

More Miles (and Miles) of Trails!

BY AURELIA C. SCOTT

PUT ON YOUR WALKING SHOES. The Starbird Lane and Presumpscot River Trails are getting longer this year. Never heard of the **Starbird Lane Trail**? That's because it's new. In 2002, Portland Trails negotiated with the City of Portland and Terry Brown, developer of the new Starbird Lane townhouses, to preserve 14.72 acres of wetland between Starbird Lane and Winding Way. At the time, PT envisioned enhancing the property with a new trail that would link the Maine Audubon's Fore River Sanctuary Trail to our own Capisic Pond Trail. This summer, with \$2,500 from the Edward H. Daveis Benevolent Fund and \$6,000 from Terry Brown, the vision will become reality.

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OUR GOALS

To create a 30-mile network of multi-use trails within Greater Portland.

To serve as a public advocate for the protection of and access to natural places within the region.

To encourage the participation of neighborhoods, schools and the business community in trail use and stewardship.



Portland Trails will be building a primitive trail along the north shoreline of the Presumpscot River in Falmouth later this year.

The Maine Conservation Corps, those fearless, hardy workers who have done so much for Portland's trails, will return to build a big, beautiful bridge trail. With a materials list that includes Bobcat rental, pneumatic nailer, steel plates and eight foot lengths of decking, they will construct a 120 foot bridge over the wetland.

Portland Trails Board member and Project Manager Tim Prince, says that the Corps and the Bobcat driver plan to start work as soon as the ground thaws and the mud settles. By mid-summer, the bridge should be ready to welcome its first visitors over the marsh and into the Fore River Sanctuary.

Last summer, the Maine Conservation Corps made it possible for all of us to walk along the restored Presumpscot River on the new **Presumpscot River Trail**. This summer, we welcome the Corps back to make a terrific trail better.

"It's really exciting," says Nan Cumming, PT's Executive Director. "They did such great work last year. This year, they will be with us for at least two months."

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More Miles (and Miles)


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The Corps will be extending the riverside trail and building loop trails within the preserve. Altogether, more than a mile of new trail will be added. PT Construction Manager Jaime Parker will again supervise the project for Portland Trails.

"This is the first time that PT will be building trails in Falmouth. We anticipate the opportunity to coordinate such multi-community projects whenever it's appropriate for us to do so," says Nan. "It's particularly pleasing to be working with another community on a trail of such regional significance."

"The new trails will take you right up to the newly emerged Presumpscot Falls. There will be opportunities for fishing and, of course, for just enjoying the view," she explains. In addition to views of river, trees and jumping fish, Presumpscot Falls is one of the best places in greater Portland to observe feeding ospreys and wintering bald eagles.

"People have walked along the Presumpscot riverfront for hundreds of years. Now, with a trail designed to prevent erosion and avoid wet spots, we are more responsible users of the riverfront."

For those of us who might have become mildly misdirected on the trail last year, PT offers new signage. Eric Eaton of Deliberate Design has worked with the City of Portland and the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program to develop directional and informational signs, which will be set in place as soon as the ground thaws. By late-spring, the directionally-challenged among us will be able to figure out where we are on the trail, and all of us will be able to learn about the river's natural and cultural history. 

Meet the Intern...

We have been fortunate to have **Annie Madio** as a Portland Trails intern this winter. The internship is the final piece in her graduate program in environmental education with the Audubon Expedition Institute, based in Belfast, ME. AEI students travel and study in a variety of locations; Annie was located in the Pacific Northwest, Hawaii, and the Atlantic Coast (mostly the Outer Banks) and chose Portland as her next destination. We have been fortunate to have her insight and energy and hope she will stay in town for a long time!

Do You Love the Back Cove?

Here's a Great Volunteer Opportunity

BY CHRISTINA WHITE

THIS IS THE TIME of year when pleasant thoughts of walking the Back Cove after work come to mind. If you enjoy the Back Cove and want to support Portland Trails and its goal to maintain and build more trails, please join us for a new Summer Membership Campaign at the Back Cove. Just two hours a month in support of PT will make a huge difference.

From June through September, PT volunteers will host a membership/information table from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on either the first Wednesday or Thursday of the month (weather dependent). The table will be set up on the grassy area adjacent to the parking lot. Our goal is to add 50 new members to Portland Trails this summer.

Won't you be one of the roster of volunteers who host the membership table? PT will provide thorough training. And as a token of our gratitude, we'll give you a terrific Portland Trails T-shirt. Give us a call at 775-2411 for more information.

Thank you for your help! Let's create some new Portland Trails members and enjoy some leisurely time on a beautiful trail.

Amenity or Necessity?

IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED AS FACT that trails, bike lanes and greenways are important to sustaining the quality of life we enjoy in Greater Portland. However, I have always felt that labeling such pedestrian and cycling infrastructure as merely a quality of life amenity gravely understates the true impact of these investments on our communities.

Across Maine and the nation, we are suffering from an epidemic of obesity and associated chronic diseases like diabetes and cardiovascular disease. In Maine, there has been a 40% increase in obesity over last ten years. The costs of managing and treating obesity related disease is staggering - \$357 million in Maine each year. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data show that nationally, more than 9% of health care spending is directly related to obesity and physical inactivity.

On an individual level, obesity increases the risk of premature death from all causes by 50 to 100%. The incidence of heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes increases in individuals who are overweight. For instance, a weight gain of 11 to 18 pounds doubles a person's risk of developing type 2 diabetes (Source: CDC).

These chronic disease trends translate into municipal budgets and businesses that are strained by rapid increases in benefits expenses, while the state is hit by exploding Medicaid and employee benefits costs. In the end, whether through taxes, premiums, direct expenditures, or the loss of a loved one, we pay a steep cost for our sedentary lifestyles.

One proven way to combat these lifestyle-related chronic illnesses is to promote physical activity. Incorporating sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails into transportation, housing, school, and commercial projects promotes physical activity, improves the health status of our communities, and mitigates healthcare cost increases.

In fact, the CDC has documented that "characteristics of our communities such as proximity to facilities, street design, and availability of pedestrian and bicycle facilities such as trails play a significant role in promoting or discouraging physical activity." The CDC also states that "scientific evidence shows that providing access to places for physical activity, such as trails, increases the level of physical activity in a community."

The CDC is so impressed with the population-based health benefits of trails that they have launched an initiative called "Trails for Health." The CDC has also placed special emphasis on increasing the physical activity level of children by encouraging children to walk to and from school.

This research by the CDC provides scientific validation for the importance of trails. So the next time you think of Portland Trails and Greater Portland's nascent trail network, remember that there is much more at stake than quality of life.



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2003 Annual Meeting

BY LAUREL COX

THE EVENING OF JANUARY 27th brought together Portland Trails' members, friends, sponsors, board and staff for the 12th Annual Meeting. In the warmth of the Center for Cultural Exchange, the group gathered around desserts and listened to a presentation highlighting the accomplishments of 2003 and the goals for 2004 and beyond.

Executive Director Nan Cumming opened the evening by thanking many of Portland Trails' key donors including the evening's sponsor, Woodard & Curran. The tone for the evening was set by Nan's recognition of 13-year-old Jules Szanton who "especially touched us this year" by requesting gifts for his Bar Mitzvah be made to Portland Trails. As Jules' Mom explained to Nan, "Jules really thinks of gifts to Portland Trails as a gift to himself."

Nan also honored Lois Winter, a conservation biologist and PT Advisory Board member, with the Kay Wagenknecht-Harte Award for her significant volunteer work with Portland Trails.

Board President Jeff Sommer took the stage next. "We are at the point where we are counting *miles* rather than feet or yards!" he said, and went on to note the symbolism of Portland's recent requirement that contractors include plans for a trail when building on city land. Jeff also thanked Woodard & Curran, whose Senior Vice President Brent Bridges said that it is organizations like PT "that make our people want to work here."


The evening included updates on 2003 and 2004 trail planning and construction on the Presumpscot, Stroudwater, Thompson's Point and Starbird Lane. Jeff concluded, "For every mile of trail we add, the stewardship and costs increase. It's a challenge I'm confident we'll meet, but one of which we need to remain aware."

The evening's guest speaker (and PT co-founder), Nathan Smith, Mayor of Portland, understands those challenges well. His thought-provoking talk, "Timing and Being There," discussed how PT's successes, including the creation of the Eastern Prom Trail, have often been due to a mix of timing and readiness.

"Stars line up," he said. "Sometimes it's important just to look up and see that fact."

Smith offered his desires for PT's future. In addition to building 'natural' trails, he suggested, join with other non-profits to create cultural walking trails similar to Boston's Freedom Trail. Create a revolving fund and a corollary databank to buy strategically important properties. Increase stewardship. Maintain friendly ties to the City Council. And finally, "remain vigilant."

"I don't think we can take for granted any trail in the city," said Smith to an attentive audience. "It's safe only as long as there is a group of people advocating for it."

The evening's end brought the election of six new board members, the reelection of all trustees up for renewal, and a grateful farewell to departing board members. Nan concluded the evening by noting the fiscal health of PT, which operating in 2003 "again in the black." 

Special thanks to Woodard & Curran for sponsoring the evening and Handmade Desserts for the refreshments.



PT Welcomes its Newest Board Members

BY LAUREL COX



Robert Levin: Attorney for Karin Marchetti Ponte of Land Conservation Legal Services and solo practitioner representing non-profit organizations and landowners.

A resident of Munjoy Hill and intrepid walker on the East End Trails, Rob walked with his wife from to Maine from Maryland for their honeymoon last fall.

John Osborn: Attorney at Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson; Charter member of the City of Portland Landbank Commission.



A serious hiker and environmentalist, John is joining Portland Trails because of his desire to improve the community in which he lives—as well as his deep-rooted "tree hugger" impulses.



Nan Sawyer: Realtor with Bay Realty. Nan has been a member of Portland Trails for many years and advised us on real estate transactions. She's a true fan of the values and lifestyle available in Portland

and believes that trails are an amenity that help make every neighborhood more fun and healthy.

Aurelia Scott: Freelance writer; Master Gardener; Greater Portland Landmark board member. Moving to Portland six years ago in part because it is such a walkable city, Aurelia believes that PT is largely responsible for making it so and wants to be part of continuing the momentum.



Amy Steenstra: Product Merchandiser at L.L.Bean; Volunteer at the Skillin School. A huge outdoor fan, Amy looks forward to giving back a bit of what she feels she's gained from the natural resources in Maine.

Arthur Woolverton: National Sales Manager for the Talus Corporation; Vice Chair of the Westbrook Zoning Board of Appeals. Believing "there is nothing better than a good trail!", Arthur believes Portland Trails is one of the key



reasons that Portland is so often listed as a top livable city. Arthur is a recent member of the 4,000 footer club in NH after completing all 48 4,000-ft. peaks.

Portland Trails would like to express our gratitude to the large number of generous donors who made membership, annual fund, and/or restricted gifts that helped us fulfill our mission in 2003.

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 Colleen Redmond
 Theodore and Lynn Reese
 John H. Reevy
 Scott Reischman
 Charles and Kathleen Remmel
 Elizabeth Rennie
 Marlies Reppenhagen
 Janet and Vance Richardson
 Erik Jorgensen and Tamara Risser
 Brad and Jill Roland
 Kimberly A. Krummell and
 Mario Roman
 Ruth Rothman
 Eileen and Ted Rowland
 John Long and Rita Rubin-Long
 Anne Rugh
 Walter and Karen Rumery
 Leslie Runser
 Susan Howe Russell
 Marilyn Russell
 David Cobb and Clare Ruthenburg
 Dorothy Ryan
 Barbara and Alan Saabye
 Kathy Sammis
 John and Karen Saucier
 Ed and Jill Saxby
 Heidi Almy and Scott Schnapp
 Ellen Schulten
 Jeff Schwartz
 Mac Sexton
 Jill Rosenthal and George Shaler
 Peter and Barbara Shaw
 Becky Sheehan
 Christopher Devlin and
 Julia Sheridan
 Richard and Celeste Shinay
 William and Beth Shorr
 Laney Brown and Tom Shyka
 Matthew Siegel
 Norman Simard
 Warren S. Simpson
 Kristina Singer
 Mr. and Mrs. Clifford H. Sinnett
 Davida Sky
 Harriette Small
 David and Betty Small and Family
 Edward Smith
 Nathan and Eleanor Smith
 William Smith

Richard Smith
 Debra Smith
 Deirdre Smith
 Joanne Soule
 Sara and Ron Spidle
 Elaine and Phil Spiller
 Mary Louise Sprague
 Roy St. Clair
 Cathy Stankard
 Anne Stanley
 Jennifer Stenberg
 Rebecca Stephans
 Richard and Kathleen Stevens
 June B. Stevenson
 Beverly Stewart
 Mary and William Stockmeyer
 Elizabeth Stoddard
 Kate Wilkinson and Peter Stoops
 Kurt and Florence Strauss
 Hubert Strom
 Richard and Louise Sullivan
 Karen A. Szymanski
 Zareen Taj Mirza
 Franklin Talbot
 Ivan Tate
 Bonnie Taylor
 Paul Taylor
 Louise Thomas
 Sara Thompson
 Lois Thompson
 Elaine Toher
 Sonia Tonelli
 Crandall Toothaker
 Dave Tranchemontagne
 David and Holly Travers
 Dina Trefethen
 Pat Tryon
 Vivian Turcott
 David Turesky
 Amy Sinclair and Tux Turkel
 Guinevere Twitchell
 Richard and Nola Urban
 Mallory Brouwer Vaccaro
 David Vaughan
 Chad Vinkemulder
 Mary Jane and Laurence Wallace
 Stephen Wanzer
 Ron Ward
 Burtt and Donna Warren
 Diana J. Washburn
 Connie and Bill Webster
 Vicki Webster
 Jason Wentworth
 Judith Wentzell
 Sally and Mac White
 Andrew White
 Mary Whited
 Harry and Priscilla Whitmore
 Mary Jane Whitney
 James and Barbara Willey
 Catherine Steele and James Willey
 Ogden and Peggy Williams
 Irv and Audrey Williams
 Leroy and Margaret Wilson
 Katharine Winthrop
 Margo Wood
 Gary and Barbara Wood
 Peggy and Cary Woodward
 Charles and Merrill Woodworth
 Sheri and Arthur Woolvorton
 Karen Yencha
 Lee Zacharias
 Gail and Mel Zarr
 Donald and Linda Zillman

KEY

Bridgebuilders

\$1000 and greater

Trailblazers

\$500 - 999

Pathfinders

\$250 - 499

Bushwhackers

\$100 - 249

Individual and Family

\$1 - 99

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, March 24th, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Portland Trails Board Meeting

The public is always welcome to join us at our bimonthly board meetings in the conference room of the Casco Bay Ferry Terminal on Commercial Street.

Monday, March 29th, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Portland Trails Volunteer Orientation

Portland Trails needs outreach volunteers to attend fairs, festivals, and other events and tell people about our good work! If you'd like to be involved, come learn more at this volunteer orientation training session. The group will meet in the Portland Trails' office at One India Street. Please RSVP to Nan Cumming before March 27th.

Friday, April 30, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Happy Trails: Big Bash & Silent Auction

What a fun way to support Portland Trails' work! Dance and bid to live bluegrass music with the Jerks of Grass. At the Pavilion, 188 Middle Street, Portland. Look for your invitation in the mail soon—or call 775-2411 for more info.

Friday, May 14, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Senior Stroll

Join Liz Bradford, A.C.E. Fitness instructor for the first stroll of 2004. We'll walk around Back Cove as we learn flexibility and stretching techniques. This session will take place at the Back Cove Trail. The trail is substantially flat, with one hilly area that has irregular footing. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a bottle of water. There is some seating along parts of the trail and a portable bathroom. Meet at the soccer field end of the Back Cove parking lot.

Saturday, May 15, 9 a.m. – 12 a.m.

Volunteer Work Day:

Stroudwater River Trail

We'll clean up the trailhead at the end of Hutchins Drive and improve sections of trail behind the new Spring Harbor Hospital. Bring clippers, rakes, and shovels, if you have them, along with work gloves and water. Meet at the end of Hutchins Drive, off outer Congress Street. Downpourdate will be Sunday, May 16th.

Wednesday, May 19th, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Portland Trails Board Meeting

The public is always welcome to join us at our bimonthly board meetings in the conference room of the Casco Bay Ferry Terminal on Commercial Street.

National Trails Day – two great choices!

Saturday June 5th, 9 a.m. – Noon

Volunteer Work Day: Hall School Trail

Come help put the finishing touches on this great school trail. Bring rakes, shovels, and wheelbarrows if you have them, along with work gloves and water. Meet at Hall School. Downpourdate will be Sunday June 6th.

Saturday June 5th, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Guided Walk of the Forest City Trail


Explore this 10-mile trail with Tom Jewell as he leads you across Portland from the Stroudwater River to the Presumpscot River. Meet at the Stroudwater Trail parking area at the end of Blueberry Road. A free car shuttle will be arranged. Bring water and a lunch (or plan to stop at MacDonalds enroute). Call us at 775-2411 to sign-up. Because this is a lengthy hike, it will be rescheduled if weather is inclement.

Greening the New East End School's Grounds

BY LAURA NEWMAN

Following PT's *Transforming School Grounds* conference last June, Portland School Superintendent Mary Jo O'Connor asked Portland Trails to participate in the site planning for the new elementary school that will be built on Munjoy Hill, starting this summer.

Education & Community Outreach Coordinator Laura Newman took on the assignment with pleasure, and has since been serving on a school ground planning committee, which includes future school staff, Parks & Recreation Department staff and the landscape architect. Their goal is to develop designs that incorporate more natural, green landscaping elements (such as trees, gardens, hills, plantings, seating, amphitheaters and sculpture) that will serve as educational resources and recreational opportunities for the school and community.

Laura is also working with teachers and community members on greening projects at Nathan Clifford, Riverton, Lyseth, King, Peaks Island, and Longfellow Schools. For more information on these projects and the development of the School Ground Greening Coalition, an entity which will provide ongoing support for these kinds of projects, contact Laura at 775-2411 or laura@trails.org. Information is also available at www.trails.org 

Portland Trails would like to thank...

- ❖ To **Woodward & Curran** for providing pro bono GIS assistance in plotting a 1/2-mile trail easement on the Spring Harbor parcel of the Stroudwater Trail extension. Tom Eschner, Henri Vincent, Barron Henderson, and Dave Jacques from W&C are working with us on the project. Portland Trails could not proceed without their expertise!
- ❖ To **Coffee By Design** for providing delicious java at this summer's *Transforming School Grounds* conference and at our Annual Meeting in January.
- ❖ To **David Neilan** and his advisee group at Waynflete, and to the students, teachers and parents from the New Hill School for their work on the Oat Nuts Trail.

NEWS FROM MILE 0.0

◆ The **Maine Green Power Connection** is an innovative program bringing “green” power to customers across Maine. It was launched on March 17, 2003 by Governor John Baldacci and 25 leading organizations. So far, by the end of 2003, green electricity purchases in Maine had already displaced roughly 12 M kWh of “dirty” air. That translates into air quality benefits equivalent to saving 85,000 gallons of #2 fuel oil and the NOx benefits of removing over 1000 cars from the road for a year. Maine Green Power Connection offers individuals, businesses, and organizations multiple ways to support green power and to help improve Maine’s air quality by purchasing green power.

Every green power purchase helps improve our air and environment. Visit www.MaineGreenPower.org, Maine Green Power Connection’s website or call 729-9665 for more details.

◆ Portland Trails has been assisting the **Mountain Division Alliance** to try to extend the Mountain Division Trail into Portland. Dick Davy has volunteered to be Project Manager on behalf of Portland Trails to make this happen. Our priority is to connect the trail from Route 202 in Windham to Brown Street in Westbrook. From Brown Street, the trail would meet Westbrook’s River Trail and proceed into Portland. The task will be to convince Guilford Rail to sell the 5 miles of rail corridor in Westbrook to the State of Maine. The Maine Department of Transportation purchased the corridor between Fryeburg and Windham in 1997 and has already funded the construction of 4 miles of the Mountain Division Trail from Windham to Standish. Davy has been meeting with stakeholders in the project including the Town of Westbrook, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, the Greater Portland Council of Governments, and the Bicycle Coalition of Maine.

◆ Providing a shortcut from I-295 to Portland’s working waterfront, the \$23-million **Portland Connector Project** is designed to increase safety, improve traffic flow, and stimulate economic development in the area. The one-mile span of highway and three bridges along Fore River will connect the outer Congress Street Exit of I-295 with western Commercial Street. Better yet, the project includes a multi-use riverfront trail connection from Portland’s Bus/Train Station to West Commercial Street. Currently in the design and site-preparation phase, major construction will begin in the spring of 2004 and is scheduled to be completed in November 2005. To follow the progress of the project visit www.portlandconnector.com. The site is rich with aerial maps, plans, and detailed descriptions of the work being done. You can even sign up to be notified by email when potential traffic tie ups are forecast!

◆ Students from the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute’s (OLLI) Service Learning class** will be back at Portland Trails this fall helping us update the “Portland Trails Map and Trail Guide.” The class will begin by learning about Portland Trails and then the move on to field research on all of the trails, writing, proofreading, and editing. To learn more about OLLI you can call them at 780-4406 or visit www.usm.maine.edu/eap/seniorcollege.

◆ Portland Trails is excited to announce the launching of our new **“Adopt-a-Trail”** program. The program is designed to let businesses and community groups “adopt” a section of their favorite trail when they donate \$1,500 to Portland Trails’ stewardship budget. Their gifts will go directly to support trail maintenance. In exchange, the company will receive great recognition on our website and on a small sign on the trail. Watch listings of adoptive “parents” in upcoming newsletters!

SENIOR STROLLS PROGRAM FOR 2004

BY CHRISTINA WHITE

Portland Trails’ popular Senior Strolls program will offer a variety “talk/walks” on six of its trails this year. Lead by area experts, the “talks” part of the walks will include Tai Chi, plant identification, yoga and meditation, and Casco Bay history.

Last year, over 160 seniors strolled the trails with PT guides. Won’t you join us for this third year of walks? The

Strolls take place on the second Friday of the month from 3:00-4:00 pm. There is no charge for the program. Seniors of all ages are invited to participate—but we happily accept “juniors” as well!

The 2004 season kicks off on Friday May 14th with a wonderful stretching and movement session by A.C.E. Fitness instructor, Liz Bradford. Ms. Bradford, who owns ENERJOY Health/Fitness Programs, Inc., in Falmouth, has been

working with seniors on their fitness goals for over twenty years. Join her for a unique program that helps seniors gain flexibility, balance and strength. Liz will be available to answer individual questions, and she will have hand-outs that encourage continuing at-home or outdoor fitness practices. Come and enhance the quality of your everyday life with this delightful session! See the Events Calendar in this newsletter for details.

Lois Winter

THE KAY WAGENKNECHT-HARTE AWARD is given each year to a volunteer who made significant and lasting contribution to Portland Trails. The award was created to honor the memory of Kay Wagenknecht-Harte, a landscape architect, advocate for open space, and Portland Trails volunteer. Her husband, Chris Harte, has created an endowment that permits Portland Trails to honor each award recipient by placing a bench on the trail of the awardee's choice. This year's award, as announced at our annual meeting, goes to Lois Winter.

Lois is a conservation biologist with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior. A mid-westerner by birth, one of her first professional positions was a National Park Ranger at New Mexico's Chaco Canyon. Captivated by the Four Corners region that encompasses Canyon de Chelly, Canyonlands, Arches and Mesa Verde National Parks among its many treasures (with Chaco being the crown jewel), she thought she would spend her life in the western part of the country. East of the Mississippi held no attraction.

Several years and several national parks later, all this changed when she was assigned to Acadia National Park. Lois was hooked permanently by the Maine coast. While at Acadia, she took a leave of absence from the NPS to complete two years of graduate research on coyote and foxes in the park. She then returned to being a ranger, this time at the Minuteman National Historic Park in Concord, Massachusetts. Lois figured that it would be easier to get back to Maine from there than it would be from some more distant park. And so it turned out to be.

Lois has served in a variety of volunteer roles for Portland Trails. She doesn't remember exactly how she came to meet Alix Hopkins (Trails' first Executive Director), but they somehow had lunch, and soon thereafter Lois was on the board. After two years as a trustee, she moved to the Advisory Board, where she remains active. Over the years, Lois has been a valued advisor to our organization. She played a critical role in the creation and development of the Presumpscot River Preserve. She is an unceasing advocate for open-space and for a walkable, bikable, and therefore, livable city. Portland Trails is honored to have the opportunity to honor Lois Winter.

Lois feels that she does not deserve the award. In that stance, she constitutes a minority of one. 🐾



Lois Winter enjoys congratulations after the announcement of her Kay Wagenknecht-Harte award.

Photo: Phil Pointer

Guest Editorial: Land Bond Campaign for Maine's Future

BY JEFFREY ROMANO

Land Bond Coalition, Campaign Coordinator

NEARLY 120 PARCELS of land and hundreds of thousands of acres statewide have been secured for public access since the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program began in 1987. As the most successful conservation initiative in Maine's history, the LMF program has protected a huge variety of natural resources, including farmland, snowmobile trails, wilderness areas, State Parks, working forests, beaches and scenic mountain tops. Unfortunately, all existing LMF funds have been fully obligated. Therefore, we need to act now to maintain the most effective land conservation program the state has at its disposal.

LMF was begun in 1987, when Maine voters overwhelmingly passed a \$35 million funding bond. In 1999, the program received a \$50 million infusion of funds when voters gave it nearly a 70% endorsement. While LMF has enjoyed much success, it has not solved all of the state's land conservation needs. Development pressures continue to plague southern and coastal areas, public access is being lost and productive forest and farmlands are being carved up and sold at unprecedented rates. Towns and cities are stepping forward with new projects, but there will be no state match unless we act now.

To help ensure the continued success of the LMF program, a diverse, statewide coalition of more than 180 organizations, businesses, and associations has begun to work with Governor Baldacci and a bipartisan group of legislative leaders to plan a bond issue for the November 2004 election. From small projects that are vital to local communities, to wide-ranging regional projects, the LMF program is about our aspirations for the future and our pride in what Maine has to offer. Will this program continue to benefit Maine beyond 2004? This is the question that we will all address shortly.

To learn more about the Land Bond Campaign, please contact me at 729-5182 ext. 218 or visit www.mainelandbond.org.



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Visit our website at www.trails.org

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Happy Trails to You

Mark your calendars. April 30th is the date of our major fundraising event of the year: "Happy Trails: Big Bash and Silent Auction."

BY CHERI MUSGRAVE

THE PAVILION ON MIDDLE STREET will again be the site of this party-to-beat-all-parties. Catered once again by Black Tie, the food will be sumptuous and elegant. Music will be provided by the Jerks of Grass, who will keep our toes tapping as we spend time bidding up the fantastic selection of auction items procured for us this year.

The Events Committee has been busy for months now, rounding up a diverse and spectacular collection of items. Want a sneak preview? We have a 3 day getaway at the Bethel Inn, a Jotul woodstove, a sunset sail on Casco Bay, bright 3-D works by nationally-collected artist David Cedrone, a chartered family trip to a Boston Red Sox game—and two L.L. Bean kayaks. We even have a tour of the B&M Baked Bean factory!

Don't miss this evening of fun – bidding, food, music, and a chance to catch up with all your Trails-minded friends. It's a perfectly entertaining way to support Portland Trails. See you soon!

