

# Maine Environment

PROTECTING THE NATURE OF MAINE



WINTER 2007

## Deciding Factors

### NRCM and Our Supporters' Role in Protecting Moosehead

By Catherine Schmitt

In late 2004, the nation's largest private land owner, Seattle-based Plum Creek Real Estate Development Trust, announced plans for a massive development in the treasured Moosehead Lake region. Since that time, Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) members and supporters have been hearing a great deal about the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) and its impending decision on this proposal. With hearing dates slated to start May 19th, now is a good time for those concerned about Plum Creek's proposal to know a little more about LURC and the role NRCM—and Maine citizens—have in making sure Moosehead is protected.



Lily Bay, one of many places proposed for development in Seattle-based Plum Creek's massive proposal for the Moosehead region.

JERRY AND MARCY MONKMAN

issues facing LURC have changed in recent years from site-specific, individual camp lots to broader, landscape-scale issues. LURC is responding to this change in several ways. The agency is currently revising the 1997 Comprehensive Land Use Plan and is seeking more public input. "We are trying to develop a process that provides a fair opportunity to participate that

everyone can agree on," said LURC commissioner Edward Laverty. "And we've changed the format of our meetings, which are open to the public, to focus more on planning issues." Still, Laverty recognizes that the LURC process

is cumbersome and not always clear.

To help ensure that Maine people, particularly those who live in areas proposed for development, understand what is being proposed where, NRCM carefully reviews proposals that go to LURC. When Plum Creek submitted its petition to rezone 421,000 acres of forestland in April 2005, NRCM staff, for the benefit of its members and the general public, carefully reviewed the 1,000-page plan at the same time LURC was reviewing the application. "That's part of our job, to help folks understand

what it is all about," says Cathy Johnson, NRCM's North Woods project director. "Your average citizen is not going to read a 1,000-page application. Plum Creek has hired six law firms and several public relations firms. We want to

- Continued on page 4

**"Plum Creek has hired six law firms and several public relations firms. We want to make sure that the public is getting a balanced view."**

—Cathy Johnson,  
NRCM North Woods Project Director

### Zooming in on Zoning

Established in 1971, LURC oversees planning and zoning in the 10.4 million acres of unorganized territory in the state of Maine. LURC's primary roles are to serve as planning board and code enforcement officer, since unorganized lands have neither. LURC staff review development and rezoning applications and make recommendations to a board of seven governor-appointed members responsible for final decisions.

Most—80 percent—of the unorganized territory is zoned for timber management. LURC approval is required to rezone an area for subdivisions of single family homes and other large developments.

Plum Creek's proposal is just one example of how the

Investigation Exposes Plum Creek Timber Violations and Destruction of Winter Deer Habitat



Click here to watch our TV ad and read our report.

View our ad at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).

## Inside

Staff News & Washington Watch **2**

View From My Window & Steingraber/Payne Highlights **3**

Taking Action—Linda Woods, Teaching Activist **4**

Mars Hill Powers Up & NRCM in Action **5**

Phasing out DECA & Meet Our Staff Scientist **6**

The Passing of Good Friends & New Website **7**

Welcome New Members & My Maine This Week **8**



**Mars Hill Wind Farm Powers Up**

NRCM/D.VOORHEES

Turn to page 5 to see photos of NRCM's trip to Mars Hill in November!

Visit our website:  
[www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org)



3 Wade Street  
Augusta, Maine 04330-6317

### CHECK YOUR LABEL!

Please call NRCM with address corrections or duplicate mailings!

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BRUNSWICK, ME  
PERMIT NO. 65



Leslie is second from right, with son Bert (far left), daughter Ida, and son-in-law Nick.

**Leslie Burhoe • Part-time Receptionist**

Leslie has lived in Maine since 1977. She completed her Associates Degree in liberal studies from the University of Maine in Augusta last fall. Leslie has been a gardener for 18 years and volunteers for the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, for which she has organized the Common Ground Country Fair's craft tent for five years. She lives in Wayne with her partner, Chris, who owns a wooden boat restoration business, and enjoys spending time with her two grown children and two-year-old granddaughter. Her interests include hiking, kayaking, camping, and sailing.



**Caitlin Cleaver • North Woods Project Assistant**

Caitlin grew up in southeastern Pennsylvania and came to Maine for college. She graduated from Colby College in May of 2006 with a B.A. in environmental policy. She returned again to Maine this fall to assist coaching volleyball at Colby after having played there for four years. Caitlin lives in Waterville and, when not coaching volleyball, enjoys spending most of her time outdoors either in the mountains, on a beach, or traveling.



**Gabrielle Grunkemeyer Rigaud • Grants Director**

After living in Texas for most of her life, Gabrielle moved to Maine in 2003. She has a B.S. in wildlife and fisheries and an M.S. in environmental science, both from Texas A&M University. She has worked in environmental affairs and mission advancement for several nonprofits since moving to Maine. Her professional experience includes project planning and management, grant research and writing, and fundraising. Gabrielle lives in Jefferson with her husband, Chris, and enjoys paddling and snowshoeing.



**Stacie Haines • Membership Manager**

After more than a decade away, Stacie recently returned to her home state of Maine. She received a B.S. in environmental studies at the University of Vermont. She spent several years serving in the Peace Corps in Niger, West Africa, has worked at nonprofits in Vermont and Oregon, and held a teaching position outside

Beijing, China. Upon her return to Maine, Stacie landed at Maine Audubon before joining the staff here at NRCM. Stacie and her husband, Efrain, enjoy hiking, canoeing, camping, and otherwise introducing their infant son, Martin, to the outdoors.



**Sara Lovitz • Clean Energy Project Outreach Coordinator**

After living in Vermont, Wyoming, and Colorado over the past 5 years, Sara has returned to her home state of Maine. She has a B.A. in chemistry from Colby College and an M.S. in natural resource planning from the University of Vermont's School of Environment and Natural Resources, where she conducted research on small-scale gold mining in Ecuador for her Master's thesis. Sara has worked with the Communities and Small-Scale Mining group at the World Bank and has worked at NOAA doing atmospheric chemistry research. Sara enjoys spending time in the mountains with her golden retriever, Osito ("Little Bear"). She can also often be found kicking around on the soccer field!

**Farewell to Alice Percy**

For the last year, the voice you've heard when you've called our offices on Fridays probably belonged to Alice Percy. In December, Alice left NRCM to start her family. Congratulations, Alice!

STAFF NOTES

In November, NRCM's advocacy communications director **Judy Berk** participated in a meeting of the Society of Professional Journalists to discuss the creation of the New England News Forum. The News Forum, to be unveiled in early 2007, is envisioned as an independent, collaborative effort among news professionals, citizen journalists, educators, and the public to promote vigorous, trusted, accountable journalism.

**Advocacy Director Pete Didisheim** in late October gave a presentation at the annual conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists, held in Burlington, Vermont. Pete described Maine's successful electronics waste (e-waste) recycling program, championed by NRCM, on a panel moderated by Elizabeth Grossman, author of *High Tech Trash: Digital Devices, Hidden Toxics, and Human Health*.

WASHINGTON WATCH:  
A Vote for Change

Democratic majorities in the House and Senate were swept into office by a confluence of concerns. Although the Iraq war appeared to be the greatest, Americans now have the most environmentally friendly legislative branch that we have seen since the early 1990s, maybe even the '80s. Nevertheless, it may not be easy to pass the kinds of laws we need to create a clean and efficient energy system to seriously address global warming. The filibuster works for any minority party, so it will still take at least 60 votes to get any big bills through the Senate.

And we must not forget that for at least the next two years, President Bush will probably veto any legislation the timber companies, oil companies, or utilities don't like. We in the environmental community will need to prioritize our issues as never before and sort out what we believe we can accomplish quickly and efficiently versus which items will require a longer-term strategy.

For the Natural Resources Council of Maine, the change in Congress is immensely important. We will not have to worry nearly so much about legislative rollbacks to our nation's fundamental environmental laws. It is unlikely that we will face an onslaught of legislation aimed at opening our nation's most beloved wild places to exploitation and destruction. We must, however, continue to challenge the



administration and industries that attempt to thwart the law by gutting the regulations that implement it. Loss of anti-environmental committee chairs in Congress will send polluters running to the administration as never before seeking rule changes to weaken public health and environmental safeguards. NRCM and our allies will work hard to ensure long-term values are not sacrificed for short-term profits that benefit few.

The change in Congress also means that NRCM will be able to help make the most of our existing environmental laws. Using these laws, we can promote fundamental changes in how we manage our resources, protect people, and preserve the working pieces of our natural world. We are finally in a position to more efficiently advance the unfulfilled potential of the laws we have. Fortunately, Maine Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins have already demonstrated their commitment to many environmental protections in place for our environment and our families.

Last November, the American people voted for change. Now, NRCM, working with our many colleagues and our Senators and Representatives, are better poised to bring it about. We look forward to working with you, and for you, in the coming year!

—Matt Prindiville, Federal Issues Policy Advocate

Maine Environment

- Editor / Allison Childs Wells
- Feature Writer / Catherine Schmitt
- Proofreader / Beth Dimond
- Design / Amy Fischer Design
- Contributing Writers / Judy Berk, Ryan Ewing, Sara Lovitz, Matt Prindiville, Catherine Schmitt, Dylan Voorhees, 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.

Copyright 2007. All rights reserved.  
Maine Environment is printed on post-consumer recycled paper

Please recycle this newsletter by passing it along to family, friends, or public officials, or to a doctor's office, dentist's office, school, retirement home, or library.



3 Wade Street, Augusta, Maine 04330-6317  
(800) 287-2345 • FAX (207) 622-4343  
www.nrcm.org

## You Really Can Make a Difference

"Make your voice heard." How often have you heard our staff say this? How many times have you read this call to arms in NRCM publications? In fact, we say it again in this issue of the newsletter, on page 4, as part of our invitation to join NRCM's Action Network. That's because you will make a difference, and we need you in 2007.

Starting in May, the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) plans to hold public hearings to help LURC make an important decision. That decision is whether or not to permit Seattle-based Plum Creek Real Estate Investment Trust to move ahead with the largest development ever proposed in Maine, in the Moosehead Lake region. Almost a thousand house lots. Two resorts. An unlimited number of "accommodation units" (which could mean gated communities, more house lots, and condos). And much more, sprawling through 58 subdivisions in our treasured Moosehead area.

More than 30 years ago, a chorus of concerned voices stopped the proposed Dickey-Lincoln project from destroying the Allagash. In the 1980's, many voices joined together in a powerful coalition and kept the Big A dam from spoiling the Penobscot's mighty West Branch. And in 2005, more than 5,000 comments collected by NRCM and delivered to LURC helped send Plum Creek back to the drawing board.

Unfortunately, the company's new plan has changed little from its first. More than 90 percent of the development is planned for the exact same places. Now we have learned that Plum Creek's claims of sustainable forest practices are far from justified. NRCM's investigation last fall, launched in response to complaints from hunters and loggers, led us to uncover the company's terrible record of destructive forest management in Maine's North Woods. Plum Creek has had 18 clearcutting violations and in 2006 was fined \$57,000—far more than any other forestry company in Maine. Plum Creek knowingly destroyed winter habitat identified by Maine's wildlife biologists as being important to deer for food and shelter.

Too much development in the wrong places, and now this blatant disregard for laws designed to protect our North Woods and the animals that live there—we can defeat this \$5 billion company if we continue standing together.

I would like to invite you to become part of our network of citizens willing to attend LURC hearings this spring. We need your support to stop Plum Creek from ruining what is so special about Maine. You may choose to testify or to simply attend as a show of support. We will stay in touch with you leading up to the hearings, and will help you help us grow our network of supporters during the critical window before the hearings.

There are others ways to "make your voice heard," too. If you haven't already, please also sign our new petition asking LURC to turn down Plum Creek's application. Join our Action Network to receive updates about the Plum Creek issue (see page 4). Bookmark our website ([www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org)) and check in often for the latest news. And as always, we appreciate the financial support you provide to enable us to defend special places like Moosehead Lake, a true gem among the many wild, backcountry areas of Maine's North Woods.

*Brownie*

—Brownie Carson, Executive Director

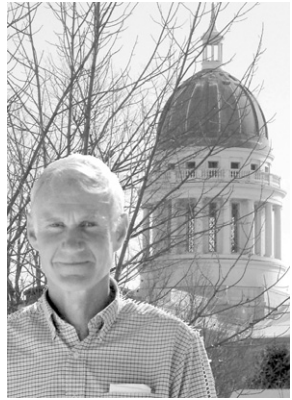
### Tip of the Day

#### Stay Tuned.

A tuned engine and clean gas and oil filters can save you almost \$4 on a \$25 fill-up! Visit our website at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).

### Comments? Suggestions?

Do you have comments or suggestions about our newsletter? We want to know what you think! Although we don't have room to run comments in our newsletter, we may publish them online. 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](mailto:awells@nrcm.org).



B. DIMOND / NRCM

## NRCM's "Stopping the Toxics Legacy" Event a Big Success

More than 300 people turned out to hear world-renowned researchers Sandra Steingraber and Roger Payne share their experiences and findings about chemical pollution and its effects on our environment and health. The event, which was sponsored by NRCM and took place November 16, brought a message of hope, including actions concerned citizens can take. A special thank you to all who attended!



Following their presentations, Roger and Sandra asked each other questions, then took questions from the audience. NRCM board president Sharon Tisher (background) moderated the discussion.



Roger Payne presented findings from his groundbreaking whale research.



ALL PHOTOS BY H.BELL / NRCM

Despite the growing problem of toxic pollution, Sandra shared reasons for hope.



Members enjoyed the opportunity to purchase Sandra and Roger's books, and to have them signed by the authors.



NRCM held a pre-lecture reception to give members a chance to meet and mingle with our guest lecturers.

### Special thanks to the following businesses for donating items to our very successful raffle:

- Bar Harbor Whale Watch
- Lincoln Canoes and Kayaks
- F.W. Horch Sustainable Goods
- Midcoast Kayak
- Hardy Boat Cruises
- Royal River Natural Foods
- Harvest Time Natural Foods

## FAST Facts

Setting an example for the world, Prince Charles is swapping gas-guzzling private planes and helicopters for commercial flights, train travel, and biodiesel cars. A longtime champion of green causes, the heir to the throne says action is needed now to avoid leaving a ruined planet to the next generation. —*Associated Press*

Long-term management plans for national forests will no longer go through a formal environmental impact statement, the U.S. Forest Service announced in December—an attempt, conservationists say, to undermine protection efforts. —*Associated Press*

Hewlett-Packard (HP), the world's largest PC vendor, will offer customers an 80 PLUS certified power supply option on its 7000 and 5000 Series of business PCs as of January 2007. The 80 PLUS Program certifies power supplies in computers that, on average, use 15 percent to 25 percent less electricity than typical computers. —*Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, on ENN*



## TAKING ACTION

### Linda Woods, Teacher Activist

NRCM activist Linda Woods grew up enjoying the rural beauty of Benton, Maine. She has long enjoyed hiking the trails of the Mahoosucs, including some of her favorite peaks in Grafton Notch—Bald Pate and Old Speck—and camping at Lily Bay State Park.

No wonder, for this 21-year veteran of the English classroom at Lawrence High School in Fairfield, an email she received from

NRCM about Plum Creek broke her heart. In response, Linda is doing everything she can to inform her friends and colleagues about Plum Creek's massive development proposal for the Moosehead Lake region.

"I strongly believe in the importance of giving back. As an active teacher who lives a stressful life, I recharge my batteries by playing outside. The thought that others might not have this opportunity to enjoy Maine's natural resources is

what motivated me to volunteer for NRCM."

Among her success stories: nominating fellow teacher Eric Brown and his "Gang Green" of high school teachers and students working to improve the school's recycling program. Eric was chosen by NRCM's activists as the winner of NRCM's first-ever People's Choice Award, in the fall of 2006.

In addition to volunteering at events like the Common Ground Fair, Linda has personally gone out to gather signatures for NRCM's new petition to stop Plum Creek. Her efforts alone have added 120 voices to the public outcry over the Seattle-based company's development scheme. Says Linda, "If we don't act, it may be too late."

It's no wonder Linda has been an inspiration for NRCM staff and others. Linda admits that being a teacher makes it comfortable for her to go out and inform others; she encourages everyone to lend their own talents to this critical time for Maine's environment. We hope you will join her—and us—in the effort.

—Ryan Ewing, Action Network Coordinator

COURTESY PHOTO



## LURC

— Continued from page 1

make sure that the public is getting a balanced view."

### A Voice for Conservation

NRCM has been following development issues in the North Woods since the organization was established in 1959, to help ensure protection of the Allagash. NRCM staff participated in LURC's comprehensive planning in 1997 and is part of its current revision process. When Diano Circo



Paul Liebow and hundreds of other citizens shared their concerns about the Plum Creek proposal at LURC's scoping session in 2005.

joined NRCM in 2003 as North Woods Policy Advocate and Outreach Coordinator, he began attending every LURC meeting, providing a voice for conservation throughout the planning process.

"One of the most important things we are doing is evaluating all of the information that Plum Creek is submitting," says Johnson. "Part of the company's proposal is to change the rules that apply to natural resources on the 400,000-plus acres. We need to carefully review the changes and evaluate whether or not they are as protective as the existing rules, and clearly there are some cases where they are not."

After thoroughly reviewing Plum Creek's plan and analyzing the potential impacts, NRCM announced its opposition to it in June 2005, while putting pressure on LURC to request the Plum Creek provide required information such as a natural resources inventory and scenic impact study.

That summer, LURC held "public scoping sessions" to gauge public opinion of issues surrounding the Plum Creek proposal. NRCM worked hard to make sure its supporters and others who love the Moosehead area knew about the sessions and encouraged them to attend. About 1,000 people turned out, with hundreds testifying about issues of concern. At the conclusion of those information sessions, and following an ongoing petition campaign, NRCM delivered more than 5,000 signatures and comments to LURC expressing concern about Plum Creek's proposal. It was the largest response in LURC's history, more than double the number of comments the commission received on any other issue.

### More of the Same

Plum Creek subsequently revised its proposal, and NRCM staff combed through every detail. Johnson and others found the size of the development (including the original number of house lots—975) and locations (sprawling out across remote ridgelines and lakeshores) had changed little. The company has worked out a lucrative (\$35 million) land sales agreement with other nonprofit groups, about which NRCM has some concerns because the conservation is contingent on the company getting all of the development in the plan, down to the last house lot.

In November 2006, LURC determined that Plum Creek's revised rezoning application was complete and ready for formal review—almost two years after the project was first announced. Johnson notes that the Plum Creek proposal is far from a done deal, and with the formal public hearing process starting this May, in some ways, the most important part of the process is just beginning.

One of the criteria that LURC uses to issue a permit is a justified need for the proposed activity, and that need includes public opinion. "We want a process that is open and inviting, where people are empowered by participating. It is the responsibility of LURC and interest groups to encourage people to participate in a meaningful way," said LURC's Edward Laverty.

Pete Didisheim, NRCM's advocacy director, noted that public opinion carries a lot of weight. "Concerned citizens had a big impact on the Burnt Jacket decision last June," he said, regarding the proposed 70-lot subdivision at Burnt Jacket Mountain on Moosehead Lake. "They showed up in force, spoke powerfully about the impact that the proposed development would have on the Burnt Jacket peninsula, and LURC voted the project down—proving once again that the voice of the people matters."

NRCM is working to inform Maine people of the importance of weighing in at the upcoming hearings on Plum Creek's latest proposal. NRCM staff recently discovered that Plum Creek has had more Maine timber law violations than any other company and has received by far the largest fine—\$57,000. The organization made these findings known so that the public understands what kind of company Maine is dealing with—and will join together to protect Moosehead. Says Cathy Johnson, "If the public comes out and says, 'We don't need this, we don't want this,' that can have a huge impact."

—Catherine Schmitt is a biologist and writer living in Maine



MILDRED KENNEDY

LURC unanimously rejected a proposed 70-lot subdivision at Burnt Jacket Mountain on Moosehead Lake in June 2006.

## NRCM Action Network

Attention NRCM Members!  
Looking for a Way to Get More Involved?

Join NRCM's Action Network today!

#### By joining the NRCM Action Network, you can

- Influence crucial decisions at the Statehouse and beyond
- Join with people who share your values in protecting the nature of Maine
- Receive email action alerts when legislation is pending and your legislators need to hear from you
- Take part in our annual Lobby Day and other opportunities to get more involved

#### You choose how and when to help! You can

- Make phone calls or send emails to your legislators and other decision-makers
- Write letters-to-the-editor of your local paper
- Submit comments, testify at, or attend public hearings on issues that are most important to you and your family
- Volunteer for the Natural Resources Council of Maine

Join online at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org), email us at [takeaction@nrcm.org](mailto:takeaction@nrcm.org), or call us at (800) 287-2345 ext. 243.

Make your voice heard!

Your voice is the most important  
one lawmakers need to hear.

### What You Can Do

- More information about Plum Creek's proposal is available at NRCM's website [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).
- Invite NRCM to give a presentation to your group. Contact Caitlin Cleaver at (800) 287-2345, ext. 270, or email her at [ccleaver@nrcm.org](mailto:ccleaver@nrcm.org) for more information.

# Mars Hill Wind Farm Powers Up

Mars Hill, Maine, is home to the largest wind farm in New England, with the generating capacity of 42 megawatts—enough electricity to power about 45,000 homes! The 28 turbines dot four miles along the ridge of Mars Hill Mountain.

Most of the turbines went online in December, and the project developer hopes the remaining turbines will soon follow. The wind farm will have the equivalent airpollution benefits as removing 17,000 cars from the road. Economic benefits include creation of jobs from the construction and the operation of the wind farm. The project will also significantly contribute to the tax base of Mars Hill. In a 22-year agreement, the town will receive \$500,000 per year in property taxes—a total of \$10 million. In addition, the town hopes the wind farm will attract tourists to the region who will come to experience what a wind farm looks and feels like. NRCM is a strong supporter of appropriately sited wind power projects, including Mars Hill. We encourage you all to make the trip to see for yourself what wind power in Maine is all about!

—Sara Lovitz, Clean Energy Outreach Coordinator



Most of the dozens of site workers are from local Maine contractors. The project has invested over \$20 million in Maine.



An assembled “rotor” waits to be hoisted up to the top of its tower.



NRCM Advocacy Director Pete Didisheim stands next to the base of one of the turbine towers.



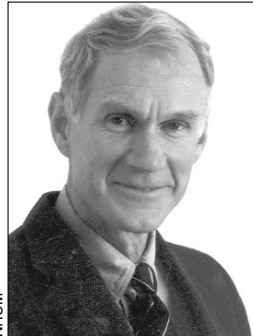
PHOTOS BY DYLAN VOORHEES

Six partially constructed turbines, and existing communications towers, along the ridgeline.

## NRCM in Action

A glimpse at where NRCM staff have been working in communities around Maine—and beyond!

**Warming Up to the Issue**—Clean Energy Director Dylan Voorhees has traveled to Farmington (University of Maine), Bridgton (Rotary Club), and Portland (Maine Neighborhoods Conference) to speak about global warming and its potential impacts on Maine. He also shared insights from our sea-level rise report with viewers of the “State of the State” and “Out of Left Field” cable programs, helping get out the word about this important issue to people across the state. An important part of NRCM’s message on global warming continues to be “You can make a difference – join our Maine Global Warming Challenge!” We encourage all of our members to do so!



NRCM

**Talking About Moosehead**—A number of NRCM staff have been making the rounds across Maine to help the public understand what’s at stake with Seattle-based Plum Creek’s proposal for Moosehead Lake. **Executive Director Brownie Carson** joined representatives from the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC), Plum Creek, and The Nature Conservancy at the *Maine Policy Scholars Program*. Brownie, along with North Woods Project Leader Cathy Johnson and North Woods Policy Advocate Diano Circo, continue to be in great demand by civic groups and

other organizations to hear NRCM’s concerns about the Plum Creek proposal. If you would like NRCM to present to your group, please contact Caitlin Cleaver (207) 622-3101 ext. 270.

**NRCM in the Big Apple**—Toxics Policy Advocate Matt Prindiville went to New York City to testify on behalf of NRCM as part of the city’s efforts to pass an e-waste bill similar to Maine’s. Such a bill would protect the city’s 8 million people from the threat posed by toxics in televisions and computer monitors. New York City was looking for a successful model and saw Maine as an example. NRCM was instrumental in establishing passage of Maine’s e-waste bill, which requires manufacturers to take responsibility for the toxic chemicals they use in their products.

Be sure to visit NRCM’s website at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org) to stay informed of events that are open to our members and to the public at large.

## Forty Years on the Allagash

Forty years ago, Maine residents passed a \$1.5 million bond to purchase what would become the only publicly owned wilderness river corridor east of Minnesota’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and the first U.S. river granted “wild” status under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Flowing through the middle of Maine’s great North Woods, the Allagash River is at the heart of NRCM’s mission. “The creation of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway was the principal project that drew the founders of the Natural Resources Council together in the late 1950s,”



This photo was taken by Executive Director Brownie Carson during a trip to the Allagash last summer.

remembers Brownie Carson. “It was a big focus of NRCM’s early years. People saw that there were threats to the finest wilderness river trip.”

After the Waterway was created, canoeing the Allagash became a rite of passage, an opportunity to experience wilderness, and the trip of a lifetime for people inside and outside of Maine. By 1998, the number of people using the

Waterway for summer day use had increased fourfold, and 50,000 people were using the river every year. When Maine revised its management plan for the river in 1999 and proposed to build a parking lot and new trail to the river, NRCM pressed the case that the state was bound by the language of the law that classifies 92.5 miles of the Allagash as “wild” and “generally inaccessible except by trail.”

Today, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway is the only state-managed unit in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and NRCM continues to defend the river against threats to the “maximum wilderness character” that Maine residents voted to protect in 1966. Carson is a member of the working group directed by Governor Baldacci in June 2006 to provide guidance on long-term government, oversight,

- Continued on page 7



## Priority Legislation: Phasing Out “DECA”

Flame retardants used in fabrics, foams, and various plastics have helped stop fires and have saved lives. However, the brominated ones, including those found in television sets, are toxic—they can permanently damage brain and reproductive systems and cause learning disabilities in children.

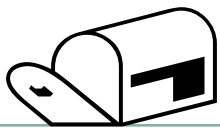
NRCM’s work on this issue resulted in the banning of two of these dangerous brominated flame retardants in Maine in 2004.

This session, NRCM, joined by members of the Alliance for a Clean and Healthy Maine, is working to protect Maine families by phasing out another one of these poisonous compounds. The chemical, known as “Deca,” is found in electronics, and we aim also to prohibit its use in new mattresses and home furniture.

Scientists have learned that brominated flame retardants steadily migrate from the products to which they were added and build up in the fatty tissue of people and animals. This has prompted bans and phase-outs in Europe and in several U.S. states.

There are effective flame retardants already in widespread use that are far safer and do not build up in people and animals, and do not persist in the environment. NRCM is committed to making sure these alternatives become the standard.

—Judy Berk, Advocacy Communications Director



Watch your mailbox for NRCM’s Legislative Priorities for Maine’s Environment, arriving soon!



Nick Bennett multi-tasking at his office at NRCM.

# A Day on the Job with Nick Bennett, NRCM Staff Scientist

Interview by Catherine Schmitt

### Catherine Schmitt (CS)

As staff scientist and watersheds project director for NRCM, you cover a lot of ground—talking with reporters, testifying at public hearings, researching and writing reports, and serving on Maine Rivers Board of Directors, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) Surface Water Ambient Toxics Technical Advisory Group, and the Governor’s Task Force for Safer Chemicals in Consumer Products. What is an average day like?



NRCM/B.DIMOND

Meet NRCM’s staff scientist, Nick Bennett.

### Nick Bennett (NB)

There’s no such thing as an average day. Today, I represented NRCM at a meeting of the Alliance for a Clean and Healthy Maine in the morning, where we discussed strategies for the upcoming legislative session. The day before that, we discussed the hearing for the Androscoggin River permit appeals. Recently I researched and wrote a paper on Plum Creek’s violations uncovered through a state Freedom of Access request. The paper then served as the basis for a press conference in which we announced Plum Creek’s failure to get a permit to build a 1.5 mile utility corridor, water quality violations that resulted from poor timber harvesting practices, and extensive destruction of deer wintering habitat in the North Woods.

**CS:** NRCM is arguably the most effective watchdog for Maine’s environment. You must hear about things like the Plum Creek violations all the time. How do you prioritize issues?

**NB:** Sometimes, you have to drop everything because something particularly disturbing comes up. Beyond that, NRCM has a strategic plan, and I have an individual work plan. I’m probably the most mobile among different projects compared to other project leaders. More and more, I find myself working across project boundaries.

**CS:** What kind of project is your favorite?

**NB:** I like things where law, policy, and science overlap, which is really the crux of my job.

**CS:** What accomplishment at NRCM are you most proud of?

**NB:** I worked really hard to get the segment of the Kennebec River from Augusta to the Chops upgraded from Class C to Class B. It’s the largest stretch of freshwater tidal habitat north of the Hudson River, and it’s a spectacular river. Class B offers much more protection.

**CS:** What do you see as something you wish had gone differently?

**NB:** The legislation on the Androscoggin River has really been a disappointment. Over the years, the Legislature has dealt with various ways to get a lower standard, and NRCM worked really hard to stop them. It seems so obvious that if you have a river that is dirtier than the other rivers, you clean it up. Unfortunately, the Legislature decided that it would lower standards so the Androscoggin wouldn’t have to be cleaned up.

**CS:** Since NRCM’s advocacy work is based on sound science, how do you make sure that your work is credible and accurate?

**NB:** I try to reference information whenever possible. I’m meticulous about making sure that the conclusions I’m making are supported. I use data sources that have vigorous quality assurance protocols in place.

**CS:** If you could change one thing about environmental politics in Maine, what would it be?

**NB:** Most of the issues I work on—like the Androscoggin and Fort Halifax and stormwater—have been my focus for the entire ten years I’ve been at NRCM. These issues take a long time, but they shouldn’t take that much time. The environment we have in Maine is very precious and fragile. The things we take for granted—to swim in clean water, to live in beautiful places, to hunt, to fish—could disappear so quickly. It only takes a generation. I wish more people recognized this.



NRCM/A.WELLS

NRCM’s staff scientist Nick Bennett meeting with staff and consultants.

## The Passing of Good Friends

We are saddened by the passing of two friends and advisors whose commitment to Maine's environment and NRCM has spanned many decades. We send thoughts of healing to their families and to the families of other NRCM members we have lost recently. —**Brownie Carson, Executive Director**



COURTESY PHOTO

Ned Rendall (left) looks on as Gordon Glover, with whom he served on NRCM's board, signs the guest book at Brownie Carson's 20th anniversary party in 2004. Ned joined NRCM around the time that Brownie became executive director, and he was a trusted advisor to the staff.

**Dr. Edward S. (Ned) Rendall**, of Blue Hill and Orono. Born in 1921, Ned had a loving family and a world of friends. He practiced medicine in Massachusetts for many years, but spent as much time as possible in Maine. He and his wife Connie became full-time residents of Blue Hill in 1984. Although he continued to practice medicine, Ned took on many civic and community responsibilities: member of the Board of Environmental Protection, member of the Natural Resources Council of Maine's board of directors, and chairman of Blue Hill Hospital Board, to name just a few. Ned received not one but two awards from NRCM for his efforts to protect the environment and human health. Ned lost his wife Connie in 1998, but is survived by his daughter, his son, and their families. Ned died on December 1st in Orono. We miss him.

**Anthony A. (Tony) Lapham** died on November 11 in North Carolina while on a fishing trip with one of his sons. He was 70. A long-time resident of Washington, D.C., Tony had a distinguished career as an attorney and a public servant. He was chief counsel to the CIA for many years. He also was a dedicated environmentalist—his love of the outdoors was profound. Tony summered on Mt. Desert Island and had been part of the NRCM community for years. He was president of the board of American Rivers at the time of his death, and we had the privilege of his advice and support as our organizations collaborated on the ambitious effort to restore the Penobscot River. Tony is survived by his beloved wife Burks, two sons, and their sons' families. Tight lines, Tony.

### ❖ A Lasting Legacy ❖



Maine's mountains and forests, rivers and lakes, coast and communities are tied to our way of life. By remembering NRCM in your will, you can leave a legacy that reaches beyond your lifetime and protects Maine's cherished landscape for generations to come. Simple bequests are critical to NRCM's long-range financial strength and our ability to meet future challenges.

For more information about bequests or other deferred giving options, please call Mathew Scease, Major Gifts Director, at (207) 622-3101 ext. 230.

## ■ Save the Date ■ MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

The Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) has set dates for the Plum Creek public hearings:

**May 19, 2007 • in Greenville**  
**June 2, 2007 • to be determined**

These hearings are your chance to speak out about Plum Creek's proposal for the Moosehead Lake region. We need you to testify at the hearings, write letters to LURC, and engage others in the effort to protect Moosehead—and our Maine way of life.

To stay informed of when and where to take action on this issue, please contact Ryan Ewing, Action Network Coordinator, at (800) 287-2345 ext. 243 or by email at [rewing@nrcm.org](mailto:rewing@nrcm.org).

**Your voice is urgently needed! Thank you.**

[www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org)

## New to Our Website!

**Cool fact:** A white-tailed deer's summer coat's hair is short, thin, and straight; its winter coat hairs are longer, thicker, curly—and hollow, so that the shafts will fill with air for added warmth.



GARTH MCELROY

White-tailed Deer

That cool fact is straight from our new *Creature Feature*, one of two new regular items we've added to our website. Our Creature Feature is a rotating feature showcasing one of many fascinating animals that help make Maine a special place.

### Also new to our website:

Start your day with a little environmental humor—and wisdom!—from *Rustle the Leaf*.



Surf on over to these new website features and much more.

**Please note!**  
**We've changed**  
**our web address to**  
**[www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org)**  
**Log on today!**

### ALLAGASH - Continued from page 5

and management of the Allagash. The working group, which is finalizing its report to the governor, did not make the progress that Carson had hoped. "The Allagash deserves an independent governing body," said Carson, "but it looks as though there will be no separate board like the Baxter State Park Authority for the Allagash, which is unfortunate."

Instead, the working group is proposing a new position of superintendent that would be one step higher in the Department of Conservation than the current manager of the Waterway, which Carson believes is too close to the status quo. "The last few years have seen politics play out in the Legislature that have not served the Waterway well. We need a management structure that would help insulate this very important resource for the long term," he said. The working group also recommended establishment of a special fund for public and private investment in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, which Carson supports. "If the Legislature endorses that idea, it would be a step forward," said Carson. The working group intends to submit its report in January. —**Catherine Schmitt**

# Welcome, New Members!

New Members October 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006

James and Ann Acheson  
Elizabeth Albans  
Dylan and Mitch Alden  
John Anderson  
Leighton and Lesley Anderson  
Karla Antell  
Tom Armstrong  
Barbara Arsnow  
Patti Ashland  
William Aubrey  
Anne Ayvaliotis  
Thomas Baiocchi  
Larry Balboni  
Eric and Cheryl Barbato  
Ms. Mary Barney  
Amy Barrett  
Gerald Bartlett  
Lynne Bartlett  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill A. Bartovics  
Constance Baskett  
The Bastian's  
Nelson Baum  
H.B. Beach  
Rev. Diana Beach  
Mr. Thomas Bednarczyk  
Brad and Victoria Bell  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas T. Bennett Jr.  
Scott and Penny Bennington  
Walter and Mary Jane Bergren  
Victor Frederick Bernhards  
Matthew and Tina Bernier  
Mr. John Berry  
Bradford and Catharine Berry  
Bruce Bierce  
Mr. John Birch  
Connie Birkenmeier  
Farnham and Lynne Blair  
William and Mary Blake  
James Blanchard  
Gregory Bodge  
Robert and Sally Boggs  
Jeff Borland  
Anne Bossi  
N. Clark Bowlen  
Mr. Charles Bragg II  
Nancy Bridges  
Kevin and Kimberly Bridgham  
Heidi and Read Brugger  
James Bruni  
Jean Brusila  
Nils Bryant  
John Buffinton  
Sheila Bukowski  
Robert Bullard  
Peter and Glenis Burgdorff  
Mr. Hugh Burns  
Helen Cafferty  
Laurie Carlson  
Richard Carr  
Patricia Carter  
Charles Cary  
Benton Chandler  
Christine Chapline  
Kenneth Chapman  
Ms. Paula Charette  
Kenneth Chase  
Phillip Chase  
Jane Chatfield  
Mike and Donna Cisewski  
Catherine Clark  
Marian Clark  
Coral Clifford  
Linda Coburn  
Mr. Warren Colby  
Stephen Collins  
Thomas Comish  
Daniel Conte  
Richard and Therese Corkran  
Bambi Layne Corrigan  
Paula Costin  
Elizabeth Craigie  
Kevin and Carol Cuddy  
James and Katherine Cuthbertson  
Dan Daly  
Henry Damon  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Davis  
James Davitt  
Ellen Dawson  
Jessie Delaney-Edwards  
Alison Demarest  
Jerome Dennis  
Mrs. Kathleen Dickson  
Linda Docherty  
Ms. Julia Dodge  
Pamela Dodge  
Phyllis Dodson  
James and Joyce Donald  
Edith Dondis  
Susan Doran  
Mr. Darrell Doughty  
Mr. E. Bradford du Pont Jr.  
Esther Dudley  
Elizabeth Dunn  
Peter Duston  
Dwight Dwinall  
Patricia Eagan  
Daniel Eccher  
Marvin Edgerton  
Mclver and Donna Edwards  
William and Sharon Edwards  
David Eisen  
Howard and Evelyn Elander  
Ms. Jill Eng  
Mr. Thomas Ernst  
Lynn Faria and Kendra Hutchinson  
Bruce Farling  
Sharon Faulkner  
Jeffrey Fecko  
Martha Fenno  
Eric Fernald  
Ms. Devon Fernandez  
Nick Fiori  
Robert Fiske  
Leslie Pohl  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Flanagan  
Robert Foster  
Heidi Fowler  
Dal Franklin  
Donald and Kimberly Fuller  
Cheryl Gallant  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Gelbard

Mr. Matthew Gerald  
Barbara Gerlach  
William Gibson  
Barry Gibson  
Sylvia Gilbert  
Robert Gillfillan  
Roger Gilmore  
Elizabeth Lameyer Gilmore  
Tom Gilmore  
Marshall Glickman  
Joy Glock  
Jeff Goldman  
Abigail Greene Goldman  
Nancy Goodspeed  
Chris Goodwin  
Julie Gordon  
Mr. Robert Grant  
Elizabeth Grenier  
Susan Guilford  
Jonathan Hall  
Elizabeth Hill  
Albert Hollowell  
Forest and Susan Hart  
Mr. Carlton Harvey III  
Mr. Charles Hastings  
Veronica Havens  
Suzannah Heard  
Rufus Hellendale  
Patricia Hendrickson  
Laura Henry  
Diane Hert  
Virginia Heustis  
Elaine Hewes  
Bo Heway  
Mr. and Mrs. Peyton Higgison II  
Mr. Daniel Hildreth  
Barbara Hill  
Rep. Jon Hinck  
Joseph Hite  
Richard and Elise Hobbs  
Clarice Hodges  
Marjorie Hodges  
Keith and Norma Hodsdon  
Mr. Bradford Holden  
George Holman  
Charles and Phyllis Howe  
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard J. Howell  
Mr. and Mrs. Francis M. Hugo  
Brian Hutchinson  
Sandra Irwin  
Jonathan Israel  
Mary Jellison  
Ricky Jewell  
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Johnson  
Kenneth and Sandra Johnson  
Norma Johnson  
Joanne Vose Johnston  
John Joseph  
Andrew Kandutsch  
Melissa Kany  
Katherine Karlen  
Rachel Keats  
Dr. Mirle Kellett  
Ms. Breene Kerr  
Marcia Kimpton  
Jerry Klausman  
Dr. David Knobel  
Donaldson and Elizabeth Koons  
Asher Kramer  
Esta Kramer  
Walter Krauser  
Robert Lagrange  
John Langhans  
Richard Langley  
Gardiner and Hope Larrabee  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Laurence  
Lance Lee  
Lesley Lichko  
Ms. Laura Blaisdell Lilienthal  
Benjamin and Mary Llewellyn  
Helen Lord  
Alan Lowe  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lowell  
Joan Lusardi  
Frank MacCarrone and  
Eileen Adams  
Pauline MacCollom  
Melissa MacWilliams  
Leslie Madley  
Lisa Malloy  
Mr. Henry Manseau  
Mary Maran  
Robert and Laurie Marcotte  
Karen Marlin  
Gary Martin  
Austin Matheson  
Mr. Arthur Maxfield  
Courtney McCracken  
Mr. Claude McGinley  
Errol and Karen McGuire  
Ms. Mary Jane McKeever  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. McKenney  
O'Regan McLaughlin  
Susan McLeod  
Brian McTeague  
Corky Meikle  
Mark Mezger  
Nai-Shun Miller  
Albert Monaco and  
Christine Anderson  
Sara Montegut  
Carole Monteith  
Emile Montminy  
Martha Moore  
Mr. Ronald Moore  
Thomas Moore  
Bill Moreno  
Millylou Morse  
Ellen Mugar  
Albert Murch  
Valerie Murphy Greene  
Peter Myrand  
Susan Nadeau  
Jay and Jane Naliboff  
Nathaniel and Caroline Nash  
Carol Nelson  
Stephen and Caroline Nichols  
Elia Nichols  
James Nickelson  
Peter Nimkoff  
Douglas Nolin

Mr. Mark Norton  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. O'Neil  
Sr. Mary O'Reilly  
Suzanne O'Sullivan  
David and Susan Oakes  
Anne Oberle  
Tonda Olson  
David Osborne  
Steve Panish  
Mrs. Margot Parrot  
Don Peckham  
Mrs. Donald Pedretti  
Herbert Perry  
Ray Perugini  
Roderick and Lois Pervier  
Suzanne Piraino  
Paul Plumer  
Ari Pontz  
Mark Powers  
Robert and Alix Pratt  
Mary Pratt  
Deanna Prince  
Ms. June Proulx  
Judith Pruszenski  
Jean Pulkkinen  
Gay Quereau  
Joan Quinn  
Ann Reardon  
Mr. C. Recor  
Mr. E. Redden  
Ms. Ruth Reeve  
Marcia Reisman  
Sara Rhoades  
Della Ridley  
Col. and Mrs. Patrick E. Riley  
Ruth Robinson  
Averill Robinson  
Ms. Stephanie Robinson  
Quimby Robinson  
Chris Romac  
John Rose  
Mr. George Ross  
Lynne Rothney-Kozlak  
Margaret Rowe  
June Rowland  
Robert Roy  
John and Virginia Rupert  
Richard Sails  
David and Claudia Sait  
Gary and Diane Savard  
Fred and Roz Scheiner  
James Schmidt  
Nancy Schwarzel  
Phyllis Seavey  
Heather Shand  
Joseph Shaw  
Steven Shea  
Ms. Anne Sheble  
Steven Shepard  
Brian Shepherd  
Judith Shotwell  
Amy Simpson  
Dorothy Sio  
Diane Sirois  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel G. Smereck  
Marlis Smith  
Henry Smith  
Frederick Smith  
Deborah Somers  
Richard St. Peter  
Jeff St. Pierre  
Gregory and Kathleen Stack  
Ivan Stancioff  
Jane Stauffer  
Brian Steppacher  
Mr. John Sterman  
Mr. Mark Sunderland  
Jacob and Maureen Ter Poorten  
Clement Thibodeau  
Edeltraut and Monika Thiele  
Douglas and Rebecca Thompson  
William and G. Thyng  
Nancy Tobias  
Mr. David Townsend  
Michael and Christina Traister  
Michael and Dianne Traphagen  
Jason Tucker  
Normand and Betty Turgeon  
Walter Ushoefler  
James Underwood  
Mr. and Mrs. James Upton  
Thomas and Deanne Urmay  
Garret Vanwart  
Willa Vennema  
Christopher Vettori  
Kathryn Vezina  
Kate Violette  
Sarah Waite  
David and Patricia Walbert  
Mr. Andrew Waples  
John and Maryanne Ward  
James Watt  
Cathy Webb  
Hazel Weidman  
Mary Jane Welch  
Margaret Whalen  
Lynette Whipple  
Joshua and Christie Whitcomb  
William Whitman  
Anne Whittaker  
Patricia Wight  
Christina Wilkie  
John Willard  
Patrick and Deborah Willette  
Susan Williams  
David Colt  
Pixie Williams  
David and Elise Wilson  
Robert and Donnabeth Winslow  
Janet Wiseley  
Karin Wittmann  
Michael and Rita Wolfson  
John Wood  
Charles and Deborah Woodman  
Douglas Woods  
Carolyn Wronker  
David and Nancy Young  
Richard Young  
Joan Zardus  
Ms. Irma Zetterlund  
Diane Zierold

## Special Gifts in Honor of People or Events

### Memorial Gifts

Margaret Wilson Myers in memory of Ned Rendall  
Gretta Wark in memory of Ned Rendall  
George and Sharon Voightmann in memory of Alva Morrison  
City Employees Golf Tournament in memory of Kevin Markee  
Joan Carney in memory of her father Morris Hirsch  
Carol Nelson in memory of Laurance A. Read

### Gift Memberships

Bruce Farling from Anonymous  
John Buffinton from Lee Buffinton  
Rachel Keats from Erik Osborn  
Victor Frederick Bernhards from Patsy Perkins

### In Honor of

Bill and Becky Bartovic in honor of sister Robin Mann  
Bob Mallory in honor of Brownie Carson

### In Honor of Tony Marple's Retirement

Keith Marple  
Lisa Simm  
Kathy Morrisette  
B. Reiko Bennett  
Prakash Basavappa  
Carolyn R. Heiser  
Michelle Binotto  
Roxanne Perrault  
Allyson S. Karter  
Laura L. Tracy  
Derrick Grant  
Anonymous colleagues

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

Shirley Babb  
Howard and Nancy Bliss  
Robert Bond  
Ellen Brawley  
Dr. and Mrs. Harry Carpenter  
Barbara Gent  
Martha Goodale  
George and Mary Hamilton

Tapley and Jean Johnson  
Nicholas Leighton  
Shirley MacGregor  
George and Patricia McLeod  
Barbara Nims  
Jean Parker and Bob Dale  
Tina Phillips

David Sellars  
Barbara Seymour  
William and Fern  
Stearns  
Betsi Taylor  
John and Anne  
Thompson  
Owen Wiley



Sometimes, a photo needs no caption, such as this "My Maine This Week" photo of Pemaquid Point, sent in by Sam Horine of Brooklyn, New York.

## 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 feature it on our new homepage feature, "My Maine This Week." Send your submissions to [beth@nrcm.org](mailto:beth@nrcm.org). And visit our website often at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org) to see the latest "My Maine This Week."

## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Do you have thoughts you would like to share about any of our issues? About your love for Maine's environment? About why you support NRCM? We've created "Share Your Thoughts" as a special place on our website for member voices. Send your thoughts to [beth@nrcm.org](mailto:beth@nrcm.org). Please put "SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS" in the subject line.