

## Land trusts and the generosity of local landowners

by Melissa Burch

The Orono Land Trust could not function without the generosity of local landowners. This can come in several different forms. Several local landowners have ensured public access and conservation in perpetuity by placing conservation easements on their land. These include: Jim and Pat Hinds and Steve Keleti, Glenn and Nancy Rampe, Ron and Shirley Davis, the Halsey Family, Margaret Manter, and Bryan and Deta Pearce. Most of you have probably

walked on several of these land parcels.

Special film screening:  
"Community Conservation"  
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Other landowners have donated land

outright and these properties make up some of the land that the OLT owns "in fee." Thanks to these landowners, members of the public can explore a link between Orono and the Bangor City Forest (the Hsu lands, purchased with LMF funds), the Wickett property off Poplar Street near Pushaw Lake (The Camp Wickett Family Trust), the Cota property connecting Forest Ave. and the Colburn woods (donated by Virginia Maillett.) Diamond Occidental and the University of Maine have also made land donations to the OLT.

There is a third group of landowners, those who informally allow trail access across their property. In some cases, such as with Todd Burpee's land, this means he is literally allowing walkers to go directly across his lawn next to the river. A huge thanks to all of these generous landowners.



Photo by Kris Sornberger

Winter biking enthusiasts enjoy the trails: Abe Furth (left to right), OLT board members Tom Cassidy, Erik Da Silva, Kris Sornberger, and Baxter the dog.

## Winter snow sports in Maine includes fat-tire biking

by Kris Sornberger

Winter biking is getting bigger and bigger every year in Maine. More people are riding the fat-tire bikes on groomed snow, single-track trails. In this area, those riding places are increasing in availability. Like the climate, the face of winter snow sports is changing.

The Swan's trail system at Perch Pond (aka Mud Pond) in Old Town has been used almost exclusively for winter bike riding this season. Using a Tundra Snowsled, the 3-foot-wide trails are groomed flat. Snowshoeing the trails into a packed surface is also an option. The New England Mountain Bike Association-Penobscot Region Chapter ([www.Pr.nemba.org](http://www.Pr.nemba.org)) has led this effort. Daily grooming keeps the trails packed