

## **Orono Bog Boardwalk Annual Report 2014**

On Friday, November 14, 2014 the Orono Bog Boardwalk (OBB) closed the gate on another successful season of serving as the premier nature destination for those living in the greater Bangor area. This year we closed two weeks early because of the start of the removal of sections 106-202, 2 interpretive stations, and 2 wheelchair turnarounds in anticipation of replacing these with new sections in the spring, 2015.

This marked the end of our 12th season. On July 24th, Susan J. Hunter, President, University of Maine was our honorary opener. President Hunter gave a well-received talk on the importance of community and volunteering, with a focus on the Boardwalk. More than 60 people attended our opening this year. This was a special opening because of the completion of Phase 1 of our reconstruction. The opening received much media attention with all three local TV channels plus print media in attendance. Special guests were recognized, including Steve Merriam of Great Northern Docks (our contractor), Phil Hrack, representing Lumberrock (Boardwalk decking), and Kevin Frazier, Chief Financial Officer of the University of Maine Foundation, our fiscal sponsor. Thanks to Andy Reeve, we again have fairly accurate figures on the number of visits to the Boardwalk. Because vegetation was blocking the counter and went unnoticed for ~7 weeks we have data only from September 15 - November 14. During that time we had 7,000 visits, which brings the total number of visits to about 280,000 since opening in June of 2003.

In the sections that follow we provide information about publicity, events attended, docents, guided group walks, nature walks, maintenance, Boardwalk finances, the capital campaign, Boardwalk reconstruction, and the Friends group. We feel fortunate to have a core group of volunteers that have stayed active over the years and a number of new volunteers who joined us this

year. We realize, however, that as with any volunteer-run organization, it is important to increase the volunteer base. Our two primary goals for the coming year are to (1) recruit, train, and retain volunteers and (2) to continue to raise funds for replacement of the wooden Boardwalk with long-lasting composite material.

As Director, I thank the many individuals who have volunteered their time and talent this past year, especially the Group Leaders and the Management Committee: Al and Nancy Larsen (docent scheduling); Phil Locke, maintenance coordinator; John Maddaus and Kourtney Collum, guided tours coordinators; Capital Campaign Committee members Donna Dwyer, Jerry Longcore, Jen and Cason Snow, Judy Round, Wendall Tremblay, and Jim Bird; Jerry Longcore, Orono Land Trust representative to the Management Team, Endowment Fund coordinator and record keeper of Operating Fund; Erik Blomberg, University of Maine representative to the Management Committee and OBB webmaster; and Tracy Willette, City of Bangor representative to the Management Committee. I also thank all of the docents, guides, and maintenance volunteers who have contributed greatly to the operation and mission of the Boardwalk. A list of all dedicated volunteers is in **Appendix 1**. We again calculated the number of hours volunteers worked at or for the Boardwalk this year and the total equaled a minimum 4,900 hours. Based on the figure of \$20.54 / hour as a benchmark value for a volunteer hour in Maine (as reported by Independent Sector ([http://independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time](http://independentsector.org/volunteer_time))), we will be able to report over \$100,000 of in-kind support when completing grant proposals.

Our year at the Boardwalk was successful in many ways, as described in the sections that follow.

## **Publicity, Events Sponsored or Attended, and Other Activities**

For the fifth consecutive year all incoming first year students at the University of Maine were required to volunteer time at area non-profit organizations. Twenty-four University of Maine incoming students plus 2 student supervisors worked at the Boardwalk for 2.5 hours on Saturday, August 30th. The students did an excellent job trimming vegetation away from the Boardwalk and making sure that shims were properly placed and that individual Boardwalk sections were aligned. They also removed pine needles and leaves from between section boards.

Boardwalk volunteers held their 11<sup>th</sup> annual Orono Bog Boardwalk Yard Sale on June 14<sup>th</sup>. More than 30 volunteers helped set up and staff the yard sale throughout the weekend and the result was \$5,308 raised for our Boardwalk Capital Campaign account. This was the third most we have raised at our yard sale. Thanks to all donors of items and to volunteers during the sale!

Dean Edward Ashworth (UM College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture) appointed Assistant Professor Erik Blomberg (UM Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology) as the new University of Maine Representative to the OBB Management Committee. Erik has already helped in many ways and is now our OBB website manager.

The OBB had an informational table at this year's Hope Festival in April at the University of Maine Student Recreation and Fitness Center. Thanks to all who helped at the Hope Festival, including John Pickering, John Maddaus, Libby Norton, Steve McKay, and Al and Nancy Larson.

Boardwalk volunteers (Jim Bird and Jerry Longcore) staffed an informational and merchandise sale table at the annual Orono Festival Days on Saturday, September 13th. This was the 12<sup>th</sup> time

the Boardwalk has been represented at the Orono Festival Days. We were able to talk about the Boardwalk with scores of people that stopped by our booth. We collected \$446.30 by selling t-shirts, Boardwalk hats, and bog bling (jewelry made with old pieces of sections and donated by Jessica Wade). This total also includes some contributions.

This was the first year in 5 years that we have not produced a new hat. We are working on a hat for 2015. We are also working on obtaining more t-shirts.

As in previous years Orono potter, Lee Cummings, made 15 beautiful OBB mugs for us to sell at the Boardwalk. We sold all but three of these donated mugs. Thanks for your generosity, Lee!

As in previous years, we withheld a number of interesting and valuable items from the Boardwalk yard sale for our (now) annual Potluck/Silent Auction. Boardwalk volunteers held this event on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Birch Street School / Senior Center in Orono. We received more than 50 additional donations from Bangor / Orono / University of Maine community members and businesses. Boardwalk volunteer Al Larsen donated 9 of his wonderful photographs that he had framed using old deck boards and 8 of these photos sold quickly! Approximately sixty people attended the event. We were a little disappointed with the modest turnout, but there were just too many other events in the area that weekend, which explains the attendance. Participants, however, did donate approximately \$1,800 for auction items and that money will augment the Capital Campaign. Thanks to all who help set up and take down tables; it was truly a community event.

For the 7th year, Boardwalk volunteers (Jerry Longcore and Jim Bird) staffed a table at the University of Maine, Page Farm and Home Museum Holiday Shoppe. This was a great opportunity to talk with visitors about the Boardwalk and we earned ~\$200 for the Boardwalk Capital Campaign account through the sale of

Boardwalk merchandise and contributions. Jessica Wade made some wonderful pendants, pins, and earrings by encasing wood and lichens from used deck boards. We sold almost all of this jewelry. We thank Patricia Henner, Director, Page Farm and Home Museum, for hosting this annual event and we look forward to next year's Holiday Shoppe.

### **Docents and Student Intern**

Docents are volunteers who daily open and close the Boardwalk gate, greet visitors, inform users of Boardwalk rules, maintain the appearance of the cabin and Boardwalk, answer visitors' questions about bog natural history, sell boardwalk t-shirts, hats, and other items, provide local area information and insight, and generally oversee the day-to-day workings of the Boardwalk. Without these volunteers, a visit to the Boardwalk would be a much less satisfying experience. A list of Boardwalk docents is provided in **Appendix 1**. We were extremely fortunate to have Al and Nancy Larsen as our docent calendar scheduler this year. University of Maine undergraduate student Erin Simoneau was our student intern for part of the summer and we thank her.

### **Guided Group Walks** (contributed by John Maddaus and Kourtney Collum):

Because of the reconstruction of the first 105 sections of the Boardwalk in spring and early summer, and the early closing to prepare for more reconstruction next year, there was a sharp reduction in the amount of time the Boardwalk was open (July 24 to Nov. 7). Hence, there were only ten guided tours of the Boardwalk in 2014. Of the ten tours on the Boardwalk, four were school groups, three were college classes, and three were senior groups.

In the spring, the Kindergarten class from Deer Isle Stonington Elementary School (DISES) had a guided tour of the Bangor City

Forest when the Boardwalk was closed. And in the fall, the next Kindergarten class at DISES came for a Boardwalk tour. Darlene Allen and Lucy Astbury, kindergarten teachers at DISES, raised and donated \$200 for the Boardwalk through their class's pennies for the Boardwalk program. They delivered a check in that amount during the spring tour of the Bangor Forest, the sixth consecutive year their kindergarten class has raised and donated \$200 for the Boardwalk! Thank you, Darlene and Lucy!

Approximately 300 people participated in these walks. Tour groups ranged in size from 10 to 55 participants. Whenever possible, we provide a tour guide for each ten participants in a tour group. Eleven volunteers were tour guides this year; see **Appendix 2** for a list of guided walks and **Appendix 3** for a list of active guides this year. (Note added: John Pickering conducted a training session for guides, both new and old, before the Boardwalk opened.)

### **Nature Walks**

Every year we arrange for a variety of "by reservation-only" nature walks led by experts in particular professions. In March or early April, potential leaders are contacted to see if they would like to lead a nature walk related to their area of interest or expertise. This year because of our late opening and early closing we only scheduled one walk. Ron Davis led the walk on wildflowers of the bog. Thanks Ron!

### **Maintenance, Construction, Replacements** (contributed by Phil Locke)

During the 2014 Boardwalk season 26 people worked on various maintenance tasks. For convenience I assigned numbers to these tasks as indicated below:

1. Replace/repair rotting rails, deck boards, and joists (requires carpentry skills)
2. Scrape and touch-up/repaint benches, railings, and picnic tables
3. Help with leveling and shimming (requires some heavy lifting)
4. Sweep the Boardwalk clear of debris (leaves, needles, twigs)
5. Trim back encroaching vegetation
6. Re-label faded sections numbers
7. Weekend cleanings of the outhouse (several of us take turns)
8. Organize and tidy up the storage cabin (inside and underneath)
9. Use truck to go pick up wood from lumber yard
10. Remove old sections and replace with new composite sections (requires some heavy lifting)

Maintenance volunteers receive e-mail requests for their help with specific tasks as the need arose throughout the season. Our biggest problem was the accelerating decay of the old Boardwalk sections. For instance, we replaced at least 10 deck boards a week during the 30-week season; this amounts to at least 300 deck board replacements alone.

I have no record of person-hours spent on maintenance, but if on average each of the 26 volunteers spent 4 hours per week on maintenance tasks, the total person-hours for the season would be  $26 \times 4 \times 30 = 3,120$ . This is probably a conservative estimate. (Note: a list of maintenance volunteers is in **Appendix 1**.)

**Financial Information: Fund-raising** (contributed by Jerry Longcore)

The Operating Fund began the fiscal year with equity of \$10,661.75. The Operating Budget is based on the current University of Maine 2014 fiscal year, which extended from July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014. During this period income was

\$1,647.74 and expenses were \$10,999.61 for the Operating Fund. Money pipe cash donations equaled \$1,408.57 and donations from products equaled \$620.00 (does NOT include \$446.30 from Festival Day sales and sales of \$533.00 at the Page Museum or the \$2,017.50 from the Potluck/Silent Auction). Total income from all these sources was \$5,025.37. Temporary investment income was \$1.38. Expenses were for Student Intern Wages (\$322.48), Printing & Copying (\$209.35), Supplied and Materials (\$2,338.77), and Telephone and Website (\$129.01). Also, \$8,000 listed as an expense was transferred from Operating Fund to the Campaign Fund.

Endowment Fund income for FY-2014 was \$448.50, which reflects the switch to focus on raising money for the Capital Campaign Fund to reconstruct the boardwalk. The total Endowment Fund principal as of June 30, 2014 was \$179,016.26, which is still short of our \$200,000 goal. The Fair Market Value of the Endowment Fund at June 30, 2014 was \$200,173. End-of-year value for December 31, 2014 was \$179,016.26 for principal and \$182,711.62 for Fair Market Value. During the FY \$11,789.00 in earnings were transferred to the Capital Fund or Operating Fund.

The amount of income into the Capital Campaign Fund as of February 28, 2015 was \$456,110.18. Since then an additional \$20,500 has come in resulting in \$476,610.00 having been raised. A total of \$305,309.17 has been spent. The balance available is \$171,220.01. Obtaining several \$20,000 grants and a \$100,000 grant helped reach that amount.

### **Boardwalk Reconstruction Campaign Committee**

The Capital Campaign Committee has met fairly regularly this year. Members are Jerry Longcore, Judy Round, Jim Bird, Donna Dwyer, Jen and Cason Snow, and Wendall Tremblay. Jim Bird and Jerry Longcore continue to prepare grant proposals. We received \$100,000 from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation this year as well



as \$20,000 from the Betterment Fund. We currently have a proposal to the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation for \$20,000. We will continue our proposal writing in the coming months.

The Bangor Art Society held a silent auction fund raising event for the Boardwalk on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Although not well attended, we received a check for \$745 from the Society for our Capital Campaign.

We have been actively planning a second kiosk to place at the beginning of the Boardwalk. One side of this new kiosk will be to acknowledge donors who have contributed to the Capital Campaign in support of the reconstruction and the other side will provide a pictorial story of the origin, maintenance issues, and ongoing reconstruction of the boardwalk.

We updated our full case statement for fund-raising and Judy Round updated our brief, 2-page case statement. During campaign meetings we have discussed a number of ideas, including crowd funding.

### **Boardwalk / University Connection**

As of January 2015 no work has been done on updating the Memorandum of Understanding or on clarifying Boardwalk ownership and liability issues.

### **Boardwalk Reconstruction**

The Boardwalk closed at the end of the day on Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. On Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 48 new Boardwalk sections arrived from Great Northern Docks. On Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> we began removing the next 96 sections, 2 interpretive stations, and 2 wheelchair turnouts. Bangor Home Depot loaned us 2 carts that we used for section removal. We removed the 2 interpretive stations and stored them in the cabin. We removed at least 40

sections before the ice and snow called a halt and we resumed removing sections at the end of April 2015. By that time 48 new sections had arrived. Some of the sections we removed were in surprisingly good shape and we saved several to rehabilitate for use in the next 2+ years. (Note: A list of reconstruction volunteers is in **Appendix 1**).

### **Boardwalk User Survey**

We conducted a user survey of Boardwalk visitors in 2004 and 2010. After the reconstructed Boardwalk is in place (we hope in two years) we will conduct a 3<sup>rd</sup> survey of users. The survey format will be the same as the one used as in 2004 and 2010; however, we will ask additional questions related specifically to the reconstructed Boardwalk.

### **Webpage and Facebook page**

Our webpage is now hosted by the University of Maine and has been up and running for about a year. Erik Blomberg, University of Maine representative to the Management Committee, has done a fine job updating and maintaining this page. Over the next year we will be loading former Intern's (Sue Priest) lesson plans and we already have loaded many of her bog fact sheets.

Thanks to Boardwalk volunteers Donna Dwyer and Jennifer Snow we now have a Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/OronoBogBoardwalk](http://www.facebook.com/OronoBogBoardwalk). Over the past year it has become very active and has helped us to inform the public about the Boardwalk and all that we do. Also, we have recruited some volunteers because of the page.

### **Orono Bog Boardwalk Friends Group**

The Orono Bog Boardwalk Friends group was discontinued this year. We thank John Pickering, Al Larson, and Wendall Tremblay for all of their work with this group.

## **Boardwalk Camera**

Thanks to Boardwalk volunteer Bryan Wells, our Boardwalk nighttime video camera functioned much of the season.

## **Boardwalk Vandalism and Security Changes:**

On October 28<sup>th</sup> at about 7:15 a.m. a passing jogger (Paul Grosswiler) saw smoke coming from our cabin front porch. He called 911 and the Bangor fire department came quickly and extinguished the fire. We were extremely fortunate that Paul was passing by the cabin. Jim Bird talked with him later and thanked him from all of us. Al and Nancy Larson were at the cabin and interacted with the Bangor fire department then several hours later they disposed of the burned wood. Phil Locke purchased the necessary lumber and he and Karl Hill, with help from Justin Landry, repaired the damage. On October 30<sup>th</sup>, Justin Landry found some cigarette butts, a burned Boardwalk brochure, 3 socks, and some pine needles on the porch. This was reported to the Bangor police. Because of these incidents we decided to remove the cabin key kept behind the cabin and to place it in a lockbox on the porch. We also put a padlock on the porch screen door.

Over the course of the year we did have some very small incidents of vandalism in the form of railings being kicked off the sections.

## **Bill Glanz**

University of Maine Professor, Bill Glanz, a strong supporter of the Boardwalk, passed away in 2014. Bill helped build the Boardwalk and the cabin and during the first weekend in May from 2004-2013 he led (or co-led) a very popular morning migratory

bird walk in the Rolland F. Perry City Forest and on the Boardwalk. In honor of Bill, over \$1,700 was donated by his friends. This money sponsored section 151 and a bench at Section 168 in Bill's honor. Bill used to visit this section and the surrounding ones to look for the spruce grouse, which is frequently seen in this area. A dedication of this section in Bill's honor is planned during our opening ceremonies in 2015.

## **Conclusion**

We have accomplished much this year. I look forward to our next season as we continue to raise funds and install Boardwalk sections, expand our volunteer base, and increase our educational outreach to area schools and other groups. I have tried to include all that we have accomplished this year, but if I have missed something or neglected to mention a volunteer, please let me know.

Thank you all!

Jim Bird  
Orono Bog Boardwalk Director  
9/29/2015

Appendix 1: 2014 Boardwalk volunteers.

Note: 1=docent, 2=general volunteer, 3=maintenance volunteer, 4=walk guide, 5=walk leader, 6=committee leader/co-leader, 7=reconstruction volunteer.

Jim Allen (3,7)  
Peter Altmann (7)  
Mark Anderson (2)  
Stephanie Ayers (4)  
Jim Bird (1,2,3,4,6,7)  
Mary Bird (2,5)  
Erik Blomberg (2,3,6,7)

Hope Brogunier (1)  
Kathy Burns (1)  
Kay Carter (2)  
Daryl Carter (1,3,7)  
Barbara Cole (2)  
Tim Cole (2)  
Kourtney Collum (2,4,6)  
Lee Cummings (2)  
Lee Davis (1,4)  
Ron Davis (1,2,4,5)  
Lynn DeGrenier (2)  
Christina Diebold (1)  
Donna Dwyer (1,4,7)  
Gerry Dwyer (3,7)  
Mike Enos (7)  
Sharon Fitzgerald (7)  
John Fitzgerald (7)  
Sonia Franklin (1)  
Barb Friedman (1)  
Bill Glanz (5)  
Janet Gorman (4)  
Lauren Hain (7)  
Karl Hill (3,7)  
Chris Jones (1)  
Brandon Keim (2,7)  
Fred Kirchesis (3,7)  
Bill Kuykendall (2)  
Ron Lamb (2,3,7)  
Justin Landry (1,3)  
Al Larson (1,2,3,4,7)  
Nancy Larson (1,2,7)  
Jerry Ledwith (1)  
Brian Lee (7)  
Phyllis Leeman (1,4)  
Adrienne Leppold - (2,3,5,7)  
Dale Levesque (7)

Ed Lindsey (7)  
Phil Locke (1,3,4,6,7)  
Jerry Longcore (1,2,3,4,5,6,7)  
Joyce Longcore (1)  
Jennifer Lund (5)  
John Maddaus (2,4,6)  
Paul Markson (1,6)  
Ben MacAlexander (7)  
Dick McClay (1,3,7)  
Steve McKay (1,3,7)  
Nancy Michaud (2)  
Rissa Moore (7)  
Edwin Nagy(3)  
Libby Norton (1)  
Matt Pelletier/Delta Kappa Phi (7)  
John Pickering (1,2,4)  
Justin Poland (1,2)  
Andy Reeve (2,4,5)  
Rocky Robichaud (2)  
Judy Round (2)  
Matthew Scaccia (3)  
Judy Scholten (1)  
Christa Schwintzer (5)  
Erin Simoneau (4)  
Donne Sinderson (4)  
Genevieve Smith (1,2,3,4,7)  
Cason Snow (3,7)  
Jennifer Snow (2,7)  
Lilly Snow (7)  
Diane Spinney (1)  
Robert Sypitkowski (7)  
Wendall Tremblay (1,2,4)  
Becky Van Beneden (2)  
Tracy Willette (2)  
Jessica Wade (2)  
Bryan Wells (2)

## Appendix 2: Guided walks 2014

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tour</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Age/Grade</b>
June 2	Deer Isle Stonington ES Bangor City Forest	26+4	K
July 24	Gateway Seniors	10	Seniors
July 30	Sunbury	13	Seniors
August 14	Gateway Seniors	10	Seniors
September 15	UMA-Bangor Biology 110	10+1	College
September 16	UMA-Bangor Biology 110	10+1	College
September 21	Wolf Cub Den, Pack 8, Bangor	5-8	Ages 6-9

September 23	UM, Intro Ecology EES117	28+1	College
September 29	Orono Middle School Science	50+5	Grade 7
October 3	All Saints Catholic, Bangor	50+5	Grade 4+7
October 6	Deer Isle Stonington ES	25+6	K
November 3	Glenburn ES	25+20	PreK

### Appendix 3: Active Tour Guides 2014

Phyllis Leeman	Kourtney Collum	Ron Davis	Erin Simoneau
Donna Dwyer	Al Larson	Phil Locke	Jerry Longcore
John Maddaus	John Pickering	Donne Sinderson	Andy Reeve
Wendall Tremblay			