for clams, mussels, horseshoe and green crabs, snails, bloodworms, sand eels and mummichogs. Migratory, feeding and roosting waterbirds, including shorebirds, wading birds and waterfowl, prey on the rich mix of living creatures in the estuary, and riparian corridors, such as the relatively intact Presumpscot River corridor, are widely recognized by conservation biologists and land use planners for their particular significance in protecting fish and wildlife habitat. The PRLT Board was thrilled to receive this competitive grant and glad to be working more closely with the Land Trust Alliance. *The Maine Coast Protection Initiative is a public-private partnership designed to increase the pace and quality of land protection by enhancing the capacity of Maine's conservation community to preserve the unique character of Maine coast.*

Sappi Paper Law Offers Canoe Access- As part of their dam relicensing permit from FERC, Sappi will be constructing canoe put-in spots and portages at the various dams along the Presumpscot River. This past summer they completed a put-in spot just above the Sacarrappa Dam in Westbrook, including parking and a trail to the water. They will be working their way up the river, and expect to complete one canoe access point per year until they get to Dundee Pond. Next summer's work will be a portage around the Mallison Falls Dam in Little Falls.

Join the Stewardship Committee- Interested in getting involved? We can use your help with signage and trail maintenance on PRLT properties. Contact Mike Shutts for more details- (207) 854-5269.

Maps- Thanks to the help of Forrest Bell, PRLT Vice President, and FB Environmental's Fred Dillon, we now have a map reflecting an

overview of our public access properties on our website. Next, we will post maps of each property on our website. Go to www.prlt.org to view. Thanks again Forrest and Fred!

PRLT Gambo Property Upgrades-

Boy Scout Troop members have been working to improve the PRLT Gambo property. Two Eagle Scout candidates, both from Troop 817 in Gorham, conducted their community projects there. Matthew McCullough built a kiosk that will provide a place for maps, historical information about the Gambo Powder Mills, and trail information and cleared vegetation at the Gun Powder Mills sight, and T.J. Mathieu built a bridge and replaced signs by the other bridges. Thanks to Matthew and T.J. and to Gorham Trails for helping to organize and supervise these improvement projects.



New PRLT Board Members-

Allene Bowler lives with her husband Peter in Gorham. Allene has been involved in the PRLT since its inception in 1985 when she was appointed by the Gorham Planning Board to be a

PRLT Board member. In these early days, the town of Gorham appointed both a representative of the Gorham Town Council and the Planning Board to serve on the Land Trust Board. Allene stayed on the PRLT Board for 6 years, her entire term as a member of the Planning Board. “At the time,” she said, “Dr. Knapp, town doctor of Gorham and founder of the PRLT, held meetings at the Richardson House which Dr. Knapp owned and worked from. In these early days,” Allene said, “it was about getting us on the road, with rules and regulations. There were lots of things to set up.” Since then, Allene has stayed involved with PRLT as a volunteer and member because she’s “interested in land preservation.” Allene has served on the Gorham Town Council and the Board of Appeals and is currently on the Parks and Conservation Commission for the town of Gorham. She works part-time at H&R Block in Gorham. Allene joined the PRLT Board again because she “likes to see open space protected and there are not that many avenues to be involved in this in the town of Gorham.” She said, “Even still, even with a land trust, it can be a slow process, and a lot of people get discouraged to get to the end.” But she is committed to the process because, she said, “I just enjoy open space, being able to see it. I like to be able to go by and see the animals and the cows out in the fields, and like to see the open space along the river.” Asked what skills she’d bring to the land trust, she shared “my past experience with the Planning Board and my current involvement in the Parks and Conservation Commission.” Welcome back Allene, glad to have you on board!

Dennis Irish, of Gorham, has been involved in the land trust since the late 1990’s as a steward of the PRLT Little River property- adjacent to his family’s home. His brother, Glenn Irish, also of Gorham, had been involved since the land trust’s inception. When Glenn moved away he suggested Dennis step in. “At least once a year we do some improvement on the Little River property,” Dennis said. “In May, we work with United Way Day of Caring, with usually 8-15 people and work on the trails and other projects. Over the course of the years, we’ve created 5 miles of trails, and about 8 walking bridges over the ravines of the river. This is a well-loved property. Lots of people in the neighborhood

walk on these trails with their dogs, and a number of fishermen regularly use it.” Dennis was inspired to join the PRLT Board because of his stewardship work and his recent carpentry work on the McLellan House. “I’ve been really interested with what’s going on with the Presumpscot River and thought it was time to get more involved.” Dennis has a self-employed carpentry and handyman business, Iryshe Enterprises. He has been involved in community theater at Windham Center Stage Theater for over 30 years. When asked what skills he brings to the PRLT Board, he said “my love and concern for nature and my knowledge of the building trades to help take care of the McLellan House, and my love for the outdoors and working on trails.” Welcome Dennis. Glad to have you on board! *Think you’d like to join the PRLT Board? Contact Richard Curtis for more information (207) 892-8605.*

Parcels in Process- Great news! A PRLT conservation easement will be signed in the coming days in order to protect approximately 25 acres. Thanks to this easement, this mostly wooded property, with frontage along the Presumpscot River, will be protected forever from development or commercial activities.



Become a 2008 Member- As a member of PRLT, you receive many benefits including a newsletter, invitations to community events, and an opportunity to be an active steward on some of the properties. *Now is the time to renew your membership or to become a new member for 2008.* Membership runs on a calendar year from January 1-December 31. Would you consider becoming a 2008 member today with a membership donation of \$25 (Individual), \$35 (Family), \$50 (Supporting) or more?

Membership dues contribute to our effort to protect land in Gorham, Standish, Gray, Sebago, and Windham for future generations to enjoy. Help build a sustainable future for your local land trust by becoming a member today. Your membership gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law. As a member, you contribute so much more than direct financial support, which we greatly appreciate. Members strengthen our voice in the community and serve as land advocates in our area, as well as establish an essential base of support for the land trust.

PRLT Receives Grants to Facilitate Collaborative Trail Initiative- In August, the PRLT received a \$7,500 grant from the Maine Community Foundation’s Undapassawona Fund through the Fund for Maine Land Conservation, and in November, a \$6,000 grant from the Davis Conservation Foundation—both toward *Year One* project goals for the “Sebago to the Sea” project. This collaborative project, led by the PRLT, with partners including Portland Trails, Falmouth Land Trust, the City of Westbrook, the Town of Windham, and many more, will eventually establish a 26 mile-long recreational hiking (and in some areas biking) trail from Sebago Lake to Casco Bay, connecting trails in Standish, Windham, Gorham, Westbrook, Portland and Falmouth, through partnerships, easements and conservation. This project is a 3-year initiative, with *Year One* designated for meetings (using a collaborative model of stakeholder, town, and committee meetings), the development of a plan of action, public outreach and GIS mapping. Stakeholder meetings began this fall. Public meetings will begin in the spring.



Annual Meeting a Success- On November 14th, the PRLT held its 2008 Annual Meeting at the McLellan House. The program featured speaker Dusti Faucher, *President, Friends of the Presumpscot River*, followed by a Board meeting. Dusti spoke about the recent Dam Agreement and the implications for the Presumpscot River fisheries. Thank you Dusti for an informative and inspiring presentation!