

Roundtable on Maine People and the Environment

Augusta Civic Center
January 20, 2011

Ray “Bucky” Owen worked as a professor at the University of Maine at Orono for over thirty years, chairing the Wildlife Department for a decade. In 1993, Governor McKernan nominated Bucky to head the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, a position he also held in the Administration of Governor King. Now retired, Bucky continues to work on conservation projects such as the Penobscot River Restoration Project that seeks to restore eleven species of migratory fish to the Penobscot River while maintaining hydropower generation. A biology major at Bowdoin, Bucky earned a Ph.D. at University of Illinois.

CD Armstrong is President of Deering Lumber, Inc., a full service lumber and building supply retailer with lumberyards in Biddeford and Kennebunk, in business since 1866. Armstrong also volunteers service as Chairman of the Friends of Scarborough Marsh and as Vice Chair for the Maine Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

William P. Bennett is President and Chief Operating Officer of Oakhurst Dairy, the only truly local major dairy in Northern New England and Eastern Massachusetts. All of the company’s milk is sourced from local farms in Maine and Northern New England. For more than 30 years, Bill has managed every aspect of day-to-day operations and developed strategies for continuous improvement of quality and efficiency. Bill lives with his wife in Windham and is the former Chair and present board member of the Portland Salvation Army Advisory Board. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Maine, Orono.

Chief Brenda Commander is the tribal chief of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. Throughout her tenure, Brenda has helped create new programs while working with others to secure grant funding for housing, health and domestic violence services. She coordinated establishment of the Maliseet Police Department and last year helped situate Nuhkomoss Wik, the new shelter for battered women and their children, on tribal grounds. The Tribe gets their energy through Indian Country Energy Services, which is helping them achieve their renewable energy goals.

Chad Coffin is president of the Maine Clammers Association, a non-profit organization founded by Maine’s wild clammers, whose goal it is to maintain and improve the quality of Maine’s tidal and ocean waters. The MCA does this through public education, by efforts to address water pollution, including pollution from sources such as sewage and storm water, and by encouraging shellfish harvesters to act as stewards of the ocean. Additionally, the Maine Clammers Association advocates in support of the shellfish industry.

Joan Benoit Samuelson is the only American woman to have ever won an Olympic gold medal in the marathon, “taking the gold” in the 1984 summer games in Los Angeles. She is a pioneer of women's marathoning. She won the 1979 and 1983 Boston Marathons, and has qualified for every Olympic Trial since 1984. Samuelson is the American record holder for the marathon and half marathon. Joan is the founder and chair of the TD Bank Beach to Beacon 10K Road Race in Cape Elizabeth, which has become Maine’s premier running event which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Maine charities. She serves as a consultant to Nike on athletic and sustainability issue, as a co-chair for the Maine Governor's Council for Physical Activity, and on the boards of many organizations, including Friends of Casco Bay.

Garrett Conover and his business partner Alexandra Conover Bennett have been professional canoe and snowshoe guides for 28 years. Garrett is a registered Maine Guide who has specialized in traditional wilderness traveling techniques of the boreal north woods. Garrett studied wildlife biology and creative writing at University of Montana, and graduated from College of the Atlantic. He has studied the ecology and ethnology of the boreal regions and northern travel skills. A talented photographer, Garrett's slide shows are in demand by many museums, colleges, corporations, nature centers, and other organizations.

John Cooney is the Vice President of Finance and Development at Reed & Reed, Inc., based in Woolwich and founded in 1928. Reed & Reed has a long history of successful public and private construction projects throughout New England, from complex cable-stayed bridges to industrial facilities, marine terminals, commercial and institutional buildings, and – over the past few years -- wind power projects.

Megan Rice is a mother from China, Maine. Megan's daughters are Kate (4) and Elizabeth (16 months). Before becoming a mother, Megan worked with Maine organizations that try to reduce the burden of tobacco addiction and substance abuse on Maine families. She believes strongly that parents should not have to be chemists in order to know which products are safe to buy, and that dangerous products should not be among the everyday items used by children.

Harry Dwyer has been in the logging and forestry business for 30 years. A licensed forester, certified master logger, licensed wood scaler and certified logging professional, Harry owns Ghost Dancer Forestry in Fayette, Maine. Harry was awarded the Maine Forest Service's Outstanding Forest Stewardship Award in 2001. He served on Gov. King's Council on Sustainable Forestry, Maine's Liquidation Harvesting Task Force, and the Boards of Directors of the Small Woodlot Owners of Maine (SWOAM), Kennebec County Farm Bureau, and Maine Forest Products Council. Harry received a BS in Agricultural and Resource Economics as well as a Master of Forestry degree from the University of Maine at Orono.

Maroulla S. Gleaton, M.D. is an ophthalmologist with a practice in Augusta. She is a leader in the state's medical community, currently serving on the executive committee of the Maine Medical Association. Through the MMA, Maine Health Access Foundation, and the Family Medicine Institute, she has developed a deep understanding of the challenges that families and physicians face in accessing or providing quality healthcare. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Franklin and Marshall College, Maroulla earned her medical degree at Temple University and trained at the Mayo Clinic. She and her family live in Palermo.

Ken Olson is retired President and CEO of Friends of Acadia. He previously served as Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy of Connecticut, President of American Rivers (Washington, DC), Director of Special Projects at The Conservation Fund (Arlington, VA) and, early in his career, head of the Appalachian Mountain Club Hut System in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest. Ken holds degrees from the University of Maine and Yale and in 2006 was awarded an honorary degree from College of the Atlantic for "outstanding contributions to human ecology." He lives in Bass Harbor.

Corson "Corky" Ellis is Chairman and Founder of Kepware Technologies, which he started in 1995. Kepware is located in Portland's historic Old Port, and employs 50 people as the world's leading company for communications and related products for use in the automation marketplace. Corky's main focus is on Kepware's long term direction through strategic acquisitions and organic growth. He graduated from Amherst College and received an M.B.A. degree from Columbia University. He located the company in Maine because of the high quality of life provided by Maine's natural environment.

Horace "Hoddy" Hildreth, Jr. is chairman of Diversified Communications, a former Republican state senator and candidate for Congress, and son of the late Gov. Horace Hildreth Sr. He graduated from Bowdoin College and Columbia Law School. He had a 20-year law practice representing some of Maine's largest paper companies at the time, then pursued environmental law. When serving in the Maine Legislature, Hoddy drafted and sponsored some of the state's most significant environmental laws.

Martin Grohman is GAF's first Director of Sustainability where he is responsible for communicating and developing sustainability for the entire \$3B company. He joined GAF with the purchase of Correct Building Products which he co-founded and grew to \$30M in sales. CorrectDeck was the first to produce polypropylene-based composite decking, and received strong recognition for its environmentally friendly manufacturing processes and programs. The company twice won the Governor's Waste Reduction Award, and piloted innovative jobsite scrap recycling programs. Prior to founding Correct Building Products, Grohman worked at Cincinnati Milacron and General Electric. A native of Maine, Marty lives in Biddeford with his wife and two children.

Glen Libby is the President of the Midcoast Fishermen's Cooperative, Chairman of the Midcoast Fishermen's Association and President of the Port Clyde Community Groundfish sector, all based in Port Clyde Maine. He serves on the New England Fisheries Management Council and the Maine Marine Resources Advisory Council and is a lifelong fisherman. The members of the co-op process and sell their catch directly to customers under the Port Clyde Fresh Catch brand that they have created. The brand is supported by fishermen-designed sustainability practices that at times exceed federal guidelines. The processing and branding has created 25 new jobs to date in the fishing village of Port Clyde. Port Clyde Fresh Catch is helping to sustain one of the last and oldest fishing ports in Maine and help restore a resource that is severely depleted along the Maine coast, for now and long into the future.

Marilyn Meyerhans and her husband Steve own Lakeside Orchards in Manchester, and they also own and manage The Apple Farm in Fairfield, Maine. The orchard grows 30 varieties of apples, and three varieties of pears and crabapples. They operate a retail store that sells apples, pears, cider, gift packs, delicious treats and gifts from mid-August through Spring. The Meyerhans have worked with the Land for Maine's Future program to keep their property intact as a working orchard.

Stephen Rich is the CEO of WBRC Architects and Engineers. He designed the addition to the Old Town Library, one of 19 Carnegie Libraries in Maine, which demonstrated the integration of historical features and contemporary demands in a public space. He was the project director of an addition to the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center, which was the first LEED certified building on the campus of the University of Maine at Orono.

Ernie Hilton is an 11th generation Mainer who grew up in Starks and has practiced as an attorney and civil engineer in Madison since 1984. After graduating from Madison High School and earning a BS in Engineering Physics at UMO, he worked in deep coal mines in Pennsylvania and Ohio. Later, after graduating with a second BS in mining engineering from West Virginia University, he worked as a mining consultant primarily on surface mining issues throughout the country, including studies of mountaintop removal in West Virginia. A graduate of Dickinson Law School (now part of Penn State), he has served as Selectman in the Town of Starks, as chair of the local board of appeals, and member of the local school board, and on the Madison Area Health Council. He served on the Maine Board of Environmental Protection for nine years, and was Chair his last year, in 2008.

Ruth McLaughlin is co-owner, with her husband Dan, of Blair Hill Inn in Greenville, which has been featured in many magazines, including Travel + Leisure, Yankee, Food & Wine, Ladies Home Journal, and Outside. During the busy season, the inn and restaurant employ as many as 15 local people. Ruth has served on the C.A. Dean Memorial Hospital Board of Directors for over ten years and as the Board Chair for six years. Ruth is an active member of the Eastern Maine Healthcare System Council of Chairs. She volunteers at Greenville's Food Pantry and is a member of her church choir.

Patrice McCarron is Executive Director of the Maine Lobstermen's Association and has extensive knowledge of the lobster industry. She has served as Executive Director of the Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation, worked on fisheries issues for the New England Aquarium and was Director of the Marine Environmental Research Institute's Resource Center. She travels throughout coastal Maine conducting education and outreach with the industry and works closely with the Maine Department of Marine Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, State legislature and Congressional delegation. She also serves on the boards of the Lobster Research, Education and Development Fund and Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team.

Ashley Richards was a custom homebuilder and remodeler with Richards & Company before becoming an energy auditor and insulation contractor with WarmTech Solutions. He is currently president of the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Maine and on the Executive Board of the National Association of Homebuilders, a federation of more than 800 state and local building associations with over 235,000 members across the country. He also is a member of the United States Green Building Council and a founding member of the Maine Chapter. As a member of the Hickory Consortium, Richards has done extensive research in developing energy efficient and affordable housing.

Alice Percy and her husband Rufus own Treble Ridge Farm in Whitefield. It is a diversified, organic farm with a farrow-to-finish hog operation. Alice is a 2005 graduate of Colby College, with a degree in Environmental Science. She is especially interested in an ecosystems approach to agriculture, in expanding the availability of local grains to local livestock farmers, and in integrating fuel and food production through oilseeds. Alice and Rufus have two sons and another on the way.

Jeff Reardon is an avid sportsman, hunting and fishing whenever he can. He serves as the Maine Brook Trout Project Director for Trout Unlimited. Jeff grew up in Maine, left the state to get a biology degree at Williams College, and returned in 1994—as soon as he could find a job here. Since 1999, Jeff has been working full time with TU’s Maine chapters to protect and restore fishable populations of Maine’s native trout and salmon. He lives in Manchester.

Thomas Tietenberg is the Mitchell Family Professor of Economics, Emeritus at Colby College. The author of over 100 publications, Tom is a former President and current Fellow of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. Most recently he was a member of the National Academy of Sciences study “America’s Climate Choices.”

Father Richard Senghas is a Roman Catholic priest, Director of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the Diocese, and former Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church in Jay. He was an orthopedic surgeon until the death of his wife, after which he entered the seminary for preparation for the priesthood.

Deirdre Birbeck is a senior at Unity College, where she is pursuing a double major in Agriculture, Food and Sustainability and Landscape Horticulture. She grew up in Lincolnville, attended Camden Regional High School, and has worked on farms every summer since high school.

Mark Berry is Executive Director of Downeast Lakes Land Trust in Grand Lake Stream. He oversees forest conservation projects, education programs, and the management of the 33,708-acre Farm Cove Community Forest for wildlife habitat, public recreation, and a sustainable timber economy. He received degrees in ecology from Dartmouth College and the University of Colorado. He has researched and taught in the outdoors from Antarctica to Wyoming. Before coming home to Maine in 2006, he managed a 34,000-acre conservation area in north-central Oregon. He lives in Princeton with his wife and son, and enjoys many outdoor activities including kayaking and skiing.

Closing Comments

The Rev. Martha Kirkpatrick is the Rector of St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church in Belfast, Maine. She is also the Missioner for Environmental Stewardship for the Episcopal Diocese of Maine. From 1999 to 2003 she was the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection under Governor Angus King, and was previously the Bureau Director for the DEP’s Bureau of Land and Water Quality. Before returning to Maine in 1991, she was a staff attorney with U.S. EPA in Washington DC. A native of Maine, she has a law degree from George Washington University, and earned her Master of Divinity from Harvard in 2007.

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