

Maine Environment

Natural Resources Council of Maine

Winter 2009

Energy is Rising in Washington

by Lisa Pohlmann

In the opening days of the Obama Presidency, it is heartening to see the threat of global warming finally ascend to its rightful place as one of our nation's highest priorities. The White House is advancing an ambitious agenda for reducing global warming pollution and our dependence on oil, through investments in efficient and clean energy, and a cap on global warming pollution.

At the capitol, Rep. Henry Waxman, chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, said he aims to pass a climate change bill out of committee before Memorial Day. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has since stated that she wants to move climate change legislation in the House before December. House leaders have drafted an economic recovery package with billions of dollars in incentives for renewable energy development, a clean energy-friendly transmission grid and energy efficiency.

There is no question that such action is long overdue. As President

Obama stated in his inaugural address, it's time to "pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America." This year we need to begin remaking our energy system. We need a "one-two punch" to fuel a green recovery: investments within a stimulus package, followed by more investments made

possible by a federal cap-and-trade program. This is the road to our planet's recovery as well.

Maine is Ready

Maine people are anxious to get this ball rolling. With oil providing more than 80 percent of our home heating and with long distances to travel in our rural state, we know how a spike in oil prices can threaten our businesses and households. We all got a taste of that last summer, and we will face it again if we don't change course.

Fortunately, bold, well-crafted climate legislation can help reduce heating costs, generate new energy jobs, and reduce emissions.

- Continued on page 6



The Obama Administration is poised to move ahead with energy legislation that could have great benefit for Maine.

"Mainers across the state are making tough decisions about energy use. Now it's time for all of us to speak up so we can make the tough policy decisions to truly transform our country."

—NRCM Deputy Director Lisa Pohlmann

NRCM Turns 50!



Join the Celebration! (See pages 4 & 5)

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The Latest on NRCM's Work to Protect Moosehead

As the Land Use Regulation Commission's (LURC) work on Plum Creek's massive development proposal for Moosehead Lake simmers along, we at NRCM are watchdogging it every step of the way. LURC, Plum Creek, and the easement holder are developing draft language for the revised



Moosehead Lake

plan, the easements, revised development standards, and a dozen other documents. We anticipate the drafts to be released for public comment in February or March, and we expect to file comments on many of these drafts.

Since early November, NRCM has filed comments on two issues: wind power siting in conservation easement areas, and the effect of proposed clearing standards on scenic values. On wind, NRCM recommended that a full scenic analysis be conducted and that wind power be allowed only in those areas where it is unlikely to harm recreational uses. In addition, we urged that Plum Creek be required to provide more mitigation lands to offset any

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Natural Resources Council of Maine

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MEET NEW STAFF & INTERNS



Michelle MacEachern

Michelle MacEachern is pitching in part time to help cover a variety of tasks in our business office. Michelle has worked as a CNA in an Alzheimer's unit at the Maine Veteran's Home, for the Maine Revenue Service, has had a small cleaning business, and has also been lucky enough to be a stay-at-home mom with her youngest of three sons, all of whom enjoy camping. A self-described "Navy brat," Michelle has lived in Florida, Virginia, and Rhode Island, and is now settled in Augusta near her extended family. In addition to camping, Michelle says she enjoys eating pizza and chocolate but "hates to exercise unless it's stacking wood or hiking outdoors!" Welcome, Michelle!



Sam Brakeley

NRCM is pleased to have had two Colby College students as interns in our office during the month of January. Cassie Ornell, from North Andover, Massachusetts, is a senior Environmental Studies major with a focus on Marine Science and a minor in Geology. She spent time at NRCM researching federal energy subsidies, statewide energy efficiency programs, and heating oil in Maine. She also created a handout on residential installation of solar panels in Maine. Sam Brakeley, from Marblehead, Massachusetts, is a Colby junior Environmental Studies major with an emphasis on policy. For NRCM, he wrote brief biographies on some of the new key legislators in the State House and created a residential wind power pamphlet. Thank you, Sam and Cassie!



Cassie Ornell

NRCM KICKS OFF 50TH WITH POLAR PLUNGE

More than a dozen brave NRCM staffers and supporters braved cold air and frigid waters at East End Beach in Portland on January 2nd in order to raise awareness of our work to reduce global warming pollution. The first-ever NRCM Polar Plunge was a huge success thanks to the polar bear plungers and a large crowd of family, friends, and folks who cheered us on. The event attracted several TV stations and helped us raise awareness of the global warming issue. We also raised important funds for our work on energy issues in Maine.

Thanks to all participants!



NRCM staffers and supporters head quickly into the icy water. They ran back out even more quickly!

WASHINGTON WATCH

NRCM and Other Groups Sue EPA Over Power Plant Air Toxic Pollution

In December, NRCM and a coalition of state and national public health and environmental groups filed a lawsuit in federal court. The groups are seeking a firm, enforceable new deadline for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to require deep reductions in mercury and other toxic air pollutants emitted from coal- and oil-fired power plants.

Power plants are the nation's largest unregulated source of mercury pollution. They also emit enormous quantities of lead, arsenic, and other hazardous chemicals.

The Clean Air Act required the federal government to issue final standards for power plant emissions of mercury and other hazardous pollutants by December 2002. Those rules would have been effective at new facilities immediately, and by December 2005 at existing facilities. The Bush Administration first stalled, and then issued weak rules allowing mercury trading, which were struck down entirely by the D.C. federal appellate court in February 2008.

"Children and women of childbearing age are especially at risk when power plants emit the levels of mercury they are emitting today," says NRCM Clean Production Project Director Matt Prindiville. "All 50 states, and one U.S. territory, have declared fish advisories warning about mercury contamination. Maine loons, fish, eagles, and other wildlife are also contaminated."

Exposure, for example, through eating contaminated fish, can cause permanent harm to the brain in humans and reproductive harm in wildlife. The most sensitive segments of the population are young children whose brains are still developing, and women of childbearing age.

"We are far past both the legal and, indeed, the moral deadline for EPA



ED AND DAWN SMITH

The health of Maine people and wildlife, including our beloved Common Loons, are threatened by mercury and other toxic pollutants from coal- and oil-fired power plants.

to take action to require significant controls on mercury and the many other toxic air pollutants emitted by power plants," said Ann Weeks, an attorney with the Clean Air Task Force, who represents NRCM. "While we are forced to seek a deadline in court because of the Bush Administration's intransigence, we are hopeful that the Obama Administration will act quickly to mandate the deep cuts that the Clean Air Act requires."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, eight percent of American women of childbearing age have mercury in their bodies at levels high enough to put their babies at risk of birth defects, loss of IQ, learning disabilities, and developmental problems. Mercury contamination has also been demonstrated to cause serious impacts to wildlife, including behavioral and reproductive damage.

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Maine Environment Banner Image / Avery Peak, Bigelow Preserve, a "My Maine This Week" photo by Ken Hardwick of Wiscasset

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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Change is On the Way

Change. It's what our natural environment is all about. One day the sky is gray and falling snow veils the horizon. The next, the sun shines brightly from a blue sky. Winter gives way to spring. Trees, leafless for a spell, burst again with shades of green. Birds return, filled with song, to build new nests and raise another brood of young.

Changes like these are good for the spirit after months of cold. The same can be said for political change. Witness the sight of nearly 2 million people who came together at the National Mall in our nation's capital on January 20 to celebrate the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Millions more watched all over the world, from homes, classrooms, and offices. The monumental event was broadcast on public monitors in small third-world villages and major cities across the globe. For the first time in recent memory, a broad segment of the world has renewed hope that the challenges of the human race will be faced with courage, creativity, and a unity of purpose.

In October 2007, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, then candidate Barack Obama said, "We cannot afford more of the same timid politics when the future of our planet is at stake." Throughout the long campaign, he spoke out about the need for a new energy policy, protection of threatened public lands, less pollution from power plants, and a healthy future for our children. In his inaugural address, he promised to "work tirelessly" to "hold back the specter of a warming planet." Importantly, he asked citizens everywhere to get involved in creating a better future.

The hope that Obama's presidency brings is tinged with the solemn reality that to succeed, we must commit ourselves to be individual agents of change. Our nation is in the midst of sobering times, but we can—we must—make change happen. It can start right here in our state.

For centuries, Maine people lived sustainably and in harmony with our state's remarkable natural bounty—our once abundant fisheries and game animal populations, our seemingly limitless forests, our clean air and water. But in recent years, people and corporations have depleted our environmental reserves, the result of a lack of a vision for the future. Short-term gains have too often spent down our "natural capital" for the benefit of a few at the expense of the many. The latest example: real estate speculators with no real ties to our state, like Plum Creek, that seek to carve the North Woods into sprawling developments for trophy homes.

Maine has some of our country's most precious and beloved natural places and resources. If we are to give today's children and tomorrow's grandchildren the opportunity to live and prosper here, we must protect the essential qualities of this place. We must make our voices heard. We must work for the kind of change that leads to prosperity based upon careful stewardship of our natural assets. And we must hold our elected officials accountable. This future is within our grasp, but requires serious engagement by all of us.

As I watched President Obama's inaugural address with my colleagues here at NRCM, these words stood out: "What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility — a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task."

Here in Maine, we have a difficult task, but not an impossible one. As we celebrate NRCM's 50th anniversary this year, we are reminded of what individuals, working together, can accomplish. Many of the successes that mark our history were, some said, not possible. Time and again, we proved the skeptics wrong. These successes — and a strong commitment to environmental protection from our new president — give us hope for the future.

—Brownie Carson, Executive Director



NRCM Leads Sign-on Campaign to Congressional Delegation

Next year will be a crucial time for federal action on climate change and energy independence. Global warming could pose a very serious threat to Maine's economy, environment, and quality of life. The best scientific data suggest that global warming could cause significant sea-level rise along Maine's lengthy coastline, jeopardizing property, wildlife habitat, and infrastructure. Global warming also could result in more severe weather, increased smog and asthma, and significant harm to our natural resource-based economy. At the same time, Maine's businesses could benefit tremendously from incentives to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy, which will create business opportunities, lower energy costs, and save money.

To encourage members of Maine's Congressional delegation to show strong leadership on the global warming issue, NRCM contacted members of the business, health care, and nonprofit sectors to sign a letter to our elected officials in Washington. More than 150 have already signed. Together, we urge our federal delegation to take swift action to address climate change and help ensure the future of Maine's workforce and environment.



FAST Facts

Low-income people who live in old or flimsy housing are becoming prime targets for cities and groups intent on slashing energy use...In several cities, public and private funds and services are teaming to give low-income households free energy audits, compact fluorescent light bulbs, insulation, and other energy-saving devices and tips. —Christian Science Monitor

Less than two years after the Bald Eagle was removed from the federal endangered species list, has found an alarming accumulation of mercury in eagle chicks in the Catskill Park region of New York. The levels are close to those associated with reproductive problems in Common Loons and Bald Eagles elsewhere in the Northeast. —New York Times



Last year consumer spending on Valentine's Day gifts was about \$17 billion, the second largest spending holiday behind Christmas. Instead of candy and dinner, many are giving the gift of fun, exercise, and endorphins: an electric bike. E-bikes are bikes with small motors to assist with pedaling, making them, enthusiasts say, a good alternative to both cars and scooters. —ENN

Tip of the Day



Feed the Right Seed. If you feed birds this winter, be sure to use seed appropriate for your feeder. Black oil sunflower seeds are preferred by birds that use tube feeders; mixed seed is great for platform feeders and to spread over the ground.



For a Tip of the Day every day, visit our website at www.nrcm.org. Have our tips sent directly to your home page through our RSS feed!

Comments? Suggestions?

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

NRCM Turns 50!

Throughout 2009, the Natural Resources Council of Maine will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of our work protecting the nature of Maine, now and for generations to come.

Founded on June 25, 1959, by a small group of volunteers working to protect the Allagash River, our Maine-grown, member-supported group has evolved to confront the most important environmental problems facing the state. In so doing, we have helped Maine to accomplish many model, first-in-the-nation successes that have helped keep Maine a special place.

Today, NRCM has more than 12,000 supporters from across Maine and beyond. The power of your voices, your actions, and your passion are why we continue to succeed.

In celebration of our past, present, and future, we are planning 50 events and activities this year. We invite you and your family to participate.

Join us for a paddle down a river we helped to restore, or a hike among spectacular mountains, forests, and coastal trails that are conserved forever as a result of our advocacy for Land for Maine's Future. Come see a new film featuring the people, history, and work of NRCM, and our vision for the future.

We look forward to the many opportunities our 50th anniversary will provide for us to meet you and hear what's on your mind. You have made NRCM the powerful organization we are today. You have talked to friends and neighbors, written to newspapers and legislators, testified at hearings, and given generously of your time and money to help win victories we can all be proud of.

Now it is time to reflect on all that we've learned and to galvanize our strength and courage for the challenges ahead. And most importantly, to celebrate the Maine we work so hard to protect. Join the celebration!



The Allagash Wilderness Waterway, the issue upon which NRCM was founded in 1959.

To celebrate NRCM's 50th anniversary in 2009, you'll be invited to a special 50th anniversary

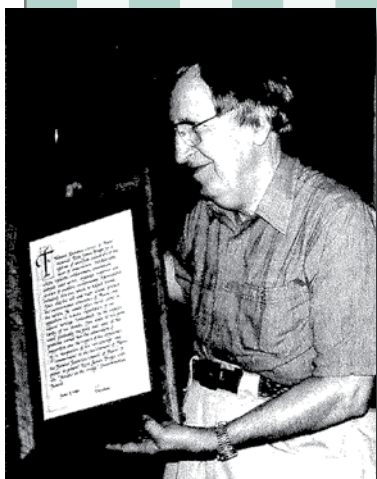
March 17 Join us! Spend the morning with your legislators about

March 25 "Protecting the Environment" Co-hosted by NRCM

April 15 Ap... Mi... Ha... alv... gu... Op... frie... sty... ow...



Fifty Years of Protection



1959 The Natural Resources Council of Maine incorporates as Maine's first statewide environmental advocacy organization on June 25, 1959.

1966 NRCM leads campaign to create the Allagash Wilderness Waterway to preserve the wild Allagash River.

1969 NRCM helps ensure removal of billboards from Maine's highways. On December 31, 1969 Maine had 4,832 billboards.

1970 NRCM works to end the spraying of DDT in our forests, a practice that almost wiped out Maine's Bald Eagle populations.



1977 NRCM activities motivate 50,000 voters to sign petition against Dickey-Lincoln Dam Project which would have flooded the headwaters of the magnificent St. John River.

1979 State referendum to continue Bottle Bill passes with 84% of the vote. NRCM takes bill opponents to court for deceptive advertising.

1983 NRCM fights a 10-year battle to keep a major oil refinery from being built in Eastport, an inappropriate site that would have been treacherous for navigation by supertankers. The refinery proposal was dropped and Cobscook Bay, saved.

1987 NRCM leads coalition effort to preserve the West Branch of the Penobscot River, defeating the "Big A" dam. The dam would have drowned one of the most scenic stretches of Maine and the nation's finest landlocked salmon fishery.

1989 NRCM secures passage of landmark recycling law, reducing the state's waste stream by more than 25%.

1990 NRCM leads efforts to encourage protection of the Speckled Wilderness. Logging, road construction

1993 NRCM joins with others to oppose proposed coal-burning plant at Acadia National Park from



Earn Brownie Points!

Each time you attend an event or participate in an activity, you earn a "Brownie Point"—the equivalent of a raffle ticket you can send us to be entered into drawings for prizes, generously donated by Maine businesses, including a kayak package from L.L. Bean.

To enter our raffle, send an email with a subject line of "Raffle Entry" to Beth Dimond at beth@nrcm.org. Please include your name, address, phone number, and email address along with the name of the activity in which you participated. Brownie Points are due the day before each drawing, so watch for drawing dates and entry deadlines!. Good luck and have fun!

Help us create a 50th Anniversary Scrapbook

Send us photos of yourself and your family enjoying any of our special 50th anniversary activities. We'd love any old ones you have too! We'll post them to our online scrapbook.

In celebration of our 50th anniversary, we have created a special section of our website at www.nrcm.org/50_years.asp. We invite you to give it a visit!

Join the Celebration!

50 Events Celebrating 50 Years

50 years protecting Maine's environment, we'll be celebrating with 50 events and activities for you and your family to participate in around Maine. Throughout the year, join us for hikes, canoe paddles, bird walks, film showings, and much more. Visit our website often as our 50 events and activities unfold—we've created a special section of our website at www.nrcm.org/50_years.asp. **Just a few highlights:**

at our Augusta office for NRCM's annual **Citizen Action Day**. Join us at our office and then head over to the State House to meet with legislators on issues of importance to you and to Maine's environment.

and S. Muskie Lecture by former Maine governor Angus King titled "Reflections on the Role of Leadership" at Bates College, Lewiston, ME with an introduction by Brownie Carson - Watch for details!

April 15 Join us for **"Music for the Environment" Open House** with NRCM at the Liberal Cup on Water Street in Portland, 7-10 p.m. Free and open to the public. The environment has always been a source of inspiration to singer-songwriters. Bring your guitar, shakers, and your favorite environmental songs to NRCM's Open House. Or just come, meet NRCM staff, and enjoy the friendly atmosphere and the Liberal Cup's homemade English pub-style food and beverages. NRCM staff will be performing some of our favorites – and inviting you to sing along!



July 18 Birding at Moosehead with Bob Duchesne, founder, Maine Birding Trail. Moosehead Lake boasts a variety of habitats that create some of the best bird diversity in the state. These species, more common to the boreal forest of Canada, draw bird enthusiasts to Maine from far and wide. Specialties include Boreal Chickadees, Gray Jays, Spruce Grouse, and a variety of warblers, thrushes, and other songbirds.



Sept. 8-12 Paddle down the Allagash with NRCM. Watch for details!



Sept 25 Lecture by author and toxics activist Dr. Sandra Steingraber Watch for details.

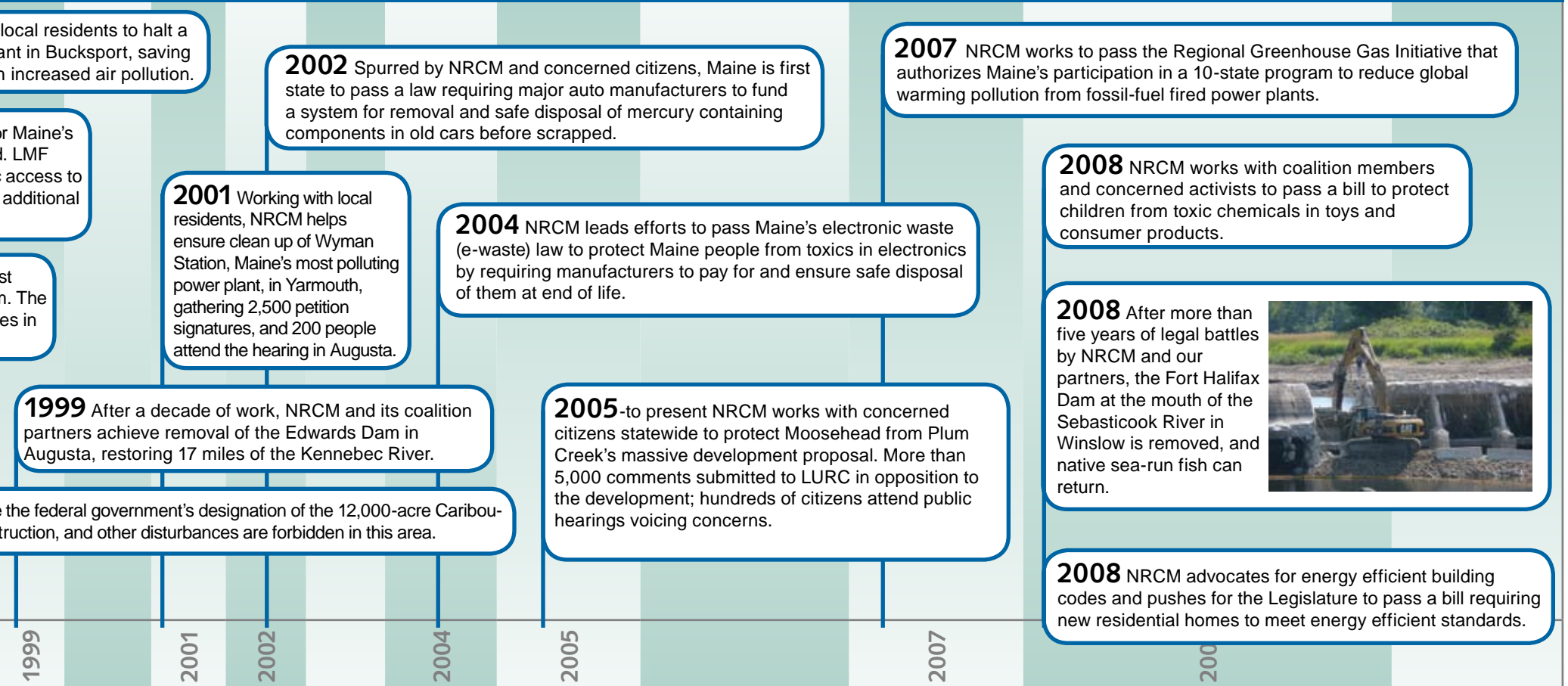
Watch for Ways to Participate in These Awareness Days

April 22 Earth Day | **April 24** Arbor Day

May 12 Commute Another Way Week | **June 6** National Trails Day

Watch for more news of special days ways you can celebrate them!

Protecting the Nature of Maine For the full timeline, visit <http://www.nrcm.org/timeline.asp>



Do It Yourself Activities!

Visit our website to learn more about activities you can enjoy with your friends and family anytime.

- Take a Hike: NRCM staffers have put together a list of 16 great hikes on Land for Maine's Future lands, in all 16 counties.
- Write to your legislator urging protection of Maine's environment.
- Write a letter-to-the-editor informing neighbors about key issues. Visit our website for tips!
- Visit a Maine sporting camp – NRCM members will get a discount at participating sporting camps, listed on our website.
- Send in your favorite photo for "My Maine This Week."

It can also help to offset the jobs lost from weakened housing and financial markets, and to reduce the long-term harm global warming will deliver to our natural resource-based industries.

RGGI—the Northeast’s Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative—provides a model for the President and Congress to consider. It was passed in Maine with broad political support. We are starting to see the results as Maine’s first carbon allowances have been auctioned. Over \$6 million in revenues have been generated for energy efficiency programs, and \$650,000 has already been sent to existing low-income weatherization programs (see page 7).

Experience has now taught us that there are three key elements of effective legislation to help stop global warming:

- set a cap to reduce global warming pollution by at least 80 percent by 2050;
- level the playing field for all emissions, to avoid distortions in the market;
- do not give away the right to pollute – with a strong cap, auction 100 percent of carbon credits to raise money to invest in clean renewables and particularly in massive investments in energy efficiency where the biggest, fastest economic benefits are possible.

While the private market for energy efficiency is making slow gains, price signals alone are not moving us ahead nearly fast enough. We need public policies and programs to overcome barriers such as the lack of information about efficient technologies, the lack of an adequately trained workforce in this sector, and the lack of financing for small businesses and low- and moderate-income households.

Leading the Way

For several months, we at NRCM have been talking with business and labor leaders, state officials, non-profit partners, community colleges, and technical centers. We want to make sure Maine is ready to achieve the maximum economic benefits from current and new investments in the clean energy economy, whether through the federal stimulus package, a federal cap-and-trade program, or increased state efficiency funding.

We need leadership from our delegation in Washington to move federal legislation forward. We also need leadership in Maine to create and implement a statewide plan that spans our social service, academic, labor, and natural resource agencies, with a focus on three priority areas:

- Restructure and consolidate our energy efficiency programs to make them more available and user-friendly for businesses and households.
- Coordinate our academic system to jump start careers, from retrofitting to engineering renewable energy technology. This system needs to be affordable, accessible, and provide the full range of skill training our workforce needs to be at the cutting edge of this green recovery.
- Expand funding for energy efficiency in order to maximize matching federal funds and energy cost savings.

Mainers across the state are making tough decisions about energy use. Now it’s time for all of us to speak up so we can make the tough policy decisions to truly transform our country. Join NRCM’s efforts by talking to each other and policymakers about the difference a warmer home, a better bottom line, a new living wage job, and clean air on a Maine summer day could make for Maine families.

Lisa Pohlmann is NRCM’s deputy director.



Governor Baldacci signed the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) into law in 2007 (NRCM’s Dylan Voorhees is at far left). RGGI provides a model for President Obama and Congress to consider.

Moosehead - Continued from page 1

conservation land rezoned for wind power development.

LURC also requested comments to help determine how much clearing should be allowed for house lots away from the shore. NRCM urged the adoption of a restrictive standard that would reduce the visibility of houses resulting from the reflection of the sun on, and internal lights from, the large picture windows that are likely to be incorporated in new houses. We also urged additional tests during the “leaf-off” season. Check our website to stay informed, www.nrcm.org.



North Woods Presentation Available for Your Group

While the Moosehead Lake process continues, now is the time to be thinking about the future of the rest of the North Woods, too. In the last decade, there have been enormous land ownership changes, as the paper companies have sold land to investors, real estate developers, and pension funds. Recent analysis shows that development is occurring throughout Maine’s North Woods. We’ve put together a presentation that shows how and why these changes are happening today, reveals the threats that could forever change this unique place, and presents some options for protecting Maine’s North Woods. Help us spread the word by setting up a presentation in your neighborhood (perhaps for your local land trust, rotary club, library, or other group). Contact Diano Circo at diano@nrcm.org, (800) 287-2345.

Crooked River Protected from Dam

In January, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) rejected a proposal to dam the spectacular Crooked River in southwestern Maine. The dam applicant wanted to do summer reenactments of old-time saw mill practices at a small museum in Scribner’s Mill. However, the dam would have harmed the Crooked River, which provides the vast majority of spawning habitat for Sebago Lake’s famed land-locked salmon fishery.



The Crooked River feeds into Sebago Lake and is the primary tributary for spawning salmon. DEP recently rejected a dam proposed for the river.

In rejecting the dam proposal, DEP recognized the economic and ecological importance of this unique and outstanding fishery (Sebago Lake is one of only four lakes in Maine with a wild land-locked salmon fishery). DEP also recognized the importance of keeping the water quality in the Crooked River pristine, because it is the largest source of water to Sebago Lake, which in turn supplies drinking water to 200,000 people in Maine. Because the water in Sebago Lake is so clean, the Portland Water District does not need a large, complex filtration plant for the water it supplies to its customers. Constructing such treatment plants is incredibly expensive and would raise rates for huge numbers of people and businesses in southern Maine, if it were required.

NRCM and other organizations, including local fishing and sporting groups, and the Portland Water District, submitted testimony opposing the dam. “DEP’s decision to reject the Crooked River dam is a victory for Sebago Lake, for land-locked salmon, and for Maine’s economy,” said Nick Bennett, NRCM’s staff scientist. “The next step in securing the future of the Crooked River will be for the Legislature to upgrade it to the highest level of protection under Maine law, Class AA, so that it is never again threatened with dam construction.”

The Legislature will vote on upgrading the Crooked and other water bodies in the coming months. Those interested in this issue should contact Nick at nbennett@nrcm.org.



New Wind Energy Rebate Announced

Maine homeowners and businesses may now be eligible for rebates of up to \$2,000 and \$4,000, respectively, for the installation of wind energy systems, under a new Efficiency Maine program.

Qualified applications for the new wind incentive program received through the first quarter will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. If after the first quarter demand appears to be on track to exceed available funding, a random selection system may be instituted.

For more information, and to download an application, go to www.energymaine.com and click on Renewable Energy.

First RGGI Auctions Generate \$6 Million for Energy Efficiency

Maine's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which NRCM helped to push through the Legislature last year, has already started to bear fruit for Maine residents looking to save money. Maine is one of 10 northeastern states blazing the way to fight global warming through a program that reduces power plant pollution over 10 years. The program includes an ever-decreasing cap on global warming pollutants and a public auction of carbon permits, the proceeds from which are invested in energy efficiency to reduce costs for families and businesses.

The first two auctions generated more than \$6 million dollars for this purpose. There will be four more auctions in 2009. Last fall, the Trustees of this fund – The Energy & Carbon Savings Trust, which includes NRCM board member and economist Tom Tietenberg – voted to spend up to \$750,000 ahead of schedule to jumpstart additional weatherization programs for low-income homes.

In January, the Trustees announced that a competitive bidding process for that first RGGI money has resulted in \$500,000 going to the Maine State Housing Authority to boost its low-income weatherization assistance program, \$110,000 for Community Concepts (a community action program) and \$40,000 for the Passamaquoddy tribe to fully weatherize roughly 150 homes. Following legislative approval of its rules, the Trust will invest the remaining \$10-\$15 million for 2009.



The first RGGI auction generated funds to jumpstart weatherization programs for low-income Maine homes.

▪ NRCM IN ACTION ▪

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

NRCM on the Air Radio listeners far and wide have been tuning in to NRCM's clean energy project director Dylan Voorhees. Dylan spoke to WHOM radio in January. In his interview with radio host Sandra Harris, he talked about how federal and state policies and investments in clean energy can help spur Maine's economy and get us moving in the right direction on climate change and reducing oil dependence. In addition to "America's Superstation," Dylan also spoke about energy issues with community radio stations WMPG (Greater Portland area) and WERU (Bangor to Blue Hill).



North Woods at a Crossroads Among many presentations, NRCM's North Woods policy advocate and outreach coordinator Diano Circo recently presented "Maine's North Woods at a Crossroads" to the board of the Western Foothills Land Trust in Norway. This presentation is part of NRCM's effort to continue to inform Maine people about the increasing threats to Maine's North Woods. Diano and Cathy Johnson, NRCM's North Woods project director, will present this information to other groups around the state who are interested in learning more. To schedule a presentation for your organization, please contact Diano at (800) 287-2345.

For This Earth NRCM Advocacy Communications Director Judy Berk (right) and Senior Director of Development Gretta Wark (left) spent an enjoyable weekend at the Maine Literary Festival



in Camden. The theme of this year's festival was "For This Earth: Visions in Literature." NRCM staff attended this event to meet our members in the area and to share information about our current projects as well as hand out some NRCM bookmarks to those who attended.

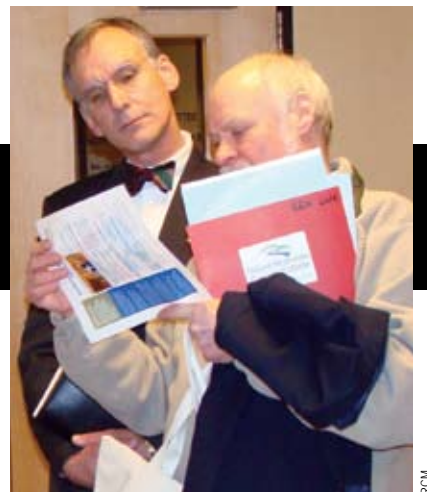
Reserve Your Spot TODAY!

Citizen

Action

Day March 17 2009

NRCM's headquarters in Augusta



NRCM member Ken Lux of Owls Head meets with Rep. Chris Rector (R-Thomaston) at the State House during last year's Citizen Action Day.

- Learn firsthand from NRCM staff about our priorities for the upcoming legislative session.
- Participate in the legislative process by meeting with your legislator during our visit to the State House one block away.
- Meet other NRCM members and activists who care about Maine's environment.

Last year, we had an overflow crowd. Reserve your place today! Sign up by contacting Beth Dimond at (800) 287-2345 ext. 206 or beth@nrcm.org.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

New Members October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Lillian Abruzzise | Helen Fernet | Stephanie Kierstead | William J. and Joann R. Reidenbach |
| Jackie L. Adams | Dr. C. Richard Filson | Sharon W. Kirkham | Justin C. and Kimberly W. Reiter |
| David E. Ahern | Ruth W. Flaherty | Elise Kline | David A. Rex |
| Laura A. Albans | Daniel L. Flynn | Patricia E. Knoll | Cidnie J. Richards |
| Christopher Alderman | Steven P. Flynn | Conan Kornetsky | Brian J. Richter |
| Leland Alper | Mr. and Mrs. Peter Forbes | Nancy L. Kosinski | Harold E. and Erskine F. Roberts |
| R. E. and Helen H. Anderson | Walter S. and Carolyn C. Foster | Aleksey G. Kovalyov | Harry and Patricia Robertson |
| Dr. Jane J. Anderson | Richard C. and Margaret Y. Foster | Leslie P. and Barbara Kozak | Phyllis W. Rogers |
| Henry F. and Agnes Arrigo | Jonathan and Dorothy Fox | Solomon Krasney | William Rohan |
| Samuel S. and Marion S. Atwater | Anne P. Franck | Shirley M. Krause | Michael W. and Susan J. Rolund |
| David and Sherrill F. Auld | Janice K. Fryer | Frederic W. and Trudy L. Lambie | David R. and Cornelia H. Ronci |
| Clayton Bagley | Robert L. and Leslie B. Fuller | William A. Leece & Katharine H. Higgins | Denise D. Rule |
| David Baldwin | Thomas A. and Elaine Gagner | Marybelle Leimonas | Joyce V. Rumery |
| Sarah L. Baldwin | Gilbert P. Gagnon | Paul W. Leming | Richard C. Ruva |
| Judith Balogh | Kathryn Gainguest & James E. Gallagher | Duane J. and Gloria J. Libby | Winifred Ryder |
| Barbara Barnes | Robert Galbraith | Thomas W. Lincoln | Jason M. and Melanie A. Sanders |
| Norman Bedford | Bruce P. and Katherine L. Garren | William Loughnane | Kurt and Karen E. Schaller |
| Robert Beischer | Ellen Garrison | Janice Lowe | Russell A. Schilling |
| William M. Bellows | Wilbert C. and Marilyn D. Geiss | Arthur T. and Nancy Lynch | Heidi Schultz |
| Timothy and Carol Bensing | Ella Gelling | William D. and Gail S. Maas | Katherine D. Schutt |
| Richard E. and Carlee E. Berger | Ms. Barbara W. Gendron | Douglas K. MacDonald | Barbara C. Schwartz |
| Jeff Besecker | Joyce M. Genholt | Theresa M. MacDonald | Lynn Schwarzer |
| Barbara Bidwell Coombs | Richard E. and Diane M. Giggey | Thomas and Sara Mack | Robert D. and Dale G. Scott |
| Nora Bishop | William O. Gile | Pamela J. MacKay | Dale G. Scott |
| Thomas N. Bisson | Thomas A. and Beth Goettel | Pat Maloney | Robert M. and Kay E. Scott |
| Luther F. Black | Robert and Meryl Goldstein | Michael M. Manahan | Henry W. Sesselberg |
| Dana and Joan Black | Robert P. Gordon | C. Robert Manby | Christopher Sewall |
| Hal Blades | Doris C. Grant | Jason Marco | Roger Shame! |
| Florette Bodmer | Loretta W. Green | Paul J. and Gladding S. Markunas | Thomas A. and Kristel K. Sheesley |
| George W. and Beverly P. Bond | Katherine M. Greenman | Joseph E. Marotta | John L. and Suzanne P. Sherburne |
| Nancy Booth | Carol L. Gregory | Cecilia Marquez | Carisa R. Showden |
| Doris E. Bouwensch | Lisa T. Groo | Marianne E. Marron | Harvey L. Siegel |
| Peter D. Bradford & Elisabeth F. Boswick | Michael and Elizabeth M. Grunke | David W. Marsh | Naomi N. Skoler |
| John J. and Barbara Breslin | Melissa S. Hackett | Joan R. Martin | A. Russell and Ruth Smiley |
| Richard J. Brewer | Stephen J. Hadley & Irena A. Zadonsky | Vincent Marzilli | Douglas M. Smith |
| Raymond K. and Paula S. Brown | Christine J. Hager | Lesley Mathews | Samuel W. and Elizabeth V. Smith |
| Dorcas E. Brule | Terry A. Halco | Howard W. and Nancy G. Mathews | Dana P. and Mary S. Snyder |
| Stephen A. Brunelle | Kenneth C. and Michelle Y. Hall | Harry P. and Catherine T. McCabe | Beatrice Soltz |
| Richard and Cheryl Bryant | John W. Hall | Lauren McClure | Jane C. Sommers |
| David L. Buden | Betty Hall | Margery S. McCrum | Albert F. Soule |
| William A. and Karen Burke | Phillip F. Hall | Eliza McFadden | John R. and Catherine E. Spain |
| Debbie Caddigan | Frances H. Hall | Richard F. McGonagle | Stephen C. Sperry |
| Michael Cain and Debra Vamvikites | Joel and Nancy Hallas | Ms. Peggy McKenna | Bryan J. Stanley |
| Murray F. Campbell & Linda D. Fraser-Campbell | Matthew Halpern | Philip A. and Marsha N. Melvin | Gertrude R. Stann |
| Robert F. and P. M. Carmichael | Margery Hamlen | David Mercer | Nancy H. Steffens |
| M. Jane Carpenter | Devens M. Hamlen | Robert J. and Laura L. Meredith | Sanford Stein |
| Holly D. Carter | Gail Hansche | Patricia K. Mew | James Stenberg |
| Marian E. Case | MSGT Lois B. Harm and MSGT Edward J. Harm | Faith J. Meyer | Andrew B. Stuart |
| Ann R. Cathcart | Stuart M. and Linnea H. Harrison | Dorothy Mikaitis | Barbara W. Stuhlmann |
| Ed Cervone | Frederick R. & Gerladine F. Harrison | George Miller | Glen Stupienski |
| Michael and Carol Chambers | William B. Haskell | Geraldine Mines | Charles A. Sumner |
| William P. and Georgia A. Clappin | Jeannette C. Hastings & Mary L. Kancevitch | John H. and Elizabeth L. Minott | Mary S. Sunar |
| Nancie S. Coan | Josetta Hawthorne | Robert W. and Alberta R. Mitchell | Cynthia Sup |
| Laura Cogliari | Harley and Nancy S. Haynes | Nancy Milarchik | Robert W. and Karen M. Sweet |
| Paul Cooper | Kim Haynes Rau and Mark S. Rau | Diane Morin | Michael D. and Cynthia L. Szekeley |
| Joan Ellen Corbett | Raymond L. & Elizabeth B. Heckman | Linda Morris | Paul Taber |
| Paul T. and Carol S. Costa | Cornelis and Marlon H. Heijn | Edison R. and Mary Elizabeth Morris | Robert Tapscott |
| Andrew M. and Ursula E. M. Coulson | Robert and Antje Hellwig | Robert L. and Margaret M. Morris | Sandra Taylor Kaupe |
| Nellie Coulter | Mary B. Hennessey | Edward I. Morrison | Gail E. Teeple |
| Roberta H. Crocker | William E. Henry | Haley Murphy | Sara R. Timmons |
| Lisa Crockett and R. Patrick Hassett | James S. and Brita L. Herman | Stephen W. and Lucette N. Musica | Hannah J. Todd |
| William T. and Marjorie A. Crocoll | John G. Hewey | Bruce Nieman | C. Brian and Marilyn E. Trask |
| Dr. Martin R. Curlik & Dr. Semena Curlik | Elaine Higgins | Dr. Malkah T. Notman | Sally B. Trice |
| Maggie Daly | Suzanne M. Hill | Linda W. O'Connor | Karen A. Tucker |
| George G. and Lynn L. Davenport | Liz S. Hill | William C. and Janet E. Orkfitz | Helen Turner |
| Ela Mae Rucks Davis Family Trust | Pamela J. Holland | Stacy L. Otto | Linda R. Urban |
| Kathleen E. Dempsey | Margot D. Horng | Tom and Sally Oxman | Darrell Vail |
| Laura Denault | John D. Hoover | R. L. and Barbara L. Page | Linda R. Vereneau |
| Elizabeth Derecktor | Andrew F. Hornak | Phillippe B. Pare | Birgit von der Heide-Elliott and Nicolas F. Elliot |
| Douglas A. Derry | Gloria Houlette | Carol L. Parker | Roger N. and Ruth C. Walker |
| Louise W. Devine | Jill Hoy-Imber and Jonathan Imber | Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Parker Jr. | Richard D. Waring |
| Kenneth J. Devore | David S. and Joan S. Huntington | Ann R. Pedreschi | Robert and Christine Warner |
| James and Priscilla Dilello | Madelyn F. Hurst | Joseph Perselle | Diana Washburn |
| Alison Dinerstein | John K. Hushion | Mark Peterson | Bruce T. Watt |
| Eliz Dohanian | Paul C. and Cathy S. Ickes | Dorie P. Petrochko | Charles H. and Gail T. Webb |
| Richard J. and Pamela Donath | Patrick and Alice Jackson | Dennis and Joan L. Pillsbury | Edward S. Webber |
| William R. Dorr | Roy E. and Margaret Johnson | Becca Platz | Peter and Pamela Wellin |
| Bill Dowling | Kathryn E. Judd | Stephen H. and Sydney A. Plum | Jack Wentz |
| Aldona Downing | Mary S. Juen | Robert Plummer | Pam G. White |
| Patricienne Dube | Marilyn B. Justice | Bill and Carol M. Pond | John R. and Sarah White |
| Thomas O. and Jane Duff | Susan Kaehrlie | Wendy J. Pope | Donna J. Whitman |
| Robert B. and Constance B. Dugan | George and Jodi Kakalis | Irving W. Porges | Peter G. Post |
| Robert S. and Georgia Dulude | Dick Kane | John R. Potter | John R. and Maryanne E. Powers |
| Sandra A. Dunn | Jan Kearce | Robert P. and Maryanne E. Powers | Rebecca C. Raines |
| Peter Emery | Nancy I. Keblin | Rebecca C. Raines | Lawrence P. Ralston |
| Ronald W. and Donna L. Erickson | Sandra L. Kelch | Lawrence P. Ralston | Ellis M. Ramsdell |
| John J. Ersek & Carol A. Marshburn | Irene W. Kelley | Edward A. and Doris F. Ramsey | Mark and Linda Williams |
| Ronald H. Estes | Gary Kendall | Robbin and Ellen Rancourt | Thomas E. and Ellen R. Wolf |
| Louise C. Evans | Juliana Kennedy | Grace Redfield | Brett A. and Mary E. Wood |
| James Fagan | Jeffrey and Ruth P. Kent | Jane H. Reed | Christopher R. Wood |
| Ronald Falcone | | Robert W. Reichard | Carl G. and Frances W. Yale |
| Abbott T. Fenn | | | |



Help Protect Maine's Environment with a Gift from Your IRA!

Congress extends IRA rollover to allow charitable distributions until December 31, 2009.

The U.S. Congress has extended a law making it possible for individuals 70½ or older to make a distribution from an Individual Retirement Account to non-profit organizations such as the Natural Resources Council of Maine.

The IRA rollover law, extended this fall, allows the owner of a traditional or Roth IRA to distribute directly to a public charity up to \$100,000 in 2008 and 2009. The distribution will not be counted as taxable income, and the distribution will count toward the donor's mandatory withdrawal amount.

To qualify for this IRA rollover, the donor must direct the IRA manager to transfer funds directly to a charity; planned giving vehicles such as trusts or annuities are not eligible. The donor must be at least age 70½, and the non-profit must be a tax-exempt organization to which deductible contributions can be made.

Talk to your financial advisor about how an IRA distribution to a qualifying non-profit can make sense for your tax bill. Or call Mathew Scese, NRCM's major gifts director, at (800) 287-2345 ext. 230, or email him at matts@nrcm.org.

NRCM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that harnesses the power of science, the law, and more than 12,000 supporters from across Maine and beyond. Together, we're protecting the nature of Maine.

Send Us Your "My Maine This Week"



"I am thankful that my family can enjoy winter mornings that look like this when we walk out of our front door. The stream is located in Wales and feeds Jock Stream."

- Judi Keene, Wales, Maine

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

Special Gifts in Honor of People or Events

Memorial Gifts

- Elizabeth M. Clark in memory of her father
- Crisis and Counseling Centers, Inc. in memory of Wally Brennan
- Anne Krebsbach in memory of Barbara Hess
- Gerry Milliken in memory of Ehrick Carragan
- Sevee & Maher Engineers, Inc. in memory of Richard Mailey

Gift Memberships

- Enoch Albert and Sharon Knopp from Heather M. Albert-Knopp
- Sally Brooks and Walter Johnson from Emmie Theberge
- Laurie F. Burhoe from Leslie Burhoe
- Charles E. and Carroll S. Smith from Marc E. Smith
- Betty deVeau from Robert and Diana Stroffregen
- Arthur H. Dumas from Mary Dumas
- Sarah Leavesley from Cynthia Leavesley
- Erin McLaughlin from John L. Lowe
- Philip Sharp from Barbara Sanderson
- Marieke Simon from Susan Neisingh
- Ben and Wendy Tanner from David and Susan Richard
- Johanna Wigg and Cheryl Golek from Patricia Prevorsek
- Marion Hart from Laura Wagner

Honorarium Gifts

- Luther F. Black in honor of Helen C. Black
- Mrs. Robert L. Black Jr. in honor of Nancy Symington
- Samuel Brush and Courtney Culley in honor of Gary Lawless and Beth Leonard
- Dr. Marc Lapin in honor of Rosalie and Forrest Wright-Lapin
- Linda Morris in honor of her mother, Judy Morris, for her 68th Birthday
- Sarah Warren in honor of John and Laura Warren

New members of PARTNERS IN MAINE'S FUTURE Program

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| Nancy B. Gowen | John T. and Gail R. Parker |
| Mrs. Betty E. Hartley | Fred and Gail Ribbeck |
| Joyce V. Hiller | Frances S. Warrick |
| Dr. Richard K. Jennings | Garrett D. and Katherine E. Wilkin |
| David B. and Sharon M. Measer | Ronald Williams |

How much of your energy bill is being paid to keep your refrigerator running?

Find out the answer to this question and more by taking our Trivia Challenge! In celebration of our 50th, we'll provide a new quiz every month. It's fun, you'll learn a lot, and you'll earn Brownie Points to qualify you for our raffle for an L.L. Bean kayak package and other prizes! See pages 4 and 5 for more about how you can join our 50th celebration!