



Plum Creek Plan: Better But Still Flawed

Over the past four years, Plum Creek has doggedly pursued a massive development around Moosehead Lake. In late September, Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) cast a preliminary vote in support of a revised plan, and Plum Creek has accepted the proposed changes. Although a final decision isn't expected for several months, the general outcome of this process seems to be that LURC will approve a plan that is considerably better than Plum Creek's initial proposal, but one that remains seriously flawed.

"We are considering a variety of future actions that we might take following a final LURC decision," says NRCM North Woods Project Director and Senior Staff Attorney Cathy Johnson. "We also will continue to evaluate our important accomplishments resulting from this process."

Better, But Not Good

Since 2005, NRCM staff, our members and supporters, other

organizations, and people from across Maine and the nation have worked incredibly hard for changes in Plum Creek's plan. Although Plum Creek fought these changes every step of the way, we secured significant improvements.

"At every opportunity, people who cherish the



NRCM helped protect special places like Prong Pond but the plan for Moosehead is still seriously flawed.

"At every opportunity, people who cherish the Moosehead Lake region demanded changes, with an eloquence and determination, that forced Plum Creek back to the drawing board three times."

—Brownie Carson, NRCM Executive Director

Moosehead Lake region demanded changes, with an eloquence and determination, that forced Plum Creek back to the drawing board three times," says NRCM Executive Director Brownie Carson. "This is a remarkable achievement, since Plum Creek is accustomed in other states of getting its way without this scale of major revisions."

Because people spoke out, the number of shorefront lots was cut in half; development on remote ponds and some high priority wildlife areas was dropped; special places like Prong Pond, the western shore of Brassua Lake, and the northwest

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Governor joins NRCM team for Keep ME Warm See page 5

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Battling the Cold

In preparation for another long, cold winter, Bill Acheson got a home energy audit for his family's home in Gardiner. Acheson received a list of problem areas and energy-saving suggestions. He also received a comparison of annual savings for each dollar spent on improvements.

Like many homeowners, Acheson's greatest concern was home heat loss. "I started working backwards, doing the least expensive stuff first," Acheson says. "For example, I put in wall



To help curb his family's energy costs, Gardiner resident Bill Acheson had an energy audit and has already implemented some of the recommendations. He also put in a solar water heater.

socket plugs. They cost 69 cents. They're there forever, and they keep things warm." Acheson also invested in a more expensive solution, insulation, because it will

have the fastest payback.

To help families like Bill's ease the pain of high energy bills and cut down on global warming pollution, NRCM supports energy efficiency as the most effective, quickest,

and environmentally friendly energy solution.

Maine has a greater dependency on oil for heating than any other state in the nation. With more than 80 percent of households using oil-based heating systems, Maine consumes an average of 500 million gallons of heating fuels each year, which is one reason why Maine was the highest residential producer of global warming pollution per capita in the nation last year. Burning all that oil also means Maine homeowners send billions of hard-earned money out of state each year to pay for that dependency.

To help Maine transition to a more energy-

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NEW STAFF



Emmie Therberge

Meet Emmie Therberge, NRCM's New Clean Energy and Global Warming Outreach Coordinator

In early November, Emmie joined NRCM's energy team. A native of Orr's Island, Emmie graduated from Colby College where she studied Environmental Policy and Government. She has interned at the Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security as well as in Melbourne, Australia, for the Department of Sustainability and Environment. Emmie has traveled to and studied in diverse ecosystems across the planet, from the forests of Tasmania and the Andes to the deserts and Himalayan Mountains of India, from the jungles of the Amazon to the unique biodiversity of the Galápagos Islands. She has also experienced the natural wonders of the U.S. and Canada through her visits to many of the National Parks. She enjoys hiking, fly and ice fishing, canoeing, and wildlife photography. "I am excited to be working on environmental policy issues in Maine. I have long admired the work NRCM has done to protect Maine's environment and am looking forward to being a part of the team!"

Emmie replaces Sara Lovitz, who could not refuse an opportunity to explore New Zealand. Sara spent two years giving presentations around the state, mobilizing NRCM supporters to take action on energy issues, and working closely with other organizations and Maine businesses that share our commitment to finding and implementing energy solutions. "It has been incredible to be a part of such a great organization," says Sara. "I will be watching from the southern hemisphere as the legislative session begins!" Best of luck to you, Sara!

WASHINGTON WATCH

Climate Change Legislation Could Launch a "Green Recovery"

There is a way to produce more jobs and energy in Maine and the nation, while protecting our environment.

All eyes are on Washington now as policymakers grapple with a financial crisis, the highest unemployment rate in 14 years and months of high oil prices that have crippled businesses and left states scrambling to ensure that their residents will be warm this coming winter.

Calls for "energy independence" have permeated the fall election campaigns, with much fanfare around allowing more oil drilling.

But it is clear to us at the Natural Resources Council of Maine that drilling for more U.S. oil – with associated costs, pollution and results that will not be seen for many years – is not the best road to energy independence.

In addition, as a nation that holds only 3 percent of the world's oil, but uses more than one-fourth of the world's oil on an annual basis, our future is not in fossil fuels.

WHAT'S BEST FOR MAINE

The best deal for Maine and the nation will come from investments in energy efficiency and clean renewable sources like wind and solar, which will create jobs and reduce the demand for and cost of energy.

So, NRCM is calling on Maine's congressional delegation to lead the campaign for new investments in clean energy and efficiency, which will create jobs, jump-start our economy and protect our environment.

In September, NRCM, along with Maine business and labor representatives, helped release a report titled "Green Recovery – A Program to Create Good Jobs and Start Building a Low-Carbon Economy."

The report was prepared by the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and was commissioned by the Center for American Progress.

This green economic recovery program addresses the immediate need to boost our struggling economy and to accelerate a comprehensive clean-energy agenda through a \$100 billion combination of tax credits and loan guarantees for private businesses, and direct public investment.

Such an investment is expected to create more jobs than sending out another round of stimulus checks like the ones we received last spring, which provided only a brief economic boost through consumption.

This green economic recovery investment would create 9,000 jobs in



A green economy could provide many high-paying jobs for Maine. The Stetson wind project in Washington County pumped more than \$50 million into the local economy.

Maine and 2 million jobs nationwide over two years by increasing private and public investment in several core strategies: retrofitting buildings to improve energy efficiency, creating a more efficient electrical energy distribution system and expanding mass transit, freight rail and clean renewable energy supplies like wind, solar and next-generation biofuels.

The vast majority of these new green jobs would be in areas of employment that people already work in today. Constructing wind farms creates jobs for sheet metal workers, machinists and truck drivers, for example.

Increasing the energy efficiency of buildings through retrofitting requires insulators, contractors, electricians and building inspectors. Expanding mass transit systems employs civil engineers, electricians and dispatchers.

In the past, federal spending on coal, oil, gas and nuclear energy has been generous, while our most cost-effective, least polluting, highest-employment generating and fastest-contributing energy resources have received little or no public investment. It is well past time to reverse this playing field.

Funding for the green economic recovery could come from a national program to reduce global warming pollution, similar to the Northeast's first-in-the-nation Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative that NRCM helped to enact in Maine.

RGGI – "Reggie" – is on track to generate about \$15 million to support the state's energy efficiency investments. Such a national program was brought to the U.S. Senate last spring without success, although Maine's Sens. Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins both voted to have the bill debated.

NO NEED TO WAIT

Meanwhile, Maine state officials don't need to sit idly by, waiting for the federal government to act.

Policy leaders in Augusta also have an opportunity in the coming session to tackle both economic stimulus and energy cost reduction for Maine people through energy efficiency policies and investments. Mainers also await national leadership on transforming our use and sources of energy.

Investments in clean, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency can be our first line of defense against rising unemployment, out-of-control fuel prices and the threat of global warming to our economy, environment and families.

—Lisa Pohlmann, NRCM Deputy Director

Maine Environment

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Maine Environment is provided four times a year to more than 12,000 members and supporters of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. NRCM is a Maine-based nonprofit membership organization working to protect, conserve, and restore our land, air, wildlife, and water, now and for future generations. Membership starts at \$28/year. Join online at www.nrcm.org.

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New Directions, New Opportunities

The past few months have been historic in many ways. Not simply because of the election of the nation's first black President, but also because of the meteoric rise, then fall, in energy prices; the tumultuous condition of the global economy, and – closer to home – the unsettling culmination of Plum Creek's rezoning application for development around Moosehead Lake. Each of these developments reminds us that we live in a changing world – a world with new challenges and new opportunities continually playing out before us.



Only a few weeks have passed since the elections, and NRCM staff is still adjusting to the prospects of an entirely new political context. Here in Maine, we will have 50 new lawmakers in the State Legislature, including six new representatives less than 30 years of age. Having run for Congress at age 24, as a Bowdoin senior, I welcome the energy and commitment to service demonstrated by these newly elected alumni from Colby, Bowdoin, the University of Maine, and College of the Atlantic. This is change that I am prepared to believe in.

We also are excited about the possibilities for a change in direction at the national level. After eight years of inaction on the issue of climate change, we are ready for U.S. leadership. We are very encouraged by President-elect Obama's emphasis on investing in renewable energy to help reduce our addiction to fossil fuels. Maine's Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins should continue to bring bipartisan leadership to this important initiative.

The rise in energy prices last summer sent a shock wave through our system, and demonstrated the costs of our dependence on oil. Although energy prices have fallen due to the economic recession and widespread actions to conserve energy, we know that these lower energy prices will not hold. That is why it will be crucial to keep investing in energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy during the months and years ahead, to enhance our environmental and economic security.

According to a new report, an ambitious clean energy initiative could create two million new U.S. jobs, including more than 9,000 here in Maine (see www.nrcm.org/green_jobs.asp). That's what we need now, as traditional manufacturing jobs decline and we come to grips with the imperative of shifting to clean, renewable energy and energy-efficient homes and businesses.

Maine also needs to come to grips with changes in our North Woods. Our forests no longer are owned by timber companies. Instead, they are owned primarily by investment and real estate firms such as Plum Creek. Intent on maximizing profits, Plum Creek muscled its way to securing preliminary approval of a Moosehead Lake development plan that remains too large, with too much development in the wrong places. Over the past three years, Maine people spoke up in record numbers against Plum Creek's plan, and achieved very significant improvements. But Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission faltered during its September deliberations, and now appears headed toward approval of a flawed plan – particularly in terms of allowing a resort development at Lily Bay.

Winston Churchill once said, "There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction." As we come to the end of 2008, we are both excited by and a bit anxious about the changes underway in our political system, economy, energy sector, and forests. But we also are as determined as ever to ensure that change takes Maine, and our country, in the right direction. With your continued active involvement and generous, support, we will move forward in 2009.

—Brownie Carson, Executive Director

Comments? Suggestions?

Do you have comments or suggestions for our newsletter? We want to know what you think. Send your comments to Editor, Maine Environment, Natural Resources Council of Maine, 3 Wade Street, Augusta, ME 04330 or email them to awells@nrcm.org.

NRCM Helps Make History With Auction of First U.S. Carbon Credits

September 25, 2008 made for energy history, as the first carbon dioxide (CO₂) "credits" were auctioned off as part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). RGGI, a collaborative effort among 10 states – from Maine to Maryland – is an important step in the fight to reduce global warming. RGGI limits the amount of CO₂ that may be emitted by power plants, reduced over time, and allows businesses to buy and sell credits for the right to release CO₂ from their operations. The Northeast program is viewed as a potential model for a much larger federal program to limit global warming pollution and foster clean energy investments. NRCM led efforts to pass RGGI in Maine during the 2007 legislative session.

In addition to providing a framework for reducing global warming pollutants, the RGGI auction generated revenues that will support energy efficiency improvements for Maine homes and businesses. These investments will save Maine consumers millions of dollars each year. "Maine and the northeastern states are helping redefine this country's approach to global warming, and RGGI is now the state-of-the-art model for using 'cap and trade' to reduce pollution. We expect the new Congress to be taking notes," said Dylan Voorhees, Clean Energy



BETH DIMOND

Project Director for the Natural Resources Council of Maine.

Under RGGI, CO₂ emissions from electric-generating power plants will be capped at present levels until 2015. From 2015 to 2018, CO₂ emissions from these sources will be reduced by 2.5 percent per year until a 10 percent reduction is achieved.

FAST Facts

To "green up" their businesses, many Hollywood movie studios now have departments dedicated to reducing their carbon footprints and some have even offered staff incentives to buy hybrid cars. -ENN

According to the American Farmland Trust, one million barrels of oil could be conserved per week if each U.S. citizen ate just one meal a week made from local, organically grown produce.

Researchers at Japan's Nippon Medical School found that a walk through a forest or park can lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol better than a walk through a city or urban area. Scientists at the University of Washington say that if you don't have time for a walk, even staring out a window at a natural setting can lower your stress.

— Prevention Magazine



BETH DIMOND

Tip of the Day

Give Green. Rather than buy gifts, give coupons for babysitting, house-cleaning, dog-walking, and other services that show you care.



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!

shore of Moosehead Lake were spared; loopholes in Plum Creek's proposed conservation easement were removed; and the amount of donated conservation was increased.

The process resulted in an improved plan, but not a good plan. Plum Creek's initial proposal was so outrageously unacceptable that it created a warped view of what a desired outcome would look like. "Plum Creek's April 2005 plan had a pitiful amount of proposed conservation and a shocking scheme for house lots across the entire landscape," says Carson. "As a result, some people now think: 'Well, at least they didn't get away with that!'"

"Plum Creek very well could have gotten away with their April 2005 plan, or something close to it, if not for our collective efforts demanding changes," added Carson. "But this is not the same as concluding that where LURC is headed is what is best for the region."

What never changed in Plum Creek's plan was the overall scale of the project (975 house lots and 1,050 resort units), and Plum Creek's demand for a resort at Lily Bay. Although letters to LURC in opposition to Lily Bay development outnumbered letters in support 1,517 to 7, the Commission

acceded to Plum Creek's threat, delivered in September as the final words of their lead attorney: "Without Lily Bay, there is no plan."

Deciding Factors

From the start, Plum Creek adopted an attitude of "it's this plan, or no plan." Although Plum Creek bought its land zoned for forestry, the company made it quite clear that a failure by LURC to approve a rezoning would invite an even worse fate: Plum Creek would systematically exploit every loophole in LURC regulations to create "trophy homes" and dispersed development that would make Maine regret not having given them what they wanted.

But Plum Creek's most galling move came in early 2006, when they negotiated a private \$35 million land conservation deal with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Rather than treating that agreement as an entirely separate matter, the company mischievously made the conservation sale contingent on LURC approval of their development permit.

This amounted to blackmail, and it appears to have had the desired effect. LURC is headed toward approving more development around Moosehead Lake than they should, with Commissioners no doubt worried about being blamed if Plum Creek carried through with its implausible threat to walk away from a \$35 million check from TNC and its partners.

"We believe that LURC should have called Plum Creek's bluff," says Johnson. "We also believe LURC should have insisted on a scaled back plan, with development concentrated near existing communities and no resort development at Lily Bay."

"Our experience over the past four years of working to protect Moosehead Lake from Plum Creek has proven two important facts," says Johnson. "First, without the incredible and inspirational involvement of people who care about the Moosehead Lake region, LURC very well might have approved a much worse plan years ago. Second, Plum Creek, and other landowners like it, will actively seek opportunities to convert forests into seasonal homes, resorts, golf courses, marinas – or whatever yields the highest profit for distant and generally unknown investors with no real ties to Maine and our way of life."

The new owners of Maine's North Woods operate completely differently than did the timber barons of the past. For most of the past 100 years, Maine's vast forests were owned by a small handful of timber companies with little or no interest in real estate development. Companies like Great Northern, International Paper, and Boise Cascade opposed selling land for real estate, preferring an unbroken forest for timber operations. But those companies are mostly gone, replaced by a new breed of investment firms and real estate investment trusts, such as Plum Creek.

Uncertainty for Maine's North Woods

Plum Creek's Moosehead Lake development plan illustrates that we live in



NRCM supporters and members like Nancy Hathaway forced significant improvements in Seattle-based Plum Creek's seriously flawed proposal for Moosehead by taking action like testifying at public hearings.

a time when the fate of Maine's North Woods is as uncertain as ever, and Maine people are not yet in a position to ensure that what makes Maine's North Woods so unique – including public access, wildlife habitat, vast unbroken landscapes, and remote character – will be protected for future generations. Collectively, we were able to achieve important improvements in Plum Creek's proposal, but that's not the same as concluding that it is a good plan. It's not. LURC should have insisted on a better one.

NRCM will continue to explore every option for achieving additional improvements that will further protect Moosehead Lake, while we also look at the broader range of risks to the long-term fate of Maine's North Woods, with the goal of ensuring that what makes Maine's North Woods so unique will be preserved for future generations.

Changes in Plum Creek Plan: 2005-2008

Listed below are some of the improvements and continued deficiencies in Plum Creek's plan for Moosehead. For the full list, visit our website at www.nrcm.org.

Improvements

- ✦ 275 fewer total shorefront lots; reduced from 575 to 300
- ✦ Big W Township – all 35 proposed shorefront lots removed
- ✦ Prong Pond – all 35 shorefront lots and 16 backlots removed
- ✦ Brassua Lake West Shore – 69 shorefront lots removed
- ✦ Indian Pond – 34 shorefront lots removed; 10 backlots eliminated
- ✦ Spencer Bay (Stevens Point) – 6 shorefront lots eliminated
- ✦ Upper Wilson Pond – all 17 east shore lots eliminated; total lots cut from 50 to 32
- ✦ East Outlet of Kennebec – 30 lots eliminated
- ✦ 30 shorefront lots removed from remote ponds
- ✦ 30 shorefront lots removed from Moose River
- ✦ Three RV parks eliminated
- ✦ 32,000-acre "future development zone" eliminated
- ✦ Required donated easement increased from 11,000 acres to 91,000+ acres
- ✦ Donated easement relocated to surround development zones (curbing outward sprawl)
- ✦ Provision for unlimited boat houses eliminated
- ✦ Permanent traditional access ensured in easements

Continued Major Flaws

- ✦ Total amount of development remains too high: 975 house lots and 1,050 resort units.
- ✦ Development of a resort at Lily Bay, which would permanently destroy the character of the less developed, more "wild" eastern side of Moosehead Lake, including the experience of visitors to Lily Bay State Park. More than 1,500 people wrote letters to LURC in summer 2008 urging the Commission to reject Plum Creek's proposal to develop at Lily Bay.

Battling the Cold

Continued from page 1

independent future, NRCM helped pass "An Act to Establish a Uniform Building and Energy Code," during this past legislative session. As a result of our work, Maine now requires new homes to meet minimum energy performance standards. The codes go into effect in June 2010.

NRCM also promotes energy efficiency in town buildings and schools. In 2007 NRCM helped pass legislation entitled, "Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings." The law empowers the Municipal Bond Bank to provide loans for energy audits and energy efficiency investments. This bill also ensures the Public Utilities Commission will develop a plan to help schools take advantage of this energy efficiency program.

Last spring, NRCM, working with the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and others, brought together 550 people from businesses across Maine for the Governor's Energy Efficiency Summit. The summit highlighted the importance of energy efficiency and provided information on steps businesses can take to survive the energy crisis. This fall, NRCM partnered with state and local chambers of commerce and Efficiency Maine to offer solutions-oriented workshops throughout Maine providing practical information such as low-interest loans, tax credits, and technical assistance that is available to help reduce their energy costs.

In preparation for the upcoming legislative session, NRCM is working with key stakeholders and policymakers to develop and propose comprehensive legislation to accelerate and streamline Maine's energy efficiency and weatherization strategies. Stay informed - get the latest news by joining our Action Network at www.nrcm.org.

—Larissa Curlik is a freelance writer living in Blue Hill



Tips for a Toxic-free ME

Scientific studies show that many toxic chemicals are building up in our bodies, environment, and wildlife. Some have been linked to learning disabilities, reproductive problems, cancer, and other health issues. And these harmful chemicals are coming from surprising sources such as televisions, furniture, even children's toys.

To help you make informed choices that are healthier for you and for Maine's environment, NRCM has created a free brochure, "Toxic-free ME," that provides tips for reducing your family's exposure to harmful chemicals. For a brochure, call (800) 287-2345 or order it from our website at www.toxicfreeme.org, where you'll find the most up-to-date findings on the toxics issue, including tips like these:

Baby That Bottle. Hard-plastic polycarbonate reusable water bottles, including some baby bottles, leach toxic bisphenol-A. Use bottles made from non-reactive materials such as stainless steel or glass, to keep and your family safe. See NRCM's top picks at www.toxicfreeme.org.

Know Your Water. Both tap and well water can contain toxic pollutants including arsenic, bacteria, and disinfectant byproducts. To learn about the safety of your water source and tips for purchasing filters, visit www.toxicfreeme.org.

Better Beauty. Many cosmetics and personal care products contain an array of untested and toxic chemicals. See what's in the products you use and find safer alternatives for yourself and your family at www.toxicfreeme.org.



Want to make purchases that are better for the environment?

The *SunriseGuide* is a beautifully designed, full color book packed with articles, tips, and resources for healthy and eco-friendly living in southern Maine.

Topics range from community gardening and do-it-yourself energy savers to outdoors clubs and socially responsible investing. It also includes more than \$4,500 worth of coupons to local natural foods, restaurants, garden centers, and more—the \$20 cost more than pays for itself! Buy the *SunriseGuide* at local retailers listed or use them as a fundraiser for your school groups or faith groups. To learn more about *The SunriseGuide* check out the website at www.thesunriseguide.com.

■ NRCM IN ACTION ■

A glimpse at where NRCM staff have been working in communities around Maine.

Cathy Johnson, NRCM's North Woods project leader and senior staff attorney, presented "Maine's North Woods at a Crossroads" to the East Bethel Grange. The presentation is part of NRCM's ongoing effort to inform Mainers around the state about increasing threats to Maine's North Woods. Cathy gave the same presentation to the members of the Bath Sunrise Rotary Club.



Pete Didisheim, advocacy director, was a lead speaker at a conference at the University of Maine at Presque Isle entitled, "Increasing Energy Diversity and Independence: Growing Wind Power Generation in Maine." The conference attracted more than 200 participants and included break-out sessions covering topics ranging from federal incentives for businesses and farms to property values pertaining to wind farms. Pete also spoke at the monthly meeting of the Women's Legislative Council. The council includes delegates from women's clubs, church groups, retired teachers associations, teachers' honorary societies, and other groups from all over the state.

NRCM Deputy Director **Lisa Pohlmann** conducted a two-hour workshop on energy and income security at the second annual Poverty Symposium, held at the Augusta Civic Center. About 350 people attended the conference, which was geared toward community action program directors and staff, community health center staff, school nurses, affordable housing advocates, town officials, low-income advocates, and others. Lisa gave an overview of NRCM's work on energy efficiency and clean renewables and spoke about our work on RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative – see page 3), particularly the allocation of funds from the auctioned credits for low-income energy-efficiency measures.



NRCM Staff Helps Mainers Batten Down the Hatches Governor Baldacci joins NRCM staff for Keep ME Warm

Many NRCM staff took a day in November to help two Maine families winterize their homes to save them money on energy costs and to help protect the environment, as part of the Keep ME Warm program. The program, an initiative of Governor Baldacci, provides kits to volunteers and includes materials to stop leaks around windows, doorways, even electrical sockets. They also include a fire alarm, low-flow shower head, and energy-efficient compact fluorescent lightbulbs. One NRCM team winterized a home in Augusta and another, a home in Waterville, where Governor Baldacci also lent a helping hand.



NRCM's Waterville team members (left to right): Allison Wells, Windy Nichols, Leisa Dennett, homeowner Jane Allen, Governor Baldacci, Diano Circo, and Dylan Voorhees.



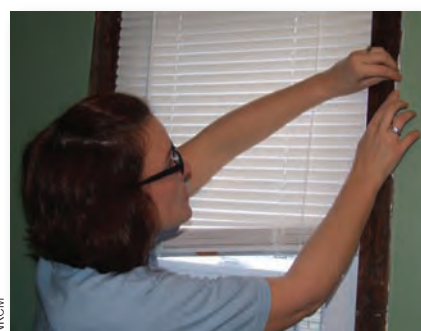
Windy Nichols, Dylan Voorhees, and Governor Baldacci team up to seal a window.



Pete Didisheim insulating pipes under the house to keep them from freezing.



Leslie Burhoe and Stacie Haine's two-year-old son Martin seal off an unused door.



Leisa Dennett caulks a drafty window.



NRCM's Augusta team (left to right): Windy Nichols, Leisa Dennett, Emmie Theberge, Stacie Haines' husband Efraim Ferrusca, Stacie and son Martin, Pete Didisheim, Leslie Burhoe, and Sara Lovitz.

2008 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD WINNERS

Each year, the Natural Resources Council of Maine presents its Environmental Award to a few individuals who have gone to extraordinary lengths to protect Maine's environment. The awards are given out at our annual meeting, held this year on October 16 at Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell. Below are excerpts from the citations shared at the annual meeting. Congratulations to this year's award winners!



Elisa Boxer-Cook (right) receives her award from NRCM board president Eleanor Kinney.

Elisa Boxer-Cook, Scarborough *For her work to pass legislation safeguarding the health of Maine's children from the threat of toxic chemicals in consumer products*

As a mother of a young boy whose health has been affected by exposure to hazardous chemicals when they purchased a new home, Elisa Boxer-Cook has firsthand knowledge of the effects of toxic chemicals and why it is vitally important to phase out known hazards in consumer products to protect our families. Elisa put her knowledge to use for the greater good. In 2006, when she became aware of the hazards of conventional cleaning products and pesticides used in Maine schools, Elisa drove to Augusta to testify before the Education Committee. She delivered powerful testimony, speaking as a mother, deeply from the heart, sharing her outrage and concern that Maine schools were still using highly toxic cleaning products and pesticides in spite of the wide availability of safer products and procedures.

At the hearing, Elisa met NRCM Toxics Project Director Matt Prindiville and quickly became an outspoken advocate for our landmark legislation to phase out dangerous flame retardants from televisions and furniture in 2007. This past year, Elisa was a true champion for our kid-safe products bill. In addition to speaking at several press events, Elisa provided lead testimony at the bill's public hearing, and she organized an in-district meeting with local doctors and nurses to meet her state representative, who was key to getting the bill voted out of committee.

A former television reporter and currently an adjunct communications professor, NRCM is so pleased that Elisa is able to devote time to working on important environmental health issues, and she does so with passion and eloquence. We could not

be more pleased to give a 2008 NRCM Environmental Award to Elisa Boxer-Cook.

Law Firms of Verrill Dana, Portland, and Wiley Rein, Washington, D.C.

For their tireless efforts to free the Sebasticook River by removing the Fort Halifax Dam in Winslow

For about 100 years, the Fort Halifax Dam in Winslow blocked passage of salmon, striped bass, sturgeon, and shad from returning to the Sebasticook River, an important tributary of the Kennebec. In 2002, Florida Power and Light, which owned the dam, applied to remove it for economic reasons: the dam generated very little power and did not make enough money to justify the construction of an expensive fish passage for fisheries restoration. In 2004, the Federal Government ordered Florida Power and Light to remove the dam, and that should have marked the beginning of the rebirth of native sea-run fish in the Sebasticook River.

However, a small group of property owners along the dam's impoundment appealed the government's decision to the Washington, D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. They also sued the Governor and numerous state agencies for entering into the ground-breaking settlement agreement that governed the fish passage requirements at Fort Halifax and appealed the state's permit to remove the dam.

Our team of pro bono lawyers from Verrill Dana in Portland and Wiley Rein in Washington, D.C.—Chuck Verrill, Evan Corcoran, William Grimaldi, Paul Dame, Nora Healy, and William Harwood—took the lead on the case for NRCM and our partners in the Kennebec Coalition. They all worked together brilliantly over nearly five years to help us defeat these frivolous lawsuits and appeals. Thanks in large part to their efforts, the Fort Halifax Dam came down on July 17, 2008. It is truly our honor to present this stellar team of attorneys with a 2008 NRCM Environmental Award.



With Brownie Carson (right) are Evan Corcoran of Wiley Rein and Nora Healy of Verrill Dana



Dustin Ramsay receives his award from Brownie Carson.

Dustin Ramsay, Hampden

For his exceptional efforts in raising environmental awareness throughout his school and to other Maine schools

We first met Dustin Ramsay two years ago, when he and his mother Melanie attended NRCM's Citizen Action Day. That day, a snowstorm kept many would-be participants away. But Dustin showed up, and he lobbied both of his legislators effectively on the most important climate legislation of the session. His Senator had not been aware of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, but after speaking with Dustin, not only learned about the bill but ended up voting in support of it.

Such courage and commitment is remarkable no matter how old you are. But Dustin is especially notable because he was in the fifth grade. Dustin also has taken his knowledge and passion into his school and to schools throughout the state. Dustin started a Green Team, a school-based environmental club run by the students in his school. Green Teams brainstorm environmental projects and activities to promote positive changes in their schools and communities, such as sales of compact fluorescent light bulbs, leading energy and light patrols, organizing educational film nights and tours of local landfills and recycling facilities. Dustin has taken the Green Team concept on the road, putting together Green Team toolkits for schools throughout the state.

At this year's Citizen Action Day, Dustin made quite an impression among an overflow crowd of participants, grasping the nuances of the energy efficiency building code legislation and asking all of the right questions so that he would be prepared once again to lobby his elected officials. And lobby he did—at one point, finding himself shaking hands with the Governor! Dustin is a true inspiration, not only to his peers, but for people of all generations, and that is why we are so pleased to present him with a 2008 NRCM Environmental Award.

Willy Ritch, Woolwich People's Choice Award Winner

For his exceptional leadership in mobilizing the citizens of Wiscasset to defeat plans for a coal gasification facility in their town

NRCM's People's Choice Award gives our members the chance to acknowledge someone in their community who is making a difference for Maine's environment. This year, our third year of the award, NRCM received more than 70 nominations. After narrowing the field to five outstanding finalists, this year's People Choice Award winner is Willy Ritch of Woolwich.

Last year, the town of Wiscasset was faced with a proposal by a Connecticut developer for a coal gasification plant. If those plans had become reality, the beautiful Wiscasset we know and love would have become a very different place. Imagine huge coal barges moving up and down the scenic Sheepscot River. In addition to sound and light pollution, such activity would have put the safety of local lobstermen at risk. And at the heart of the problem, a coal plant, which would have increased Maine's carbon emissions dramatically. Since the coal for this plant would likely have come from Appalachia, the project also would have contributed to the devastating practice of mountaintop removal mining, in which the tops of mountains are pushed into adjoining valleys, destroying habitat important to threatened species, fouling water quality, and forever altering the landscape.

Willy organized Wiscasset citizens to raise money, speak at hearings, and flood local newspapers with letters-to-the-editor in opposition to the project. Thanks to Willy's leadership, the citizens of Wiscasset rejected the zoning amendment sought by the company. Inspired in large part by this issue, the Legislature this past session established a three-year moratorium on construction of such facilities in Maine. Willy's supporters have shown their appreciation for his leadership by making him our 2008 People's Choice Award winner. Congratulations, Willy.



Willy Ritch, NRCM's 2008 People's Choice Award Winner

Sam and Patricia Horine, Partners in Maine's Future

"Go outside and play." Those were words Sam and Patricia Horine each heard from their parents when they were growing up. And that is how they first felt their strong connections to the earth—by spending hours of their childhood outside playing and exploring. "Our interest in the environment has always been there, no matter where we find ourselves, and that includes having lived in urban, rural, and small town settings," says Patricia.

Sam and Patricia, members of the Natural Resources Council of Maine for more than 20 years, settled in Maine 29 years ago. They met in college in the Midwest and decided to move back to New England after they married. Although Patricia is originally from Connecticut, the couple did not want to head back to her home state because the coast there had begun to feel the effects of urban sprawl.

Instead, they moved to Maine, settling first in Canaan, then, after a few years, to Skowhegan, where they enjoy seeing eagles, osprey, fox, beavers, otters, and even moose from their home along the bank of the Kennebec River.



This photo was taken by Sam from the Horine's backyard. It appeared as a My Maine This Week photo on NRCM's website www.nrcm.org.

Although they are fortunate to see wildlife in their backyard, Sam who is semi-retired says he also feels fortunate to live so close to downtown Skowhegan. This allows him to reduce his carbon footprint by walking everywhere he can—to the post office, the library,

the bank, and even the Saturday morning Farmers' Market. Patricia, who works part-time in the Waterville area, is thrilled by the wonderful mileage she gets with her Prius. She says that she too walks whenever possible.

One of the issues Sam and Patricia are now closely following is the Plum Creek development plan for the Moosehead Lake region. They've attended meetings, and, along with hundreds of other Mainers, written to the Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission, urging it to protect the Moosehead Lake region from Plum Creek's massive development plan. They cite rural sprawl, loss of habitat, energy, global climate change, and transportation as other issues of concern to Maine's environment.

In addition to writing letters to help protect Maine, Sam and Patricia show their love of Maine through photos. Sam is a keen photographer who sends photos in on a regular basis for our "My Maine This Week" website feature. He says, "I was looking at all of the pictures from this year just the

other day on your website. I love being in the company of other featured photographers. It's nice to see what they photograph and it's especially nice to see the beautiful places they've been."

Sam describes himself as an ancillary

photographer, taking his camera with him while canoeing, skating, snowshoeing, hiking, or biking – not necessarily looking for the "perfect shot," but often finding beautiful locations to photograph while outdoors enjoying these activities. Sam maintains a lean-to on the Appalachian Trail and often volunteers at Lake George Regional Park. Patricia is a Master Gardener and a Certified Landscape Design Consultant. She says she enjoys creating beautiful gardens for others to enjoy. She has worked with Main Street Skowhegan and the Bloomfield Garden Club to design and install the new Triangle Garden in downtown Skowhegan. Another public garden, which she created and still maintains, is the Skowhegan History House and Museum Heirloom Garden. Established in 2003 as part of her Master Gardener Volunteer project, it showcases plant material typical to the mid-1800's.

Sam and Patricia joined NRCM shortly after arriving in Maine and during the effort to stop the Big A dam from being built on the West Branch of the Penobscot River. They have stayed involved with the Natural Resources Council of Maine ever since because they feel a strong connection to the NRCM community.

The Horines chose to become Partners in Maine's Future because they believe they have an obligation to provide ongoing support to an organization that strives to protect our environment for future generations to enjoy. They believe that NRCM is working on every issue they've cared about since they first joined. "NRCM's mission is the same as ours," says Patricia, "to protect and conserve Maine's beauty and ecology, because once it's gone, boy howdy, it's gone forever."

—Beth Dimond, Public Affairs Coordinator



Sam and Patricia Horine, NRCM Partners in Maine's Future, with their dog Jack, at home along the Kennebec in Skowhegan.



**Help Protect the Maine You Love.
Become A Partner in Maine's Future**

Partners in Maine's Future members are people who have taken an exceptional step to show their love of Maine. They donate directly each month, automatically, from their credit card or checking account.

Easy and Affordable

For as little as \$5 a month, you can

- Add value by providing NRCM with predictable monthly revenue.
- Save trees because there are no renewal forms. No checks. No postage.
- Save money, since there are no bank fees for you, and no processing costs for NRCM.

A minimum of \$10 makes you a Landmark Member. Landmark members receive quarterly updates from our executive director, Brownie Carson, and invitations to special events.

Threats to Maine's environment often come without warning. You can help safeguard against them by becoming a Partner in Maine's Future today! **For more information or to enroll, call Joyce Gracie at (800) 287-2345 ext. 228.**



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

New Members July 1 through September 30, 2008

Robert J. Ackerman Kathleen Amon Joseph G. Anthony Lucilla S. Archer Dean and Shelly Arnold Robert F. and Mildred Baker Marygrace Barber Scott M. Batson Jeffrey C. and Hillary Becton Leroy E. and Jeanne C. Bennett John J. Bentz Carlee A. Blamphin and Steven Feske Dorothy L. Blank Janis Bobb Mr. George H. Bohlinger III Christopher A. Bond Michelle Booz Peter P. Bradley Carroll Brentano Mrs. Beverly Brickett John E. Brown Kevin Buist Richard Bullock James Buono Fred C. and Lima M. Campbell Salvatore Carabetta Marilyn Caravan Susanne K. Carlson Hilary Carr Joseph Carson Catherine Carswell Patricia A. Chasse Gail Cheeseman Leighton S. and Barbara E. Cheney Tae Chong Michael Christopher Stephanie Clement Renee Clukey Ann M. Cohen Len Comeau Kenneth R. Condon Earle W. Cooper Sarah Rachel Cote Mr. Humphrey Darrah Jr. Christopher M. Davies Alvin Davis Duane D. Day Arthur B. and Nancy L. Dayton Jean C. Denton James E. and Maria B. Devlin Cynthia Diana Dawn Dorr Corinne Driscoll Timothy Dubbs Louise Dunlap Stephen D. and Mary E. Dunphy Antoinette Dziadul Sandra Eastman Barbara Egan William H. Eger	Noreen L. Eishaw Elizabeth Falade Sally T. Farrand Kevin Farrell Al Fernengel Barbara Fetter Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund Barbara Field Ross D. Filion Anthony W. and Eileen C. Fitzgerald Steven M. Fitzgerald Julia Flanders Bradford Y. and A. Leslie Fletcher Muriel R. Flood Margaret A. Flowers Joseph P. Ford Joseph A. and Josephine Forge Charles Fredericks Molly Gallagher Felicia A. Garant Katherine Gardiner Kimberly A. Garofalo Kevin Geery Patty Geiger Everett Geiger Augusta B. Glidden Joe Godleski Scott and Carol Grant Marc B. Gregg Evelyn F. Guillette Mary Ellen Guptill Patricia L. Gutwein Bonnie Jean and Richard J. Haeger Marjorie Hall Eleanor T. Hanrahan Kathy Harper and Frank Kuilk Ross J. Harris James E. and Alison L. Haskins Robert Henninger Joyce V. Hiller David and Luce Hillman Robert Horne Daniel Howard Christine H. Howlett Karen C. Ingwersen Dianne Jablonski Gary Jacobson Col. James L. Jandreau James R. Jolin Darlene E. Jolly Patricia Jones David W. and Lynn Jourdan Edwin J. Jud Marjorie L. Judd David W. and Jane P. Kelley Joseph T. and Alice R. Kelley Christopher Kelly Joel M. Kendall and Mary R. Prince Warren Kessler Barbara J. Kinney	Margaret E. Knowlton Kurt R. Kubanek Matt Lajole Luella Landis Michael Levinsky Les and Carol Lewandowski Cliff Libby Daniel E. and Lesley M. Libby Curt A. Livingston Ms. Marlene Livonia Harold J. Luce Henry Mahler Nancy K. Maki Ellen R. Marsh Joseph S. Martin Hilda B. Mason Peter Masterton David J. Maxfield Marjorie McCafferty Patricia A. McCafferty William McCook Joan E. McCormack Perry McCourtney Henry W. and Harriette A. Mellen Arnold Meltzer Josephine A. Merolla Nathaniel F. Meyer Wilbur H. Miller William A. Moody Geraldine M. Moss Clifford A. Mossey Ann Mullen Mary E. Murphy Evelyn S. Newlyn Brenda Nichols Charles R. and Kathy J. Nichols James V. O'Brien Barbara O'Donnell Sean O'Neil Jeffrey Oakes Kim Ockene and Andrew M. Milsten James A. Oltman Nancy C. Overton George Paine Al and Debbie Paolillo Bonnie M. Paradise Hinal Patel William R. and Kathryn Paul Shelley L. Payne Ernest R. Peterson William E. and Barbara P. Phillips Brian and Wendy R. Pickett Kathleen L. Pinches Douglas Piper Charles Pomilia Morgan Porteus Philip and Ruth M. Provost Richard T. and Virginia S. Quick Sally H. Reed Victoria B. Reed	Kadah Reich Charles L. Richards Jennifer Riefler and Patrick J. Reid Walter Robinson Peter Rosenbaum Ariel Rosenberg Joseph A. Ruscsek A. Raymond Rulan Joseph J. Schmuch Herbert Schneiderman Martin A. and Christine Schuepbach David C. and Diana M. Self Christopher E. and Christine M. Shirey Jeff Shorey Willis P. Smedberg Thomas G. and Sandra L. Smith Anthony Socci Russell M. and Janet Spring Ruth A. Stackpole Virginia H. Stancil Elaine F. Stapleton Karen Stalhoplos and Kim Krauss William S. Stetson Dean Stevens Lila Stevens Howard and Christiane Stewart Cheryl A. Stokes Jennifer Stone Dale E. and Beverly Sweet Walter P. Sych Jane L. Talbot Jon G. and Ellen G. Taner Robert S. and Barbara P. Tellefsen Leon F. Telkoski Beth Ann Thompson Dorothy S. Thompson Thatcher L. Townsend W. Dean and Jean B. Trautman Mary Truman Scott D. Tunmer Celeste M. Turner C. Leland and Susanne Udell Tom Vanier Brenda Veilleux Joseph P. Venti Margaret Voight Kenneth R. Walker Mildred S. Warfield Edna G. Beers and William C. Webber Sherrill S. West Gary M. and Pamela J. Williams Ursula Willis Douglas O. and Mary Ellen R. Wilson Arthur A. Windecker Peter Woodruff Janet A. Wright David J. and Elizabeth L. Zahniser
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Give the Gift That Makes a Real Difference This Holiday!

Give a \$50 NRCM gift membership to the nature lover on your list this holiday season and they will receive:

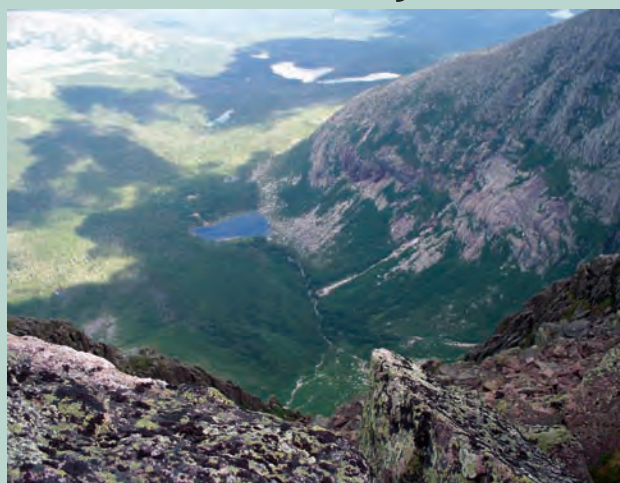
- ✦ A one-year family membership to NRCM that includes our quarterly, full-colored newsletter, a 2009 Nature of Maine calendar featuring spectacular photos and important dates in Maine's environmental history, and annual report card for Maine's environment;
- ✦ A copy of the 176-page, soft-covered, 8 x 10, illustrated *A Coastal Companion: A Year in the Gulf of Maine, From Cape Cod to Canada*, signed by author, Catherine Schmitt;
- ✦ A beautiful, personalized winter cardinal card informing them of your gift, and
- ✦ Satisfaction from helping to protect Maine's air, water, forests, and wildlife, for generations to come!

Act quickly to take advantage of this gift package, available through January 31, 2009!

A Coastal Companion chronicles seasonal changes above and within the sea, following the arrival and departure of migrating birds, schools of fish, and the natural cycles of our bays, rivers, marshes, and coastal forests.



Send Us Your "My Maine This Week"



Chimney Pond from Baxter State Park, by NRCM member and activist Linda Woods of Oakland

Do you have a photograph you'd like to share that shows your love for Maine? A poem? We'd love to run it on our website homepage feature, "My Maine This Week," created especially for people who love Maine and want to show it! Send your submissions to beth@nrcm.org. Visit our website often at www.nrcm.org to see how others are enjoying Maine.

Special Gifts in Honor of People or Events

Memorial Gifts

Brenda Veilleux in memory of Toni Caron

Gift Memberships

Garold L. Wark from Gretta J. Wark
Bruce Childs from Allison and Jeff Wells
Debra G. Holloway from Fred A. Farnham
Mike Zajchowski from Allison and Jeff Wells

Honorarium Gifts

David P. Flavin and Catherine Casey-Flavin in honor of Ronald Ledgett
Maine Health Access Foundation, Inc. in honor of Lani Graham
David P. Hilton and Lori B. Weinblatt in honor of Leo and Elinor Hilton

New members of **PARTNERS IN MAINE'S FUTURE** Program

Adam M. Burk	Joseph P. Seger
Raymond and Suzanne McLain	Edward Smiley and Janet Rosenthal
Carolyn K. Myers	Robert D. Stevens
Anthony and Justy Nazar	Lynda Wilson-Dinno

Join Us in Kicking Off NRCM's 50th Anniversary in 2009!

Be Bold in the Cold and Fight Global Warming!



Help support NRCM's work to curb global warming by joining us for a polar bear plunge Friday, January 2—our first of 50 events and activities in celebration of our 50th anniversary in 2009! Get your friends and family to pledge your dip in support of our energy work, and at the same time, raise awareness about global warming and what NRCM is doing right here in Maine to curb it. The bone-chilling fun will take place in the Portland area – watch for more news about it soon!

50 Events Celebrating 50 Years

Check our website often for upcoming 50th anniversary events and activities for you and your family to participate in. Throughout 2009, you'll be invited to join us for hikes, canoe paddles, bird walks, film showings, and much more, in celebration of NRCM's 50 years protecting, conserving, and restoring Maine's environment. Watch for our calendar of events arriving in your mailbox in early 2009.

DON'T MISS OUT!

Sign up for our Action Network to receive via email the latest news and invitations for events and other activities in your area.

www.nrcm.org