



Maine Environment



Natural Resources
Council of Maine
Winter 2011
**INSIDE: The Legacy
of Brownie Carson**

Governor LePage Launches Assault on Safeguards for Maine's Environment

On January 20th, NRCM sponsored an amazing event at which 29 presenters explained to Governor LePage why a clean and healthy environment is critical for their jobs, quality of life, Maine's economy, and our future. The audience swelled to more than 500 people who wanted to join in this collective communication to Maine's new Governor.

Governor LePage appeared to be listening carefully, took notes, and then provided remarks that included important statements. "I believe in real, strong environmental laws," he said. "The regulations we have are good, strong, and needed." He also said, "I would never challenge a strong environmental law that's based in science. And we're going to enforce them." Many in the hall left the event thinking that the Governor's so-called "red tape audit" meetings would not become a wrecking ball for Maine's environmental rules and safeguards.

But such thoughts were proven wrong three days later, when the Governor's office released a package of proposals that, if implemented, would reduce air quality standards, destroy wildlife habitat, allow more pollution and toxic chemicals, and encourage sprawl throughout Maine—including deep into Maine's North Woods.

Unnecessary Sacrifice

The Governor's "Phase I Regulatory Reform Proposals" represent the most extreme attack on Maine's environmental safeguards that NRCM has ever seen. They appear to emerge from a faulty view that Maine's business climate can only be improved by sacrificing our environment. The opposite is true: a clean and healthy environment and a strengthening economy must go hand-in-hand. That's what one speaker after another told the Governor on January 20th.

"If it's good for the environment, it's good for business," explained President and CEO of Oakhurst Dairy, Bill Bennett. According to Hoddy Hildreth, a former Republican state legislator, "These laws... have protected the one single



Among Governor LePage's harmful proposals: Require at least 3 million acres of Maine's treasured North Woods be rezoned for development—an area equal to 10 times the size of Los Angeles.

advantage that Maine has over other states in the Northeast in attracting people and businesses: namely, our environment and quality of life." Corky Ellis, founder of the Portland-based software company Kepware, proved that point, explaining that his company is located in Maine "precisely because of the protected beauty and conservation efforts of the past."

The Governor's proposal says that Maine's environmental laws should be weakened so that they are no different than federal standards. But Maine is not New Jersey. As NRCM Advocacy Director Pete Didisheim explains, "Federal

standards have been beaten down to the lowest common denominator of what the most polluting industries will accept in the most degraded places in the U.S. that you can think of. Unless we want to look like those places, we must protect Maine's right to protect our state as we choose."

Safeguards on the Chopping Block

As the Governor's proposals sent a shockwave through the Legislature, many lawmakers took pains to distance themselves from the specifics. They heard from constituents who argued against the Governor's plan, which includes the following:

- Mandate that at least three million acres of Maine's irreplaceable North Woods be zoned for development. This is the equivalent to 10 times the size of Los Angeles.
- Overturn Maine's Kid-Safe Products Act that identifies and phases out the worst toxic chemicals that threaten children's health in everyday products.
- Eliminate Maine's product stewardship laws, including our electronic waste recycling law that has saved taxpayers more than \$9.6 million and prevented more than 3.3 million pounds of lead and other toxic materials from entering the waste stream and our environment.

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Attend Citizen Action Day Tuesday, April 5th



Concerned about the news coming out of the State House? Want to know what you can do to make a difference? Join us at our Augusta headquarters for Citizen Action Day. This event informs you about the latest goings on at the State House and how to most effectively make your voice heard. You'll meet and hear from NRCM advocacy staff and take a short walk across the street to the State House, where you'll have the opportunity to meet with your elected officials.

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us on Tuesday, April 5th at our headquarters in Augusta. Learn more and register at www.nrcm.org.

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• THE BIG PICTURE •

Standing Strong

Change is exciting, but it can also be bittersweet. I am excited and honored to be starting my new role as NRCM's executive director, and I thank all of you who have sent me congratulations and good wishes. The NRCM community is warm and welcoming, and I truly appreciate your support. At the same time, we will all miss our good friend, Brownie Carson, who has fought a good fight here in Augusta for nearly 27 years. We cannot thank him enough for all that he has done for Maine.



NRCM is beginning a new chapter, and the clarity and intensity of our purpose remains the same. For more than 50 years we have been harnessing the power of science, the law, and citizen action to protect Maine's environment. We stand firmly on a foundation of successes won by thousands of determined men and women working together to clean up our rivers, restore fisheries and forests, protect precious land for future generations to enjoy, stop air and climate changing pollution through clean energy and efficiency, and get toxic chemicals out of our homes and environment. We'll keep building on that foundation and make sure that it is never torn down.

Jane Goodall, the famous researcher and conservationist, once said, "Change happens by listening and then starting a dialogue with the people who are doing something you don't believe is right".

We've been listening to the LePage Administration and the new legislative leadership with increasing alarm. Right now, there are dozens of proposals pending that would harm Maine people and our environment:

- It's wrong to destroy the essence of Maine's North Woods by rezoning three million acres of undeveloped forest for development.
- It's wrong to throw out laws passed by strong majorities of lawmakers just two years ago to keep toxic chemicals out of products our kids use, like baby bottles and sippy cups.
- It's wrong to water down dozens of air and water pollution standards that protect Maine people and wildlife by requiring us to meet lower federal standards.
- It's wrong to roll back Maine's product stewardship laws, including our e-waste recycling law that has saved taxpayers nearly \$10 million and prevented more than 3 million pounds of lead and other toxic materials from entering the waste stream and our environment.

We started a dialogue with Governor LePage at the Augusta Civic Center in January, where he heard from 29 businesspeople and others who spoke from all walks of life, and saw more than 500 folks like you who joined together and made the case that a healthy economy for Maine is inextricably linked to a healthy environment. We will continue this dialogue each day at the State House, and we will do all we can to keep protections in place that benefit us all. We won't back down.

More than ever, we're counting on you to stand with us. Your lawmakers need to know that you expect them to do what is right for Maine. Your phone calls, emails, letters to the editor, and testimony at hearings will send that message, loud and clear. Please get 10 friends to stand with us as well, and to join NRCM's Action Network. All people who love Maine have a stake in protecting the environment. If ever there was a time to step up and be heard, this is it.

I look forward to talking with you as I travel around the state in the coming months. NRCM is strong and on course. We have an incredibly talented staff, deeply committed board members, and more than 12,000 passionate supporters. We must join together to stop the environmental rollback agenda. Thank you, for standing up again and again to protect Maine's environment for all of us. -Lisa Pohlmann, Executive Director

Governor's Assault on Safeguards - Continued from page 1

- Gut laws that restrict the use of toxic chemicals such as mercury, lead, arsenic, and toxic brominated flame retardants in consumer products.
- Eliminate Maine's ban on the use of toxic bisphenol-A (BPA) in baby bottles, water bottles, and sippy cups, a rule that was approved last year by a unanimous vote of Maine's Board of Environmental Protection. BPA is an endocrine-disrupting chemical that can reduce immunity, impair brain development, and contribute to diseases like breast and prostate cancers later in life.
- Roll back a law that reduces sulfur dioxide air pollution, a safeguard put in place to help prevent asthma attacks, reduce acid rain, and increase visibility in our parks.
- Abolish the Board of Environmental Protection.

This is just a subset of the Governor's proposals, which must be stopped. We all want our government to work efficiently, but these proposals are a prescription for decline in the quality of Maine's environment—the very foundation of our economy, our health, and our way of life.

If you have not already done so, please contact your state legislators today and tell them that the Governor's efforts to improve the business climate in Maine have gone horribly off-track. Tell your legislators that we can improve the effectiveness of implementing Maine's laws without destroying the environment that supports a \$10 billion annual tourism economy, provides us with a "Maine brand" that's vital for marketing Maine-made merchandise, and allows all Mainers to share in the natural wonders that literally define our state.

Join NRCM's Action Network Because your voice makes a difference.



By joining our Action Network, you'll stay informed about how and when to take action to help protect Maine's environment. It's free, and you choose how and when to take action. You can

- Make phone calls or send emails to your legislators and other decision-makers. We'll provide you with their contact information.
- Write letters-to-the-editor of your local newspaper.
- Submit comments or testify at public hearings.
- Help us get the word out through social media—Facebook, Twitter, blogs, and more.

For more information or to sign up, visit http://supporters.nrcm.org/Action_Network

Court Tells EPA to Move Forward with Rules to Cut Pollution



A U.S. Court of Appeals recently agreed that new Clean Air Act regulations on climate-changing pollution from cars, trucks, power plants, and factories could go forward as planned—for now—as of January 2011. Many industry groups, including the National Petrochemical & Refiners Association, and those representing utilities, refiners, and others have filed a lawsuit to block these rules. Their initial effort was to attempt to "stay" (temporarily halt) the rules pending the outcome of the full lawsuit. NRCM is one of several groups that are part of the lawsuit.

"While the full lawsuits will continue to play out, the ruling lets EPA do its job under the Clean Air Act to move forward to limit climate-changing pollution that threatens the health of our families, our economy, and our environment," says NRCM's clean energy director Dylan Voorhees. "Despite the best efforts of the oil and gas lobbies, which continue to pour money into fighting progress on clean energy and clean air, the Court's decision means the implementation of these rules will not be delayed." Meanwhile, Congress will consider legislation this session that would revoke or delay the EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act, so NRCM and others are closely watching Senators Snowe and Collins and encourages them not to vote to undermine this best hope to control global warming pollution in this country.

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Maine Environment is provided four times a year to more than 12,000 members and supporters of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. NRCM is a Maine-based nonprofit membership organization working to protect, conserve, and restore our land, air, wildlife, and water, now and for future generations. Membership starts at \$28/year. Join online at www.nrcm.org. Copyright 2011. All rights reserved. Maine Environment is printed on processed chlorine-free, post-consumer recycled paper.

The Legacy of Brownie Carson

By Jeff Clark

“Brownie’s legacy will forever endure in Maine’s majestic rivers, forests, and streams.”

Senator Olympia Snowe

It is not an exaggeration to describe Brownie Carson as a legendary figure in Maine’s environmental community, a man whose reputation and impact go well beyond the state’s boundaries. Maine’s rivers and lakes, its air, its wildlands, even its suburbs are all better places because of Carson’s passionate, patient, unwavering leadership.

From the Big A dam to Plum Creek, Carson has been front and center in almost every major environmental issue in Maine. Former U.S. Senator and global peace negotiator George Mitchell praises Carson’s “persistence and patience” in tackling issues that often take years for resolution, while Senator Olympia Snowe describes him as “one of the principal architects of the Maine environmental movement.” He’s been called a barracuda and a bear and some far less complimentary names, and through it all, “I have just loved being here,” Carson says. “Being part of NRCM, with a staff whose energy is so strong and positive. We have done some extraordinary work together.”

“You need the ability not to be deterred by strong opposition, not to be discouraged by temporary defeat, never to give up the fight, and keep it going. Those are the characteristics that come to my mind when I think of Brownie,” said Mitchell in a speech celebrating Carson’s twentieth anniversary as the head of Maine’s largest environmental advocacy organization, which boasts more than 12,000 supporters from across Maine and beyond.

“Brownie was always the epitome of the combination of civility and passionate advocacy,” says Senator Snowe. She cites her work with Brownie on the Edwards Dam removal, “which would not have come to fruition without his stalwart leadership.”

Nationally, Maine has long been considered one of the states in the forefront of environmental protection, and Carson’s leadership of NRCM is recognized as the reason for that reputation. He has won many awards, among them Bowdoin College’s Common Good Award, *Down East* magazine’s Environmental Award, and the National Wildlife Federation’s Special Achievement Award. Add the awards given to NRCM under his leadership and the list seems endless.

“When I’m at a national meeting of environmental grant makers and people see Maine on my name tag, it’s ‘Wow, do you know Brownie Carson?’” says Brigitte Kingsbury, executive director of the Orchard Foundation, a private charitable foundation based in South Portland, and a former NRCM board member. “Yeah, I know Brownie,” she notes.

Maine first impressed Carson as a teenager. He grew up in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley paddling the nearby rivers and lakes and hiking the Blue Ridge Mountains. In 1962 and 1964, he canoed the Penobscot River and sailed the coast with his father, Robert, and his two older brothers, Bob and Walter. These experiences persuaded him to attend Bowdoin College in Brunswick.

In 1967, halfway through college, Carson enlisted

in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served five months in Vietnam as a platoon leader before being wounded in Laos. He was given a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star and shipped back to civilian life. “That experience in Vietnam, being wounded, it really changed my perspective about accepting anything at face value,” he said in a 2005 interview. “Like dumping waste into the rivers—just because everyone did it, that didn’t make it right.”

Upon returning to Bowdoin, Carson joined the antiwar movement and took an interest in the fledgling environmental movement. Law school at the University of Maine and six years with Pine Tree Legal Assistance followed before he took the position of staff attorney at NRCM in 1983. Six months later, the board turned to him to lead the organization.

Carson took over when NRCM was immersed in one of the biggest environmental battles of that decade, Great Northern Paper Company’s plan to build a hydroelectric dam at Big Ambejackmockamus Falls on the Penobscot River’s West Branch. “I viewed that as a hopeless fight at the time,” says Jon Lund, publisher of the *Maine Sportsman* and former Attorney General and NRCM board member. “But Brownie hung in there. He’s a very tenacious person.”

The “Big A” dam would have drowned one of the most scenic stretches of wild river in Maine, as well as the nation’s finest landlocked salmon fishery. Carson mobilized a broad coalition of Maine citizens and businesses, from whitewater rafting companies to longtime local residents, to oppose the project. In 1986, Great Northern dropped the dam proposal.

Around the same time, Maine was the target of huge industrial developments. Clinton “Bill” Townsend, of Skowhegan, served on the NRCM board for 42 years. He was on the committee that originally interviewed Carson. “We hired him during a particular point in Maine, and NRCM, history, but what is especially noteworthy is the breadth of issues NRCM took on under Brownie’s leadership. He is not a Johnny One-Note,” says Townsend.

The early 1980s saw an oil refinery planned for Eastport, a nuclear power plant and aluminum smelter proposed for Sears Island, hydroelectric dams on the state’s last free-flowing rivers. Despite the passage of the Clean

Air and Clean Water acts in the 1970s, many Maine rivers were still polluted by industrial and municipal waste and smokestacks still belched pollutants into the air.

Brownie was among the top leaders in an activist environmental community that gradually evolved from fighting rear-guard actions against ill-considered developments to advocating for new laws and regulations that would strike a balance between a clean environment and good business.

“A voice of reason, that’s what he is,” says Dean Bennett, Allagash defender and former NRCM board member. “People respect him even if they



Carson testified frequently at the State House in favor of bills protecting Maine’s environment—and against legislation that would harm it.

don't agree with him."

"His passion, dedication, and commitment over the years have been unswerving," says Sherry Huber, veteran conservationist and executive director of the Maine TREE Foundation. "I certainly respect his abilities and effectiveness."

The Big A victory was a clear example of how Carson inspires people, including his staff, and brought leadership to the organization. "We've always hired the brightest, most entrepreneurial people we could find, and they've done fabulous work," Carson says. The statement shows another aspect of Carson's personality—he almost always says "we" when other people would say "I." Carson often deflects praise away from himself and onto the people who work for him, but outside observers uniformly credit him with both leading by example and hiring creative, idealistic people and molding them into one of the most effective environmental organizations in the country. "One of his strengths is his ability to motivate those around him," observes Kingsbury.

"Everyone on the staff who we've encountered has been without exception a fantastic person, and that reflects Brownie's leadership," said Garrett Conover, who owns North Woods Ways guiding service with his wife, Alexandra. "He has attracted a group of wonderful folks."

"There is something about him that brings out the best in people," says L.L. Bean Chairman Leon Gorman. "He has built a superb staff. He has always been courageous if he believes in an issue, and he inspires his staff with that."

"I've learned so much from my colleagues on the board and the staff," Brownie muses. "They have always influenced my decisions—our decisions. I learned there are two essential qualities of leadership: lead by example, by doing the right thing; and solicit advice and counsel from the people around you who are committed to the same goals."

Another of Brownie's strengths has been his ability to persuade other people to support NRCM. "Brownie has been an incredible fundraiser," adds Townsend. "He doesn't mind asking people for money because he believes so strongly that he's asking for a good cause."

Carson allows that "a lot of people have been enormously generous," although he never found the one benefactor he was always looking for. "I kept hoping someone would say, 'I'd like to give you a million dollars,' so that when the chance arrives to do something very special very quickly, we'd be able to jump on it."

All of those talents serve Carson's biggest interest—protecting and improving Maine's environment. The Big A battle was only the first of many for NRCM and Carson. The state's growth management law, toxic waste reduction, the Sensible Transportation Policy Act, opposing a coal-burning power plant proposed for Bucksport, removing Edwards Dam—the list is literally years long. Anyone who asks him about mercury contamination of Maine's waters and fish had best be prepared for an in-depth education about airborne pollution spewed by coal-burning Midwest power plants. He is by turns passionate and pragmatic. "He has this unique combination of inspiring the staff with his passion and presenting a calm, positive face when he advocates for a position publicly," Lund says.

Ask any 12 people to describe Carson, and 11 of them will use the word "passion." "Actually, what I think is fairly unique about him is his passion," observes Ruth McLaughlin, owner with her husband, Dan, of the Blair Hill Inn in Greenville. The couple have been active with NRCM in protecting the Moosehead Lake region from the Plum Creek development proposal. "What Brownie brings to the table is clarity of thought, intellect, and passion."

"I've had a chance to work with Brownie Carson for just about 20 years—beginning when I was a newly elected State Senator. Not only have I learned a lot from him but I've also been inspired by his commitment to protecting the state that we all love," says Maine's congressional representative Chellie Pingree. "Brownie's environmental knowledge, experience, and judgment are unequalled, but it's really his passion, dedication, and deep-rooted connection to the Maine environment that sets him apart. As I work on environmental issues in Congress, I can tell you that we'd be a lot better off if every state had a Brownie Carson."

Carson returns repeatedly to the removal of the Edwards Dam in Augusta in 1999 as one of the touchstones of his career—as well as a testimony to



Site of the proposed Big A dam on the Penobscot's West Branch. One of Carson's early successes as NRCM Executive Director was stopping this project before it began by mobilizing a broad coalition of citizens and business who understood the harm it would do.



Carson at a press conference for the signing of the agreement leading to restoration of the Kennebec through removal of the Edwards Dam. Those in attendance included then-Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and Governor John McKernan.



in the summer of 2010, Carson paddled the Allagash with a group of NRCM friends and donors. He plans to do more exploring of Maine's great outdoors during his retirement.

his patience: the project took 10 years. It was the first operating hydroelectric dam in the nation to be torn down because restoring the river above it was officially deemed more valuable than the power it produced. "It really was a precedent-setting event on a national scale," he says.

He has a long history of leading NRCM on campaigns to protect the state's waterways. He helped create a new organization, Maine Rivers, to advocate for restoring Maine's rivers through anti-pollution measures and dam removal. His most recent rivers work has been with the Penobscot River Restoration Project. "The Penobscot project is world class, unprecedented," he continues, referring to the plan to buy and remove two dams on the lower Penobscot River and install state-of-the-art fish passage at a third. "It's opening up a thousand miles of fish habitat, salmon nursery habitat. We can look forward to seeing the salmon come back and a healthier Gulf of Maine."

That work will continue under the new executive director, Lisa Pohlmann, who brings 11 years of experience with NRCM to the job, including two years as the organization's deputy director. She lists staying focused on Maine's biggest environmental threats as her number one priority. These include defending the state's existing safeguards for land, air, and water against the rollbacks threatened by the LePage administration. "Certainly I can say I stand on the shoulder of a giant," she says. "I've seen Brownie in action for years. He's focused, determined, and passionate, and I plan to pick up where he left off." She also hastens to point out that Carson will still be in the neighborhood. "I'm planning to drink lots of coffee with Brownie," she says.

Looking back, Carson admits he never expected to stay almost 27 years. "Not on your life," he laughs when asked if that was the plan. "I had no master plan."

"I'm sure it never occurred to anybody that he would stay so long," allows Jon Lund. "Without him, though, we wouldn't be nearly as far down the road as we are today."

"He has been the conscience of the Maine environmental movement for decades," declares Horace "Hoddy" Hildreth, owner of Diversified Communications and a longtime NRCM supporter. "A lot of the best parts of Maine have been preserved and protected through the efforts of Brownie."

"He has been the single most influential person on environmental issues in Maine," says Leon Gorman. "It's the passion he brings. Whether he's talking about pesticides or the Big A or the Penobscot project, he is just so engaged with the issue. Beyond the facts and the logic, it's the values he articulates that make him such an asset to Maine."

"He's one of the great ones," adds Marion Fuller Brown, an NRCM supporter and sponsor of Maine's anti-billboard law.

Carson credits several people with inspiring him, among them George Mitchell and the "other Carson," Rachel, as well as his father and his two brothers. "My mother was an artist, and her work capturing the scenery of the Shenandoah Valley certainly had an influence," he muses. "Jack London—his books always encouraged me to seek out adventure every now and again."

He singles out his wife, Dana Porter, for particular attention. "It has certainly been tough for her at times," he says. "This is not a 9 to 5 job. At times it required a lot from me, emotionally and physically, and she has always understood that. I couldn't have done all this without her being there."

As for the future, Carson remains deliberately vague. He is looking forward to exploring the Narraguagus and Machias rivers, and there are mountains and backcountry vistas on his to-do list. He plans a major adventure with his brothers. He has also said that leaving his formal leadership position with NRCM will allow him to take an even stronger advocacy role than he has in the past, if that's possible.

"Although Brownie may be 'retiring' from NRCM, I'm pretty sure he will still be a significant presence in Maine," says Representative Pingree. "That's good, because now more than ever, we need people like Brownie engaged in the public debate of our environmental future."

As Gorman observes, "Given the commitment he has shown, it's hard to believe we won't hear more about him in the future." Sounds like a good bet.

Maine native Jeff Clark has been a writer and editor for Maine Times, Down East, and other publications for almost 40 years. He remembers the bad old days of pollution in Maine and hopes happier days are ahead.



INDELIBLE IMPRESSIONS: Twenty-seven Years at NRCM

My first experiences in Maine were canoe trips in the early 1960s, nearly 50 years ago. With friends and family, I paddled the Rangeley Lakes, explored the Scraggly, Junior, Big and West Grand Lake region, and then fell in love with the West Branch of the Penobscot River, and with Moosehead, and Chesuncook lakes. There is a quality about Maine's backcountry waterways and landscape that leaves an indelible impression, and bonds can form that last a lifetime.

For many of us who are involved in NRCM, as staff, board, members, and activists, the seed that grew into our relationship with this organization was an outing or a connection to a place in this state—a hike in the western mountains, a canoe trip down the Allagash, fishing for native brook trout, visiting a cottage on the coast. For others, it may have been reading stories from or about Maine, whether Kenneth Roberts or E.B. White, and feeling a kinship to the land and its people. There is a special quality to this place, and we feel a sense of responsibility to take care of it.

My first campaign at NRCM, to protect the West Branch of the Penobscot from the proposed Big A dam, lasted for four years. Great Northern Paper Co., which owned 2.1 million acres of forest land (about 10 percent of the entire state) and ran large mills in Millinocket and East Millinocket, was determined to build its twentieth dam on the Penobscot. Working in coalition with other conservation organizations and a group of outdoor adventure businesses, we were equally determined to save Ripogenus Gorge and a stretch of river that was—and continues to be—home to a world-class landlocked salmon fishery.

Passions ran high on both sides. Newspapers across the state gave extensive coverage and wrote frequent editorials about the issue. The hearings before the Land Use Regulation Committee (LURC) lasted for six weeks, and hundreds of people from every corner of the state spoke out. LURC granted a conditional permit, then the Board of Environmental Protection denied an essential Clean Water Act license. The Legislature tried, but failed, to overturn the BEP order. An expert witness in the case testified that energy conservation in the two GNP mills could produce more electricity at lower cost than Big A would generate. The dam was never built, and that stretch of river flows freely today.

Looking back on those early years, I should have instinctively understood that I would be here for the long term when the first campaign was about the fate of a river to which I felt such strong attachment. Many other people, from Maine and across the country, felt that attachment, too, and joined NRCM. Our members knew that we had made a difference in a very important case, and they called upon us to take on more tough issues. As I met and talked with them, they confirmed that they would be with us for the long haul, too. Their loyalty—your loyalty—has always inspired me.

As that first campaign ended, Maine was being enveloped by a real estate boom. Speculators, most notably the Patton Corporation, were buying, subdividing, and selling land much faster than towns could plan. A new sewage treatment plant in one small coastal community would have been overwhelmed by a speculative condominium project. River and lake front land was being carved into "spaghetti strips" 100 feet wide and sold at huge profit. Many towns were worried about infrastructure and service expenses; 55 enacted subdivision moratoria to gain time to do comprehensive planning. NRCM researched options for a statewide growth management program, and presented a proposal to the Legislature in 1988. After vigorous debate and some changes, legislators enacted our bill, a major breakthrough in a state where "local control" had always been gospel.

Over the next 20 years, NRCM played a key role in protecting threatened

places and restoring sensitive resources: defeating the effort to build a coal-fired power plant at Bucksport (directly upwind of Acadia National Park); creating the Caribou-Speckled Wilderness Area of the White Mountain National Forest; reducing air pollution from the Wyman Power Plant on Cousins Island in Casco Bay; removing Edwards Dam from the Kennebec and Fort Halifax Dam from the Sebecook to restore a bountiful sea run fishery. In each of these campaigns, people with a special connection to the place labored alongside dedicated staff to prevail, and the power of citizen engagement has made a world of difference.

We aren't as successful in every instance, of course, as we have learned from efforts to curb paper mill pollution that flows into the Androscoggin River and defend Moosehead Lake from Plum Creek's massive development proposal. But the voices of concerned citizens have helped us make headway, and these difficult projects are both still "works in progress." We are determined to help "Ed Muskie's river" meet Clean Water Act standards, and we remain committed to protecting Moosehead, one of Maine's finest gems, from destructive development.

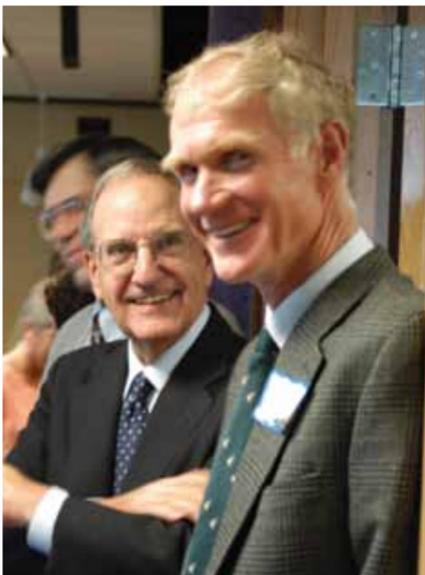
Now, in the first weeks of the administration of Governor Paul LePage, we face a new challenge, one that will require an even greater and more focused level of citizen engagement to protect Maine's environment. The new governor has just released a stunning set of proposals that would, if enacted, endanger the health of our children and shred the fabric of environmental laws and programs that have safeguarded our clean air, clean water, and treasured landscape for decades. They must be stopped.

The proposed rollbacks would gut laws that restrict the use of toxic chemicals like mercury, lead, and arsenic; reduce air pollution standards that protect public health; eliminate "product stewardship" programs like Maine's e-waste recycling law; weaken strong reliance on science for environmental permitting; and, abolish the Board of Environmental Protection. Unfortunately, there are more—too many to list here. They would run roughshod over the conservation ethic that has long been an integral part of our Maine heritage.

We, the NRCM family and the people of Maine, have not come this far only to change course now. We will not put our families and our future at risk. We have not voted for the Land for Maine's Future Program at every opportunity, only to watch sprawling big box development approved with little or no assessment of the impacts on the land and water. We have not defended strong, health-based air and water quality standards for a generation so that the current Legislature can now roll them back to the federal minimums. We will not stand by while innovative and cost-effective river restoration, recycling, product stewardship, and energy efficiency programs are reduced to rubble. Maine is a national leader in conservation and environmental protection for a very good reason. There is a special quality to this place. It is the foundation of our lives, our communities, and our economy.

Having stepped away from the helm at NRCM, I plan to keep watch and stay involved from Harpswell. The exceptional people here and this important work have given me a chance to help shape our state's future, and I will always be grateful for that opportunity. My thanks to the spirited cast of characters who have helped in so many ways along the journey during the past 27 years.

Lisa Pohlmann and the talented staff will keep the organization strong and focused. The dedicated men and women on our board are forward-looking and pragmatic and bring a breadth of perspectives to both the task at hand and the longer term future. And you, our members and activists, are the most loyal and generous constituents any organization could ever hope to have. Together, we will continue our commitment to taking care of our beloved State of Maine.



In 2004, Senator George Mitchell spoke as part of the celebration of Brownie's 20th anniversary as NRCM's executive director. His remarks can be heard at NRCM's website at www.nrcm.org/aboutnrcm.asp.



Carson met with Maine's Congressional delegation to discuss environmental issues. "Brownie is a passionate advocate for all the causes that he embraces," says Senator Susan Collins, pictured here with Brownie.



During Mike Leavitt's visit to Maine in 2005, Brownie convinced the then-EPA Administrator to meet with him. Brownie pushed for the need to curb mercury pollution from power plants.



In 1996, Brownie and others were invited to the White House to meet with President Clinton. Brownie spoke of the need to defend legislation protecting clean air and water.



Brownie introduces recording artist Bonnie Raitt at her benefit performance at Merrill Auditorium in Portland on the eve of the removal the Edwards Dam.



Brownie was a regular presence at the State House over the years. He's pictured here with Gov. Joe Brennan.



Brownie Carson Citizen Engagement Fund

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We also wish to thank the many generous donors who made gifts to the annual fund in honor of Brownie Carson.

Would you like to honor the legacy of Brownie Carson and all that he has done to keep Maine a special place? Consider making a gift to the Brownie Carson Citizen Engagement Fund. Informing and engaging Maine people is—and will always be—at the heart of NRCM's mission to protect the nature of Maine. Income from the Brownie Carson Citizen Engagement Fund will help underwrite activities that inform people about threats to Maine's environment and opportunities for action. These activities include:

- Public presentations, in-district meetings with legislators, brown bag luncheons, and on-the-ground outreach and listening sessions in towns around Maine;
- New technologies and interactive social media that reach broader audiences and enable citizens from around the state to stay involved;
- Opinion polling to determine citizen understanding of environmental threats; and
- Ongoing communications about environmental issues, including the latest scientific reports and legislative developments.

To make your tax-deductible gift, simply cut out the coupon below and mail it to NRCM, c/o Brownie Carson Citizen Engagement Fund, 3 Wade Street, Augusta, ME 04330. For more information, contact Gretta J. Wark, Senior Development Director, at (207) 430-0108 or gwark@nrcm.org.

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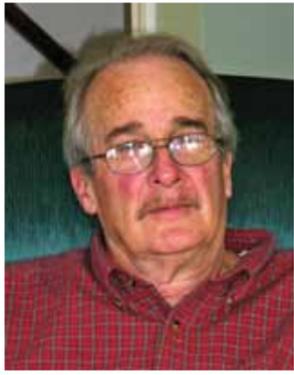
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Meet Tony Nazar, Photographer and Partner in Maine's Future Member



Visitors to NRCM's website have been enjoying the photos of Tony Nazar for four years, since we launched our "My Maine This Week" feature as part of our new website. To display his many exquisite photos, we created a slide show just for Tony, as part of our My Maine pages. But Tony is more than a photographer who enjoys Maine's stunning landscapes and wildlife. He's also a member who supports NRCM through our Partners in Maine's Future program. Beth Dimond recently invited Tony to share with us his about his photography and why he supports NRCM's work.

Beth Dimond: Tony, what got you interested in nature photography?

Tony: The beauty of the resulting images. That, and sometimes I like four-legged creatures better than two-legged ones. I enjoy doing landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, and photos of all sorts of critters that share our earth.

Beth: Do you remember your first camera?

Tony: My first camera was a Kodak Brownie, what else? My first photos were probably of my cat, Buck. I still have a few prints of those.

Beth: How do you capture such beautiful wildlife shots? Any secrets you want to share with those of us who strive to take those kinds of photos?

Tony: Patience, knowledge, and patience. Most animals will only pose for a second or two, if that long. If they aren't spooked by the photographer, they are more interested in food or cover or another creature. That's where knowledge of animal behavior comes in. Birds use trees and shrubs as staging areas for feeding. There's a big old rose bush in my yard. I put a pole feeder near it and the chickadees, goldfinches, and redpolls sit in the tangle of rose bush branches while they eat or waiting to go to the feeder. Only occasionally will a bird linger on an outside branch. That is where more patience comes in again. I've missed more good photos than I've taken, but there's always another coming and I try to be ready for it.

Beth: Apparently, you catch squirrels in action at the feeder, too! What are some of your favorite Maine locations to photograph?



Tony: Other than the unnamed beaver pond in Wilton behind the Public Safety Building, Wilson Lake, and my own yard, I guess my favorite places have to include Small's Falls, Coos Canyon, Grafton Notch, and any coastal location from Casco Bay to Bar Harbor.

Beth: All beautiful places. Is there somewhere in Maine that you haven't visited but have always wanted to photograph?

Tony: Gulf Hags. I will probably never get to do that location because I recognize my physical

limitations. More realistically, someday I will photograph the coast east of Bar Harbor.

Beth: You support NRCM's work as a member of NRCM's Partners in Maine's Future program. What made you decide to make that kind of commitment to our work?

Tony: I grew up a few miles from Route 128 in Greater Boston. When I was younger, my hometown, Wellesley Hills, had woods and ponds and all sorts of wildlife. Today, they're gone, replaced by malls, McMansions, and other



human amenities. NRCM is committed to preserving Maine while allowing reasonable development. I believe that man and his environment can coexist.

Beth: Are there specific areas of NRCM's work with which you feel most closely connected?

Tony: Right now, it is most important to stand up and say "no" to Governor LePage's attempts to hand the state over to developers. I think NRCM does that better than national groups.

Beth: What do you feel are some of the most important issues of concern related to Maine's environment today?

Tony: Preserving and protecting the way Maine should be. There is a push to exploit the Maine environment coming from people who seek short term financial gain at the expense of the balance that makes life possible. I hope some of my photographs will help people see what it is that needs to be preserved.

Beth: I'm sure they will, Tony. Thank you!

You can read Beth's full interview with Tony and view his slideshow at our website at www.nrcm.org/Tony_Nazar.asp

SURVEY SAYS:

Land Conservation Most Pressing Issue



View from Barren Mountain, Piscataquis County

Thanks to all of you who responded to NRCM's Member Survey. We've compiled your comments and tallied results. Among the highlights, 53 percent of you identified land conservation as the most pressing issue facing Maine's environment. You described too much development of forests and open space as the biggest

threats to conservation (50 percent), followed by North Woods pressures (31 percent), urban sprawl (11 percent), and habitat destruction (four percent). Energy issues ranked second (25 percent of respondents) as an area of concern, with the highest percent of you identifying climate change (41 percent) as the most pressing energy concern, followed by the need for clean energy sources (19 percent). Watershed-scale concerns were especially high in the issue category of clean water (62 percent), and fisheries issues also were noted. Fifty-four percent of you who listed toxic chemicals to be of highest concern cited as the biggest threat the impact these poisons could have on our overall environment. We especially appreciate those of you who took the time to provide specific comments. We will take them to heart in evaluating our efforts moving forward in our work protecting Maine's environment. For more results, visit our blog at <http://blog.nrcm.org>.



Sample rates for single life Charitable Gift Annuities through the Natural Resources Council of Maine:

Age	Rate
65	5.5%
70	5.8%
75	6.4%
80	7.2%
85	8.1%
90	9.5%

Protect Your Nest Egg While Protecting Theirs

Your support of the Natural Resources Council of Maine helps protect Maine's wild creatures from pollution and loss of habitat. Through a Charitable Gift Annuity, you can make a gift that provides income for your retirement, and at the same time supports our mission to protect Maine's environment.

A Charitable Gift Annuity allows you to make a significant gift of cash or securities to NRCM. In return, you or your spouse receive fixed payments for life.

Tax savings on a Charitable Gift Annuity can be significant. Part of the asset you donate is tax deductible in the year you make the gift. Funding an annuity with securities can lower your capital gains taxes. And a portion of the payments you receive will be tax-free or taxed at a lower rate for a number of years.

A Charitable Gift Annuity will also give you the satisfaction of knowing that you have played a critical part in protecting the wild places and creatures that make Maine special.

And it's easy to do! To find out more about setting up a Charitable Gift Annuity and to receive a personalized illustration of how an annuity can fit your needs, please contact:

Gretta Wark, Director of Development
(207) 430-0108 or (800) 287-2345 ext. 208 • gwark@nrcm.org



Thanks for Plunging with Us!



On December 31, 2010, 43 NRCM supporters and staff plunged into the frigid waters of Casco Bay at East End Beach in Portland for this year's Bold in the Cold polar plunge. The event raised awareness about the threat of climate change to Maine's vital coastline and brought in more than \$9,000 for NRCM's work to curb climate change. Thanks to all who joined us—it was great fun, for a great cause! Watch our short video of the event at the NRCM Insider at <http://www.nrcm.typepad.com/nrcminsider/>. Our special thanks to these local businesses for their sponsorship of this year's polar plunge:

Aqua Diving Academy	Re-Vision Energy
Back Country Excursions	Washboard Eco-Laundry
Coffee by Design	Whole Foods Market
Havana South	
Horizon Residential Energy Services	

NOW SHOWING AT THE NRCM INSIDER

Check out these recent YouTube videos, produced by our staff exclusively for the NRCM Insider:

Maine People and the Environment Listen as Maine businesses and others shared their testimonies with the Governor about how crucial the environment is to their business and way of life, taken at NRCM's January 20th round table event.



2010 NRCM Polar Plunge: the Movie Catch the action before and after this year's plunge. Includes exclusive "Plunge Cam" footage taken by Beth Dimond *during* the plunge!

Kennebec River: the December Flood Watch dramatic footage of one of Maine's great rivers as it flooded parts of Gardiner, Hallowell, and Augusta in December.

Maine Board of Protection Names BPA as Priority Chemical of Concern



Maine's Board of Environmental Protection recently voted unanimously to designate bisphenol-A, or BPA, as a priority chemical under the state's Kid-Safe Products Law, which identifies for phase out the worst of the worst chemicals in consumer products. BPA is found in some baby bottles, water bottles, and a range of other products. The chemical has been linked to endocrine disruption and can reduce immunity, impair brain development, and may contribute to obesity,

learning disabilities, and certain cancers later in life. Young children may be exposed when they eat or drink from polycarbonate food and beverage containers, eat food from cans lined with epoxy resin, or chew on or handle objects containing BPA, which can be absorbed through the skin. If the Legislature approves BEP's ruling, manufacturers will be required to disclose when the chemical is contained in the products they make and look for safer alternatives to BPA, putting Maine on par with nine other states plus the entire European Union and Canada. "It should be a no-brainer," says NRCM's legislative coordinator, Matt Prindiville. "Yet the LePage Administration has included the BPA ruling on its long list of safeguards for the chopping block. Maine people need to continue making their voices heard over the roar of lobbyists for the chemical industry to make sure the Legislature does the right thing."

Special Memberships Given November 1, 2010 to January 31, 2011

Honoraria

Belfast Garden Club in honor of Judy Berk
Pittsfield Community Garden Club in honor of Judy Berk
Leland Alper in honor of Mr. Francis Madeira
Margaret Bruno in honor of Steve and Tina
Tina C. Flagg in honor of her mother, Pat Flagg
Christine M. Gerli in honor of Mrs. Margot Stiasni-Sieracki
Sarah Griffiths in honor of Sarah Connor
Elizabeth W. Hague in honor of Bart Hague
William and Marilyn Hartman in honor of Karen and Larry Turner
Christine H. James in honor of Susie and Bruce Stedman
Robert S. and Lisa Pfaffmann in honor of Sarah Connor
Jennifer M. Shotwell in honor of Brownie Carson
Edward C. Wolf in honor of Pete Didisheim

Memorial Gifts

Thomas and Marth-Ann Betjemann in memory of Eleanor Sandilands
Daniel and Joyce Cooper in memory of Eleanor Sandilands
James and Joanne DiNovis in memory of Eleanor Sandilands
Fred and Mary Ann Drew in memory of Eleanor Sandilands
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Mildred J. Smith in memory of Eleanor Sandilands
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Christine Bastian and Family from Eric F. and Barbara L. Wellner
Richard Bouvier from Jean M. Orawsky
Bob Farris from Mollie Farris
Amy Faunce from Jeannette Faunce and Jamie Oates
Roy, Susie, and Aria Finch from Greg Burrows
Doug Hayward from Jeannette Faunce and Jamie Oates
Jeff, Shannan, Jake, and Riley Heacock from Barbara Loescher
David Lafreniere from Jeannette Faunce and Jamie Oates
Mr. and Mrs. Miguel Martin from Louise S. Hoffman
Erin McLaughlin from Mikal C. Crawford and John L. Lowe
Missy Parkerton from Terry and Forrest Sprague
Phil Perkins from Virginia Heustis
Julie, Nick, Austin, Tyler, and Parker Snell from Barbara Loescher
Herbert J. Thomson from Steven A. Thomson

New members of **PARTNERS IN MAINE'S FUTURE** Program, our monthly giving club. Members' automatic donations help us save on administrative costs, including paper. Special thanks to these members!

Benjamin Axelman	John C. Meserve and Mary Takki
Daniel H. Baker	Jeff Erickson and Susan Murphy
Ben Bernard	Nancy Orr
David Cummiskey and Sarah Conly	Kathleen Pinard
William H. and Carol B. Freeman	Roberta Zur
Mark Gallup	

"My Maine This Week"



Send Us Your "My Maine This Week" Do you have a photograph of Maine you'd like to share? A poem? Send your submissions to beth@nrcm.org. Visit "My Maine This Week" online at www.nrcm.org.

"I thought I would share this photo, taken in Bridgton after a significant snowstorm earlier this year." —Robin Priest, East Otisfield, Maine



Tip of the Day

Load up: Run the washing machine and dishwasher only for full loads, to save money and energy. 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!

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