



Critical Habitat, Big Concerns

NRCM Includes Federal Mishandlings of Canada Lynx Critical Habitat Designation Among Concerns about Plum Creek's Proposal for Moosehead

Since April 2005, when Plum Creek Real Estate Investment Corporation filed a massive development proposal for the Moosehead Lake region with the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC), the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) has continued to raise concerns about the development. Recently, news of mishandling of Canada lynx habitat designation on Plum Creek lands by federal officials raise additional concerns.

On July 20, 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced plans to review eight decisions made in November 2006 under the Endangered Species Act. One of these is the decision to exempt land in Maine and across the country from being designated "critical habitat" for Canada lynx. East of the Great Lakes, lynx, a federally threatened species, occurs only in Maine. This includes land Plum Creek has slotted for major development in the Moosehead region.

A recent study of a small control group of Canada lynx in Maine by state biologists could suggest that the wild cats are declining across Maine. This spring, only two out of eight radio-collared female lynx had kittens. Last year, only one female bore a litter. Biologists put the number of Canada lynx in Maine to between just 200 and 500.

Critical Issue

The Endangered Species Act defines "critical habitat" as "specific areas within the geographic area occupied by the species at the time of listing, if they contain physical or biological features essential to conservation, and those features may require special management considerations or protection."

"Land that is in 'critical habitat' zones receives extra safeguards under federal laws," explains NRCM North Woods Director Cathy Johnson. "It also sends a message to landowners and others that a management plan is important for success of rare species."

Landowners who seek a federal permit to disturb land designated as critical habitat undergo a different review process to determine possible effects on the wildlife that live there.

In northern Maine, more than 10,000 square miles of coniferous/mixed coniferous forests—prime Canada lynx habitat—had been proposed by the USFWS for designation as critical habitat. That

land includes portions of the Moosehead Lake region, including the Lily Bay peninsula, where Canada lynx have been sighted multiple times.

Plum Creek opposed the critical habitat designation and has continued to push its development plans for the



Plum Creek wants to develop critical lynx habitat in the Moosehead area.

"Plum Creek has demonstrated a blatant disregard for Maine's wildlife and habitat protections... The people of Maine have no reason to believe that the company has changed its ways. We simply cannot take Plum Creek at its word."

**—Cathy Johnson,
North Woods Project Director**



What's even HE scared of?
See page 5 to find out!

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Black Nubble Wind Project Gains More Support

Wind power advocates turned out in force July 10 at a news conference in Portland to voice support for a scaled-back version of the Redington Wind Power Project. The revised project would be built only on Black Nubble Mountain, located near Sugarloaf. The 54 megawatt (MW) wind project would generate as much electricity as is used by 21,500 Maine homes each year.

More than 20 organizations are endorsing the Black Nubble-only project. In addition to NRCM, they include the American Lung Association of Maine, Chewonki Foundation, Maine Center for Economic Policy, Maine Council of Churches, Maine Public Advocate, and Physicians for Social Responsibility/Maine. Many representatives from these groups attended the news

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Leisa Dennett

B. DIMOND/NRCM

Welcome, Leisa Dennett, Advocacy Assistant

Leisa comes to NRCM with over 10 years experience in administrative work, including as a legal secretary for the State of Maine and working for Central Maine Power Company. She also has previous non-profit experience as a development coordinator. She was born and raised in Maine and says she is enjoying working for an organization that is helping to keep Maine a special place. Leisa enjoys spending time with her husband and two children camping, swimming, and being on Cobbosseecontee Lake.

Thank you, Steven!

This summer, Steven Kolberg interned with NRCM through the Psi Upsilon Fellowship Program from Bowdoin College's environmental studies department. Steven is a junior majoring in environmental studies and government and legal studies. His intern work for NRCM ranged from energy efficiency to global warming impacts in Maine.



Steven Kolberg

S. LOVITZ/NRCM

WASHINGTON WATCH: In Support of Cleaner Cars

Excerpt from testimony of Adam Lee, President, Lee Automalls, at Environmental Protection Agency's May 2007 hearings in Washington, D.C. addressing California's request for a waiver under the Clean Air Act to adopt stringent tailpipe emission standards.

My name is Adam Lee, and I am president of Lee Automalls located throughout the state of Maine. I am a third generation car dealer; I have been in this business my whole life.

Our company was founded in 1936 by my grandfather, with a small Chrysler dealership. Today we have two Chrysler dealerships, a GM dealership, and a Honda, Nissan, and Toyota dealership. We have been the number one seller of hybrid cars in the state of Maine for three years in a row. We are also the largest Jeep dealer in the state. We currently sell approximately 7,000 new and used cars a year.

I would like to talk about why I support this bill. I remember as a child thinking it was funny when people started wearing seat belts. But as time went on we just accepted the fact that you had to wear them. The government forced the manufacturers to put seatbelts in cars; my parents forced us to wear them.

Somewhere along the way airbags and anti-lock brakes started appearing. Many of the manufacturers said that there was no way that they could afford to put air bags in their cars. Then it became mandated that all cars have some form of passive restraint. And suddenly all cars came with airbags. I stress *mandated*.

Most of the manufacturers said the same thing of anti-lock brakes. [Today] no one questions any of these technological advances. They are in the name of safety, and safety saves lives, and saving lives is hard to argue with.

However, almost every single one of these safety devices was shot down at one time or another by almost every automobile manufacturer. They all claimed that they were too expensive, and they would quote absurd figures as to what it would cost to put an air bag in a car.

[T]he American automobile manufacturers have a long history of pleading financial ruin, or that their competition has an unfair advantage, or of trying

to prove that some technology, like catalytic converters and unleaded gas, really is not better for us. They have a bad track record and it has damaged their credibility.

I have been selling Prius since they came out six years ago. And since that time every Toyota dealer has been selling them for list price and making a very nice profit on them. Until recently no one even asked for a discount. Demand was so strong that people stopped negotiating. This is a car dealer's dream. A car people want so badly they don't negotiate.

These cars that Detroit bet their future on and my future on, are not selling. They need a not-so-gentle nudge in the right direction of producing cleaner cars. I am afraid that if they don't pick up the pace not only will global warming continue to get much worse, but I will be stuck with a lot full of cars that no one will buy; or even worse: This country will no longer have a domestic car industry.

How is it that some car manufacturers can produce great hybrids and traditional cleaner cars that people are lining up to buy, and most of the other manufacturers have not even gotten one on the road yet?

I believe it is a lack of effort on their part. GM, Ford, and Chrysler really do have the ability to make cleaner, more efficient cars. There are a host of new technologies out there—plug-in hybrids, electric cars, bio-fuels, natural gas, hydrogen, clean diesels, clean diesel hybrids, clean diesel plug-in hybrids—and a host of technologies that no one has thought of yet.

I think the auto industry needs to try a little harder, and I don't think they will try any harder until enough states force them to. All of you on this committee can help pave the way for the people in Maine and the rest of the country to be able buy and drive cleaner cars and trucks, much the way you all buckled your seat belts when you got in your car to come to work this morning.

Adam Lee serves on NRCM's board of directors.



Adam Lee

B. DIMOND/NRCM

Maine Environment

Editor / Allison Childs Wells
 General Assistance / Beth Dimond
 Design / bright red bicycle design
 Contributors / Nick Bennett, Judy Berk, Brownie Carson, Beth Dimond, Ryan Ewing, Stacie Haines, Sara Lovitz, Matt Prindiville, Gretta Wark, Allison Childs Wells
 Editorial Board / Judy Berk, Ryan Ewing, Gretta Wark, Allison Childs Wells
 Executive Director, Natural Resources Council of Maine / Everett "Brownie" Carson
 President, NRCM Board of Directors / Sharon Tisher

Maine Environment is provided four times a year to more than 10,000 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.

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Please Join Us in Taking the “Protect Moosehead” Pledge

In July, I sent you a letter outlining NRCM's reasons for opposing “Version 3” of Plum Creek's massive development proposal for Moosehead.

These include:

- Lily Bay is the wrong place for a resort, and the magnitude of the Moose Mountain Resort is beyond what we believe the area's environmental “carrying capacity” to be.
- The location of some proposed house lots is inappropriate—the undeveloped north shore of Long Pond, and those proposed for ecologically sensitive Burnham Pond, for example.
- All totaled, the number of new accommodations could be more than 2,300—more than twice the number of structures currently in Greenville.
- Loopholes in the conservation easement would allow mining, road building, and unsustainable logging. These deficiencies must be addressed.

When I shared these findings with you, I asked you to contact the Land Use Regulation Commission to request hearings in locations accessible to a majority of Maine people, so that everyone who cares about Moosehead will have the opportunity to make your voices heard.

You responded in droves. In fact, you have frequently shown your support for our efforts to protect Moosehead during the past two and a half years, by contacting LURC, writing letters-to-the-editor, sending encouraging letters to us here in the office, renewing your membership, and making generous additional financial gifts. For that, all of us here at NRCM thank you.

Now, we need you to take one more very important action.

Public hearings on Plum Creek's proposal will likely begin in early November. We need you to join us there in person to show how concerned Mainers are about this development proposal. In preparation, we need you to take action right now. Please take the “Protect Moosehead” pledge and plan to attend the hearings.

Inserted in this newsletter is a postage-paid postcard, for your convenience. Please send it to us with your commitment right now. We will notify you once dates are finalized, and we will provide you with information you may find helpful in anticipation of the meeting.

If you know that you cannot attend a hearing, please send an email expressing your concerns to LURC@maine.gov, or write a letter to:

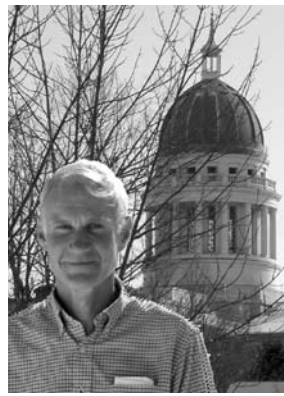
Land Use Regulation Commission
Attention: Catherine Carroll, Director
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

For more information, including maps and the latest fact sheets, visit www.nrcm.org.

Please contact Caitlin Cleaver at ccleaver@nrcm.org or (800) 287-2345, ext. 270 with any questions.

We need you now more than ever. Please take a moment right now to fill out the enclosed pledge card and drop it in the mail. A full house before the LURC commissioners will show them that we will not allow Seattle-based Plum Creek to ruin one of Maine's truly special places.

As always, thank you for your support, and for all you do to protect Maine for our children and grandchildren.



Brownie

—Brownie Carson, Executive Director

Tip of the Day

A Dry Subject. If you use a dishwasher, save energy by skipping the “dry” cycle and letting the dishes air-dry.

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.

Candidates for NRCM Board of Directors - Annual Meeting October 27

SAVE THE DATE for OUR ANNUAL MEETING!
Saturday, October 27, 2007

Hold the date and plan to join us at the Natural Resources Council of Maine's annual meeting. Watch your mailbox for an invitation or visit our “Attend an Event” page on our website soon for more information. We hope to see you there! At our annual meeting, candidates will be elected to the Board of Directors by NRCM members. Board members serve an initial term of one year and are reelected for two successive terms of three years each.

FIRST TERM CANDIDATES:

Edmund Cervone, Hallowell. Ed serves as policy analyst for Maine Center for Economic Policy, a private nonprofit research and advocacy organization focused on policies affecting low-income populations. Ed concentrates on affordable health care, livable wages and income trends, and sustainable development. Formerly a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association Coastal Management fellow in Dover, Delaware, Ed is a graduate of Princeton University, with an M.S. in Ecology and Environmental Science from the University of Maine, Orono.

Steven E. Diaz, Fairfield. Steve is an emergency physician at MaineGeneral Medical Center, Thayer Unit, in Waterville. A graduate of Cornell University Medical School, Steve did his residency at the Maine-Dartmouth Family Practice Residency in Augusta. Steve has served on the American Red Cross board, among others, and has spent time in Yosemite National Park as a guide.

Natalie Michelle-Rapp, Hampden. Natalie is a member of the Penobscot Indian Nation, born on Indian Island in Old Town. She runs a small home business making organic natural body care products using Native American and western herbs. She has a M.S. in Kinesiology and Physical Education from the University of Maine at Orono. Formerly an LPN at Penobscot Indian Health on Indian Island, Natalie is currently on the Penobscot Indian Fish & Wildlife Committee. She is on the board of the Penobscot Indian Nation Enterprise (PINE) and is active in conservation activities and stewardship training at the Penobscot Nation Boys & Girls Club.

Ken Olson, Bass Harbor. Ken recently retired from a three-decade career. Most recently, Ken served ten years as President of Friends of Acadia. Ken previously served as Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy of Connecticut, President of American Rivers, and Director of Special Projects at The Conservation Fund in Virginia. He has received many awards for his work including NRCM's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005. He holds a graduate degree from Yale in natural resources management, an honorary degree from the College of the Atlantic for “outstanding contributions to human ecology,” and a bachelor's degree from the University of Maine.

Thomas Tietenberg, Sidney. Tom is the Mitchell Family Professor of Economics at Colby College, where he specializes in resource economics (emission trading, climate change, acid rain, and economic incentives for pollution control). A graduate of the Air Force Academy, Tom holds advanced degrees from the University of the East (Philippines) and the University of Wisconsin, and is editor/author of numerous books and articles on economics and the environment. Tom is a spirited advocate for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, among other legislation.

SECOND TERM:

Diane Guethlen, Toe of the Boot (Moosehead Lake) (Somerset County)
Adam Lee, Cumberland (Cumberland County)
Rondi Nelson, Yarmouth (Cumberland County)
Shoshana Zuboff, Nobleboro (Lincoln County)

THIRD TERM:

Lani Graham, Portland (Cumberland County)
Lynne Lewis, Portland (Cumberland County)
Sarah Rheault Camden (Knox County)

Special thanks to Jim Glavine, Bobby Monks, Lisa Pohlmann, and Nancy Warren who will be rotating off the board following the annual meeting and whose service to NRCM for protection of Maine's environment we deeply appreciate.

FAST Facts

The French city of Abondance voted to shut down the ski station that has been its economic *raison d'être* for more than 40 years. The reason: not enough snow. Abondance is the French Alps' first ski station to fall apparent victim to global warming. The Snow Study Center of Meteo-France at Grenoble noted a rise in average temperature of 1.5 to 3 degrees C (2.7-3.3 F) over the Alpine ranges since the early 1980s.—Associated Press

The Italian health ministry is urging employers to let staff go tieless, as a way to help stop global warming. “Taking your tie off immediately lowers the body temperature by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius,” the ministry said in a statement, “allowing a more sensible use of air conditioning that yields electricity savings and protects the environment.”—Reuters



Black Nubble - Continued from page 1

conference, making it one of the largest demonstrations in support of a wind power project ever in Maine. A diverse range of speakers described their reasons for supporting the project.

For more than a year, NRCM has urged proponents and opponents of the original, hotly debated Redington Wind Power Project to find common ground with the "Black Nubble-only" configuration. A 54 MW Black Nubble project would be a large wind farm by New England standards. According to NRCM's analysis of existing renewable energy plants in Maine, a Black Nubble wind farm would generate more electricity annually than all but five of Maine's 102 hydropower facilities and most of Maine's biomass plants.



In the scaled-back Black Nubble wind proposal, Redington Pond Range would be protected from development.

At the same time, it places Redington Pond Range into protection. Redington is the last undeveloped and unprotected 4,000-foot peak in Maine and has been identified as a high priority for protection. Redington lies within one of Maine's last remaining large, unfragmented tracts of high-elevation forestlands, which provide significant environmental and wildlife habitat values.

"The Black Nubble proposal will provide clean energy, reduce our dependence on fossil fuel, and protect Redington Mountain," said NRCM Advocacy Director Pete Didisheim. "The broad show of support demonstrates that the Black Nubble project strikes the right balance—a balance that reflects the broad interest of Maine people in increasing renewable energy and conserving special places."

Plum Creek By the Numbers

You've seen the numbers relating to the massive development proposed by Seattle-based Plum Creek for the Moosehead area—2,315 house lots, two resorts (up to six stories high!) possibly with condos, gated house lots, beauty parlors, and more. Now here are more numbers that add up to disaster:

Money Matters

- Plum Creek's net worth: \$4.8 billion (Hoovers, 2005)
- Amount of corporate income tax Plum Creek pays to the state of Maine: \$0
- Amount of corporate income tax Plum Creek pays to the federal government: \$0
- Plum Creek CEO Rick Holley's annual salary: \$5 million
- Average salary of Maine resident, \$37,619 (three-year average 2001-2003).
- Price Plum Creek paid for land in proposed Moosehead development: \$200/acre
- Price Plum Creek would likely receive on sale of house lots: \$65,000/acre (shorefront)
- Maine median value of owner-occupied housing units in 2000: \$98,700
- Assumed single-family residential unit house in proposed development: \$280,000 to construct.
- Amount Plum Creek was fined for violations of laws protecting forests: \$57,000, the largest in Maine history

About Seattle-based Plum Creek

- Nation's largest private land owner: owns 8.2 million acres in 18 states
- Acres owned in Maine: 928,000
- Number of people who live within a day's drive of Moosehead: 70 million, many of whom can afford expensive vacation houses

For more about the Plum Creek proposal and what you can do to protect Moosehead, visit our website www.nrcm.org.

Lynx - Continued from page 1

Lily Bay peninsula. This development includes a subdivision totaling 400 dwelling units, golf courses, and a 777-acre exclusive resort with 250 "accommodation units."

Behind Closed Doors

To push its own agenda, representatives from Plum Creek met with then-Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife Parks Julie MacDonald, according to memos released by USFWS. Just months later, in November 2006, USFWS announced that it would exempt commercial timberlands, including those in Maine, from designation as "critical habitat."

According to a June 21 memo to USFWS staff from H. Dale Hall, the agency's director, "Presumably anticipating that Ms. MacDonald would not want Plum Creek lands designated as critical habitat, the Washington office verbally directed that critical habitat would not be designated on Plum Creek properties."

The *Houston Chronicle* reported that an investigation by the agency's inspector general found that USFWS staff complained MacDonald, who has no training in natural sciences, "bullied, insulted and harassed the professional staff ... to change documents and alter biological reporting."

"This is very disturbing to us. NRCM staff go to great lengths to make sure our advocacy work is based on sound science. Citizens have the right to expect our public service agencies adhere to these same high standards," says Pete Didisheim, NRCM's advocacy director.

MacDonald, a political appointee, stepped down from her post in May. In the July 20 USFWS press release, Director Hall stated that the agency plans to take another look at the eight decisions to make sure "the science is true." In a teleconference, he added, "We wouldn't be doing them if we didn't at least suspect that the decision will be different."

Says Didisheim, "You can be sure NRCM will be keeping a close watch to make sure the agency stands by its word."

Bad Track Record

The argument Plum Creek apparently used when lobbying against the lynx critical habitat designation was that cooperation from landowners would provide better protection. "What is especially shameful about Plum Creek's lobbying is that the company's own data show that the Lily Bay peninsula is some of the highest quality lynx habitat in the state," says Johnson. "We saw recently what happens when Plum Creek is trusted to do the right thing for Maine's wildlife."

Johnson points to information disclosed in 2006 showing that Plum Creek repeatedly violated the Maine Forest Practices Act, prompting the Maine Forest Service to assess the largest fine in Maine history, \$57,000, against Plum Creek. The company also ignored a requirement to get a permit before constructing a new powerline, violated water protection laws, and repeatedly destroyed crucial deer wintering areas, all knowingly, over the objections of Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife biologists. "Plum Creek has demonstrated a blatant disregard for Maine's wildlife and habitat protections in order to maximize its own profits," says Johnson. "The people of Maine have no reason to believe that the company has changed its ways. We simply cannot take Plum Creek at its word."

The Rest of the Story

While NRCM continues to work for proper federal designation of Maine's Canada lynx habitat, the staff also point to ongoing issues in the current Plum Creek plan. These include the locations of some of the proposed developments (resorts and house lots), the sheer intensity of development (the proposal is still the largest development in Maine history), and weaknesses in the conservation easement (mining and road-building activities are hardly the best ways to manage for conservation).

"That lynx are found in the Moosehead region points all the more to just how special this area is, as a state and national treasure," says Johnson. "Development in this part of Maine must be done carefully, because if the qualities that make this region unique are destroyed, they're gone forever."

Vote in Favor of Natural Resources Bond in November

Funding for the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program will go before voters in November, as part of a \$35.5 million Natural Resources Bond that also includes funding for riverfronts. If approved, funds will help protect working farms and orchards; secure hiking, hunting, birding, fishing, and snowmobiling opportunities; ensure access to our waters; protect deer yards and other critical wildlife habitat, and guarantee public access to forestlands. LMF has protected popular sites in all 16 Maine counties. Help give our children and grandchildren the same opportunities we have today to enjoy Maine. Please vote in favor of the Natural Resources Bond this November!



Plum Creek's massive development area includes the Lily Bay peninsula, home to the federally threatened Canada lynx.



Birch Point State Park in Owls Head

Maine Supreme Court Rules To Protect Flagstaff Lake



Flagstaff Lake

The Maine Supreme Judicial Court issued a powerful decision on July 26 regarding Flagstaff Lake in Eustis. Its decision strongly affirmed the Clean Water Act protections for all of Maine's rivers, lakes, and streams.

Florida Power and Light (FPL) operates a water storage dam on Flagstaff Lake. In essence, the company has argued that it should be able to lower the water quality protections for Flagstaff Lake because it is an impoundment created by a dam. However, Flagstaff Lake is classified as a lake in Maine law, and both Maine law and the federal Clean Water Act say that is illegal to weaken water quality protections for any waterbody without going

through a structured scientific study (called a Use Attainability Analysis or UAA) to show that there is a very compelling reason to do so.

FPL has not wanted to do this study, and instead used political muscle and convinced former DEP Commissioner Dawn Gallagher to overrule her staff and allow FPL to lower water protections for Flagstaff Lake without doing the proper scientific study. Together with Trout Unlimited, Maine Rivers, and the Appalachian Mountain Club, NRCM appealed the decision to the Board of Environmental Protection (BEP), which oversees DEP. We won that appeal. FPL appealed our victory to State Superior court, where they lost, and then to the State Supreme Judicial Court, where, on July 26, they lost again.

NRCM extends special thanks to lawyers Andrew A. Cadot and Christopher M. Dargie of the Maine law firm Perkins, Thompson, Hinckley, and Keddy, who represented our coalition pro bono. Thanks to their excellent work and tireless dedication, this victory reaffirms a fundamental principle of the Clean Water Act and Maine's water quality laws: that we should always be working to make our waters cleaner and healthier.—*Nick Bennett, NRCM Staff Scientist*



Pete Didisheim Appointed to Governor's Wind Task Force

NRCM's advocacy director, Pete Didisheim, was appointed by Governor John Baldacci to serve on the Governor's Task Force on Wind Power Development in Maine. Maine has the highest potential for wind power of any state in New England and is 19th in the entire country. The Task Force will examine the process and review criteria by which wind projects are currently evaluated and compare

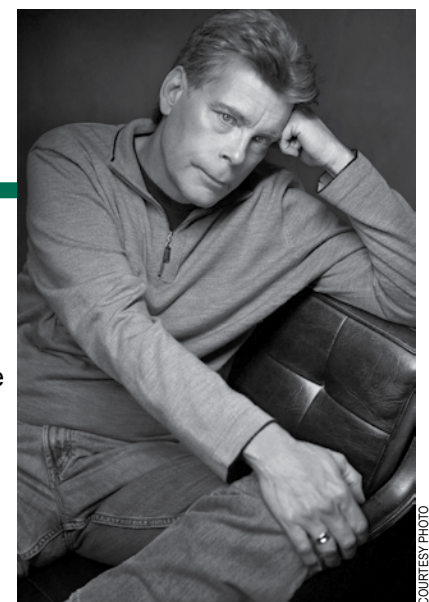
Maine's policies with those elsewhere. The Task Force has been charged with the task of developing guidelines for wind project siting in Maine, recommendations for changes in the permitting process, and proposing goals for installed wind power in Maine by 2010 and 2020. The 16-member team also includes the commissioners of the Department of Conservation and Department of Environmental Protection, staff from other state agencies, and four legislators as well as experts in renewable energy policies. Says Didisheim, "The Governor's Task Force could play an important role in helping Maine develop wind power in the most sensible way possible."

Stephen King Teams With NRCM to Promote Maine Global Warming Challenge

When Stephen King calls global warming "the scariest monster of all time," you should either run for your life—or take the Maine Global Warming Challenge! The master of the horror story has generously taped a public service message for NRCM promoting our goal for Mainers to cut 2 million pounds of global warming pollution. Tune in to the promotion on WHOM the "Super Station," located on your radio dial at 94.9 FM and streaming online at <http://www.whom949.com/>, and on our website at www.nrcm.org.

Also on the Super Station, hand in hand with our Stephen King message, are NRCM's new Go Green spots, 30-second energy-saving tips that save money and the environment, and encourage listeners to sign up for the Maine Global Warming Challenge. Listen to a few sample Go Green tips at our website www.nrcm.org.

If you haven't signed up yet for the Maine Global Warming Challenge, please sign up today. Send a short write up about your participation to us at slovitz@nrcm.org and we'll post it on our website created especially for the Challenge, at www.globalwarmingmaine.org. Help Maine cut 2 million pounds of global warming pollution by Earth Day 2008. Join NRCM's Maine Global Warming Challenge today!



Stephen King

■ NRCM IN ACTION ■

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



Actions Speak

Louder—Clean Energy Outreach Coordinator Sara Lovitz gave a presentation at Skowhegan High School on global warming, one of many presentations she has been giving lately. The students made t-shirts that said "Talk is Cheap" with a flaming earth. To

show they "walk the talk," many of the 150 or so who attended walked—or biked, or skateboarded—to school the previous day. That's taking action!

Going Full Circle—Communications Director Judy Berk and North Woods Outreach Organizer Caitlin Cleaver attended the WERU Full Circle Fair in Blue Hill, a fun, family-oriented event celebrating community radio. During two days of fantastic music, the NRCM team ran a booth informing the crowds about Plum Creek's massive development proposal for the Moosehead Lake region, and were well received.

Garden of Information—

Executive Director Brownie Carson spoke to the Garden Club of Mt. Desert Island about the wide range of work NRCM has been focused on lately. Among the topics included were energy and global warming and our involvement with the Penobscot River Restoration Project. Much of the time was spent sharing the fine print and answering questions about Plum Creek's proposal for Moosehead.



More about Moosehead—NRCM's North Woods staff has been busily making the rounds with our Plum Creek presentation showing the harm the company's proposal would have on the region. These include the Rum Ridge Camp Association in the Moosehead area, Fryeburg Rotary, Lake Onawa Association, Orono Land Trust, and the Portland

Energy Audits for Low-income Households

Energy audits are conducted by Community Action Programs (CAP) throughout the state in order to weatherize and/or repair low-income homes. The primary goals of the weatherization programs are client education, air sealing, and insulation. Efforts are especially concentrated on moisture reduction, as this can lead to a lot of home and resident health problems. There is an Appliance Replacement Program which replaces inefficient refrigerators with new, efficient models. For a full list of CAP's in Maine, visit <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/beas/resource/cap.htm>, or call the Department of Human Services at (207) 287-3707 or (800) 606-0215.

—Stacie Haines, Membership Manager

Recycling Made Simpler

CFLs

Their shape may resemble a soft-serve ice cream, a u-shaped tube, a supersized globe, or a plain old-fashioned incandescent bulb. The newer models have been perfected so they light up instantly, cast a warm glow, and don't flicker. They also last 10 times longer than traditional bulbs, so they save lots of money, energy, and global warming and air pollution.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, if we all switched our five most highly used light bulbs to these compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), we would save enough electricity to shut down 21 power plants. That means less carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides causing problems like global warming, acid rain, ozone smog, and mercury-contaminated fish.

It is important to remember, though, that all CFLs and other fluorescent lights should be recycled when they burn out, so that the very small amount of mercury contained within the bulbs is safely captured and reused. The State has just made this recycling easier. In addition to recycling at the "universal waste" collection area at most transfer stations across the state, Mainers will find yellow decals in the windows of more than 300 hardware and other stores across the state that are participating as no-cost CFL recycling drop-off spots. Remember, look for the yellow decal!—Judy Berk, Advocacy Communications Director

Cell Phones

An estimated 100 million cell phones are discarded annually, including approximately 450,000 in Maine. Cell phones contain a large amount of hazardous materials, including arsenic, lead, cadmium, and brominated flame retardants, which can be released into the air when burned in incinerators, and leach into soil and drinking water when buried in landfills. Collecting cell phones for recycling prevents the release of these pollutants and recaptures valuable commodities for reuse in manufacturing new products.

Maine's new cell phone recycling law makes it easy for Maine citizens to do the right thing and dispose of their old cell phone safely. After the law goes into effect in January 2008, all cell-phone retailers in Maine will accept used cell phones for recycling for free at retail locations around the state.

—Matt Prindiville, Toxics and Federal Policy Issues Policy Advocate



Gretta Wark

Energy-efficient Home Improvements With Gretta Wark

Five years ago, I purchased my first house, a World War I-era brick gem in Bath. I eagerly tackled my long list of needed improvements. I fixed the leaky roof, rebuilt the rickety front steps, sheetrocked the bathroom. I even removed the Bicentennial-era wallpaper.

Still I admit that I have done more demolition than improvements, but I am beginning to put the house back together again (really). My timing couldn't be better: until December 31, homeowners are eligible for a tax credit for the purchase of energy-saving materials and equipment. This includes not only big-ticket equipment like solar panels but also less-expensive items—insulation, hot water heaters, furnaces, replacement windows, and external doors.

My colleagues at NRCM advised me to hire an expert to perform an "energy audit." (Visit NRCM's website, www.nrcm.org, to view a list of qualified professionals.) As I soon discovered, an energy audit is a cross between a home inspection and one of those interactive exhibits at the Museum of Science in Boston.

Within a week of my call, David Milliken of Horizon-Residential Energy Services in South Portland arrived. His company takes the approach that the house is a system: he would inspect insulation levels and other "energy features," ask lots of questions about how I live in my house, and investigate for potential health or safety concerns. His final report would include practical and cost-effective strategies for improving the energy performance and comfort of my home.

First, David combed the attic, then inspected the chimney, poked under porches and into crawl spaces, examined the ceiling lights, checked the windows, and inspected for cobwebs. (The latter, I learned, tend to form where there is air infiltration.) He pointed out obvious deficiencies: not enough insulation in the attic, cracks in the plaster—previously hidden behind the red, white, and blue wallpaper—gaps around the foundation, and an aging refrigerator. He also noted that I had recently purchased an energy-efficient furnace, a previous homeowner had installed replacement windows, and I used compact fluorescent light bulbs wherever possible.

Next, David conducted a blower test. Using an expandable frame, he installed a fabric air barrier at the



David Milliken of Horizon-Residential Energy Services inspects Gretta's house for ways she can best save money and energy.



David conducts a "blower test" on Gretta's house to test for energy efficiency.

front door. He hooked up several tubes and gauges, and inserted a powerful fan into an opening in the fabric, which extracted air from the house. As the air pressure dropped, he explained, fresh air would find its way through whatever gaps or cracks in the home.

I quickly realized that I was in big trouble. A door slammed upstairs. A dust bunny flew by. Lightweight objects danced off table tops. I could feel air pouring from the attic, through the walls of a wooden extension, and up from the basement. The gold standard of home efficiency is .35 Natural Air Changes per hour (ACHn). My house clocked at 2.37 ACHn—or about 577 percent higher than the "target" reading.

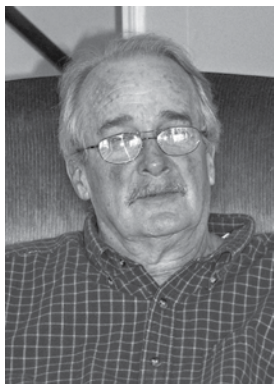
It is very difficult to achieve optimal energy efficiency in an older home, but I clearly needed to do better. David's final report included a prioritized list of recommendations. The highlights include: repair cracked plaster walls and ceilings; use flashing and a fire-rated caulk to close the gap between chimney chase and the chimney; remove an earlier generation of insulation from the attic. Seal around wiring and other penetration holes; and install a 14 inch deep blanket of blown-in cellulose insulation; tape the seams of the ductwork for my furnace; seal gaps where the house meets the foundation; and replace my refrigerator with an Energy Star appliance when opportunity allows.

The three hours and few hundred dollars that I spent on the energy audit are probably the best investments I have made in my house. The biggest expense - insulation in the attic - is one of the items eligible for the tax credit. It will also deliver the biggest return, immediately reducing my energy consumption and heating bills. Now, if I could only get the IRS to give me a tax credit for the cost of wallpaper removal.

Gretta Wark is NRCM's director of development.

Meet NRCM Member Tony Nazar, Photographer Extraordinaire

Since the launch of our new website in November 2005, “My Maine This Week” continues to be a popular feature among our Web visitors. And we enjoy it because it allows us to highlight the photography, short prose, and poems of our supporters and their love for Maine. Tony Nazar, of Wilton, is a regular “My Maine” contributor. We’ve include some of Tony’s photos here and asked him to share with us a few words about his wonderful photography. -Beth Dimond, Webmaster



COURTESY PHOTO



A raccoon takes a peek around a tree trunk.

year. Of course ‘good’ to Mr. Adams and ‘good’ to me are two different things.

“Now that I’m retired from sampling workplaces as similar and as diverse as Alaska and Maine, my days are spent exploring with my camera my backyard,

“From my earliest days with a Kodak Brownie, I was taught that the photograph is as much the product of what the photographer sees as what the camera records. I also comfort myself with the knowledge that Ansel Adams once said a photographer should be satisfied with his work if he shoots three or four good shots a



Monhegan Island ferry in fog.

my neighborhood, and the hills surrounding me. I seek only serenity and find it most frequently looking through a lens.”

To see a sample of Tony’s wonderful photos in person, you’re invited to visit our headquarters at 3 Wade Street, Augusta. Tony’s photos are hanging beautifully in the entryway.



One of our most popular “My Maine” features, Tree Swallows at the nest box.

Extraordinary Poet, Long-time Friend

The world lost an extraordinary poet, and NRCM a long-time friend and member, on July 2, when Philip Booth passed away.

Philip spent much of his time in a house in Castine that had been handed down through five generations. He taught at Bowdoin College, Dartmouth, and elsewhere, and published ten volumes of poetry. His highly acclaimed verse appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and in many other publications.

It was Philip who first suggested that we add the line urging members to share our newsletter with their friends or a local library—a great way to protect our natural resources while spreading the word about NRCM’s important work. We have been inviting you to pass your newsletter along ever since.

Philip was kind enough to send me a copy of *Art and Nature*, which he inscribed on the autumnal equinox in 1993, “With thanks for the clarities of Maine Environment and all else she gives to keeping Maine’s nature deep.” Our condolences go to his wife Margaret and their family. His talents, kindness, and commitment to the environment will be greatly missed.—Judy Berk, Advocacy Communications Director

Judy’s favorite excerpts from Philip Booth’s essay in *Art and Nature*:

Distances/Shallows/Deeps

Field notes from an east-facing window at the cold end of a long Maine winter.

Nature doesn’t have to be wilderness to be wild or natural: But wilderness, whether Arctic tundra or rainforest, is the prime measure against which all other realms of nature are scaled, and on which they depend.

We used to talk about good soil. Or about a good stand of trees. Now we talk about property.

My surest contact with both the planet and my daylight self is walking the ground by foot. Daily, both early and late.

I’m being my solo self in sudden company with creatures who inhabit air or water in ways I cannot, creatures in whose presence I feel rather than think, being charged by the presence of their otherness to be in myself more alive.

Living with Nature is opening one’s self to a place full of all-we-are-not, where profoundly constant change does not accommodate our human schedule or our presumptuous human priorities.

Tacking between islands in both time-present and geologic time, plating the wind, watching eiders, listening to loons and island whitethroats from a boat moving on constantly changing sea-levels and periodic tides, I’m given perspectives both horizontal and vertical, perspectives constantly new.



Philip Booth

ROLLE MCKENNA/PENGUIN GROUP

Celebrate Our New Logo!



We are pleased to unveil to you the Natural Resources Council of Maine’s brand new logo! Our “classic” NRCM logo served us well over the years. We placed it on our letters, brochures, and elsewhere like a pledge of protection for our water, air, and forests. Our new logo is a symbol of this same vow to protect, restore, and conserve Maine’s environment. To celebrate the occasion, we have created special NRCM products—t-shirts, totes, hats, and mugs—available to

you, thanks to our friends at F.W. Horch Sustainable Goods and Supplies.

You can purchase them online at www.fwhorch.com/nrcm/index.html, by calling F.W. Horch at (207) 729-4050, or by visiting the store’s location 56 Maine Street, Brunswick, Maine. Half of the proceeds will go to NRCM in support of our ongoing efforts to keep Maine, Maine.

“Feed” Your Head!

Subscribe to NRCM’s RSS feed! A great way to stay up-to-the-minute on news articles we post to our website. Subscribe at www.nrcm.org While there, share your thoughts on our issues by blogging for Maine’s environment, also new to our website.



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING!

Saturday, October 27, 2007

Hold the date and plan to join us at the Natural Resources Council of Maine’s annual meeting. Watch your mailbox for an invitation or visit our “Attend an Event” page on our website soon for more information.

We hope to see you there!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

New Members May 1, 2007 through July 31, 2007

Roger W. and Frances Addor
 Scott and Karen Adelman
 Anthony Aman and Catherine Morse
 Elinor F. Ameer
 Richard P. and Karin Anderson
 Joanne Bander
 Thomas F. Banit
 Bland C. Banwell
 Jean Barry
 Irene Batchelor
 Richard M. Bateman
 Carson W. Bates and Brenda Freeman-Bates
 Beach Pea Baking Co.
 Jeffrey P. Beale
 Mary F. Beck
 Barbara C. Bell
 Katherine Y. Benson
 John and Pat Beraud
 Derek Berg
 Stephen A. Bobo
 Roberta G. Braen
 John K. and Judith H. Brooks
 Edwin C. Campbell
 Jean D. Carter
 Eric A. and Alison B. Chase
 Portia H. Clark
 Dr. and Mrs. James L. Clarke
 Suzanne R. Collins
 David and Jo Comeau
 Bea Coryell
 James V. and Mary S. Costanzo
 Priscilla Costello
 Sarah D. Crawford and Jane Porter
 Janice M. Daley and Frank P. Guidi
 Chris Dalton
 J. F. Dance and Kathy Kuryla
 Caroline A. Delay
 Christine A. DeTroy
 Anthony J. Dimidio and Susan Roseman
 Gerard Donovan
 Marjorie W. Dunaway
 Robert Evans and Nancy H. Evans
 Jeffrey H. Fenn
 Tom Ferrero
 Annie Finch
 Cordelia M. Fisher
 Marion Freeman
 Carole J. Friedman
 Friends of Bald Mountain Pond
 Robert J. and Patricia D. Galbreath
 Linda J. Glaser
 Brian and Susanna Gleason
 Sara D. Goodman
 Lauren J. Gramlich
 Donna K. Gray
 Margaret Gregorie
 Charles C. Grimes and Anne M. Grimes
 Robert Groves and Vicki Stockard
 Mark D. and Jeanette S. Hagen
 Craig Haims
 John and Valerie Hale
 Miriam V. Hale

Marion E. Harris
 Julian C. and Marion C. Hatch
 Susan Hathaway
 Richard and Karen Herlihy
 Candace R. Hill
 Edward A. Hobbs
 Norma N. Holt
 Diana Jenkins
 Ms. Evelyn A. Jenks
 Marilyn Johnson
 Nathan D. Johnston
 Elizabeth A. Jones
 Annie Kaempfer
 Peter E. and Pamela R. Kane
 Norman and Phyllis Kelvin
 Charles I. Kendall
 Kathy Kowler
 Jerald P. and Albertina Kuhn
 Bert Kunz-Wiesel
 Henry R. Kwiecinski
 Lake Region High School
 Michael and Lorrie Landsberg
 Mark J. Lanpher
 Matthew P. and Jessica Leclair
 Patricia Leonard-Johnson
 Catherine A. Leroy
 Denise C. Libby
 Warren A. and Jean Libby
 James Lougee
 James C. Macleod
 Joseph E. and Claudia Madden
 Victor T. Mahoney
 Kathleen L. Martin
 Dawn M. Pelletier and Leland J. Martin
 Laurie A. Mathes
 Elizabeth D. McCann
 Larry P. McIntosh
 Suzanne McLain
 Elsie M. Mcleod
 Elizabeth C. McMath
 John C. Merriman
 Leta L. Mero
 Ronald F. and Elaine Meuse
 Mrs. Marjorie D. Middleton
 John P. Miller
 Jay R. Miller
 Dave Miramant and Dee Webster
 Marsha P. Morgan
 Lloyd Morton
 Patricia S. Munter
 Gertrude Murphy
 William D. Nelson
 Alice H. Nelson
 Maria S. O'Byrne
 Beverly W. Olean
 Tyler Omand and Heather Baker
 Cris Oppenheimer and Rainer Pittham
 John Parkhurst
 Mary A. Perkins
 David G. Perkins
 Robert L. and Kellie M. Phillips
 Edward A. and Carol A. Phy

Joseph M. and Anne J. Pie
 Mark Pogorzelski
 Karl F. and Suzanne C. Pomeroy
 Kathleen A. Potts
 Janis B. Price
 Clara F. Quinn
 Thomas J. Quiqq
 Robert J. and Gayle A. Radder
 John F. and Dorothy P. Radebaugh
 P. A. Rancourt
 Robert Reed
 Penelope Reilly
 Robert C. and Dianne F. Rex
 Joyce M. Rowland
 Lorraine L. Roy
 Nicolas Ruf and Louise D. MacLellan-Ruf
 Trudy L. Runyan
 Jenny R. Russick
 Jean Ryan
 Maureen E. Drouin and Matthew J. Scease
 Dietrich H. and Julie M. Schlobohm
 Ingrid G. Scott
 Kathrin Seitz
 Annette Selleck
 Laura Sewall
 Sheila M. Shaffer
 Jerrold E. Shaffner
 J. Erika Shriner
 Deborah L. Siegel
 Cheston Simmons
 Mark and Kathryn Simonds
 Robert V. Siscoe
 Kathryn Skinner
 Robert and Linell Slaktowicz
 Patricia Small
 David B. Spang
 Joanne M. Stevens
 Calvin L. and Ilene Stinson
 Walter I. Sussman
 Albert G. and Ruth W. Sweetser
 David N. Taft
 Ed Tappe
 Mitchell S. Thomashow
 Margaret C. Thompson
 Daniel P. and Edith J. Thompson
 Mary H. Toscano
 Joshua P. Trask
 Clare T. Tully
 Susan van Alsenoy
 William Van Pelt
 Brenda Veilleux
 Hugh A. Verrier
 Noreen B. Vincent
 Elinor Voit
 Richard G. Wattles
 Craig J. Webber
 Timothy J. and Katherine H. Weber
 Margaret P. Wetzel
 Elizabeth Whitney
 Arthur E. Whitney
 Douglas R. Wood and Kristina L. Wood
 Mrs. Evelyn T. Woods



People's Choice Award Finalists

VOTE NOW!

After receiving nominations from across the state for our second annual People's Choice Award, it's time for you to vote! All of our finalists—and all of the nominees—are leaders among citizens working to protect the Maine

we love. But choose you must, at our online "voting booth" at http://www.nrcm.org/peoples_choice_vote.asp or by sending us your vote via snail mail: **Ryan Ewing, NRCM, 3 Wade St., Augusta, ME 04330-6317.** Thanks to all who sent in nominees. **Now let the voting begin!**

NOMINEES

Mike Hurley, Belfast

As current Mayor, Mike signed Belfast on as cool city (perhaps the first city in Maine). He hosted an electric car event last week and numerous other cool cities-related events. BIG downtown shopping booster. Owns downtown movie theater (with his wife Therese Bagnardi) which he renovated and expanded rather than building a multiplex out of town. Volunteer steward and big booster for local land trust. Founded "Greenstreets," a tree-planting group that has transformed Belfast's downtown.

Cherie Mason, Sunset (Deer Isle)

Cherie was formerly a Trustee of the Maine Chapter of the Nature Conservancy as well as a Board Member of the Humane Society of the United States. She is the author of two acclaimed children's books, *Wild Fox: A True Story*, which won the Maine Library Association's Lupine Award, and *Everybody is Somebody's Lunch*, which explores predator/prey relationships for a younger audience and is accompanied by a Teacher's Guide. Locally, she may be most often recognized for *Wildlife Journal*, which aired for 13 years on a local radio station, WERU-FM.

Jennifer Niese, Kennebunk

Jen has been a catalyst for local change in the Kennebunk area over the last two years. In early 2006, she wrote to the superintendent of schools for MSAD 71 asking for the district to increase efforts to reduce global warming pollution. Jen helped establish and led the MSAD 71 Energy and Environmental Advisory Committee, instrumental in moving the district to install more efficient lighting in school, to establish a "no idling program," and convincing the district to trial biodiesel in its buses. Jen was also a leader in forming the Sustainable Energy Alliance in Kennebunk, dedicated to combating global climate change by reducing community reliance on fossil fuels through education, improved energy efficiency, and increased use of renewable energy. This group has motivated the Town of Kennebunk to sign the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, helped to develop a climate action plan to reduce global warming pollution to levels mandated by the Kyoto Protocol, and works to educate community members through its Community Climate Challenge.

Maggie Shannon, Belgrade

Maggie has been the part-time executive director of Maine COLA for a number of years. While her title may say part-time, Maggie works exhaustively, often 60 to 70 hours a week to further the mission of this organization and the protection of all natural resources in Maine. Maggie was an integral player in the recent passage of a bill that virtually eliminates the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus in Maine. She has devoted herself to the issue of invasive plants in Maine and works tirelessly to educate the public about the benefits of lake associations and the protection of water quality. She has become a strong voice and a significant presence in the arena of public action and is highly deserving of this award. I am honored to know her, work with her, and to be able to nominate her for this distinction.

Helen Winebaum, York

Helen Winebaum has worked tirelessly for the York Land Trust and land conservation in Maine. It is thanks to her that the York Land Trust has protected over 1,500 acres in York County. Helen was the key to developing a coalition of partners resulting in the Mt. Agamenticus-to-the-Sea Conservation Initiative that has preserved 48,000 acres in southern Maine. Yet, Helen always gives the credit to others. Those of us who really see what goes on behind the scenes know that, although these accomplishments and many others took many people, it was Helen's never-wavering dedication and round-the-clock work that pushed these efforts forward. I cannot think of a better recipient for this award from NRCM. Helen is exactly the type of person who should be loudly acclaimed for her work in preserving Maine's natural resources.

Special Gifts in Honor of People or Events

Memorial Gifts

The Rau Foundation, Inc. in memory of Chase Bruns
 Kenneth S. and Sally K. Moore in memory of son Richard

Gift Memberships

Dana and Jewell Childs from Allison and Jeff Wells
 Gloria Sparks from Alan Sparks
 Garold L. Wark from Gretta Wark

New members of PARTNERS IN MAINE'S FUTURE Program

Philip H. Bailey	Julia Harrison	Marianne Steinhacker
Mary Beinecke	Geoff Houghton	William & Suzanne Steinour
Betty J. Brown	Ricky S. Jewell	Francesca J. Stoner
George Cordiner	Mary G. Lynch	Charles S. & Sherrill F. Strauss
Dr. Carrie L. Coselman	Jay McIntosh	A J Sumbler
Diana D. Dunn	Dr. M. C. Pettapiece Jr.	Albert E. Verrill
Dan and Jo Elliott	Wallace G. Pinfold	Bill & Marilyn Voorhies
Lynn Faria & Kendra Hutchinson	Carol W. Plummer	Gretta J. Wark
Elizabeth Grenier	Herman Rochwarg	Carolyn Wronker
	Kevin Slater & Polly Mahoney	



More than 40 NRCM members joined NRCM staff for a field trip together July 28 for a tour of the Mars Hill wind project. Thanks to all who attended!

S. LOVITZ/NRCM



"Dark-eyed Junco with nesting material. This 'mustachioed junco' was taken in northern Maine during last year's American Birding convention, held in Bangor."
 —Steve Bass of Altadena, CA

Send Us Your

"My Maine This Week"

Do you have a photograph that shows your love for Maine? A poem? Short prose? We'd love to run it on our new 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.