

# Hike

Continued from Page B1

along its North Field; in 1980, the Kitty Todd Arboretum was added; and throughout the 1980s, gardens were added to the property, including an herb garden, rose garden and perennial border.

In 1996, the park's visitor center, known as the Ross Center, was completed. It houses the Meryspring administrative office, meeting room, nature library and a workspace for volunteers and staff members. More gardens followed, including a hosta garden, winter garden, children's garden and daylily garden. The Aileene Lubin Greenhouse and the American Chestnut Breeding Orchard were added in 1999, and an interpretive trail was created in 2013.

Today, Meryspring sees thousands of visitors each year and is open to the public for free from dawn until dusk year round.

Dogs are not permitted on the property, and the trails are for foot traffic only (no bikes or vehicles). In the winter, the trails are great for snowshoeing, and the fields are used by cross-country skiers.

There are eight intersecting trails on the property that are numbered and color-coded on a trail map displayed on a kiosk in the parking area. This map is also available online and in brochures that are often available at the kiosk and the main building. The trail marked with the number "1" is the Perimeter Trail and travels close to the outer edge of the 66-acre property, intersecting with the other trails along the way.

Traced in yellow on the Meryspring trail map, the park's interpretive trail includes six displays that highlight features of the land where people and nature came together in some way to shape the landscape.

For more information, call 236-2239 or visit [meryspring.org](http://meryspring.org).

**Personal note:** The weather report called for sunny skies and temperatures in the high 70s on Thursday, May 26, when I visited Meryspring Nature Center, a place I had been curious about for quite some time because of the



A gazebo and a kiosk displaying a map of the gardens is located behind the visitor center of Meryspring Nature Center.

AISLINN SARNACKI | BDN

many workshops and presentations they host for the public. Because dogs aren't permitted on the property, I had to leave Oreo at home, but I didn't mind. Without Oreo constantly pulling on his leash, I knew I'd have more opportunities to photograph the finer details of the park — the many beautiful flowers, insects and birds.

I started in the gardens, where I was soon greeted by the head gardener, who was transferring a variety of plants from the greenhouse to various flower beds. Her wide-brimmed hat shaded her face as she gave me a tour, pointing out the themes of the different gardens and even giving me some advice on what plants I could grow in the dry, rocky soil at my home in Hancock County.

Meryspring is a popular place for wedding ceremonies, she told me, and they offer public programs for all ages, including owl walks and beekeeping demonstrations.

I followed her into the greenhouse, which was rapidly heating in the afternoon sun, and she scrounged up a Meryspring brochure, which included a detail map, the same one displayed on the kiosk in the parking area. She then guided me out the back of the green-



A variety of flowers are in bloom on Thursday in the Meryspring Nature Center gardens.

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house to the nearby Perimeter Trail, and I shook her garden-gloved hand goodbye.

Early in my exploration of the trails, I felt a cold, wet object hit my ankle. It felt like a splatter of mud, but the trail wasn't muddy, so I looked down. To my surprise, a tiny wood frog was clinging to my leg for a ride. When I stopped, he leapt from my leg onto the forest floor, where I managed to take several photos of him by using my macro camera lens and approaching him very

slowly on hands and knees. His bubbly skin was a muted orange, his round eye, gold.

Farther along the trail, I photographed a chipmunk sitting in the sun, a bright yellow spider poised on a buttercup and a bumblebee gathering pollen from white blossoms. Of course, all this stooping and crawling to take photos of plants and insects wound me up with two ticks — one crawling up my leg, the other on my shoulder. I found both before they had

a chance to burrow into my skin.

At the end of my hike, I conducted the best tick check I could in the parking area, but it wasn't until I had driven home and taken a shower that I was truly convinced my body was free of ticks — for the time being, anyway.

For more of Aislinn Sarnacki's adventures, visit her blog at [actoutwithaislinn.bangordailynews.com](http://actoutwithaislinn.bangordailynews.com). Follow her on Twitter: @iminhikegirl.

# Penobscot

Continued from Page B1

munity GIS, said. "We want to bring together information that already exists in disparate sources."

The HOP website will include an interactive map of local trails and outdoor recreation spots, a calendar of outdoor recreation events and links to relevant online resources, such as Maine Trail Finder, land trust websites and snowmobile club websites.

"I think the key thing to take away from this is we're not going to re-create the wheel," Jacobs said. "The goal here is to create a space for the content from all these organizations and communities we're representing here to come together."

"If everyone in the outdoor community sees the value in it, it will become an



People from the outdoor community in southern Penobscot County came together on Wednesday for a Heart of the Penobscot stakeholders meeting at Machias Savings Bank in Brewer. At the meeting, the steering committee presented plans to launch a website that would serve as a "one stop shop" for area outdoor recreation resources.

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incredibly rich resource," she continued.

HOP plans to work directly with local organizations such as land trusts to gather accurate, up-to-date

information and direct people to the appropriate sources to learn more about specific trails, resources and events.

"It's a great resource for

visitors," Belle Ryder, assistant town manager of Orono and member of the HOP steering committee, said. "Outdoor recreation is becoming more and more of a reason for people to go somewhere."

The HOP steering committee has been meeting monthly and planning the website for about a year and a half, Jacobs said, and they hired Center for Community GIS to develop many aspects of the website already.

"We have several pages developed and in place and a plan for moving forward," Engle said.

These page designs, as well as the new HOP logo, were presented at the stakeholders meeting, where it was announced that the development and launching of the website will cost an estimated \$15,000. Approximately \$9,500 of those funds have already been raised —

about \$4,000 from the Trust for Public Land, \$2,500 from the City of Bangor Public Health and Community Services and \$3,000 from a Maine Coast Heritage Trust donor, according to Jacobs.

There is no planned date for the website launch at this time, as further funding is needed to complete the project, according to the HOP steering committee. They're currently focused on raising the remaining funds.

"The idea that so many communities are coming together and working on this is just so awesome," Bangor Land Trust Executive Director Lucy Quimby said at the meeting. "I'm so excited about this I can hardly stand it."

To learn more or contribute to HOP, contact Linda Johns at 989-8431 or [ljohns@BrewerMaine.gov](mailto:ljohns@BrewerMaine.gov) or follow the new Heart of the Penobscot Facebook page.

# Holyoke

Continued from Page B1

many fisheries issues, the results are not realized until some time has passed and the real changes start to take effect."

But outside their work relationship, Davis also shared a deep friendship.

"I have worked with Dave for almost 30 years," Davis wrote. "He was a mentor, colleague and most importantly a great friend that I will very sadly miss."

Peter Bourque, a retired biologist and fisheries administrator, explained that Boucher came into his job with the DIF&W with a good skillset, then built it up by spending time working in the department's research group. That made him a valuable resource whom field biologists called on often.

"He was a consummate fisheries scientist, just because of his background,"

Bourque said during a phone interview. "He was very serious about his work, but he was kind of a fun-loving guy. He was a good listener, and he got along well with the sportsmen and women of the state."

Basley and Bourque re-

**"He was a good listener, and he got along well with the sportsmen and women of the state."**

PETER BOURQUE, RETIRED BIOLOGIST AND FISHERIES ADMINISTRATOR

membered spending time bird hunting and deer hunting with Boucher out of Bourque's camp and about Boucher's skill in finding what they called "unicorn" deer — over the years he took two deer that had only a single antler.

Basley said losing his friend so early has been tough.

"It was not just our job

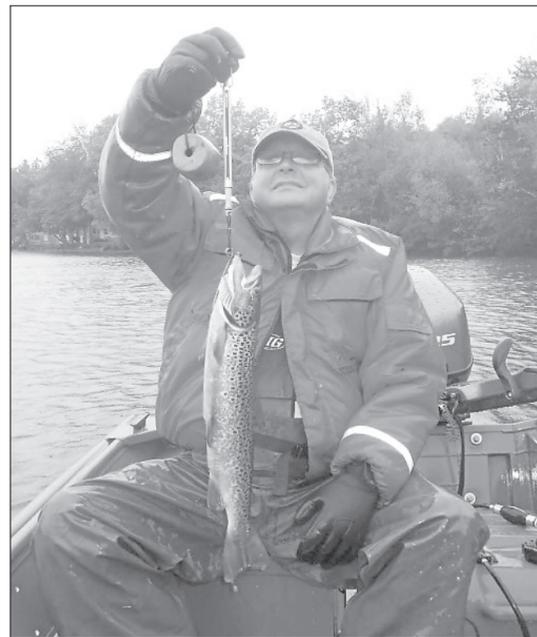
but our life, and we both knew how fortunate we were to experience it," Basley wrote. "At the same time, he knew the importance of his family, who were a definite priority in his life. He wore a big smile whenever he spoke of his wife, Christa, and son, Paul. I had the affection for Dave that I would a brother."

Kramer said he thinks Boucher's passion for the job ultimately cost him his life.

"I do think that Dave's strong commitment to the resource and anglers is what ultimately led to his early passing," Kramer wrote. "He put it all out there and cared so much that the stress was simply too much for his heart."

And for that devotion, this Maine angler offers a sincere "thank you."

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COURTESY OF SCOTT DAVIS

Dave Boucher, a longtime fisheries biologist for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, weighs a fish on Lake St. George in the fall of 2015.

# Things to Do Outdoors

**BANGOR** — The United States Power Squadrons "Partner in Command" safe boating seminar, 4 p.m. Saturday, June 11, Sea Dog Restaurant. Offered by Penobscot Bay Sail and Power Squadron, targeting boat crew members or passengers who want to know essential skills involved in operating recreational boats safely. Instructor is Robert Newman. \$20 for nonmembers; \$15 for members, including course book. \$25 for two nonmembers; \$20 for two members sharing course book. \$5 per person without course book. Registration required by emailing [penobscotbay.squadron@gmail.com](mailto:penobscotbay.squadron@gmail.com). Payment taken at the door. Regular squadron dinner and meeting, 6 p.m., with after-dinner speaker Cate Cronin, former captain of the schooner Bowdoin and the sloop Clearwater. Seminar attendees welcome.

**BANGOR** — Bangor Land Trust's June wildflower walk, 10 a.m. Saturday, June 4, Walden-Parke Preserve. Co-leaders George Elliott and Grace Bartlett should reveal lady slippers and other woods flowers. Rain date, Sunday, June 5.

**BANGOR** — Friends of Lower Kenduskeag Stream trail workday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, June 4, Kenduskeag Stream Trail. Open to all. Meet at 9 a.m. at the trailhead next to the bridge on Franklin Street. [folksbangor.com](http://folksbangor.com).

**BAR HARBOR** — Registration open for Acadia Birding Festival, 6 a.m.-8 p.m. through June 5, on Mount Desert Island. Part of the centennial celebration of Acadia National Park. Explore diverse habitats of the park and the birds that inhabit them with the support of local guides and national avian experts. [acadiabirdingfestival.com](http://acadiabirdingfestival.com).

**BREWER** — Penobscot County Conservation Association Family Fun Day, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, June 4, 570 North Main St. Lunch break, noon-1 p.m. Free. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Air gun range and archery, both age-appropriate. Maine Trappers, fly-tying for kids, Birds Acre owl education, Smokey Bear and Maine forest ranger, fly casting, Penobscot River Keepers, U.S. Coast Guard Flotilla with information about personal flotation devices and more.

**GREENVILLE** — National Trails Day event Goodell Brook and Little Wilson Falls Trail Stewardship Day with Moosehead Trails, brushing and blazing trails and exploring waterfalls, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, June 4, meeting at Route 15 Visitor's Center and Picnic Area, 480 Moosehead Lake Road, for carpooling. Complimentary barbecue at end of day. Bring lunch, snacks, water, sturdy shoes, work gloves, bug repellent, sunscreen; also loopers, pruners and hand saws if you have them. Rain date, June 5. Moosehead Trails coordinator Erica Kaufmann, [erica@fsmaine.org](mailto:erica@fsmaine.org).

**ORLAND** — Dedication of improved Stuart Gross Trail, 2-4 p.m. Saturday, June 4, Great Pond Mountain Wildlands. Ribbon cutting and dedication, 2 p.m., followed by 1.3-mile hike to the top. Snacks and kite flying at the summit, 2-4 p.m. Bring kite, water. Carpool from Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery, Hatchery Road, East Orland. Trailhead is on Don Fish Road in Orland. Rain date, June 5. Facebook and greatpondtrust.org for changes.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit your event, visit [www.bangordailynews.com](http://www.bangordailynews.com).