



Maine Environment



Spring 2013

Tar Sands Oil: Local Concerns for the Crooked River

Looking out the front door of Bart Hague's 1790 farmhouse in Waterford, one has a clear, full view of the entire Mahoosuc Range. This view is what inspired Bart to spend his life working on issues related to the environment, and why he has worked so hard to protect his land. He walks it as often as possible, and can tell you about the pipeline that runs under some of his property—a pipeline that is being considered as a possible route for Canadian tar sands oil to travel on its way to Casco Bay.

Bart said that in its past and current use, which is to carry conventional crude oil, he has been impressed by the pipeline's safety record and by the dedication of the workers responsible for it. He has had concerns about erosion caused by ATVs and potential damage by heavy equipment traveling over the pipeline, located just a few feet under the ground, but he has not worried about a spill, until now.

Concern for the Resource

Bart is concerned because tar sands is a much heavier oil than conventional crude. If the pipeline started to carry tar sands oil and there were a spill, cleaning up of the pristine section of the Crooked River that runs through his property would be difficult.

"My concern is the critical nature of the resource," says Bart. "That's my biggest worry, that we've got this really great resource for wildlife and water."

Bart has heard about the devastating tar

*"A spill would be catastrophic...
The benefit is out there somewhere,
in the company's pocketbook,
and we bear all the risk."*

—Harrison business owner Lee Margolin
regarding the tar sands pipeline



Crooked River



Bart Hague hiking on his Waterford land, which is crossed by would-be tar sands pipeline.

sands oil spill into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan, in 2010. That spill, from a pipeline owned by Canadian oil giant Enbridge, contaminated nearly 40 miles of the river with 1.2 million gallons of toxic tar sands oil. "The issue of the Kalamazoo and the trouble they seem to be having is with clean up," he says.

Bart knows well what's at stake along the Maine pipeline route. In fact, he's placed a conservation easement on this piece of his land, which includes a critical 350-acre segment of the Crooked River corridor, upland tributary watersheds, wetlands, riparian areas, and oxbows.

According to the Congress of Lake Associations, the Crooked River provides 40 percent of the direct flow into Sebago Lake, which is the drinking water supply for Greater Portland's 200,000 people. In addition, the Crooked River is home to the only wild salmon population in southern Maine and has been designated an Outstanding River Segment under the Maine Natural Resources Protection Act.

Bart said that besides fishing, the river is a great spot for birding, hunting, and kayaking, and a sandbar on his land is listed in the AMC Rivers Guide as a recommended campsite.

Unless the pipeline company has a monitoring system, it could be some time before anyone noticed a spill. "It'd have to be somebody crossing the road and walking down there," for a spill to be noticed, he says. On his land, the pipeline crosses many of the tributaries that feed

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New Maine Law Allows Return of Alewives to the St. Croix River

"The return of alewives to the St. Croix River offers new hope for the health of the Gulf of Maine and its fisheries," NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann said as a bill became law allowing native Maine alewives to return to their spawning areas in the St. Croix River. As a result of the new law, the St. Croix can, over time, now become the largest alewife run in the nation. NRCM has been working to reopen the river since 2001. As the alewife population rebounds, it will help rebuild Maine's groundfish stocks, employ local alewife harvesters, and supply safe, local bait for Maine's lobster industry. In the 1980s, more than 2.6 million alewives traveled up the St. Croix River to spawn in upstream lakes. The number of returning alewives collapsed to fewer than 1,000 fish after the Maine Legislature closed the fishways at the Woodland and Grand Falls dams in 1995, under pressure from smallmouth bass fishing guides who wrongly claimed alewives harm the bass that live in the upstream lakes. Smallmouth bass (an introduced species) and alewives coexist in lakes and waterways throughout Maine and the East Coast of North America. Maine's new law was supported by overwhelming numbers in the Maine Legislature, which voted 123-24 in the House, and 33-0 in the Senate. Fishways are already in place at the dams there, so restoration simply requires the removal of some plywood at the top of a dam on the St. Croix, and will not cost any money. "We're is thrilled that Maine's destructive St. Croix alewife policy is now a thing of the past," says NRCM's watersheds project director Nick Bennett.



DOUG WATTS



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• THE BIG PICTURE •

Carrying Our Message

by Lisa Pohlmann, NRCM Executive Director

I recently made a trip to Washington D.C., joining representatives from New Hampshire and Vermont, to press the U.S. State Department to require a comprehensive environmental impact assessment, as part of a Presidential permit, for any proposal to use the existing Portland Pipeline for carrying tar sands from Alberta, Canada, across Maine and through New England.

I also met with our U.S. Senate offices and told them we believe a tar sands pipeline through Maine is not in the best interest of this state we fight so hard to protect every day. I shared the town resolutions against tar sands that have passed in Maine, the messages of Maine petitioners who have spoken out against the pipeline reversal, and the news about our anti-tar sands rallies.



NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann and other New England representatives met with U.S. State Department officials about the tar sands pipeline through Maine.

NRCM has been working on the Exxon tar sands pipeline proposal for more than two years, led by our outstanding energy team, including Dylan Voorhees, Emmie Theberge, Todd Martin, and others. It is great to be working on this critical issue that so many of our members care deeply about. Our collective efforts are apparently having an impact,

because big oil industry reps from the U.S. and Canada have begun appearing in large numbers to rally against us. Don't let up! This will be a long fight, and we will need you by our side.

NRCM is also following about 120 bills this legislative session, representing your interests in protecting Maine's environment. In these last two weeks alone, our staff testified on about a dozen bills, including legislation to protect our rivers and lakes from toxic pollution from open-pit mining; support paint recycling and energy efficiency; oppose a proposed privately owned East-West Highway that would cut Maine in two, and many others.

We carry your stories with us, like the ones from Bart Hague and Lee Margolin on the front page of this newsletter, whether we're at the Maine Legislature or before the federal government. Your experiences and your voices matter.

A member I recently met wrote me this note: "It was great to shake your hand. What you are doing is so important." Working to protect Maine is something I embrace every day, along with over 40 fellow staff and board members at NRCM and more than 16,000 members and supporters. What a treasure we have here in Maine. Let's make sure we take care of it in every way we can.

Economic Impacts of a Potential National Park



Headwaters Economics, an independent, nonprofit research group, recently released two studies of the potential economic impacts of a new national park and recreation area east of Baxter State Park. The studies looked at the income and jobs created in counties that are next to similar areas that are now national parks. They found that, without exception, the amount of income and jobs created in those areas exceeded the national average and that of Piscataquis and Penobscot counties, too. Elliotsville Plantation, Inc., (EPI), the nonprofit foundation that holds and manages conservation lands purchased by philanthropist Roxanne Quimby, commissioned the study. Read the summary and more at our website www.nrcm.org.

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into the Crooked River, and a spill "would be in the river before anybody knew about it."

Weighted Issue

Lee Margolin owns Pennesseewassee Brewing Company and Acme Lamprey Company in Harrison, both of which depend upon the clean water of the Crooked River. Lee shares Bart Hague's concerns.



Harrison business owner Lee Margolin sees no benefit, only risks from the pipeline.

"First is the composition of the tar sands oil versus normal crude," says Lee. "Crude is like the 'white light' of oil, whereas tar sands oil is heavily weighted toward the heavy end. To make something that heavy move through a pipe, the diluents they put through it have got to be very volatile to begin with in order to be able to dissolve something like that. So, their toxicity as well as their volatility—it's a whole different liquid that's going through. "And its chemical makeup, you're not going to fool me on that. I have a Master's and Ph.D. in biology. When one thing is *this* and another thing is *that*, that means they're different. It's in the details, but when it comes to chemistry, the devil is in the details." The chemicals used to dilute tar sands in pipelines have not been fully disclosed to the public, but are known to include benzene, a dangerous carcinogen.

Lee's other concern is the age of the pipeline. "I come from a medical device background," he notes. "Our company would service stuff that had been out there for years. No matter how good you make anything, stuff breaks, despite best efforts."

While Bart cites the Kalamazoo spill, Lee mentions the recent tar sands oil spill in Mayflower, Arkansas. He was particularly moved by a video that he describes as "just this rivulet of oil flowing down this poor family's driveway." He mentions an interview with one of the homeowners who had to leave 10 minutes after being allowed back into his house because of the noxious fumes. "I thought, 'Please not me.' Because that could be me."

"The similarities between our Maine situation and the recent tar sands spill in Arkansas are striking," says NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann. "Both pipelines, owned by Exxon or its affiliates, are about 60 years old. Both were built to carry conventional crude oil. Both travel across watersheds that supply drinking water to hundreds of thousands of people. The Arkansas pipeline was reversed in 2006 to carry tar sands to the Gulf of Mexico. If reversed, the Maine pipeline would carry tar sands across the state for export out of Casco Bay. When we add the fact that tar sands pipelines have a bad track record for spills and the more dangerous and damaging spills, the Arkansas spill has to make us even more concerned for Maine."

For Lee Margolin, the risk is too great. "The river, the lake—I'm in heaven here," he says. "A spill would be catastrophic. There's just not enough benefit for anyone around here. The benefit is out there somewhere, in the company's pocketbook, and we bear all the risk. Nope. Sorry, but no. I'm not going to go for it. I can't get behind it." —Beth Comeau is NRCM's public affairs coordinator.

Community Action Along the Pipeline

Communities along the pipeline are taking action. Dozens of citizen-organized community meetings have taken place to educate friends and neighbors about the risks of tar sands. Since January of this year, four towns along the pipeline have passed municipal



South Portland Tar Sands Rally, July 2012

resolutions stating their opposition to transporting tar sands oil through the 62-year-old pipeline and calling for an environmental impact review by the State Department. These towns include Casco, Waterford, Raymond, and Bethel. Concerned about impacts to the environment and local economy, residents spoke with their neighbors, collected signatures in support of a tar sands resolution, and worked with their select boards and other town officials to pass resolutions at their town meetings. Otisfield, Harrison, and Portland will all vote on tar sands resolutions in the coming weeks. Concerned citizens of South Portland, Windham, and Bridgton are also getting involved by educating their neighbors and working with their city councils and planning boards. NRCM continues to serve as a resource for citizens wanting the most up-to-date, science-based information about the tar sands issue in Maine.

The Legacies of Lives Well Lived

When Barbara and James Pennington Bowditch renewed their NRCM membership in 2005, I remember pausing over their envelope and thinking that Mr. Bowditch's name sounded like something out of a turn-of-the-century novel. My colleague Sarah noticed my pause and looked at the envelope, too. "The Bowditches!" she exclaimed. "Mrs. Bowditch is such a lovely person. She would come to the fabric store where I worked to find material to make bow ties for her husband."

Bow ties? At that moment, the Bowditches were locked in my mind as a frail couple whose quiet lives had morphed into a quiet retirement.

I could not have been more wrong.

"Bobby and Jim Bowditch were full of life," says Brownie Carson. Our then-executive director moved next door to the Bowditches shortly before they rejoined NRCM. "They adored being around young people, loved being outdoors, and felt a responsibility to their community and making it better. They loved Maine and to them that meant protecting its environment."



Jim and Bobby Bowditch. Note that Jim is wearing one of the bow ties that Bobby sewed for him.

Born in the 1920s, Jim and Bobby were childhood sweethearts. They were also standout athletes at their high school in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. Sports played a central role in their personal and professional lives—lives that were just starting when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Jim finished out his freshman year at Amherst, but then enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He spent the next three years in Europe. (He and his group were addressed by General Eisenhower before they invaded Normandy.) Bobby, meanwhile, attended the University of Pennsylvania, completing degrees in Occupational Therapy and Education. When the war was

over, Jim enrolled at Swarthmore College. They were married in 1947.

By the mid-fifties, Jim and Bobby settled in Wilton, Connecticut, where they raised sons Penn and Peter. They helped to found the Wilton Presbyterian Church and the Wilton High School lacrosse program. Jim held a corporate job in New York City before embracing a career as a teacher, coach, and dean of students at nearby Weston High School. After their sons were older, Bobby became the founding head coach of the women's lacrosse and field hockey teams at Yale University.

The Bowditches were active at every stage of their lives. "Dad kept skiing until he was into his eighties," says son Penn. "Yet, Mom was the better athlete. Her senior year in high school, her lacrosse team beat the All-Philadelphia Club team made up of U.S. National Team members. She was on the U.S. Lacrosse and Field Hockey teams numerous times. When she started at Yale and they lost their first game, it was the first time Mother had ever lost on a lacrosse field."

Penn is quick to point out that his mother redeemed herself: she is one of the few coaches at Yale who could claim an undefeated season.

Although the Bowditches kept a small cottage in Northport, it was sports that led them to retire to Maine in the late 1980s. They were in Maine for the foliage when they decided to watch one of Bobby's former field hockey players in a game against Bowdoin College.

"They met a Bowdoin coach who knew me from my days of coaching at Haverford College," Penn recalls, "and the next thing I knew they were building

How to Leave a Bequest

By including a bequest to the Natural Resources Council of Maine in your will, you help to ensure the health and beauty of our state for many years to come. There are several forms that this bequest can take. Please consult with your attorney or other advisor to determine the best form for your circumstances and goals. Here are two common examples:

A specific bequest:

"I devise and bequeath to the Natural Resources Council of Maine, a nonprofit corporation currently located at 3 Wade Street, Augusta, ME 04330, the sum of \$_____ (or, _____% of my estate) to be used to support the charitable activities of the Natural Resources Council of Maine for the protection of Maine's environment."

A residuary bequest:

"I devise and bequeath to the Natural Resources Council of Maine, a nonprofit corporation currently located at 3 Wade Street, Augusta, ME 04330, all (or specify _____%) of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate to be used to support the charitable activities of the Natural Resources Council of Maine for the protection of Maine's environment."

a house in Brunswick. They moved during the spring of 1988, and Mom did most of the move because Dad was biking across the country that spring with his seventy-year-old brother, Ben. They made it in fifty-three days. Mom was not a happy camper!"

The Bowditches soon became enthusiastic supporters of Bowdoin's athletic teams. Jim got involved in town planning and volunteered at Mid-Coast Hospital. Bobby had many interests, but found time to sew Jim's signature bow ties.

Bobby passed away in 2011, and Jim followed in early 2013. They left a legacy of love to the family they created and of self-confidence to the young people they coached and mentored. They also left a legacy of clean air, healthy waters, and open space to their beloved, adopted state when they thoughtfully included NRCM in their estate plans.

Jim and Bobby Bowditch were an energetic couple whose full, productive lives had morphed into a fun, productive retirement. That's how they are locked in my mind now. —Gretta Wark, Senior Director of Development



The Bowditches enjoy a laugh together. The Bowdoin Lacrosse cap proclaims their allegiance to a favorite team in their adopted state.

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Maine Environment is provided four times a year to more than 16,000 members and supporters of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. NRCM is a Maine-based nonprofit membership organization working to protect, conserve, and restore our land, air, wildlife, and water, now and for future generations. Membership starts at \$28/year. Join online at www.nrcm.org.

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Citizen Action Day a Big Success!

More than 60 people joined us this year for Citizen Action Day. Participants heard directly from NRCM staff members about our priority legislation this session and had opportunity to ask their questions. They also met with their elected officials, sharing their concerns and urging them to vote in favor of protections for the environment that makes Maine so special. Thanks to all who attended!



◀ NRCM Staff Scientist talks to the crowd about the need for strong legislation to protect Maine's water resources from open-pit mining.

▼ L to R: NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann; Becca Bloch, MD; Maddie Irish; Christine Irish, MD; Eva Abbott



Flo Wilder of Hancock meets with legislator Rich Malaby



New in the NRCM Blogosphere

An Evening with the Owls NRCM board member Susan MacKenzie shares her reflection on a recent night spent listening for owls in Central Maine.

Going Green for St. Patrick's Day Beth Comeau shares a little humor about how she went green for St. Patrick's Day (and every day!).

Crossing the Piscataqua NRCM board member Patty Hager shares her love for Maine and why she strongly supports NRCM's work to protect our state's natural resources.

Subscribe to our blogs at www.nrcm.org.

Update on East-West Highway

The idea of building an East-West highway across Maine has been proposed and dismissed many times over the past 50 years, because it would harm forests and fragment the North Woods, damage rivers and wetlands, destroy wildlife habitat, and undermine Maine's outdoor recreation economy. The most recent incarnation is Cianbro's recent proposal to build a privately owned 220-mile limited access highway and utility corridor, which would head from Calais to Coburn Gore, cutting Maine in two. This year, the Legislature's Transportation Committee considered six bills, each of which would put the brakes on this ill-considered proposal. NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann testified on those bills, as did dozens of our supporters and others—including a coalition of more than 125 businesses—concerned about the impacts the project could have. As Lisa said in her testimony, "There are good reasons why an East-West highway has never been built. Maine people have debated the idea for decades, and each time it has run into these harsh realities that emerge from issues such as high financial costs, risks associated with decisions beyond Maine's control, and major impacts to communities and the environment located in the pathway of such a project." Visit our Legislative Updates page at www.nrcm.org to stay informed.

Member Discounts at Maine Sporting Camps

Planning your summer vacation? Many Maine sporting camps are again generously offering discounts to NRCM members for the 2013 season. If you are not yet a member of NRCM, join today to take advantage of discounts at one of these sporting camps to enjoy a unique Maine tradition and experience:



- ▲ Appalachian Mountain Club Wilderness Lodges, *Greenville*
- ▲ Eagle Lake Sporting Camps, *Eagle Lake*
- ▲ The Last Resort Cabins and Campground, *Jackman*
- ▲ Red River Camps, *Deboullie Township*
- ▲ Spencer Pond Camps, *Greenville*
- ▲ Weatherby's, *Grand Lake Stream*

Green Tip of the Day

 **The Magic Ingredient.** What cheap, safe substance can you use to wash your windows, remove mold from your bathroom grout, and more? Any kind of vinegar will do all this and more. For a green tip of the day every day, visit NRCM's website at www.nrcm.org. And tune in to WCLZ 98.9 FM on your radio dial (or web stream) to hear a new Maine Green Minute every week day, four times a day!



Special Memberships Given November 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013

Gift Memberships

Stephen Agius from Brad, Amanda, and Will Agius	Thomas Klak by Jeanne Hey
Scott and Kelly Anchors from Zach Anchors	Dr. William Hotchkiss and Mrs. Elizabeth Hotchkiss by Elmer Reed
Dr. and Mrs. Walter Carson from Brownie Carson and Dana Porter	Richard Fontana and Carol Hubbard by Philip Hubbard
Marion Morse from Ken Morse and Nikki Millorsi	Erik Nelson by Lisa Ledwidge
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Robert and Renee Cleaver by Dorothy Cleaver	Peter Morse by Catherine Martin
Tom and Val Cleaver by Dorothy Cleaver	Jane Mulligan by Shauna Mulligan
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Beth Davis by Megan and Peter Dichiaro	Stephen M. Smith by Sandra Holland and Christopher Toole
Carmen Dorsey and Kate Webb by Russ and Lisa Pierce	Barbara Strano by Jaclyn Strano
Amy Faunce by Jeannette Faunce and Jamie Oates	Scott Whichard by Linda Whichard
William Gray by Thomas Kilbourn	
Doug Hayward by Jeannette Faunce and Jamie Oates	

Honoraria and Memorial Gifts

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 Norbert and Barbara Nathanson in memory of Jessica Nathanson
 Alicia Romac in memory of Jane A Davis

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!

Samuel E. and Sue K. Black
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 Hector and Elizabeth Rosquette
 John and Susan Wuorinen

Save the Date: Sunday, October 6, 2013 Rachel's Run

Mark your calendar now for our second annual **Rachel's Run and Kids' Fun** Sunday, October 6th at Augusta's Capitol Park. Named in honor of toxics pioneer Rachel Carson, the event benefits our work reducing toxic pollution in Maine. Join us in Capitol Park, in the heart of Maine's capital city, for a 5k run or walk along the beautiful Kennebec Rail Trail to Hallowell and back, plus kids activities including an obstacle course, interactive nature-themed activities from area groups, and more. Refreshments and prizes for participants! Registration for the 5k begins at 8:00 a.m., with the run at 9:00 a.m., awards at 10:00 a.m, followed by the fun run, and kids' activities throughout the morning. Save \$5 on the \$25 cost by registering by August 31st. Kids' fun run is \$5. Urge your family and friends to pledge you! Raise \$100 or more and receive a beautiful, locally made, organic event t-shirt. Register today at www.nrcm.org.



If you "Like" us on Facebook... you'd have been among the first to hear about the new law to allow alewives to return to the St. Croix River! "Like" us on Facebook today!

Follow us on Twitter! Search for NRCMenvironment.



"My Maine This Week"

"Morning on the Medomak River (Hockomock Channel) in Bremen"
 —Dennis Prior,
 Bremen, Maine,
 provided via Facebook

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