

Maine Environment



Spring 2008

NRCM Helps Bring Together Maine Businesses for Energy Efficiency Summit

The Augusta Civic Center is known for hosting big events—high school basketball finals, home improvement shows, and concerts. But who would have thought that people from all corners of Maine would travel to Augusta for a conference about energy efficiency? That's what happened April 3rd, when an overflow crowd of 550 people filled the Center to ask and answer practical questions about how energy efficiency can do more for Maine's economy.

NRCM was a lead planner and cosponsor of the Governor's Energy Efficiency Summit, and participation from business owners, municipal officials, nonprofit representatives, energy experts, state employees, and members of the public greatly exceeded our expectations. The reason why is pretty obvious.

With oil prices soaring, people are more aware than ever that we must invest in high-efficiency lighting, motors, building design, and equipment to help cut energy costs. The purpose of the Summit was to help turn energy efficiency from just another good idea into real steps that

businesses and other groups can put into practice, and to reinvigorate the efforts of government, businesses, and nonprofits to work together in pursuit of solutions.

Governor Baldacci used his opening remarks to inspire participants to maximize energy efficiency. "As a state, we spend more than \$5 billion on energy annually, and three quarters of those dollars flow

straight out of Maine to pay for imported fuels and power," he said, "I have a selfish goal: I want us to do everything that we possibly can to keep energy dollars in our own pockets. I want us to do everything possible to reduce our energy bills by eliminating energy waste. I want us to have the most energy-efficient economy in New England. And I want us to create new jobs in the energy services sector so that we can re-tool,

retrofit, and redesign how our buildings, businesses, and manufacturing systems operate—performing the same functions as they do today, but using much less energy."

The potential for energy savings was highlighted by a report presented to the Governor and commissioned

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Left to right: Kurt Adams (PUC Chair), John Kerry (Director, Office of Energy Independence and Security), Jim Atwell (Chair, Maine Chamber of Commerce), NRCM Executive Director Brownie Carson, David Littell (DEP Commissioner), Patrick Woodcock (Environmental Staff to Senator Snowe), Karin Tilberg (Senior Environmental Policy Advisor to the Governor)

"Maine can't control the price of oil or electricity, but we can control how much of them we need to buy. Improving energy efficiency saves Maine people money, strengthens our economy and protects our environment."

—Brownie Carson, NRCM Executive Director

Plum Creek's Post-Hearing Brief Ignores Concerns of Mainers

In March, Seattle-based Plum Creek, the nation's largest commercial landowner, submitted a post-hearing brief that ignored a long list of concerns raised by Maine citizens and technical experts about the company's proposal for a massive development in the Moosehead Lake region.

The brief follows four weeks of formal hearings during which scientists, nature-based tourism experts, paddling and fishing guides, and others provided extensive testimony before Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC). Concerns were clear: Plum Creek wants too much development in places that put our wildlife—including the federally threatened Canada lynx—water quality, scenic character, and other natural resources at risk.

Plum Creek ignored these findings when it filed its 156-page post-hearing brief in March. The company also ignored thousands of heartfelt, carefully researched letters written from homes across Maine and beyond, and the voices of hundreds of Maine people who spoke at public hearings. Plum Creek continues to turn away from the extraordinary outpouring of newspaper opinion pieces and letters-to-the-editor that raise concerns about the company's plan.

NRCM, along with Maine Audubon, with whom we are

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Moosehead Lake



NRCM's Citizen Action Day Drew Overflow Crowd and Some Shook Hands with the Governor!
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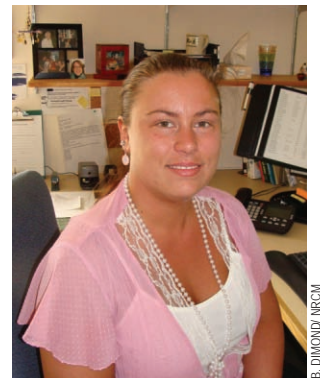
When you visit www.nrcm.org, it's the handywork of Beth Dimond, NRCM's webmaster, that you see. Beth will be leaving behind her work as executive assistant to Brownie Carson in order to expand her Web responsibilities to include a wide range of communications and member services across the organization, in the role of public affairs coordinator. Congratulations, Beth!

Warm welcome to Brownie's new executive assistant, Susan Barbay. Susan comes to NRCM from an executive assistant position at a Lewiston-area law firm. Previously, she held administrative assistant positions at Bates College and LL Bean.

Sandy Hutchings, NRCM's bookkeeper for more than a decade, has moved on to new horizons. We will miss her hard work, good humor, and willingness to pitch in at events of all sorts. Thank you, Sandy, and best of luck! Leslie Burhoe has taken over the bookkeeping position, bringing with her many years as a bookkeeper for Androscoggin Wooden Boat Works. Leslie leaves behind her position here as part-time receptionist. Congratulations on your new position, Leslie!

One of the voices you'll now hear when you call NRCM headquarters belongs to Windy Nichols. Windy has taken over Leslie's place as part-time receptionist. Windy, a Maine native, has extensive experience in serving the public in both the retail and food industry. She and her 12-year-old son Gabe live in Hallowell with their five cats, one dog, and a pet turtle. They enjoy fishing, camping, and canoeing, and barbeque on every Sunday throughout our glorious Maine summers. Welcome, Windy!

Finally, we wish all good things to Jesse Jacobs, IT director, who has left NRCM to work as a systems analyst for Colby College. Fond farewell to Jesse and his wonderful family!



Windy Nichols

WASHINGTON WATCH

NRCM Wins Federal Court Battle to Clean Up Power Plant Mercury Pollution

A federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., recently ruled that harmful rules put forth by the U.S. EPA did not address the problem of toxic mercury spewed from coal- and oil-fired power plants. In reality, they would have allowed seven times more mercury pollution than current laws allow – a clear violation of the Clean Air Act, one that put the health of our



Volunteers helped collect postcards signed by concerned Mainers, as part of NRCM's mercury emissions campaign.

children, environment, and wildlife seriously at risk. The court's ruling was unanimous, sending a clear message that protection for our environment and public health must take precedent over the private interests of polluters.

As part of our efforts, which began in 2004, NRCM started a postcard petition campaign, giving our members and the people of Maine the chance to urge our government to protect our families and environment from this toxic pollutant. As a result, NRCM Executive Director Brownie Carson delivered more than 4,000 postcards to Washington, D.C. in person. This was in addition to NRCM joining with 14 states, including the State of Maine, and with Native American tribes and public health groups in a lawsuit over the EPA rules. Using the power of science and the law, we saw the legal process through to

completion – and victory.

Mercury causes serious health problems, particularly in children. It can cause brain damage, learning disabilities, and motor skill problems. Because of this, health officials warn Mainers not to eat many of the fish we catch in our local lakes and rivers. Pregnant women are especially advised.

Recent scientific studies show that mercury also is poisoning the wildlife that makes Maine so special. Along with fish-eating species like loons and eagles, songbirds like the Wood Thrush and Veery are contaminated by mercury at levels far beyond what anyone would have imagined.

Fighting battles like the EPA's bad mercury emissions rules often takes tremendous resources and patience. NRCM thanks all of our members and supporters who took a moment to complete a postcard "way back when," for your patience, and for your financial support. Together, we're making a difference!

FAST Facts

Many pharmaceuticals—including antibiotics, mood stabilizers, and sex hormones—have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans. Although measured in just parts per billion, the presence of so many prescription drugs, including over-the-counter medicines like acetaminophen and ibuprofen, is heightening worries among scientists of long-term consequences to human health. —AP

Record gasoline prices and a contracting U.S. economy will reduce summer gasoline demand for the first time in 17 years, the government's top energy forecasting agency said recently. U.S. gasoline prices will hit a monthly peak of just over \$3.60 per gallon in June, helping reduce demand by 0.4 percent during the busy driving season compared to last summer, according to the federal Energy Information Administration. —Reuters

Wanna make a meaningful fashion statement this spring? Greenloop is offering a line of FSC-certified heels sealed with a hand-rubbed, eco-friendly finish and a recycled rubber sole! Unfortunately, they also start at \$256. Available at www.thegreenloop.com. —ENN



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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A Renewal of Environmental Action

We live in exciting times. By all indications, we are witnessing a new wave of environmental awareness. People of all ages are expressing concerns about the health of our environment. Better still, more are taking action to promote a more sustainable world. For NRCM staff members, this action is not only heartening, it is truly inspiring.

At levels that I have not seen since the early 1970s, people want to know what they can do to reduce their environmental impacts. They want to know how to buy renewable energy, clean cars, toxic-free products, and energy-efficient appliances. They want to influence policy. Above all, they want to make a difference.

Here at NRCM, in the past six months alone, we have had one example after another of people participating in record numbers on important issues of our day. Let me share just a few examples.

- In December and January, hundreds of citizens turned out for hearings in Greenville, Augusta, and Portland to speak in defense of Moosehead Lake. People from every corner of Maine asked the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) to scale back or deny Plum Creek's massive development proposal.
- At a recent press conference, I shared more than 2,000 letters submitted to LURC in opposition to Plum Creek's proposed 2,300-unit Moosehead Lake development. This is very likely the largest number of letters ever received by LURC on a project. These letters are amazing – heartfelt, passionate, persuasive.
- NRCM's annual Citizen Action Day this year had the highest turnout out in years, with an overflow crowd of people ages 10 to 83. They came to Augusta from across the state to meet with their elected officials about environmental legislation.
- A huge crowd of mothers and children, senior citizens, public health advocates, and Maine citizens rallied at the State House in early March in support of legislation to curb toxic chemicals in children's products.
- In early April, more than 500 people attended the energy efficiency conference hosted by Governor Baldacci and cosponsored by NRCM. Participants traveled from all corners of the state—from businesses, schools, municipalities, and non-profit organizations—to learn how to cut energy costs, to increase energy security, and to help protect our environment.

Some of what we are seeing may be part of a larger phenomenon of civic engagement, reflected in the presidential campaigns. But there is more to it than that. I believe the reality of our energy and environmental predicament is finally setting in, and people are rising to the challenge.

There is growing realization that the use of coal, oil, and natural gas is making us vulnerable on several fronts. The reality of global warming is now indisputable, and leading scientists are telling us that time is running out for us to be able to cut carbon emissions enough to protect the world we want our children to inherit. Consumers are fed up with toxic chemicals in our products. And a great mobilization is afoot to protect places in the natural world, including right here in Maine, before they are severely damaged or lost forever.

The challenges before us are enormous, but momentum is building for change. Big changes, little changes, they all add up. Thank you – for the changes you have made in your own life and, through your support for NRCM, for the changes you help this organization to make for protection of the Maine we love. —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.

Tip of the Day

Take it easy. Each mile per hour you drive over 60 mph is like paying an extra 15 cents per gallon.



Meet Lisa Pohlmann, New NRCM Deputy Director

We are pleased to introduce to our members new NRCM Deputy Director Lisa Pohlmann. Lisa brings nearly 13 years of experience as a researcher and associate director for the Maine Center for Economic Policy (MECEP), and 25 years' managing nonprofits in Maine. Lisa has a Masters in Public Policy from the Muskie School for Public Service, and a Masters in International Administration from the School for International Training in Vermont. She is currently in the Public Policy Ph.D. program at the Muskie School. "Lisa brings extensive experience and a fresh perspective on the work that NRCM has been doing for almost 50 years," says Executive Director Brownie Carson. "All of us at NRCM could not be more thrilled that she has joined us."



New NRCM Deputy Director,
Lisa Pohlmann

We asked Lisa to respond to a few questions for *Maine Environment*, to help our members get to know her a little.

NRCM: What excites you most about coming to NRCM?

Lisa: I was on NRCM's board for seven years and have always been impressed by the organization's many successful campaigns and groundbreaking work that have influenced policy in Maine and across the country. I am excited to join this dream team!

NRCM: What do you see as the most pressing issues facing Maine?

Lisa: The steady push for development of our woodlands and open spaces is our most pressing issue. With it comes the degradation of wildlife habitat, water sources, and wilderness experiences for all future generations. Climate change is also a direct result. We owe it to the planet and to our great, great grandchildren to protect Maine's North Woods and waterways. It is critically important that we work individually and collectively to change our course. We have to find ways to balance environmental, economic, and community goals. NRCM will be working with many others to lead that charge.

NRCM: When you're not working, what are your favorite ways to enjoy the environment NRCM works so hard to protect?

Lisa: I am a 30-year Maine resident who never ceases to be amazed and grateful that I live in such a beautiful place. I love flower gardening at my home in Jefferson, biking to Clary Lake for a swim, cross-country skiing the trails throughout Lincoln County, and kayaking our many lakes and rivers. I dote on our six grandchildren (as most nanas do) and my fat cat, Isabella. I am also working on my dissertation through the Muskie School on the topic of "green jobs."

Welcome, Lisa!



Christopher A. Bond

Christopher A. Bond Elected to NRCM Board of Directors

On March 8, Christopher A. Bond of Cape Elizabeth was elected to an interim term on NRCM's board of directors. Chris fills a seat vacated by Patrick Will, whose family grew by one healthy but demanding baby boy this fall. Chris will stand for election by NRCM's members at the Annual Meeting of the Membership, to be held on October 16 at Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell.

Chris loves honing his "modest" outdoor skills in all of Maine's seasons and venues, whether he is back-country skiing, fishing (and paddling) our rivers and lakes, cruising Maine's coastal waters, or camping among our islands and inland waterways. "When financial pressures inevitably divert me from my recreational career," Chris writes, "I am forced to supplement my purse as an assistant professor of business administration at Saint Joseph's College, where I happily teach financial and managerial accounting."

Prior to his current academic responsibilities, Chris was a tax manager with TD Banknorth and PriceWaterhouseCoopers, where he was responsible for federal and state taxation matters. Previous to this, his career was variously engaged in developing and running his family-owned business and, earlier yet, as an officer in the United States Coast Guard. Chris is a graduate of the University of Maine School of Law, the University of New Hampshire Whittemore School of Business and Economics, and the United States Coast Guard Academy. He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant in Maine as well as a member of the bar in both Massachusetts and Maine.

by the State Planning Office for the event. Written by former State Economist Charles Colgan, Samuel Merrill of the Muskie School of Public Service, and Jonathan Rubin of the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, the report concludes that there is vast untapped potential in Maine for energy efficiency savings. Maine businesses could spend six to eight times more on energy efficiency than they do now and still save \$450 million a year in energy costs. Those savings could lead to increased business spending and growth, which could create up to 2,500 new jobs by 2020, wrote the authors.

The highlight of the Summit was the workshops where participants heard success stories from Maine businesses, learned about financing and technology options, and heard about policies and strategies for making Maine a leader in energy efficiency.



NRCM's Dylan Voorhees (center) talks with Jonathan Rubin (left), economics professor at Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center (University of Maine) and Sam Merrill, economics professor at Muskie School of Public Service (University of Southern Maine), who along with Charlie Colgan co-authored the paper on efficiency and economy presented to the Governor at the summit.

The Governor announced that the Finance Authority of Maine will add \$1 million to boost Efficiency Maine, a program operated by the Maine Public Utilities Commission that makes three percent interest small-business loans for efficiency investments. The new program will raise the loan limit from \$35,000 to \$250,000.

"The PUC's Efficiency Maine program has already partnered with Maine residents and businesses to produce some \$187 million in lifetime benefits for the state's economy," PUC chair Kurt Adams said. "Today's summit demonstrates that momentum is building to save far more, and that Maine will be a leader in the fight against climate change."

Jim Wellehan, president of Lamey-Wellehan Shoes, said that after an energy audit from the state's Efficiency Maine program, his company upgraded to more efficient appliances and light bulbs, switched company vehicles to hybrids, converted the company truck to run on biodiesel, and replaced oil heating systems with natural gas or heat pump systems. As a result, said Wellehan, his energy bills have stayed flat for three years, and the state estimates his carbon emissions were reduced by 21 percent.

"Maine can't control the price of oil or electricity, but we can control how much of them we need to buy," said NRCM Executive Director Brownie Carson, during a panel discussion. "Energy efficiency is one of our most important tools for taking control of our energy destiny, to help protect our economy and our environment."

Perhaps most impressive about the event was the atmosphere of excitement about truly putting energy efficiency to work everywhere from little auto body shops to major manufacturing facilities. The event attracted a diverse crowd, from bankers in suits to small business owners in jeans, and was noteworthy because of the shared commitment by environmental and business interests.

"We recognize that energy efficiency is an absolutely critical part of our strategy to reduce the harmful effects of fossil fuels," says Clean Energy Director Dylan Voorhees. "This Summit was a fantastic beginning to a major new chapter in NRCM's effort to dramatically increase our use of energy efficiency in Maine. The Governor did a great job in bringing us together and establishing some momentum. We'll be carrying that momentum forward by holding regional efficiency workshops throughout the state over the next several months. We'll continue to reach out to businesses looking for answers, and we'll continue to partner with those in the public and private sectors who have resources and solutions to offer."

Suddenly *energy efficiency* is becoming a household phrase, not just because of the high cost of energy, but also because there appears to be growing understanding of our need to address the threat of climate change and reduce our reliance on foreign oil.



In March, the Town of Winslow Planning Board unanimously approved the removal of the Fort Halifax Dam.

Fort Halifax Dam Removal Clears Another Hurdle But Legal Appeals Continue

The Sebasticook River is one step closer to rehabilitation. In March, the Town of Winslow Planning Board unanimously approved the removal of the Fort Halifax dam.

The approval has been a long time coming. The proposal by the dam's owner, FPL Energy, to remove the dam has been making its way through the courts for the last three years. The planning board process alone took five months. Concerned about safety, planning board members added numerous required conditions, such as removing more of the dam structure and monitoring slope stability, before approving FPL's application to remove the dam on March 17.

The Sebasticook River is a major tributary of the Kennebec River, and improvements in fish passage throughout the watershed were agreed upon as part of the same 1998 agreement that resulted in the removal of the Edwards Dam. With that barrier removed, Fort Halifax now represents the first dam encountered by sea-run fish moving up the Sebasticook. With the Edwards Dam removed, NRCM continues to work for restoration in the Kennebec watershed as part of the Kennebec Coalition, which also includes Trout Unlimited (and its Kennebec Valley Chapter), Atlantic Salmon Federation, and American Rivers.

After economic analysis, FPL Energy determined that it would cost more to construct fish passage at the Fort Halifax dam than the profits from maintaining power generation. Thus removing the dam to allow fish migration was the cost-effective solution.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the federal agency that oversees dam operations, approved FPL's license surrender in 2004. That decision prompted the first of many objections from Save Our Sebasticook (SOS), a small group of Winslow residents, most of whom own property on the impoundment created by the Fort Halifax dam.

On April 14, SOS filed yet another appeal to block dam removal, before the Winslow Zoning Board of Appeals. "We're glad the town approved the permit," said Nick Bennett, NRCM's staff scientist. "But we're very disappointed that this group continues to throw up roadblocks in the way of restoring this river. We'd really like to see the dam come out this summer, as FPL proposed. SOS should recognize the facts: the federal government and the federal courts said the dam should come out, the state supreme court said twice the dam should come out and that SOS's claims were without merit. The town planning board now has said the dam should come out. For SOS to drag this out is a waste of public funds, and a waste of everyone's time." —Catherine Schmitt is a biologist and writer living in Maine

Plum Creek - Continued from page 1

coordinating much of our effort, held a press conference March 18th, exposing Plum Creek's disregard for the voices of Maine people. Television, radio, and newspaper outlets across Maine picked up our message.

Moosehead is loved for its spectacular wildlife, pristine shorelines, mountain views, and its peace and quiet. Generations of Mainers have hiked, camped, hunted, and fished Moosehead—a Maine tradition that goes back centuries. Plum Creek's plan calls for 2,300 housing units, two resorts, commercial centers, and other proposed developments, right in the heart of this treasured region.

Now that all the testimony is in and all the briefs have been written, the focus of this process shifts to LURC. In late May, LURC Commissioners will begin their formal deliberations over this project. We expect that sometime in July the Commission will issue a draft decision. At that point, the public will likely have one last chance to tell LURC how special the Moosehead Lake region is and to encourage them to protect Moosehead's character.

Thanks to the support of people like you, the Natural Resources Council of Maine has, since 2005, been instrumental in keeping Plum Creek's harmful plan from becoming a reality. We will continue to keep you informed throughout this process. Please visit our website at www.nrcm.org for more background about this proposal and our work to protect Moosehead from it.

Governor's Wind Power Task Force Releases Final Report



NRCM member visit to Mars Hill, a wind project supported by NRCM.

Governor Baldacci's Task Force on Wind Power Development has released its final report, *Finding Common Ground for a Common Purpose*. The report calls for at least 2,000 megawatts (MW) of wind power in Maine by 2015 and at least 3,000 MW by 2020. "Maine people strongly support wind power. They

know that we need clean power to improve energy security and reduce pollution. The report responds to that need by proposing a path forward to making Maine a leader in wind power development," says Pete Didisheim, NRCM Advocacy Director and a member of the Task Force. "This balanced approach will help protect Maine's quality of place, guide wind power to appropriate sites, provide a predictable permitting process, ensure that proper studies are done for wind projects, and deliver tangible environmental and economic benefits from this emerging clean energy sector."

Along with NRCM's Didisheim, the 16-member Task Force included Democrat and Republican state legislators, wind developers, state agency officials, citizens, and others. NRCM hired a consultant team, comprised of Massachusetts-based Sustainable Energy Advantage and LaCapra Associates, and New York-based AWS Truewind, to help the Task Force understand how wind power fits within a region-wide energy strategy. Projections show that more than 11,000 MW of wind power may be needed in New England by 2020, in addition to energy efficiency, significant contributions from solar and tidal energy, and reductions in global warming emissions from transportation sources.

Currently, a 42 MW wind farm is operating in Mars Hill, a 57 MW project (Stetson Wind Farm) has been approved, and a 132 MW project (Kibby Wind Farm) is expected to receive final permit approvals this spring. For the most up-to-date status of wind power projects in Maine, visit NRCM's website at www.nrcm.org/wind_projects_in_maine.asp.

Maine's E-Waste Law A Huge Success



The Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) released the first report detailing the accomplishments of Maine's two-year-old, first-in-the-nation electronic waste ("e-waste") recycling program that requires manufacturers to establish and pay for collection and recycling centers. "Maine's e-waste recycling law has been a huge success," said Matt Prindiville, NRCM's toxics policy advocate. "The law has saved Maine people \$3 million, kept a million pounds of lead out of our environment, and ensured safe recycling and disposal of over 8 million pounds of toxic electronic waste." NRCM helped to lead the campaign to pass Maine's landmark law, in coalition with members of the Alliance for a Clean and Healthy Maine. Computer monitors, televisions and other electronic devices contain lead, mercury and other chemicals harmful to the environment and human health.

NRCM has worked with allies in the legislature and public health communities for decades to urge the state to eliminate certain toxic chemicals from certain products and Maine's waste stream, with many successes. Last June, NRCM and our Alliance partners released *Body of Evidence*, a study that clearly shows how toxic chemicals—in the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the products that fill our homes and workplaces—are accumulating in our bodies. This past March, Maine's BioDiversity Research Institute in March released a report showing that high levels of more than 100 toxic chemicals are present in the eggs of the 23 types of birds tested in Maine.

For a copy of our e-waste report or *Body of Evidence*, or to find out more about our toxics work, please visit our website at www.nrcm.org.

■ NRCM IN ACTION ■

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



L. ROHMANN/NRCM

Connecting on Toxics Matt Prindiville, NRCM's toxics policy advocate, joined health care professionals and children's advocates at the conference Making the Connection II: Toxics and Tomorrow's Children, held at the University of Southern Maine in March. Matt's presentation focused on NRCM's

history of success on toxics issues and how, with our allies, we continue to help Maine be a leader on toxics policies that protect our children and environment.

"Green" Day Advocacy

Communications Director Judy Berk helped get out the word about sustainable living at the Citizens for a Green Camden event in April. Judy, an avid organic gardener and long-time member of the Camden-Rockport community, fielded questions and provided NRCM materials to help people make healthy and eco-friendly choices in their daily lives.



B. DIMONDI/NRCM



NRCM FILE

Speaking Up for Wilderness Protections North Woods Project Director and Senior Staff Attorney Cathy Johnson spoke at the public hearing of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) in Orono recently. LURC is in the process of revising its Comprehensive Land Use Plan that will

guide North Woods management decisions for the next 10 years. Cathy spoke about the importance of keeping the current plan's commitment to protecting remote areas and human-powered recreation. See page 6 to find out how you can help!



JOE DANA

Penobscot River Restoration Project Receives National Conservation Award

At an April 21st ceremony in Washington, D.C., the Department of the Interior (DOI) recognized the outstanding contributions of the Penobscot River Restoration Trust to recover endangered wild Atlantic Salmon in the United States. It was one of 21 recipients nationwide of the DOI's Cooperative Conservation Award.

"We are honored to be working with citizens, tribal, state, and federal governments, conservation groups, and private businesses to bring back the many values this river provides to us all," said Laura Rose Day, the executive director of the Penobscot River Restoration Trust. "Through the creativity and commitment of all of these parties, we've constructed a plan that will restore the valuable sea-run fisheries of the Penobscot River and cultural, ecological, and economic benefits, while maintaining hydropower generation."

The Penobscot River Restoration Trust shares the award with its partners, of which the Natural Resources Council of Maine is proud to be one. The full list includes of partners includes American Rivers, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Maine Audubon, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine State Planning Office, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Natural Resources Council of Maine, The Nature Conservancy, NOAA Fisheries Services, Penobscot Indian Nation, Penobscot River Restoration Trust, PPL Corporation, Trout Unlimited, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gulf of Maine Coastal Program.

Help Protect Maine's North Woods from Would-be Developers!

Well-funded would-be developers are lobbying Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) to undermine protections currently in place for Maine's treasured North Woods. These protections ensure people-powered recreation and quiet, remote, natural places. These protections are in place through LURC's Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). This is the plan against which LURC will measure development proposals such as Plum Creek's massive development scheme for the Moosehead region.

LURC is updating and revising the CLUP because pressures on Maine's North Woods have increased dramatically in the last 10 years yet decisions about developments are based on a land use plan written in 1997. Most of Maine's North Woods are now owned by out-of-state companies that answer only to their shareholders. These corporations are fighting for loopholes that make it is easier for them to build subdivisions in the North Woods that have been used by Mainers for generations. You can help stop these corporations! Please write a letter to Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission urging them to ensure a strong CLUP that protects the region's most important assets. Send your letter to LURC, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022. For tips, including key message points, please visit www.nrcm.org/project_woods.asp or call Diano Circo at (800) 287-2345 ext 218.



From the NRCM Blog

"I am headed back to the State House, where we spent most of the day yesterday going up against more than 25 lobbyists from the chemical industry...They have been trying hard for weeks to kill LD 2048, 'the kid-safe products bill.' The toxics vote in the Senate continues to be a moving target, but I expect the vote to happen this morning. Please don't let lobbyists win! Call your senator today!"

- Excerpt from legislative battles at the State House
Posted by Matt Prindiville, Toxics Policy Advocate

Get the inside scoop on threats to Maine's environment. Subscribe to NRCM's blog at <http://blog.nrcm.org/> where you can also share your own opinions. Blog for the nature of Maine today!

Maine Citizens Flood the State House for NRCM's Citizen Action Day

On Tuesday, March 11th, NRCM hosted a standing-room-only crowd for our 2008 Citizen Action Day. A packed agenda from NRCM followed on the heels of a complimentary breakfast and registration. A special thanks to all who attended!



Executive Director Brownie Carson welcomed our supporters and made the point in his opening remarks about the impact Maine citizens can have on the legislative process.



Keith Fitzgerald and daughter Sydney of Portland listen to presentations from staff and learn tips on how to talk with elected officials.



Advocacy Director Pete Didisheim fires up the crowd about NRCM's legislative priorities, sharing a front-page Boston Globe story about the problem of toxic chemicals in our environment, people, and wildlife.



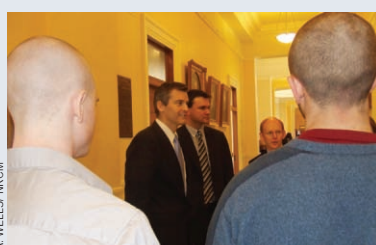
Judy McCown and Bruce Bierce of Fayette leave notes for their elected officials, urging them to vote in favor of protections for Maine's environment.



NRCM supporters Ken Lux of Rockland and Judith Schmidt of Washington meet with Representative Chris Rector (R-Thomaston).



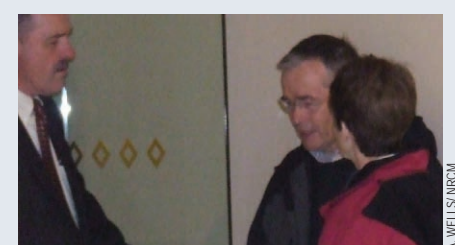
NRCM project leaders Dylan Voorhees (Clean Energy) and Matt Prindiville (Toxics) explain challenges and opportunities related to this year's priority legislation.



NRCM's Pete Didisheim introduces Speaker of the House Glenn Cummings (D-Portland) to the group.



George Gee of Baileyville talks with Governor Baldacci about the alewives bill.



NRCM members George and Judith Rogers of Litchfield urge Senator Earle McCormick (R-West Gardiner) to vote in favor of LD 2048, the "kid-safe products bill."

NRCM Members Share Why Citizen Action Day Is Important to Them

NRCM Citizen Action Day 2008 was a resounding success. More than 60 of our supporters attended this special event, created by NRCM to help our members directly connect to their elected officials and share with them why protecting Maine's environment is so important.

Following brief presentations and tips from knowledgeable and dedicated staff, participants enjoyed the highlight of the day, "a field trip," one block away, to the State House to meet representatives and senators making decisions on their behalf. Among them were Melanie Spencer and her 12-year-old son, Dustin Ramsay, of Hampden.



Melanie Spencer and son Dustin Ramsay of Hampden with Governor Baldacci. The Governor kindly answered several of Dustin's questions and arranged for Dustin to take a tour of his office.

Melanie and Dustin are like many people who care about the environment. They want to make sure Maine adopts strong policies to protect Maine's environment, but the process can be confusing and seem daunting. Citizen Action Day was created in anticipation of those concerns. "It was great to have NRCM staff people help us find our legislators

and de-mystify the whole process," says Melanie. "It was a wonderful, hands-on way to learn about the legislative process."

Dustin agrees. "I learned a lot about making a difference in the Legislature," he says. "I really felt like I was making an impact."

For Dustin and Melanie, participation in Citizen Action Day follows suit with their quest for a cleaner environment. Together, they founded the Green Team at Dustin's middle school. The Green Team operates under the concept that today's children will be the ones applying and living with the solutions to many of our global environmental challenges.

Because of that, Dustin says he hopes more kids from school will become involved with Citizen Action Day. "They're the ones who'll have to face global warming and other issues when things get really serious," he says.

The Green Teamers have organized school-wide letter-writing and energy patrols, hosted an environmental film night, toured the local landfill and recycling center, sold compact fluorescent light bulbs, and learned more about environmental issues. In addition to global warming, Dustin cites development and petroleum dependencies as key environmental issues threatening Maine.

Melanie adds that the solutions to these issues are rooted in people understanding that they are their environment. "It's only when we make this connection that we will be able to really care thoughtfully for everything and each other," she says.

Like Dustin and Melanie, long-time NRCM member Dr. Anthony Pileggi's motivation to attend Citizen Action Day was to find out how to improve the environment through working with the Legislature.

Originally from the coastline of Ocean City, New Jersey, clean air and water have long been concerns of Dr. Pileggi's. Today, he is a fan of sailing in Maine and is mindful of the quality of our state's lakes.

As a retired physician, Dr. Pileggi, who lives in South China, is also "concerned with what effects adverse environmental influences are having on people's health." His hobbies of gardening and bee-keeping have specifically brought to light the issue of pesticides—using them properly and using less of them.

The positive connections that informed and caring citizens like Dr. Pileggi, Melanie, and Dustin have made with their legislators are essential to ensure concrete and positive outcomes in the protection of Maine's environment. Thanks to all who participated in Citizen Action Day. You are making a real difference!



Anthony Pileggi attended Citizen Action Day to find out how to improve the environment through working with the Legislature.

—Stacie Haines, Membership Manager



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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.

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Age	Rate
60	5.7%
65	6.0%
70	6.5%
75	7.1%
80	8.0%
85	9.5%

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Director of Development
207-430-0108 or
(800) 287-2345 x208
gwark@nrcm.org



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New Members January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008

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Berna T. Andrews-Haggan
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Judy A. DeWalt
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NRCM member Cathy Vawser of Etna and daughter Christina sign postcards urging safeguards for Maine's environment. Congratulations to Thea Davis of Plymouth, Maine, winner of the Kids Outdoor Pack generously donated by LL Bean.

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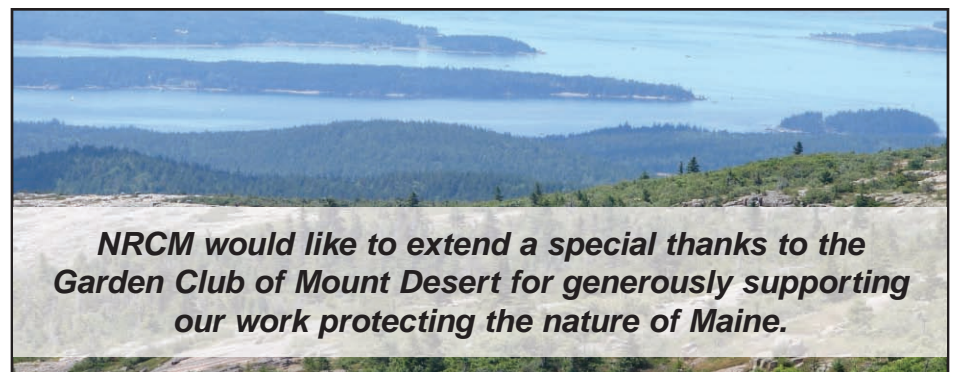
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Susan Gile-Daniels
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Mr. Ralph M. Leach
Mr. and Mrs. John Love
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Penelope S. Marshall
Gerard Monteau
Bonnie J. Preston
George M. and Judith A. Rogers
Oleg Svetlichny
Elinor Voit |
|---|--|



NRCM would like to extend a special thanks to the Garden Club of Mount Desert for generously supporting our work protecting the nature of Maine.

Save the Date!

Join us for the
Annual Meeting of the Membership

5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 16, 2008

Maple Hill Farm, Hallowell



Refreshments, presentation of the
2008 Environmental Awards, and more!



First Crocus, March 24

*Celebrate with jubilation
Nature's coming of the spring
First to shine on frosty morning
Burst to bloom the sunrays bring*
—Terry Sprague
North Haven, Maine

Send Us Your "My Maine This Week"

Do you have a photograph 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.