



# Maine Environment



## Milestone for the Penobscot River: Removal of the Great Works Dam By Cheryl Daigle

In mid-Spring, the base of the portage trail adjacent to Orono Dam is flooded, and birch and silver maple trees stretch reflections across the water. The river courses past the newly greening riverbanks, whitewater roaring over and around outcrops of boulder and ledge, drowning out the sounds of early migratory birds. This place is referred to as Basin Mills Rips, once dammed and the site of a sawmill in the 1800s. This section of the mainstem Penobscot now reflects the wildness of the river that was and offers a story of hope and the precursor to the collaboration seen today in the Penobscot River Restoration Project.

Basin Mills was for several years in the mid-1990s promoted as the ideal location for construction of a dam larger than any other on the lower Penobscot River. Fierce opposition to the dam came from community members and conservation groups, including NRCM, local salmon clubs, the Penobscot Nation, and state and federal fisheries agencies who had already been working for decades to rebuild Atlantic salmon populations. Ultimately, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission denied the permit, in large part due to the devastating impact it would have on salmon restoration efforts. Now, less than a generation later, there is tremendous hope for salmon as the Penobscot Project reaches its next milestone: removal of the Great Works Dam less than four miles upstream.

### Improving Fish Passage, Increasing Energy Production

In June, the Penobscot River Restoration Trust—owner of the Great Works, Veazie, and Howland dams—begins dismantling the outdated conglomeration of concrete and timber crib works and failed fishways that



*Basin Mills Rips in Orono, the site of a failed proposal to build what would have been the largest dam on the lower river. It provides a glimpse at what the river will look like at Great Works after the dam is removed, with whitewater rapids and a diverse mix of eddies and pools providing habitat for fish and other wildlife.*

comprise Great Works. It is the first of three major construction projects that collectively will improve access to nearly a thousand miles of habitat to realize the Project's goal to restore to the watershed self-sustaining populations of salmon, American shad, river herring, and seven other species of sea-run fish. In partnership with hydropower companies, the restoration effort also means increasing energy generation at six dams now owned by Black Bear Hydro, LLC. Total energy production within the project area will remain at least the same, and the construction activities around Great Works Dam removal alone will lead to an infusion of millions of dollars into the local economy.

For example, the project will maintain and create numerous jobs for the area in construction, engineering, landscaping, and the scientific monitoring of changing river conditions and fish communities.

For the first time in nearly two centuries the river will flow freely between the towns of Bradley and Old Town. As the impoundment is drawn down over the course of several weeks, we will begin to see the river change back to a more natural state: rocky ledges will emerge, and a diverse habitat of eddies and pools will offer breeding ground for mayfly, caddis fly, and other insects that thrive in free-flowing waters. This new life will attract more activity from migratory songbirds that rely on insect-rich river corridors to sustain their long journeys, and both resident fish and the juvenile sea-run fish that feed on the insect larvae and emerging adults.

After the Veazie Dam is removed and the Howland bypass constructed, Atlantic salmon, shad, and other sea-run fishes will once again reach these

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## EPA's Proposed Carbon Pollution Standard Will Benefit Maine

On Tuesday March 27th, the Environmental Protection Agency and Obama Administration released a long-awaited proposal to limit climate-changing carbon pollution from new power plants.

"Every year, power plants dump more than two billion tons of dangerous carbon pollution and other pollutants into the air," says Lisa Pohlmann, executive director of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. "The standard announced in March will establish the first national limits on carbon pollution from new power plants and help protect people, kids, wildlife, and our environment from climate change and air pollution."

NRCM is urging Maine's senators and Congresspeople to support these rules and not put corporate polluters' profits ahead of our health. Power plants are the nation's largest source of carbon pollution and big power companies, their lobbyists, and supporters have spent tens of millions of dollars to try to block clean air standards that will save thousands of lives. The Clean Air Act is an essential tool to address air pollution, from climate-changing gases to toxic mercury emissions. Please show your support by taking action. Visit our website to find out how at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).



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Please call NRCM with  
address corrections  
or duplicate mailings!



## • THE BIG PICTURE •

# A Million Cheers for the Carbon Rules

There's no question that winter was too warm and spring too early in Maine this year. I wonder if you stood in your backyard like I did, concerned about the extraordinarily early appearance of perennials, migratory birds—and ticks. It's just plain eerie when nature isn't "right."

NASA data confirms that the global average surface temperature in 2011 was the ninth warmest since 1880. More disturbing is that 9 of the 10 warmest years on record have occurred since the year 2000. There's no denying that it's getting hotter, and we know why.

Every year, American power plants dump more than two billion tons of dangerous carbon and other pollution into our air, causing the kind of climate change we see around us. Dirty coal-fired power plants are the nation's largest source of carbon pollution. Experts tell us that this carbon forms a layer of pollution that blankets the Earth, trapping heat and causing rising temperatures. One result is an increase in extreme weather events.

Another is the cost to our health. This changing climate leads to a wide range of health problems including heat-related deaths and illnesses, and the continued spread of infectious diseases like Lyme disease. In fact, Americans now spend more than \$100 billion every year on coal-related health care costs. It is past time to hold the dirtiest polluters accountable for this pollution.

Finally, the U.S. is taking action. The Environmental Protection Agency made history in March by proposing the first-ever national limits on carbon pollution for new power plants. The standard limits all new power plants to 1,000 pounds of carbon pollution per megawatt hour. Energy companies can meet this standard by using cleaner energy sources and by employing modern technology.

Maine and several other states, and foreign countries, already limit carbon pollution from new power plants. Approximately 20 coal plants that are currently under development in the U.S. would be subject to the EPA's new carbon pollution standard. Coupled with steps being taken to cut other dangerous power plant pollutants including soot, smog, mercury, and other toxic pollutants, the new carbon pollution standards will help protect our environment, our health, reduce waste, encourage innovation, and create jobs.

I know kids who have asthma. It is painful to watch them gasp and reach for their nebulizers. Carbon and air pollutants such as toxic mercury and dirty soot from coal plants create rising temperatures that make smog worse, which triggers asthma attacks and can permanently damage children's lungs. This has got to stop.

The EPA is also required to set standards that will apply to existing plants, and those rules are expected to follow later this year or next year. With these new standards, the EPA is doing its job under the Clean Air Act, which has protected American's health for 40 years.

You can help. The EPA is seeking public comments on its new carbon rules until June 12. Please take a minute and show your support for the rules. We've set up a place on the NRCM website where you can add your comments, and we'll deliver them to the EPA. Already more than 800,000 Americans have weighed in to support the new standards. We're aiming for a million! You'll find the form at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org). Take a deep breath for all who cannot, and act now. Thanks! —Lisa Pohlmann, Executive Director



## Setting the Record Straight on NRCM & Wind

As you probably know, NRCM evaluates wind proposals on a case-by-case basis and has supported some wind projects, opposed others, and weighed in "neither for nor against" on some, too. For the record, NRCM does not accept donations from wind development companies or other companies with whom there is the potential for a conflict of interest. We appreciate those members who have contacted us questioning a recent anti-wind power publication that wrongly claimed that NRCM accepted funds from a wind power developer. Our work—safeguarding Maine's air, land, water, and wildlife—is funded by you, our members, and by charitable foundations that share our goals. For the facts about NRCM's position on wind, please visit the Clean Energy section of our website at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org), including our online Renewable Energy Library. The library contains objective research and the best scientific findings about wind power, which inform our decisions on whether or not to support a particular proposal. Thank you again for caring about Maine's environment and for making our work possible—we couldn't do it without you!

## Great Works Dam

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waters without impediment. Some adults will spawn near Great Works, or stop to rest in still-water pools. Most will continue past the new fish lift being built at Milford Dam and far upstream to reach prime spawning and growing habitat in the cooler waters found in the Piscataquis and Pleasant rivers, and other tributaries that form the headwaters of the Penobscot watershed. Endangered shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon will find new spawning habitat as far upriver as the ledges just below the Milford Dam, regaining access to all of their historic spawning grounds and the fresh water that young sturgeon reside in the two years before they are ready for the saltwater of the estuary and Gulf of Maine.



The Great Works Dam this summer is first of three major construction projects to significantly improve access to nearly 1000 miles of habitat for endangered Atlantic salmon and other species of sea-run fish.

### Recreation and Economic Revival

With the recovery of a river will come a renewal of opportunities for the people who live in and visit this part of Maine. This brings us again to the frolicking rapids at Basin Mills that provide a welcome hint at what the river will look like in the areas now drowned by the Great Works and Veazie impoundments, after dam removal. Whitewater paddlers are drawn to the challenging conditions at Basin Mills and will soon have two "new" stretches of rapids to test their skills. Within a few months, canoeists will be able to ply the Penobscot waters from below Milford to the Eddington boat launch without a near impossible portage around Great Works, and, within a few years, after Veazie Dam is gone, will be able to journey all the way to Penobscot Bay. Fishing guides will have a more diverse river landscape and fisheries to provide a variety of options to their clients, and as the river attracts more recreational activity, the economic benefits will spill over to area lodging and outfitting businesses.

The landscape alongside the river in Old Town and Bradley currently reflects the breadth of the community, industry, and homes side-by-side with pockets of forest, but with minimal recreational use of the river. Removal of the Great Works Dam this summer will enhance our sense of community, with a revived river joining the vital mix of natural assets that attract people to the water. It is yet another example of how, in Maine, restoring rivers and sustaining our culture and economies goes hand in hand.

Cheryl Daigle is the Community Liaison and Outreach Coordinator for the Penobscot River Restoration Trust. NRCM is a founding member of the Penobscot project.

## Maine Should Act on BPA as Washington Stalls



On March 30, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) failed to protect us from bisphenol-A (BPA) used in food packaging. This chemical has been linked to cancer, obesity, and other health problems. This latest failure to limit dangerous toxic chemicals again makes clear the urgent need for federal chemicals policy reform. Currently, the FDA does not have the authority or resources to regulate toxic chemicals that appear in household products. NRCM is actively working to support the Safe Chemicals Act, which will be voted on in the U.S. Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee in May. This bill would update and improve the outdated, convoluted federal law now in place, and we are urging Maine's Senators Snowe and Collins to co-sponsor this safer chemicals policy.

NRCM has helped Maine to lead on safer chemicals laws, passing the Kid-Safe Products Act. Under this law, the state has now banned the use of BPA in baby bottles, sippy cups and all reusable food and beverage containers. But children and adults still face significant exposure through BPA leaching from food can linings and jar lids. Because developing fetuses and children are the most susceptible to health problems from this toxin, this year, NRCM is asking the Maine DEP to extend the BPA ban to infant formula and baby and toddler food. NRCM will continue to work to ensure that all foods sold in Maine and the nation will be BPA-free. Visit our website to find out what you can do to help.

—Abby King, NRCM Toxics Project Director

Join our online Action Network to stay informed of actions as they happen. You'll learn when and what you can do to help. Sign up at our website today! [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org)



CAMDEN HARBOR FROM MITT BATTIE

## Nancy Symington, an Extraordinary Friend of NRCM and Maine's Environment

By Brownie Carson

This February, NRCM lost a remarkable friend. Nancy Symington, whom I met during my earliest days as executive director, died at the home in Camden where she had warmly welcomed me countless times. She was a person of diverse interests; she was devoted to family and friends; she sailed Penobscot Bay with a passion; she was steadfast in her commitment to the common good; and she loved Maine.

When we met, sometimes at her house overlooking Camden harbor and other times at one of the local eateries, Nancy was always ready with questions. How were things going at the Legislature? What was the latest chapter in our campaign to protect Moosehead Lake? Was the governor an ally or a foe on a particular initiative? And, always, how was my family?

Nancy was genuinely curious about the "inside story," and she spoke from her heart. She was involved in many organizations and causes, yet she always made our shared interest in Maine's future feel particularly important during these conversations. She had traveled the world and dined with heads of state, but she focused on protecting Maine's coastal waters, North Woods, and clean air for our grandchildren as we talked.

Nancy's family continues her legacy of engagement in the work of NRCM. I am sure it is in their DNA. But she was truly special, and we will all miss her.

*Brownie Carson was NRCM's executive director for 26 years. He retired in 2010, but continues to be active with NRCM.*

## A Life-time of Income, a Legacy of Protection

Life-income gifts can be an important part of your financial planning—and Maine's environmental future.

Charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts provide donors or their beneficiaries with income for life while providing many tax benefits and, of course, a gift to the Natural Resources Council of Maine. Interested donors should talk to their financial advisors to determine whether a life-income gift makes sense for them. Here are the basics of how they work:

### Charitable Gift Annuity

- You make a gift of cash or securities to NRCM. The minimum gift requirement at NRCM is \$10,000.
- NRCM pays you, you and your spouse, or any two beneficiaries you name, a fixed income for life. The amount of that income depends on the age of the beneficiaries at the time you make gift. The minimum age requirement at NRCM is 60 years old.
- After the beneficiaries have passed on, the remaining balance is applied to NRCM's board-directed fund to tackle long-term projects and emerging environmental issues.

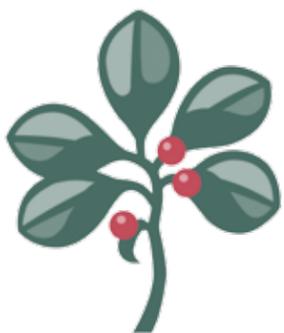
You receive dependable, fixed income for life—often at a rate that is much higher than CDs or even stocks. You also enjoy an immediate tax deduction, with ongoing tax benefits because a portion of your annuity payment will be tax free.

### Charitable Remainder Trust

- You transfer cash, securities, or other appreciated property into a trust that you set up. These trusts typically start with gifts of \$100,000 or more.
- The trust pays either a percentage of the value or the principal or a fixed amount, depending on how you set it up.
- When the last beneficiary passes on, the remainder passes to NRCM to be used as directed. NRCM applies trust distributions to the board-directed fund unless a donor stipulates otherwise at the time the trust is established.

Donors enjoy numerous benefits from a charitable remainder trust: income for life or a specific term of years, an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of your gift, and no upfront capital gains on appreciated assets.

For an illustration of how a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust might apply to your circumstances or wishes, please contact Gretta J. Wark, NRCM's director of development, at (207) 430-0108.



WINTERGREEN  
SOCIETY  
NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL OF MAINE

ART BY JON LUOMA

## JOIN THE WINTERGREEN SOCIETY

**YOU** can protect Maine's environment for years to come by including the Natural Resources Council of Maine in your estate plans. Your gift becomes a legacy of vibrant forests, healthy rivers, and diverse wildlife that will nurture future generations. NRCM has created the Wintergreen Society to recognize and honor donors who have named NRCM in their estate plans, whether through bequests, gifts of life insurance or retirement plan designation, or as beneficiaries of life income gifts, such as charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts.

Benefits of membership in the Wintergreen Society include:

- An annual reception and other events of interest
- Recognition in published materials (with your permission)
- A complimentary one-year membership to NRCM for the family, school, or library of your choice

We welcome gifts of all sizes. All gifts are confidential. To learn more about gift planning at NRCM and the Wintergreen Society, please contact Gretta J. Wark, senior director of development, at (207) 430-0108 (direct) or [gwark@nrcm.org](mailto:gwark@nrcm.org).

**WHY WINTERGREEN?** Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*) is Maine's official state herb. It retains its leaves through every season, providing sustenance for white-tailed deer and many other species of wildlife. The white, bell-shaped flowers of summer give way to red berries, also known as teaberries, in the fall and winter. For centuries, Native Americans have used wintergreen to relieve inflammation, strained muscles, and other ailments. The Wintergreen Society was named by Bill Houston of Kingfield, a Registered Maine Guide and board member of NRCM. The artwork was created by artist, activist, and long-time member Jon Luoma of Alna, in collaboration with graphic designer Lauren Mier of brightredbicycle in Hallowell.

## Maine Environment

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

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## Don't Miss These Upcoming NRCM Spring Events



More details at [www.nrcm.org/attendanevent.asp](http://www.nrcm.org/attendanevent.asp).



**Thursday, May 17, 10:30a.m.-noon, Cumberland County Civic Center, Portland:** "Maine Leaders Roundtable on Climate Change," an EPA public listening session featuring a diverse panel of Maine leaders' perspectives on climate and energy issues, with your Q&A.



**Friday, May 18, 5:00p.m.-9:00p.m. Main Street, Gardiner:** Join NRCM staff at Monkintree fine art gallery opening reception for their new show "Natural Inclination," running through July 20. Monkintree will donate a portion of proceeds to NRCM.



**Saturday, May 19, 8:30a.m., Owl's Head State Park, near Rockland:** Join NRCM's senior public affairs director Allison Wells and her husband Jeff for a fun, family-friendly bird walk at the Owl's Head lighthouse and trails followed by refreshments and book signing of their new book, *Maine's Favorite Birds* (Tilbury House) at the Project Puffin Visitor Center in Rockland. Author's proceeds from the event donated to NRCM.



**Tuesday, May 22, Noon, Merryspring Nature Center, Camden:** NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann will talk about the threat of toxic chemicals, what NRCM is doing to address it, and what you can do to reduce the threat of toxics in your life.



**Tuesday, May 22, 4:30, NRCM Headquarters, Augusta:** "Thoreau's North Woods: Opportunities, Threats, & the Beauty of the Place," with nature photographer and writer Dan Tobyne and NRCM North Woods Project Director Cathy Johnson. See Dan's stunning photographs and hear a North Woods update Cathy. Dan will sign copies of his book, with proceeds to NRCM.



**Thursday, May 31, 7:00p.m., Castine:** Nick Bennett, NRCM's staff scientist and watersheds project director, will speak at Bagaduce Watershed Association and film producer Dick Kane will present the prize-winning documentary, *A Chemical Reaction*, by producer Brett Plymale of Portland, at the Bagaduce Watershed Association.



### Register Now for "Rachel's Run"

Thanks for your suggestions for a name for our new 5K race and kids' fun run, happening Saturday, September 29th. Congratulations to Ray Ouellette, who came up with "Rachel's Run." Join us in Capitol Park and along the Kennebec River in Augusta for "Rachel's Run and Kids' Fun" to raise awareness and funds for our work to reduce toxic pollution. Register today! While at our website, view our Earth Day Art Challenge slideshow featuring artwork by Maine kids who care about nature! We'll select one of the pieces to be our Rachel's Run logo! It's all online at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).

## NRCM Member Discounts at Maine Sporting Camps

Planning your summer vacation in Maine's beautiful outdoors this summer? Our thanks to these sporting camps that are again offering discounts to NRCM members:



- ▲ Appalachian Mountain Club Wilderness Lodges
  - ▣ Little Lyford Lodge and Cabins, Moosehead Region
  - ▣ Gorman Chairback Lodge and Cabins, near Greenville
- ▲ Buckhorn Sporting Camps, Indian Purchase
- ▲ Eagle Lake Sporting Camp, Eagle Lake
- ▲ The Last Resort Cabins and Campground, Jackman
- ▲ Red River Camps, Portage
- ▲ Spencer Pond Camps, Greenville

For more information, visit [www.nrcm.org/sporting\\_camps\\_2012.asp](http://www.nrcm.org/sporting_camps_2012.asp). Contact Beth at [beth@nrcm.org](mailto:beth@nrcm.org) to get your member voucher.

### Green Tip of the Day

**Achoo!** With the arrival of allergy season, save a tree and use a cotton handkerchief, which can be washed and reused, instead of bleached white tissues. For a green tip of the day every day, visit NRCM's website at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).

## Special Memberships Given February 1, 2012 to April 30, 2012

### Honoraria and Memorial Gifts

Tanya Carey in honor of John Parker  
Beth Lamont in memory of Caroline Macomber  
Jeff and Allison Wells and Family in memory of Dana Childs

### Gift Memberships

Scott McDowell from Marilyn Justice  
Scott and Virginia Sargent from Scott and Kathy Turner

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!

Gary Dawbin  
Mathew J. Scease and Maureen E. Drouin  
Molly Foshay  
Esther G. Lacognata and Barclay Palmer  
Lynne Lamstein  
David and Jeanne Lincoln

Frank and Nancy Miles  
Henry W. Mitchell  
Melissa L. Poresky  
Nancy Shaver  
Richard and Janet F. Tarbuck  
Paul Womer

## Looking for the Perfect Graduation Present?

**NRCM memberships make great gifts!** Buy a gift membership for special graduates in your life. And don't forget Mother's Day! To view member benefits and to buy your gift memberships, visit [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).



### "My Maine This Week"

"Pemaquid Point, sunrise."  
—Lionel Libson  
of Camden, Maine

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](mailto:beth@nrcm.org). Visit "My Maine This Week" online at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).

## NEW AT THE NRCM INSIDER



Check out our recent YouTube video at the NRCM Insider:

"Redneck Legacy & Mountaintop Removal Mining" – Catch highlights from Appalachian activist and professor Chuck Keeney's NRCM-sponsored presentation at Bowdoin College April 5<sup>th</sup>.

## New in the NRCM Blogosphere

"Honoring Rachel Carson on Earth Day" Lisa Pohlmann shares her thoughts about Rachel Carson and how she changed the way people think about the natural world.

"Outdated Chemical Policy Should Take a Hike!" Abby King shares her experience hiking the Appalachian Trail and the need to get toxic chemicals out of everyday products.

"Embracing the 'Clean Gene,' the Non-toxic Way" Beth Dimond humors and informs us with her insights into toxic-free spring cleaning.

**Wildlife in Motion** a guest blog by NRCM member Bryan Wells showing a fascinating, "insiders" view of Maine wildlife captured with a motion-activated camera perched in the Maine woods.

**New Report Sheds Light on Disappointing Winter** Outreach coordinator Emmie Theberge's take on the short winter sports season and a new climate change report.

Subscribe to our blogs at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).



If you "Like" us on Facebook... you'd be among the first to see the "Hall of Shame" list of dangerous cleaning products posted on NRCM's Wall.

Follow us on Twitter! Search for NRCMenvironment.

