Governor LePage Launches Assault on Safeguards for Maine’s Environment

On January 20th, NRCM sponsored an amazing event at which 29 presenters explained why a clean and healthy environment is critical for their jobs, quality of life, Maine’s economy, and our future. The audience swelled to more than 500 people who wanted to join in this collective communication to Maine’s new Governor.

Governor LePage appeared to be listening carefully, took notes, and then provided remarks that included important statements. “I believe in real, strong environmental laws,” he said. “The regulations we have are good, strong, and needed.” He also said, “I would never challenge a strong environmental law that’s based in science. And we’re going to enforce them.” Many in the hall left the event thinking that the Governor’s so-called “red tape audit” meetings would not become a wrecking ball for Maine’s environmental rules and safeguards.

But such thoughts were proven wrong three days later, when the Governor’s office released a package of proposals that, if implemented, would reduce air quality standards, destroy wildlife habitat, allow more pollution and toxic chemicals, and encourage sprawl throughout Maine—including deep into Maine’s North Woods.

Unnecessary Sacrifice

The Governor’s “Phase I Regulatory Reform Proposals” represent the most extreme attack on Maine’s environmental safeguards that NRCM has ever seen. They appear to emerge from a faulty view that Maine’s business climate can only be improved by sacrificing our environment. The opposite is true: a clean and healthy environment and a strengthening economy must go hand-in-hand. That’s what one speaker after another told the Governor on January 20th.

“If it’s good for the environment, it’s good for business,” explained President and CEO of Oakhurst Dairy, Bill Bennett. According to Hody Hildreth, a former Republican state legislator, “These laws... have protected the one single advantage that Maine has over other states in the Northeast in attracting people and businesses: namely, our environment and quality of life.” Corky Ellis, founder of the Portland-based software company Kepware, proved that point, explaining that his company is located in Maine “precisely because of the protected beauty and conservation efforts of the past.”

The Governor’s proposal says that Maine’s environmental laws should be weakened so that they are no different than federal standards. But Maine is not New Jersey. As NRCM Advocacy Director Pete Didisheim explains, “Federal standards have been beaten down to the lowest common denominator of what the most polluting industries will accept in the most degraded places in the U.S. that you can think of. Unless we want to look like those places, we must protect Maine’s right to protect our state as we choose.”

Safeguards on the Chopping Bock

As the Governor’s proposals sent a shockwave through the Legislature, many lawmakers took pains to distance themselves from the specifics. They heard from constituents who argued against the Governor’s plan, which includes the following:

- Mandate that at least three million acres of Maine’s irreplaceable North Woods be zoned for development. This is the equivalent to 10 times the size of Los Angeles.
- Overtour Maine’s Kid-Safe Products Act that identifies and phases out the worst toxic chemicals that threaten children’s health in everyday products.
- Eliminate Maine’s product stewardship laws, including our electronic waste recycling law that has saved taxpayers more than $9.6 million and prevented more than 3.3 million pounds of lead and other toxic materials from entering the waste stream and our environment.

- Continued on page 2

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Attend Citizen Action Day Tuesday, April 5th

Concerned about the news coming out of the State House? Want to know what you can do to make a difference? Join us at our Augusta headquarters for Citizen Action Day. This event informs you about the latest goings on at the State House and how to most effectively make your voice heard. You’ll meet and hear from NRCM advocacy staff and take a short walk across the street to the State House, where you’ll have the opportunity to meet with your elected officials.

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us on Tuesday, April 5th at our headquarters in Augusta. Learn more and register at www.nrcm.org.
Maine Environment

Winter 2011

Governor’s Assault on Safeguards - Continued from page 1

- Gut laws that restrict the use of toxic chemicals such as mercury, lead, arsenic, and toxic brominated flame retardants in consumer products.
- Eliminate Maine’s ban on the use of toxic bisphenol-A (BPA) in baby bottles, water bottles, and sippy cups, a rule that was approved last year by a unanimous vote of Maine’s Board of Environmental Protection. BPA is an endocrine-disrupting chemical that can reduce immunity, impair brain development, and contribute to diseases like breast and prostate cancers later in life.
- Roll back a law that reduces sulfur dioxide air pollution, a safeguard put in place to help prevent asthma attacks, reduce acid rain, and increase visibility in our parks.
- Abolish the Board of Environmental Protection.

This is just a subset of the Governor’s proposals, which must be stopped. We all want our government to work efficiently, but these proposals are a prescription for decline in the quality of Maine’s environment—the very foundation of our economy, our health, and our way of life.

If you have not already done so, please contact your state legislators today and tell them that the Governor’s efforts to improve the business climate in Maine have gone horribly off-track. Tell your legislators that we can improve the effectiveness of implementing Maine’s laws without destroying the environment that supports a $10 billion annual tourism economy, provides us with a “Maine brand” that’s vital for marketing Maine-made merchandise, and allows all Mainers to share in the natural wonders that literally define our state.

Join NRCM’s Action Network
Because your voice makes a difference

By joining our Action Network, you’ll stay informed about how and when to take action to help protect Maine’s environment. It’s free, and you choose how and when to take action. You can

- Make phone calls or send emails to your legislators and other decision-makers. We’ll provide you with their contact information.
- Write letters-to-the-editor of your local newspaper.
- Submit comments or testify at public hearings.
- Help us get the word out through social media—Facebook, Twitter, blogs, and more.

For more information or to sign up, visit http://supporters.nrcm.org/Action_Network

Court Tells EPA to Move Forward with Rules to Cut Pollution

A U.S. Court of Appeals recently approved that new Clean Air Act regulations on climate-changing pollution from cars, trucks, power plants, and factories could go forward as planned—for now—as of January 2011. Many industry groups, including the National Petrochemical & Refiners Association, and those representing utilities, refiners, and others have filed a lawsuit to block these rules. Their initial effort was to attempt to “stay” (temporarily halt) the rules pending the outcome of the full lawsuit. NRCM is one of several groups that are part of the lawsuit.

While the full lawsuits will continue to play out, the ruling lets EPA do its job under the Clean Air Act to move forward to limit climate-changing pollution that threatens the health of our families, our economy, and our environment,” says NRCM’s clean energy director Dylan Voorhees. “Despite the best efforts of the oil and gas lobbies, which continue to pour money into fighting progress on clean energy and clean air, the Court’s decision means the implementation of these rules will not be delayed.” Meanwhile, Congress will consider legislation this session that would revoke or delay the EPA’s authority under the Clean Air Act, so NRCM and others are closely watching Senators Snowe and Collins and encourages them not to vote to undermine this best hope to control global warming pollution in this country.
The Legacy of Brownie Carson
By Jeff Clark

“It is not an exaggeration to describe Brownie Carson as a legendary figure in Maine’s environmental community, a man whose reputation and impact go well beyond the state’s boundaries. Maine’s rivers and lakes, its air, its wildlands, even its suburbs are all better places because of Carson’s passionate, patient, unwavering leadership.

From the Big A dam to Plum Creek, Carson has been front and center in almost every major environmental issue in Maine. Former U.S. Senator and global peace negotiator George Mitchell praises Carson’s “persistence and patience” in tackling issues that often take years for resolution, while Senator Olympia Snowe describes him as “one of the principal architects of the Maine environmental movement.”

He’s been called a brawler and a bear and some far less complimentary names, and through it all, “I have just loved being here,” Carson says. “Being part of NRCM, with a staff whose energy is so strong and positive. We have done some extraordinary work together.”

“Brownie was always the epitome of the combination of civility and passionate advocacy,” says Senator Snowe. She cites her work with Brownie on the Edwards Dam removal, “which would not have come to fruition without Brownie’s passionate advocacy,” says Senator Snowe. She cites her work with Brownie on the Edwards Dam removal, “which would not have come to fruition without Brownie’s passionate advocacy.”

“When I’m at a national meeting of environmental grant makers and people see Maine on my name tag, it’s ‘Wow, do you know Brownie Carson?’” says Brigitte Kingsbury, executive director of the Orchard Foundation, a private charitable foundation based in South Portland, and a former NRCM board member. “Yeah, I know Brownie,” she notes.

Brownie was always the epitome of the combination of civility and passionate advocacy,” says Senator Snowe. She cites her work with Brownie on the Edwards Dam removal, “which would not have come to fruition without his stalwart leadership.”

Nationally, Maine has long been considered one of the states in the forefront of environmental protection, and Carson’s leadership of NRCM is recognized as the reason for that reputation. He has won many awards, among them Bowdoin College’s Common Good Award, Down East magazine’s Environmental Award, and the National Wildlife Federation’s Special Achievement Award. Add the awards given to NRPM under his leadership and the list seems endless.

“Brownie was among the top leaders in an activist environmental community that gradually evolved from fighting rear-guard actions against ill-considered developments to advocating for new laws and regulations that would strike a balance between a clean environment and good business.”

“A voice of reason, that’s what he is,” says Dean Bennett, Allagash defender and former NRCM board member. “People respect him even if they
Legacy of Brownie Carson  •  Winter 2011  •  Editor: Allison Childs Wells  •  Designer: brightredbicycle design

don't agree with him.”

“He’s passion, dedication, and commitment over the years have been unswerving,” says Sherry Huber, veteran conservationist and executive director of the Maine TREE Foundation. “I certainly respect his abilities and effectiveness.”

The Big A victory was a clear example of how Carson inspires people, including his staff, and brought leadership to the organization. “We’ve always hired the brightest, most entrepreneurial people we could find, and they’ve done fabulous work,” Carson says. The statement shows another aspect of Carson’s personality—he almost always says “we” when other people would say “I.” Carson often deflects praise away from himself and onto the people who work for him, but outside observers uniformly credit him with both leading by example and hiring creative, idealistic people and molding them into one of the most effective environmental organizations in the country. “One of his strengths is his ability to motivate those around him,” observes Kingsbury.

“Everyone on the staff who we’ve encountered has been without exception a fantastic person, and that reflects Brownie’s leadership,” said Garrett Conover, who owns North Woods Ways guiding service with his wife, Alexandra. “He has attracted a group of wonderful folks.”

“There is something about him that brings out the best in people,” says L.L. Bean Chairman Leon Gorman. “He has built a superb staff. He is always courageous if he believes in an issue, and he inspires his staff with that.”

“I’ve learned so much from my colleagues on the board and the staff,” Brownie muses. “They have always influenced my decisions—our decisions. I learned there are two essential qualities of leadership: lead by example, by doing the right thing, and solicit advice and counsel from the people around you who are committed to the same goals.”

Another of Brownie’s strengths has been his ability to persuade other people to support NRCM. “Brownie has been an incredible fundraiser,” adds Townsend. “He doesn’t mind asking people for money because he believes so strongly that he’s asking for a good cause.”

Carson allows that “a lot of people have been enormously generous, although he never found the one benefactor he was always looking for. ‘I’d like to give you a million dollars,’ so that when the chance arrives to do something very special very quickly, we’d be able to jump on it.”

All of those talents serve Carson’s biggest interest—protecting and improving Maine’s environment. The Big A battle was only the first of many for NRCM and Carson. The state’s growth management law, toxic waste reduction, the Sensible Transportation Policy Act, opposing a coal-burning power plant proposed for Bucksport, removing Edwards Dam—the list is literally years long. Anyone who asks him about mercury contamination of Maine’s waters and fish had best be prepared for an in-depth education about airborne pollution spewed by coal-burning Midwest power plants. He is by turns passionate and pragmatic. “He has this unique combination of inspiring the staff with his passion and presenting a calm, positive face when he advocates for a position publicly,” Lund says.

Ask any 12 people to describe Carson, and 11 of them will use the word “passion.” “Actually, what I think is fairly unique about him is his passion,” observes Ruth McLaughlin, owner with her husband, Dan, of the Blair Hill Inn in Greenville. The couple have been active with NRCM in protecting the Moosehead region from the Plum Creek development proposal. “What Brownie brings to the table is clarity of thought, intellect, and passion.”

“I’ve had a chance to work with Brownie Carson for just about 20 years—beginning when I was a newly elected State Senator. Not only have I learned a lot from him but I’ve also been inspired by his commitment to protecting the state that we all love,” says Maine’s congressional representative Chellie Pingree.

“Brownie’s environmental knowledge, experience, and judgment are unequalled, but it’s really his passion, dedication, and deep-rooted connection to the Maine environment that sets him apart. As I work on environmental issues in Congress, I can tell you that we’d be a lot better off if every state had a Brownie Carson.”

Carson returns repeatedly to the removal of the Edwards Dam in Augusta in 1999 as one of the touchstones of his career—as well as a testimony to his patience: the project took 10 years. It was the first operating hydroelectric dam in the nation to be torn down because restoring the river above it was officially deemed more valuable than the power it produced. “It really was a precedent-setting event on a national scale,” he says.

Carson has a long history of leading NRCM on campaigns to protect the state’s waterways. He helped create a new organization, Maine Rivers, to advocate for restoring Maine’s rivers through anti-pollution measures and dam removal. His most recent rivers work has been with the Penobscot River Restoration Project. “The Penobsocrat project is world class, unprecedented,” he continues, referring to the plan to buy and remove two dams on the lower Penobscot River and install state-of-the-art fish passage at a third. “It’s opening up a thousand miles of fish habitat, salmon nursery habitat. We can look forward to seeing the salmon come back and a healthier Gulf of Maine.”

That work will continue under the new executive director, Lisa Pohlmann, who brings 11 years of experience with NRCM to the job, including two years as the organization’s deputy director. She lists staying focused on Maine’s biggest environmental threats as her number one priority. These include defending the state’s existing safeguards for land, air, and water against the rollback threatened by the LePage administration. “Certainly I can say I stand on the shoulder of a giant,” says Gorman. “I’ve seen Brownie in action for years. He’s focused, dedicated, passionate, and I plan to pick up where he left off.” She also hastens to point out that Carson will still be in the neighborhood. “I’m planning to drink lots of coffee with Brownie,” she says.

Looking back, Carson admits he never expected to stay almost 27 years. “Not on your life,” he laughs when asked if that was the plan. “I had no master plan.”

But sure he never occurred to anyone that he would stay so long,” allows Jon Lund. “Without him, though, we wouldn’t be nearly as far down the road as we are today.”

He has been the conscience of the Maine environmental movement for decades, declares Horace “Hoddy” Hildreth, owner of Diversified Communications and a longtime NRCM supporter. “A lot of the best parts of Maine have been preserved and protected through the efforts of Brownie.”

“He has been the single most influential person on environmental issues in Maine,” says Leon Gorman. “It’s the passion he brings. Whether he’s talking about pesticides or the Big A or the Penobsocrat project, he is just so engaged with the issue. Beyond the facts and the logic, it’s the values he articulates that make him such an asset to Maine.”

“He’s one of the great ones,” adds Marion Fuller Brown, an NRCM supporter and sponsor of Maine’s anti-billboard law.

Carson credits several people with inspiring him, among them George Mitchell and the “other Carson,” Rachel, as well as his father and his two brothers. “My mother was an artist, and her work capturing the scenery of the Shenandoah Valley certainly had an influence,” he muses. “Jack London—his books always encouraged me to seek out adventure every now and again.”

He singles out his wife, Dana Porter, for particular attention. “It has certainly been tough for her at times,” he says. “This is not a 9 to 5 job. At times it required a lot from me, emotionally and physically, and she has always understood that, I couldn’t have done all this without her being there.”

As for the future, Carson remains deliberately vague. He is looking forward to exploring the Narraguagus and Machias rivers, and there are mountains and backcountry vistas on his to-do list. He plans a major adventure with his brothers. He has also said that leaving his formal leadership position with NRCM will allow him to take an even stronger advocacy role than he has in the past, if that’s possible.

Although Brownie is now stepping down from his role, she has always understood that she will still be a significant presence in Maine,” says Representative Pingree. “That’s good, because now more than ever, we need people like Brownie engaged in the public debate of our environmental future.”

As Gorman observes, “Given the commitment he has shown, it’s hard to believe we won’t hear more about him in the future.” Sounds like a good bet.

Maine native Jeff Clark has been a writer and editor for Maine Times, Down East, and other publications for almost 40 years. He remembers the bad old days of pollution in Maine and hopes happier days are ahead.
INDELIBLE IMPRESSIONS: Twenty-seven Years at NRCM

My first experiences in Maine were canoe trips in the early 1960s, nearly 50 years ago. With friends and family, I paddled the Rangeley Lakes, explored the Sacaggay, Junior, Big and West Grand Lake region, and then fell in love with the West Branch of the Penobscot River, and with Moosehead, and Chesuncook lakes. There is a quality about Maine's backcountry waterways and landscape that leaves an indelible impression, and bonds can form that last a lifetime.

For many of us who are involved in NRCM, as staff, board, members, and activists, the seed that grew into our relationship with this organization was an outing or a connection to a place in this state—a hike in the western mountains, a canoe trip down the Allagash, fishing for native brook trout, visiting a cottage on the coast. For others, it may have been reading stories from or about Maine, whether Kenneth Roberts or E.B. White, and feeling a kinship to the land and its people. There is a special quality to this place, and we feel a sense of responsibility to take care of it.

My first campaign at NRCM, to protect the West Branch of the Penobscot from the proposed Big A dam, lasted for four years. Great Northern Paper Co., which owned 2.1 million acres of forest land (about 10 percent of the entire state) and ran large mills in Millinocket and East Millinocket, was determined to build its twentieth dam on the Penobscot. Working in coalition with other conservation organizations and a group of outdoor adventure businesses, we were equally determined to save Ripogenus Gorge and a stretch of river that conservation ethic that has long been an integral part of our Maine heritage.

During Mike Leavitt's visit to Maine in 2005, Brownie convinced the then-EPA Administrator to meet with him. Brownie pushed for the need to curb mercury pollution from power plants.

Passions ran high on both sides. Newspapers across the state gave extensive coverage and wrote frequent editorials about the issue. The hearings before the Land Use Regulation Committee (LURC) lasted for six weeks, and hundreds of people from across the state spoke out. LURC granted a conditional permit, then the Board of Environmental Protection denied an essential Clean Water Act license. The Legislature tried, but failed, to overturn the BOP order. An expert witness in the case testified that energy conservation in the two GNP mills could produce more electricity at lower cost than Big A would generate. The dam was never built, and that stretch of river flows freely today.

In the years since, I should have instinctively understood that I would be here for the long term when the first campaign was about the fate of a river to which I felt such strong attachment. Many other people, from Maine and across the country, felt that attachment, too, and joined NRCM. Our members knew that we had made a difference in a very important case, and they called upon us to take on more tough issues. As I met and talked with them, they confirmed that they would be with us for the long haul, too. Their loyalty—your loyalty—has always inspired me.

As that first campaign ended, Maine was being enveloped by a real estate boom. Speculators, most notably the Patton Corporation, were buying, subdividing, and selling land much faster than towns could plan. A new sewage treatment plant in one small coastal community would have been overwhelmed by a speculative condominium project. River and lake front land was being carved into “spaghetti strips” 100 feet wide and sold at huge profit. Many towns were worried about infrastructure and service expenses; 35 enacted subdivision moratoria to gain time to do comprehensive planning.

National Forest; reducing air pollution from the Wyman Power Plant on the Androscoggin; creating the Caribou-Speckled Wilderness Area of the White Mountain National Forest; reducing air pollution from the Wyman Power Plant on Cousins Island in Casco Bay; removing Edwards Dam from the Kennebec and Fort Halifax Dam from the Sebasticook to restore a bountiful sea run fishery. In each of these campaigns, people with a special connection to the place labored alongside dedicated staff to prevail, and the power of citizen engagement has made a world of difference.

We aren’t as successful in every instance, of course, as we have learned from efforts to curb paper mill pollution that flows into the Androscoggin River and defend Moosehead Lake from Plum Creek’s massive development proposal. But the voices of concerned citizens have helped us make headway, and these difficult projects are both still “works in progress.” We are determined to help "Ed Muskie’s river" meet Clean Water Act standards, and we remain committed to protecting Moosehead, one of Maine’s finest gems, from destructive development.

Now, in the first weeks of the administration of Governor Paul LePage, we face a new challenge, one that will require an even greater and more focused level of citizen engagement to protect Maine’s environment. The new governor has just released a stunning set of proposals that would, if enacted, endanger the health of our children and shred the fabric of environmental laws and programs that have safeguarded our clean air, clean water, and treasured landscape for decades. They must be stopped.

The proposed rollbacks would gut laws that restrict the use of toxic chemicals like mercury, lead, and arsenic; reduce air pollution standards that protect public health; eliminate “product stewardship” programs like Maine’s e-waste recycling law; weaken strong reliance on science for environmental permitting; and, abolish the Board of Environmental Protection. Unfortunately, there are more—too many to list here. These would run a red light over the conservation ethic that has long been an integral part of our Maine heritage.

We, the NRCM family and the people of Maine, have not come this far only to change course now. We will not put our families and our future at risk. We have not voted for the Land for Maine’s Future Program at every opportunity, only to watch sprawling big box development approved with little or no assessment of the impacts on the land and water. We have not defended stronger, health-based air and water quality standards for a generation so that the current Legislature can now roll them back to the federal minimums. We will not stand by while innovative and cost-effective river restoration, recycling, product stewardship, and energy efficiency programs are reduced to rubble. Maine is a national leader in conservation and environmental protection for a very good reason. There is a special quality to this place. It is the foundation of our lives, our communities, and our economy.

Having stepped away from the helm at NRCM, I plan to keep watch and stay involved from Harpswell. The exceptional people here and this important work have given me a chance to help shape our state’s future, and I will always be grateful for that opportunity. My thanks to the spirited cast of characters who have helped in so many ways along the journey during the past 27 years. Lisa Pohlmann and the talented staff will keep the organization strong and focused. The dedicated men and women on our board are forward-looking and pragmatic and bring a breadth of perspectives to both the task at hand and the longer term future. And you, our members and activists, are the most loyal and generous constituents any organization could ever hope to have. Together, we will continue our commitment to taking care of our beloved State of Maine.
We also wish to thank the many generous donors who made gifts to the annual fund in honor of Brownie Carson.

Brownie Carson Citizen Engagement Fund

( Gifts Through January 31, 2011 )

Anonymous (6)
Hugh and Ann Aaron
Charles P. Ade
William C. and Barbara B. Allison
Stephen and Janet Andersen
Eric R. Aronson
Barbara G. Arnow
Dr. and Mrs. William Atlee
Warren Balgoyen
Brian B. and Marie Barlow
Stella F. Barnette
Siri Beckman
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Bent
Peter C. and Helena B. Benton
John J. Bentz
Allison Bixler
Dr. Harris Bixler
James G. Blaine
Sara Blair Wilson
Peter and Sofia Blanchard
Sidney and Martha Bloomfield
Constance G. Bloomfield and
William R. McFarlane
E. U. Curtis Bohlen
Robert and Bundy Bolt
Elsa Boer-Cook
Carol Boyd
Susan E. Bradbury
Dr. Patricia Bredenberg
Sally Brooks and Walter M. Johnson
Barbara W. Brown
Richard Bullock
Whitney H. and Leslie M. Burr
Brian D. Campbell
Anthony A. Caraco
James F. Carpenter and Yoshiko Mori
Richard and Clare Carson
Julie B. and Robert D. Carter
Roland G. Chase
Elizabeth B. Childs
F. G. Coleman
Richard L. and Shelby Collins
Leonard W. and Anna C. Cotton
Monique Y. Crochet
Christopher and Tina Cummings
Sarah Cushman and Robert H. Levin
Fanny W. Dale
Jonathan T. Davis
Rick J. and Cortes Davis
John O. Davis
Shelby and Gale Davis
Victoria M. Dexin and
Stuart E. Jones
Thomas E. Dewson
Judith A. Dimmore
Ronald J. Doba
Charles and Marylee Dodge
VADM Joseph S. Donnell
Dennis and Francine Donnelly
Jeremiah J. Donovan
Ada L. Duncan
Jim and Cindy Dunham
Richard Dykstra and Kathie Jacob
George H. Elliott and Gail Downs
Christopher B. Ellis
Reginald Ewell
Frederick C. Emery
John D. Engel and Deborah L. Jones
Dr. Richard Evans
Leo and Anne Famolare
Josephine A. and Caroline W. Feely
Des Fitzgerald and Lucinda Zeising
Fleets Matching Gifts Program
George and Nancy Forgette
Walter J. and Nancy C. Fowski
Susanne B. Fisch
Harold R. and Michele I. Gary
Robert S. and Alene H. Gelbard
Dino and Barbara Gianatti
Charles Gibson
David J. Glattman
Robert and Maryl Goldstein
Roger B. and Nancy Gorham
Kenneth R. and Pamsa R. Greene
Dr. and Mrs. Paul S. Greenfield
Jackson Gregory
Mr. and Mrs. Leland S. Hager
Elizabeth Harmon
Karen H. Harrell
Penelope P. Harris
Catherine J. and Janet C. Hartman
Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Hastings
Lounge Henderson
Elizabeth L. Henry
Karen Herold and Mark Isaacson
Henry R. and Alicia P. Heyburn
J. Thomas R. Higgins
David M. Hiltreth
Patty A. Hnatuk
Mr. and Mrs. Melville Hollard
Donald Holmes
Harriett L. Holt
Betsie Holzmann
Claudia Hopf
Andrew H. Horak
Robert Horne
Dr. and Mrs. Bill Horner
Lawrence Honetz and Karen Rowntree
William M. and Kathleen Houston
Susan Howes
Marcia L. Howell
Christine H. Howell
Janice M. Hubbard
Leslie Hudson and John Halloran
Cynthia D. Hyde and
James J. Kinnealey
IBM International Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Orton P. Jackson Jr.
Laura Jackson
Carl and Toni Jaffe
Hilary Jones-Chung
Jehovah Foundation
Theodore D. and Shirley A. Jennings
Consuelo Joerns
Mrs. Edward C. Johnson III
Mary Kaldenbaugh
John D. Kaplan
Fred Kaplan
Frances S. Keene
Dennis P. and Sandra E. King
Brigitts and Hal Kingsbury
Ronald Latriss
Norton L. Lamb Jr.
Lois S. Lamdin
Priscilla Lane
William T. and Julianne Lawlor
Lee Auto Mallis
George Lewis
Lynne T. Lewis
Daniel E. and Lessley M. Libby
Jeff M. and Cindy E. Lovitz
Mary E. Mahoney
Through Maine Community Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander K. Buck, Jr.
Ocean Lages Fund
Kenneth Slyper and Jon Leitzer
WOF Fund
David M. and Margarette Cutroni
Charles and Meredith Manning
Catherine M. Marden
Cora Martin
Arthur C. and Charlotte Mary
Mrs. Barbara Panen Mason
Suzanne and Neil McGinn
Stephen A. McKenna
David B. and Sharon M. Measer
Susanne K. Meisel and
Philip O. Yund
John K. and Sarah M. Holt
Helmut and Donna Meyerbach
Norma T. Michelac
Margery W. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Milliken
Frances R. Mitchell
Margaret Mullenkopf
William T. Moran
Wayne and Caroline Morong
Arlene Morris and Steven H. Stern
Lloyd Morton
Margaret S. Mosher
Roger W. Moss
Elizabeth P. Munson
James E. Murphy
Raymond E. Nadeau
Gene Nelson and Sallie Findlay
Rondi Nelson
Charles C. Nielsen and
Lee C. Graham
Alfred M. and Bronda M. Niese
Carl E. and Carol A. Nordquist
Mary M. Oakey
Kim Ocken and Andrew M. Milsten
John Offia
W. Kent Olson
Cris Oppenheimer and Rithal
Betty Lou Osborne
Toni and Bath Owens
Georgia Paine
Deborah S. Palman
Mary A. Perkins
James Perin
Ralph T. Perry and
Mary Louise Seldenfleur
Julian W. Prilbruck
Carlton Plummer
Linda E. Polkoff
Lisa M. Polhmann
Stephen Porter
Jon L. and Winifred L. Prime
John C. and Betty Raby
Joan N. Racher
The Rau Foundation, Inc.
David C. Reece
Robert Raect
Dr. Paul R. Reinstein and
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Apolton
Fred and Edward Richardson
Helen K. Richardson
Katherine Richman
Garry and Darlene Riel
Diana I. Rigg
Nancy Roberts
Natalie J. Roman-Nelson
Kristen Roderick and John Foste
Roger and Patricia Samuel
Patricia F. Sanbom
Robert Sandine
Sand Dollar Foundation
Mary Sanger
Carole Sargent
John E. and Eleanor M. Schmidt
Christa Schmowor
Norman P. and Mary R. Seagar
Dr. Robert A. Seidel
Robert G. Shafo
Barbara Sheble
Samuel G. and Diana J. Shepherd
Donna Simms
Paul R. Smith and
Elizabeth G. Griffith-Smith
M. Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Barry H. Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Alan Solander
Tim Scey and Maria Gallace
E. Paul and Joann Sorensen
L. P. Sperry
Michelle Stangel
Mrs. Leslie M. Stephan
Richard D. and Ann Stephenson
Ronald Stern and Ellisse Walter
Howard and Christiane Stewart
David C. Taft
Ben and Wendy Tanner
Catherine M. Telemann
Christopher M. Thomas
Thomas and Gretchen Tetlenberg
Sharon and Paul Tyler
Camilla L. Tcomb
Jof F. Tompkins
Grainville Toogood
Corning and Tisa Townsend
Susan Upham
Marilyn Van Saun
Hendrik Van Voorhulzen
Col. and Mrs. E. J. Vaughn
Dena and Chuck Vertil
Ann S. Waldron
Dr. and Mrs. Chris E. Walker
James Waples
Gretta J. Ward
Kathy Weatherby
Albert K. Webster
Nancy Wenskaper and Timothy Smith
John R. and Mark G. Weiss
Edward B. Weinstein
Paul Weisman
Allison and Jeff Wells
Eula K. Wheeler
Michael P. White
Jean D. Whiting
Russell A. Whitman and
Marzia A. Smith
Phyllis G. Whitman
Deborah Wippig and Philip H. Norris
Jeremy Wintersteen
Diana and Billy Wister
David Wood
Paul S. Woodring
Lindwood Workman
Dr. and Mrs. Mark H. Worthing
Janet A. Wright
Mr. E. S. Wright

Mail it to NRCM, c/o Brownie Carson Citizen Engagement Fund, 3 Wade Street, Augusta, ME 04330. For more information, contact Gretta J. Wark, Senior Development Director, at (207) 430-0108 or gwark@nrcm.org.
Meet Tony Nazar, Photographer and Partner in Maine’s Future Member

Visitors to NRCM’s website have been enjoying the photos of Tony Nazar for four years, since we launched our "My Maine This Week" feature as part of our new website. To display his many exquisite photos, we created a slide show just for Tony, as part of our My Maine pages. But Tony is more than a photographer who enjoys Maine’s stunning landscapes and wildlife. He’s also a member who supports NRCM through our Partners in Maine’s Future program. Beth Dimond recently invited Tony to share with us his about his photography and why he supports NRCM’s work.

Beth Dimond: Tony, what got you interested in nature photography?

Tony: The beauty of the resulting images. That, and sometimes I like four-legged creatures better than two-legged ones. I enjoy doing landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, and photos of all sorts of critters that share our earth.

Beth: Do you remember your first camera?

Tony: My first camera was a Kodak Brownie, what else? My first photos were probably of my cat, Buck. I still have a few prints of those.

Beth: How do you capture such beautiful wildlife shots? Any secrets you want to share with those of us who strive to take those kinds of photos?

Tony: Patience, knowledge, and patience. Most animals will only pose for a second or two, if that long. If they aren’t spooked by the photographer, they are more interested in food or cover or another creature. That’s where knowledge of animal behavior comes in. Birds use trees and shrubs as staging areas for feeding. There’s a big old rose bush in my yard. I put a pole feeder near it and the chickadees, goldfinches, and redpolls sit in the tangle of rose bush branches while they eat or waiting to go to the feeder. Only occasionally will a bird linger on an outside branch. That is where more patience comes in again. I’ve missed more good photos than I’ve taken, but there’s always another coming and I try to be ready for it.

Beth: Apparently, you catch squirrels in action at the feeder, too! What are some of your favorite Maine locations to photograph?

Tony: Other than the unnamed beaver pond in Wilton behind the Public Safety Building, Wilson Lake, and my own yard, I guess my favorite places have to include Smalls Falls, Coos Canyon, Grafton Notch, and any coastal location from Casco Bay to Bar Harbor.

Beth: All beautiful places. Is there somewhere in Maine that you haven’t visited but have always wanted to photograph?

Tony: Gulf Hagas. I will probably never get to do that location because I recognize my physical limitations. More realistically, someday I will photograph the coast east of Bar Harbor.

Beth: You support NRCM’s work as a member of NRCM’s Partners in Maine’s Future program. What made you decide to make that kind of commitment to our work?

Tony: I grew up a few miles from Route 128 in Greater Boston. When I was younger, my hometown, Wellesley Hills, had woods and ponds and all sorts of wildlife. Today, they’re gone, replaced by malls, McMansions, and other human amenities. NRCM is committed to preserving Maine while allowing reasonable development. I believe that man and his environment can coexist.

Beth: Are there specific areas of NRCM’s work with which you feel most closely connected?

Tony: Right now, it is most important to stand up and say “no” to Governor LePage’s attempts to hand the state over to developers. I think NRCM does that better than national groups.

Beth: What do you feel are some of the most important issues of concern related to Maine’s environment today?

Tony: Preserving and protecting the way Maine should be. There is a push to exploit the Maine environment coming from people who seek short term financial gain at the expense of the balance that makes life possible. I hope some of my photographs will help people see what it is that needs to be preserved.

Beth: I’m sure they will, Tony. Thank you!

You can read Beth’s full interview with Tony and view his slideshow at our website at www.nrcm.org/Tony_Nazar.asp

SURVEY SAYS:

Land Conservation Most Pressing Issue

Thanks to all of you who responded to NRCM’s Member Survey. We’ve compiled your comments and tallied results. Among the highlights, 53 percent of you identified land conservation as the most pressing issue facing Maine’s environment. You described too much development of forests and open space as the biggest threats to conservation (50 percent), followed by North Woods pressures (31 percent), urban sprawl (11 percent), and habitat destruction (four percent). Energy issues ranked second (25 percent of respondents) as an area of concern, with the highest percent of you identifying climate change (41 percent) as the most pressing energy concern, followed by the need for clean energy sources (19 percent). Watershed-scale concerns were especially high in the issue category of clean water (62 percent), and fisheries issues also were noted. Fifty-four percent of you who listed toxic chemicals to be of highest concern cited as the biggest threat the impact these poisons could have on our overall environment. We especially appreciate those of you who took the time to provide specific comments. We will take them to heart in evaluating our efforts moving forward in our work protecting Maine’s environment. For more results, visit our blog at http://blog.nrcm.org.

Protect Your Nest Egg While Protecting Theirs

Your support of the Natural Resources Council of Maine helps protect Maine’s wild creatures from pollution and loss of habitat. Through a Charitable Gift Annuity, you can make a gift that provides income for your retirement, and at the same time supports our mission to protect Maine’s environment.

A Charitable Gift Annuity allows you to make a significant gift of cash or securities to NRCM. In return, you or your spouse receive fixed payments for life.

Tax savings on a Charitable Gift Annuity can be significant. Part of the asset you donate is tax deductible in the year you make the gift. Funding an annuity with securities can lower your capital gains taxes. And a portion of the payments you receive will be tax-free or taxed at a lower rate for a number of years.

A Charitable Gift Annuity will also give you the satisfaction of knowing that you have played a critical part in protecting the wild places and creatures that make Maine special.

And it’s easy to do! To find out more about setting up a Charitable Gift Annuity and to receive a personalized illustration of how an annuity can fit your needs, please contact:

Gretta Wark, Director of Development
(207) 430-0108 or (800) 287-2345 ext. 208 • gwark@nrcm.org

Sample rates for single life Charitable Gift Annuities through the Natural Resources Council of Maine:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(800) 287-2345 • www.nrcm.org • Protecting the Nature of Maine
Maine Board of Protection Names BPA as Priority Chemical of Concern

Maine’s Board of Environmental Protection recently voted unanimously to designate bisphenol-A, or BPA, as a priority chemical under the state’s Kid-Safe Products Law, which identifies for phase out the worst of the chemicals in consumer products. BPA is found in some baby bottles, water bottles, and a range of other products. The chemical has been linked to endocrine disruption and can reduce immunity, impair brain development, and may contribute to obesity, learning disabilities, and certain cancers later in life. Young children may be exposed when they eat or drink from polycarbonate food and beverage containers, eat food from cans lined with epoxy resin, or chew on or handle objects containing BPA, which can be absorbed through the skin. If the Legislature approves BEP’s ruling, manufacturers will be required to disclose when the chemical is contained in the products they make and look for safer alternatives to BPA, putting Maine on par with nine other states plus the entire European Union and Canada. “It should be a no-brainer,” says NRCM’s legislative coordinator, Matt Prindiville. “Yet the LePage Administration has included the BPA ruling on its long list of safeguards for the chopping block. Maine people need to continue making their voices heard over the roar of lobbyists for the chemical industry to make sure the Legislature does the right thing.”

On December 31, 2010, 43 NRCM supporters and staff plunged into the frigid waters of Casco Bay at East End Beach in Portland for this year’s Bold in the Cold polar plunge. The event raised awareness about the threat of climate change to Maine’s vital coastline and brought in more than $9,000 for NRCM’s work to curb climate change. Thanks to all who joined us—it was great fun, for a great cause! Watch our short video of the event at the NRCM Insider at http://www.nrcm.typepad.com/nrcmin-sider/. Our special thanks to these local businesses for their sponsorship of this year’s polar plunge:

- Aqua Diving Academy
- Back Country Excursions
- Coffee by Design
- Havana South
- Horizon Residential Energy Services

Now showing at the NRCM Insider

Check out these recent YouTube videos, produced by our staff exclusively for the NRCM Insider:

- Maine People and the Environment Listen as Maine businesses and others shared their testimonies with the Governor about how crucial the environment is to their business and way of life, taken at NRCM’s January 20th round table event.

- 2010 NRCM Polar Plunge: the Movie Catch the action before and after this year’s plunge. Includes exclusive “Plunge Cam” footage taken by Beth Dimond during the plunge!

- Kennebec River: the December Flood Watch dramatic footage of one of Maine’s great rivers as it flooded parts of Gardiner, Hallowell, and Augusta in December.

Thanks for Plunging with Us!

Honoraria
Belfast Garden Club in honor of Judy Berk
Hallowell and Augusta in December. Pittsfield Community Garden Club in honor of Judy Berk
Leland Alper in honor of Mr. Francis Madeira
Margaret Bruno in honor of Steve and Tina
Tina C. Flagg in honor of her mother, Pat Flagg
Christine M. Gerli in honor of Mrs. Margot Stiassni-Sieracki
Sarah Griffiths in honor of Sarah Connor
Elizabeth W. Hague in honor of Bart Hague
William and Marilyn Hartman in honor of Karen and Larry Turner
Christine H. James in honor of Susie and Bruce Stedman
Robert S. and Lisa Pfaffmann in honor of Sarah Connor
Jennifer M. Shotwell in honor of Brownie Carson
Edward C. Wolf in honor of Pat Diddiehalm

Memorial Gifts
Thomas and Martha Bellemann in memory of Eleanor Sandlands
Daniel and Joyce Cooper in memory of Eleanor Sandlands
James and Joanna DiNovi in memory of Eleanor Sandlands
Fried and Mary Ann Drew in memory of Eleanor Sandlands
Shawn and Irene Fisher in memory of Eleanor Sandlands
Steven J. and Laurie Forster in memory of Eleanor Sandlands
Edward and Kathy Hoey in memory of Eleanor Sandlands
Joiiful Putkinnen in memory of Patti Garaway
Howard and Joan Anne Rosenbaum in memory of Eleanor Sandlands
Laura S. Schnell in memory of Eleanor Sandlands
Mildred J. Smith in memory of Eleanor Sandlands
John and Juliane Tanaced in memory of Eleanor Sandlands

Gift Memberships
Christine Bastian and Family from Eric F. and Barbara L. Welner
Richard Bouvier from Jean M. Crawsky
Bob Farris from Mollie Farris
Amy Faunce from Jeanette Faunce and Jamie Oates
Roy, Susie, and Aria Finch from Greg Burrows
Doug Hayward from Jeanette Faunce and Jamie Oates
Jeff Shainman, Jake, and Riley Heacock from Barbara Loescher
David LaFreniere from Jeanette Faunce and Jamie Oates
Mr. and Mrs. Miguel Martin from Louis S. Hoffman
Erie McLaughlin from Mikel C. Crawford and John L. Lowe
Missy Parkerton from Terry and Forrest Sprague
Phil Perkins from Virginia Heustis
Julie, Nick, Austin, Tyler, and Parker Snell from Barbara Loescher
Herbert J. Thomson from Steven A. Thomson

New members of PARTNERS IN MAINE’S FUTURE Program, our monthly giving club. Members’ automatic donations help save on administrative costs, including paper. Special thanks to these members!

- John C. and Mary Takki
- Jeff Erickson and Susan Murphy
- Roberta Zuer

Additional Membership Donations
Benjamin Axelman
Daniel H. Baker
Ben Bernard
David Cumminskev and Sarah Conly
William H. and Carol B. Freeman
Mark Galup

Tip of the Day
Load up: Run the washing machine and dishwasher only for full loads, to save money and energy. For A Tip of the Day every day, visit our website at www.nrcm.org. Have our tips sent directly to your home page through our RSS Feed!

Follow us on Twitter! Search for NRCMenvironment.

Like us on Facebook