

Orono Bog Boardwalk Annual Report 2017

On Monday, May 1, 2017 the Orono Bog Boardwalk (OBB) opened for the 15th season. We had two honorary openers: Professor Paul Mayewski, Director of the University of Maine Climate Change Institute and Megan Stewart, Constituent Services Representative/Staff Assistant for Maine Senator Angus King. Professor Mayewski noted the importance of the OBB as a pathway to a northern peat bog and as an education tool. He briefly talked about the role that peat plays in carbon sequestration. Ms. Stewart read a letter from Senator King congratulating volunteers on the start of our 15th year of operation of the OBB. A local television crew was on hand to document and publicize the event. Many of those attending brought food to share. Even though we had some rain, everyone had a great time. Approximately 30 people attended the opening.

Prior to opening there was work to do to get the OBB ready for visitors. Work included leveling sections, replacing broken deck boards, putting out our Boardwalk signs, uncovering the kiosks and interpretive stations, and many other things. Thanks to all the following for helping so we could open on May 1st: Laura Whitney, Cason Snow, Dick McClay, Jerry Longcore, Adrienne Leppold, John Fitzgerald, Phil Locke, Karl Hill, Gerry Dwyer, Dave Easler, Christopher D'Amico, Ron Lamb, Steve McKay, and Jim Bird. We also had help from students from UM Professor Amber Roth's Introduction to Wildlife Conservation class. Thanks all!

Because of the dedication of UM Professor Andy Reeve we have an accurate count of visitors in 2017. We had 31,200 visitors between May 1st and October 15th. Based on visitors who signed our guest book we had visitors from 44 states and 15 foreign countries. See **Appendix 1** for a graph of the count.

In the sections that follow we provide information about publicity, events attended, docents, guided group walks, nature walks, maintenance, OBB finances, the capital campaign, our Facebook page and website, and OBB reconstruction. We feel fortunate to have a core group of volunteers that have stayed active over the years and a number of new volunteers, especially on the maintenance team who have joined us in the past few years. 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 1) to raise \$121,000 to finish the fund raising for the OBB reconstruction project by the end of 2018 and 2) recruit, train, and retain volunteers.

As Director, I thank the many individuals who have volunteered their time and talents this past year, especially the Group Leaders, the Management Committee, the Capital Campaign Committee, and our Facebook and website coordinators: Al and Nancy Larsen, docent scheduling; Phil Locke, maintenance coordinator; John Maddaus guided tours coordinator; Helen Koch, tour guide scheduler; Capital Campaign Committee members Donna Dwyer, Gerry Dwyer, Cindy Mehnert, Jerry Longcore, Jen and Cason Snow, Judy Round, and Jim Bird; Donna Dwyer, Facebook coordinator, Jerry Longcore, Orono Land Trust representative to the Management Team, Endowment Fund coordinator and record keeper of the Operating Fund; Erik Blomberg, University of Maine representative to

the Management Committee and OBB webmaster; Tracy Willette, City of Bangor representative to the Management Committee; Jim Bird, Boardwalk Director; and Laura Whitney, our new summer intern. I also thank all of the docents, guides, reconstruction, and maintenance volunteers who have contributed greatly to the operation and mission of the OBB. A list of all dedicated volunteers is in **Appendix 2**. We again calculated the number of hours volunteers worked at or for the Boardwalk this year and the total equaled a minimum of 4,964 hours. Based on the figure of \$21.57 / hour as a benchmark value for a general volunteer hour in Maine (as reported by Independent Sector (http://independentsector.org/volunteer_time)), we will be able to report a minimum of \$107,073 of in-kind support when completing grant proposals.

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

Publicity, Events Sponsored or Attended, and Other Activities

On January 14th we held a potluck social at the Birch Street Senior Center in Orono. We had 35 people in attendance which was a great crowd. Jim Bird gave a brief overview of the previous OBB year. Longtime OBB volunteers Ron & Lee Davis and Wendall Tremblay were presented with well-deserved Boardwalk distinguished service awards. Congratulations Ron & Lee and Wendall! New OBB sections will be sponsored in Ron & Lee's name and Wendall Tremblay's name.

The OBB had an information/sale table at the Eastern Maine Sportsman Show, March 10-12. We held a raffle of a beautiful quilt made and donated by Ann Worthley. The quilt measured 56" x 82". The winner was very pleased. Overall we made almost \$400 in sales and donations. Thanks to Fred Kirchesis, Genevieve Traflet, John Maddaus, Al Larson, Sharon & John Fitzgerald, and Jim Bird for staffing our booth. And a big thank you to Woody Higgins of the Penobscot County Conservation Association for donating our booth space and for Jerry Longcore for facilitating. We will be back next year!

The OBB had an informational table at this year's Hope Festival on April 8th at the University of Maine Student Recreation and Fitness Center. Our volunteer sign-up sheet resulted in a couple new volunteers. Thanks to all who helped at the Hope Festival, including John Pickering, John Maddaus, Jim Mitchell, and Jim Bird.

To coincide with our May 1st opening, the Darling's Ice Cream Truck for a Cause was on hand. Although it was a rainy day we still made about \$70 for the OBB reconstruction. Thanks Donna Dwyer for organizing and to Dave Easler, Ron Lamb, Donna and Gerry Dwyer, Phil Locke, Lee Davis, Jerry Longcore, and Jim Bird for being there to help.

The OBB had an informational table at the annual University of Maine Retirees Homecoming in June. Several people stopped by the table to find out about the OBB. Jim Bird staffed the table.

On July 23rd we celebrated International Bog Day at the OBB. Both Ron Davis and Aislinn Sarnecki gave talks. Ron's talk was "Bogs: What are they really like" and Aislinn gave a talk titled "A Boardwalk that spans generations." Both Ron and Aislinn brought their recent books for autographing and sale: Ron - "Bog and Fens" and Aislinn - "Family friendly hikes in Maine." One of the highlights of the day was a bog scavenger hunt developed by Donna Dwyer. The Darling's Ice Cream Truck for a Cause was on hand to help us celebrate. This (we hope) yearly event was organized by Donna Dwyer and Jen Show. Several of our regular tour guides offered tours of the Boardwalk. Thanks Cason Snow and Dave Easler for staffing the Darling's Ice Cream for a Cause area. Thanks to John Maddaus, Phyllis Leeman, John Pickering, Jerry Longcore, and Laura Whitney for being our tour guides. Thanks to Jen Snow, Lee Davis, Judy Round, Gerry Dwyer, Laura Whitney, Alyx Snow, and Jim Bird for staffing the cabin area. We made over \$600 for the Boardwalk campaign!

In November the Orono Brewing Company (OBC) released "Bog Monster", a double IPA, in support of the Boardwalk campaign. The release was well publicized on both the Boardwalk's and Orono Brewing Company's Facebook page. Jim Bird joined Abe Furth, Asa Marsh-Sachs and another OBC employee on The Pulse (620AM radio) to publicize "Bog Monster" and the Orono Bog Boardwalk. "Bog Monster" was a great success selling out after only 3 weeks. Thanks so much to Heather and Abe Firth and master brewer Asa Marsh-Sachs. We received more than \$1,000 from Abe and Heather for the Boardwalk campaign.

The OBB continues our bottle deposit at Burby and Bates in Orono. We typically make about \$80/year. Thanks Jerry.

For the 10th year, volunteers (Jim Bird and Jerry Longcore) staffed the OBB table at the University of Maine, Page Farm and Home Museum Holiday Shoppe. This was a great opportunity to talk with visitors about the OBB. We made more than \$800 for the OBB Capital Campaign fund through the sale of OBB merchandise and donations. Jessica Wade made some wonderful pendants by encasing wood, lichens, and moss from used deck boards in clear resin. This "bog bling" was our biggest seller. 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.

During the year Jerry Longcore gave a presentation on June 6th about the OBB to the Brewer Historical Society. His talk was very well received. Jim Bird was interviewed by Craig Colson (WVH ABC 7, WFVX Fox) on May 1st about our opening and again on October 12th about our closing for the season. Jim also was a guest on The Pulse, 620AM radio to discuss the OBB.

An article written by Jerry Longcore and Jim Bird was published online in the Bangor Daily News in the Community News section on November 27, 2017. The title of the article is "The Orono Bog Boardwalk: A Reflection and a Request." Read it here at: <https://bangordailynews.com/bdn-maine/community/the-orono-bog-boardwalk-a-reflection-and-a-request/>

UM Professor John Daigle teaches Forest Recreation Planning (PRT 470). This year John brought his class to the OBB on September 12th to hear presentations by Jim Bird and Tracy Willette (OBB management Committee member and Director of Bangor Parks & Recreation).

For the last several years we have hosted 1st year UM students in their Day of Service. This year 27 students plus a couple student supervisors came to the OBB for a couple hours on August 26th. Jerry Longcore supervised the students with the help of Dick McClay, Phil Locke, Steve McKay, and Dave Easler. Most of the work involved trimming vegetation away from the OBB. Some of the students helped Phil fix rotting deck boards.

A new sign was placed near section 106 (Orono Bangor town line) “You are now entering the Hyland Tract owned by the University of Maine, a member of the University of Maine System, and conserved since 2010 by a Conservation Easement held by the Orono Land Trust.” Thanks Jerry!

Docents and Student Intern

Docents are volunteers who daily open and close the OBB gate, greet visitors, inform users of rules, maintain the appearance of the cabin and OBB, answer visitors’ questions about bog natural history, report any problems with the OBB, sell boardwalk t-shirts, hats, and other items, provide local area information and insight, and generally oversee the day-to-day workings of the OBB. Without these volunteers, a visit to the OBB would be a much less satisfying experience. Jim Bird conducted a docent training session. We were able to hire a summer intern this year for the first time in 3 years: Laura Whitney, a 3rd year biology student at the University of Maine. Laura had been a volunteer the previous year. She contributed much to the operation of the OBB, serving as a docent, tour guide, led a kids walk, and maintenance volunteer. We hope to have her back in 2018. Thanks Laura! A list of OBB docents is provided in **Appendix 2**. We were extremely fortunate to have Al and Nancy Larsen as our docent calendar schedulers again this year.

Boardwalk Tour Report – 2017

By John Maddaus

383 people participated in 17 guided tours at the boardwalk between May 1 and Oct. 13, 2017. Six school groups visited, with 237 students and adults participating. John Maddaus and Donna Dwyer gave a guide training session on May 6th. John also wrote a detailed tour guide training narrative. We will have a copy in the docent handbook in the cabin on May 1st. If anyone would like a copy please contact John.Maddaus@maine.edu. The Kindergarten class from Deer Isle Stonington Elementary School came in May

for the tenth consecutive year, going back to 2008. Again this year, and for the seventh consecutive year, they gave us a donation of \$200. We were very sorry to learn that this would be their last visit, as in the future they will be staying closer to school for their field trips and their donations. This year, for the first time, we were able to cover transportation costs for one school with a donation from the Penobscot County Retired Teachers Association. We hope to raise more such funds in the future to make it possible for more school groups to come to the boardwalk, despite limited funds for field trips in school budgets. Six groups of adults, including Audubon groups from western Maine and from Massachusetts, also visited, with a total of 62 participants. Three college classes visited, with 53 participants, as did two scout groups with 31 participants. See **Appendix 3** for a complete list of tours.

Feedback from group leaders included the following:

“Everyone I talked to said they really liked it. There were a couple of parents who had never been there and were planning to return. The kids in my group were younger in age and got tired walking toward the end but that is to be expected. I don't think I would change anything you guys did. I personally thought it was perfect.”

Ray Goodspeed

Cub Scout group – Carmel and Levant

May 10, 2017

“Once again, I thank you for an awesome day on the bog!! The kids had a great time and learned a lot. For many of them, this is the beginning of a real interest in plants. I'm all for that! And also, please express our most sincere thanks to all your volunteers--they are wonderful!”

• Mary O’Shea

All Saints Catholic School – Bangor

Grades 4 and 7

Oct. 3, 2017

See **Appendix 4** for a list of tour guides in 2017. Helen Koch coordinated the scheduling of the guides.

Nature Walks

Every year we arrange for a variety of “by reservation-only” nature walks led by experts in particular subject areas. 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 we hosted a number of nature walks. See **Appendix 5** for a list of OBB nature walks.

Maintenance, Construction, Replacements (contributed by Phil Locke)

During the 2017 Boardwalk season there were 27 names on my e-mail list of maintenance volunteers. I sent requests for help with specific boardwalk tasks as the need arose. Many of these people (but certainly not all!) participated in maintenance tasks during the season. Assuming that 20 actively participating volunteers spent an average of 5 hours per week at the boardwalk, the total person-hours for the shortened 24-week 2017 season would be $20 \times 5 \times 24 = 2,400$. This is probably a conservative estimate.

Accelerating decay of the old hemlock sections remains a worrisome problem, but now there are only 115 old sections left to maintain. We concentrated on keeping these in tolerable condition in 2017, so I'm confident that we can nurse them through the summer of 2018 until their replacement with composite sections prior to the 2019 season.

Below is a list of ongoing maintenance tasks.

- 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 (see comments below)
- 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)

Task 7, weekly cleanings of the outhouse, continues to be the least popular job with volunteers. We therefore owe profuse thanks to Dave Easler (24 cleanings) and Helen Koch (6 cleanings) who substituted for him as needed. Note: though the boardwalk closed in mid-October, we were responsible for outhouse cleanings until Thanksgiving.

We have on-hand around 250 4-foot hemlock deck boards for replacement of broken or rotting ones as needed. I think these will suffice for the 2018 season; if not, Karl Hill and I can pick up more at Parker Brothers Lumber.

Weekly maintenance and leveling sessions during the 2017 season were mostly scheduled by Jim Bird. Leveling of out-of-kilter sections of the boardwalk should be much less of a problem this season because the long and troublesome straightaway between stations 5 and 6 now consists of sure-footed composites. (Note: a list of maintenance volunteers is in **Appendix 2**.)

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

University of ME, Fiscal Year: 2016 / 2017 OBB, Operations Account, Income						
UM codes	43631 43695	44199	43660 / 43640	46300	43670	
Month	Endowment Fund, Interest	Temporary Investment Interest	Gifts and Donations	Sales T-shirts & products	Misc.	Totals
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>f</i>
July 1, 2016		0.18	189.59			189.77
Aug		0.26	564.75			565.01
Sep		0.51	1,288.77			1,289.28
Oct		0.61	1,216.13			1,216.74
Nov		0.47				0.47
Dec		0.40				0.40
Jan '17		0.51				0.51
Feb		0.65				0.65
Mar		0.63				0.63
Apr		0.80				0.80
May		1.50	1,084.36			1,085.86

June 30, 2017		2.93	2,539.90			2,542.83
Totals		9.45	6,883.59			6,892.95
Net Balance as of June 30, 2017: \$5,242.91						

University of Maine, Fiscal Year: 2016 - 2017: Orono Bog Boardwalk, Operating Account, Expenses											
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>h</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>k</i>
Month	(a)Wages (b) Transfer from Endowm	Student Wages 53301	Employee Benefits	Membershi p Dues/Fees (Tng/ Award) 60305	Postage & Shippin g	Printin g & Copyin g 60603	Rentals , Leasing Pro services	Supplies & Material s 61000	Telephon e & Website 64000	Other T-shirts, Product s Supplies	Totals
July 1, 2016									T5.70		5.70
Aug								283.48	T5.71		289.19
Sep								482.92	T5.71		488.63
Oct									T5.71		5.71
Nov									T5.70	670.60	676.30
Dec								47.75	T5.70	206.20	259.65
Jan'1 7									T5.70 75.00		80.70
Feb									T5.89		5.89
Mar									T5.89		5.89
Apr									T5.89		5.89
May									T5.91		5.91

June 30, 2017		160.88							T5.91		166.79
Totals		160.88						814.15	144.42	876.80	1,996.25
Totals	UM Fd										
Balance as of June 30, 2017:		\$5,242.91	NET BALANCE as of end of July 2017 = \$6,488.87								
*This value is off by a few cents because Temporary Investment Income is missing for July.											

Boardwalk Reconstruction Campaign Committee

The Capital Campaign Committee met a few times in 2017. Members of the committee are Jerry Longcore, Judy Round, Jim Bird, Donna and Gerry Dwyer, Jen and Cason Snow, and Cindy Mehnert. Jim Bird and Jerry Longcore continued to prepare grant proposals. Jim also worked with Liz Erickson of the University of Maine Foundation on a grant proposal. On August 10th Jim Bird and Liz Erickson of the University of Maine Foundation gave an OBB tour to Tim Ingraham, one of the two trustees of the Maine Timberlands Charitable Trust. We had a very good year raising funds for the OBB reconstruction. We received \$10,000 from the Betterment Fund, \$20,000 from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation, \$50,000 from the Maine Timberlands Charitable Trust, \$10,000 from the Davis Conservation Foundation, and \$3,000 from the L.L. Bean Foundation. We also received a major donation from the Katharine M. Kirkpatrick Trust - \$141,826.23 (see story at <https://umainefoundation.org/2017/07/kirkpatrick/>).

Before we open on May 1st 2018 we plan to update the Campaign donor poster, the reconstruction poster, and the volunteer poster (Thanks in advance Kourtney Collum and Mark Anderson). These posters are on the two kiosks at the start of the OBB.

We removed the donation can at The Natural Living Center. We made \$126.22 in donations and want to thank The Natural Living Center for allowing us placed the donation can at their business. Thanks Jerry for this great idea.

Jerry Longcore and Jim Bird wrote a piece for the Bangor Daily News “The Orono Bog Boardwalk: A Reflection and a Request.” It was published online at bangordailynews.com/bdn-maine/community/the-orono-bog-boardwalk-a-reflection-and-a-request/.

In November we sent out a one page letter to all OBB campaign donors thanking them for their support. The letter included photographs by Donna and Gerry Dwyer. The layout of the letter was done by Kourtney Collum. The letter resulted in more than \$12,000 in campaign donations over a 5 week period! We plan to continue sending out campaign updates every November. Thanks Kourtney and Donna and Gerry!

Orono Town Manager Sophie Wilson again donated \$1,000 to the OBB reconstruction campaign to sponsor a new OBB section. Thank you Sophie!

Boardwalk Reconstruction

On Thursday, October 12th, 97 new OBB sections, 2 interpretative stations, and 3 wheelchair turnarounds arrived from Great Northern Docks on 2 semi-trucks at the Tripp Drive parking lot. After several hours the new sections were unloaded and half of them were moved to the cabin area and the other half were moved to the area opposite the outhouse. Thanks Grace Bartlett, Phil Locke, Jim Bird, and Jerry Longcore for “walking” the new sections to the outhouse area and cabin. On Sunday October 15th OBB volunteers started the preparation for the removal of old sections and new section installation. Much work needed to be done before we could take out the sections:

Remove all railings

Remove all chains and float ropes and washers holding the sections together and to the floats

Remove the 1”x4”x2’ hemlock boards and metal strips holding some of the sections together

Remove railings and supports on interpretive stations 5 and 6

Remove interpretive signs at stations 5 and 6

Remove the 3 benches at the wheel chair turnarounds

Remove the 3, 2’x8’ sections at wheelchair turnarounds

Place orange surveyor’s flags where there were turns and wheel chair turnarounds

Remove the interpretive stations wings

Several OBB volunteers also did all that was required to close the OBB for the season: remove and replace signage, cover interpretive stations and kiosks, remove brochure box and money box, remove “No Picking” and “Stay on the Boardwalk” signs from the bog, and remove water pipe and explanation sign.

On Tuesday OBB volunteers were joined by a 5 trustee crew from the Charleston Correctional Facility. These trustees worked for 3 days and removed 97 old OBB sections, taking them to the cabin area where OBB volunteers loaded them on the trailer provided by Fred Kirchesis and moved them to the outhouse area. The trustees used carts loaned to us by Home Depot and Lowes to wheel the old sections to the cabin area. Jerry Longcore and Al Larson picked up 2 Home Depot carts and Jerry and Fred Kirchesis picked up 2 Lowes carts. They also returned the carts in November. Since we have 6-7 old sections in good shape to use as replacements we did not save any of the old sections. We did publicize that the public could have any of the old sections as long as they picked them up. David Wardrop, Veazie city forester took 20+ of the old sections.

We provided lunches to the trustees and OBB volunteers on October 17-19. Thanks to The Bear Brew Pub in Orono, Hannaford Old Town, Olive Garden, and Shaw's Supermarket in Bangor for donating food and water and soft drinks. Thanks as well to Donna Dwyer (brownies) and Mary Bird (food pick-up and distribution).

Installation of all sections, 2 interpretive stations, and 3 wheel chair turnarounds was completed on November 2nd. Thirty-eight volunteers worked for 693 volunteer hours to complete this task. It was an amazing effort! Thank you to: Jerry Longcore (who oversaw installation) Gerry Dwyer, Donna Dwyer, Dave Easler, Dick McClay, Steve McKay, Tim Cough, John Fitzgerald, Sharon Fitzgerald, Aaron Putnam, Adrienne Leppold, Chris Stevens, Fred Kirchesis, Asif Sharaz, Laura Whitney, Phil Locke, Ron Lamb, John Maddaus, Karl Hill, Andrew McNally, Jim Bird, Mary Bird, members of the North Star Lodge #22 (Ricky Hall, James Fullwood, Kaiah Morrisette) and St. Andrew's Lodge #83 (Ben Despres, Laura Despres, Ralph Kent, John Bunker, Ryan Collins), and trustees from the Charleston Correctional Facility and their supervisor Jeff Grant. Thanks also to George Peterson, Correctional Plant Maintenance Engineer, Charleston Correctional Facility, for arranging for us to have the help of the trustees. (Note: If I have left someone off this list please let me know.)

After the sections were installed we still had to tighten the sections bolts on the sections around the turns. We completed this task in one day thanks to Dave Easler, Steve McKay, Jim Bird, and Jerry Longcore.

We were to install 97 sections however the last 8' section to install turned out not to fit in the 5.5' long gap left after the new sections were installed. The gap was the result of turn angles at interpretive station 5. After everything was completed Steve Merriam plus one other Great Northern Docks employee came to the OBB to measure the angles at turns and also to measure the length of the short section. The pie-shaped wedges + the short section will be delivered in April 2018 for installation before we open on May 1st.

(Note: A list of reconstruction volunteers is in **Appendix 2**).

Safety Manual

We now have a safety manual thanks to the work of Jerry Longcore and Erik Blomberg. A copy of the manual will be in the docent handbook in the cabin. All volunteers are required to read through the manual before volunteer work starts in 2018. Copies will be available to handout in April when we start maintenance work.

Boardwalk User Survey

We conducted a user survey of OBB visitors in 2004 and 2010. A third user survey was to take place in 2017. Unfortunately this did not happen because of time constraints. We hope to conduct the survey in 2018.

Webpage and Facebook page

Our webpage managed by Erik Blomberg, is updated on a regular basis. Our Facebook page managed by Donna Dwyer is updated frequently and we now have more than 5,300 “likes”. Our Facebook page has helped us recruit volunteers and publicize the OBB. Our “donate now” button on the Facebook page has been used several times in 2017 to help us with our reconstruction campaign. Thank you Erik and Donna!

Boardwalk Camera

Thanks to OBB volunteer Bryan Wells for maintaining our Boardwalk nighttime video camera for several years. Bryan will no longer be maintaining this camera and it was taken down. Thanks Bryan for all of your help over the years. It is really appreciated!

After of 3rd incident of vandalism the city of Bangor put up a trail camera at the start of the OBB. The city is maintaining it. Thanks Tracy Willette!

Boardwalk Vandalism:

Note that if vandalism is discovered the Director of the OBB must be notified immediately so that it can be reported to the Bangor Police. We cannot fix the vandalism first then report it later. Bangor police must see the results of the vandalism.

The year started off with some vandalism. On opening day we discovered someone had kicked off 4 section railings. Thanks Laura Whitney for fixing!

On July 18th John Maddaus reported vandalism that he found on July 18th as he was walking the OBB to close. Vandals kicked off 15 railings and threw most of them in the bog. A couple were broken. The damage happened between OBB sections 252-356. Jim Bird and Jerry Longcore met a Bangor policeman at 7am the next day to survey the damage and a report was filed. The damage was fixed by 11am that day. Thanks to Gerry Dwyer, Steve McKay, Laura Whitney, Dave Easler, Jerry Longcore, Tim Cough, and Jim Bird for fixing the damage.

On August 10th our OBB opener Dick McClay reported vandalism at the OBB. Jim Bird met Dick at the OBB and we called the Bangor Police. We all walked the OBB and found 10 railings kicked off with a couple of them thrown into the bog. One of the railings was broken. Jim called WABI-TV Channel 5 and they filmed Dick and Jim reattaching the railings. The video is available at: <http://www.wabi.tv/content/news/Orono-Bog-Boardwalk-Vandalised--439680383.html>

We did have a couple more incidents of we believe may have been vandalism – one or 2 railings off. However because we were not sure we did not report them to the Bangor Police.

New Bird Species for the OBB Seen

During OBB reconstruction this year a new bird for the OBB was seen and heard – Sandhill Crane (*Antigone canadensis*). Jerry Longcore identified it and several of us saw and heard it.

New Reptile Species for the OBB Seen

On July 21st OBB volunteer John Maddaus noted:

“When I was closing up the boardwalk on Friday, I saw a turtle about three feet off the boardwalk at about the intersection of sections 253 and 254, on the left as you go from station 4 to station 5. I estimate it was about 8-9 inches long, including what I could see of the head and tail, and the shell was about 4-5 inches wide. I drew a sketch of it, and then compared it to the descriptions of turtles in Maine Amphibians and Reptiles (PP. 138-143). Based on those descriptions, I think it was a wood turtle.” NOTE: The first turtle reported from the OBB!

Buster Hanson

I am pleased to report that several OBB volunteers plus Buster's family donated more than \$1,200 in memory of Buster to the OBB reconstruction campaign. We will have a new OBB section sponsored in his memory. Thanks to all that donated to this!

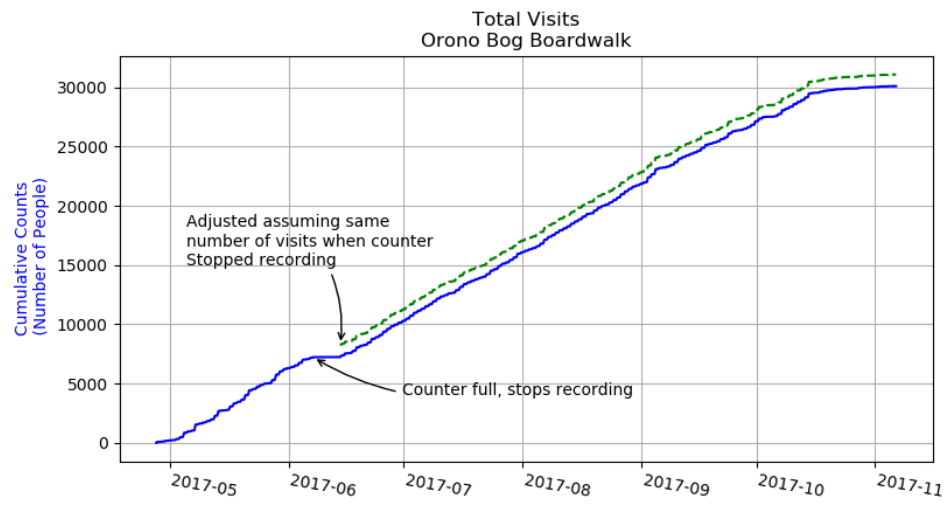
Conclusion

We have accomplished much this year. I look forward to our next season as we continue to raise funds and install OBB 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
Jim.Bird@umit.maine.edu
1/27/2018

Appendix 1: 2017 Counter Numbers.



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

Mark Anderson (2)
Seanna Annis (5)
Grace Bartlett (4)
Jim Bird (1,2,3,4,5,6,7)
Mary Bird (2,5)
Erik Blomberg (2,3,5,6,7)
Hope Brogunier (1)
Kathy Burns (1)
Charleston Correctional Facility trustees – 7 (7)
Kourtney Collum (2,4,6)
Tim Cough (3,7)
John Daigle (2)
Christopher D'Amico (3,7)
Lee Davis (1,4)
Ron Davis (1,2,4,5)
Lynn DeGrenier (2)
Christina Diebold (1,2)
Donna Dwyer (1,4,7)
Gerry Dwyer (3,7)
Dave Easler (3,7)
Sharon Fitzgerald (2,7)
John Fitzgerald (2,7)
Barb Friedman (1)
Allie Gardner (5)
Jeff Grant (7)
Karl Hill (3,7)
Allison Kanoti (5)
Fred Kirchesis (3,7)
Helen Koch (2,6,7)

Ron Lamb (2,3)
Al Larson (1,2,3,4,7)
Nancy Larson (1,2,7)
Phyllis Leeman (1,2,4)
Adrienne Leppold (2,3,5,7)
Mandy Lightcap (7)
Phil Locke (1,3,4,6,7)
Jerry Longcore (1,2,3,4,5,6,7)
Joyce Longcore (1)
Jennifer Lund (2)
John Maddaus (2,4,6)
Paul Markson (1,6)
Dick McClay (1,3,7)
Steve McKay (1,3,7)
Andrew McNally (7)
Cindy Mehnert (2)
Jim Mitchell (1)
North Start Masonic Lodge #2 members (7)
Libby Norton (1)
Brian Olsen (5)
John Pickering (1,2,4)
Aaron Putnam (7)
Andy Reeve (2,4,5)
Amber Roth's UM class (3)
Judy Round (2)
Christa Schwintzer (1,5)
Asif Sharaz (7)
Donne Sinderson (4)
Genevieve Smith (1,2,3,4,7)
Cason Snow (3,7)
Jennifer Snow (2,7)
St. Andrew's Masonic Lodge #83 members (7)
Shelly Spanswick (7)

Chris Stevens (7)
 Wendall Tremblay (1,2,4)
 Trudy Tremblay (1)
 Laura Whitney (1,4)
 Tracy Willette (2)
 Jessica Wade (2)
 Bryan Wells (2)

Appendix 3: Guided Walks 2017

Date	Tour	Number	Age/Grade
May 2	UMA Bangor biology students	12+1	College
May 10	Cub Scouts – Carmel and Levant	11+5	Grade 2
May 11	Stillwater Montessori Environmental Club	30+10	Pre-K to Grade 6
May 17	Alton Elementary School	21+3	Grades 2-3
May 20	Western Maine Audubon	13+1	Adults

May 31	Deer Isle- Stonington Elementary School	30+14	Kindergarten
June 9	Enfield Station School SAU#31	30+3	Grade 4

June 10	Girl Scout Troop #1293 Levant	9+6	*
June 22	Eagle Hill/Russell Sage College	10+2	College
July 13	Brewer Garden Club	10	Adults
July 15	UM Senior College	?	Adults
July 22	Mass Audubon, Western Mass	8	Adults*

July 22	Amicus Bangor	7+2	Adults*
August 5	Orono HS class of 1987 30 th reunion tour	10	Adults
September 19	UM EES 117 course	35	College
September 21	Orono Middle School science class	42+4	Grade 7

October 3	All Saints Catholic School	45+5	Grades 4,7
October 13	Eastern Maine Community College field Natural Hist class	4+1	College

Appendix 4: Tour Leaders 2017

Phyllis Leeman	Ron Davis	Nancy Turner	Genevieve Smith
Donna Dwyer	Al Larson	Kate Ruskin	Jerry Longcore
John Maddaus	John Pickering	Brittany Lemay	Laura Whitney
	Helen Koch – guide scheduler	Christa Schwintzer	

Appendix 5: Nature Walks:

Date Tour Leader # attending

May 13	Migratory Birds	Brian Olsen	4
May 20	Migratory Birds*	Adrienne Leppold	3
June 10	Knit in Public Day	Mary Bird	2
June 28	Bats	Erik Blomberg	4

July 1	Insects	Jen Lund	7
July 8	Plant Adaptations	Christa Schwintzer	11
August 19	Ticks/Mosquitos	Allie Gardner	11
August 29	Forest Insects	Alison Kanoti	4
July 5,7	Bat Walk**	Erik Blomberg	14
August 20	Forest Insects	Alison Kanoti	10
August 14	Kid's walk	Laura Whitney	1