



Maine Environment

Orin Falls, on proposed National Park lands.

Protecting Maine from the Tar Sands Oil Threat Every Step of the Way

By Dylan Voorhees, NRCM Clean Energy Director

On July 21, the South Portland City Council voted 6-1 to adopt the Clear Skies Ordinance that blocks construction of a dirty tar sands crude oil tanker-loading terminal in the city, the southern end of an oil pipeline to Montreal. For more than a year and a half, local residents worked together to build political momentum that paid off, despite massive opposition from out-of-state oil interests.

The historic victory is another powerful example of Maine people, working with NRCM and others, saying “no” to a dirty energy project in their community. This accomplishment offers a chance to celebrate and reflect on broad efforts to oppose tar sands across the state and to take stock of what’s ahead.

More Informed, Better Protected

For more than five years, NRCM has been there every step of the way. As a result, the people of Maine are better informed and protected from the risks tar sands pose to their homes, health, and livelihoods. In February 2009, NRCM was the first organization in Maine to raise awareness about the tar sands threat when we sponsored a talk at Bowdoin College. Working with our colleagues in Canada, we soon realized that Maine was being targeted for a tar sands pipeline plan that would alter existing pipelines between Alberta and South Portland so that tar sands crude, or “diluted bitumen,” could move south for export to global markets. NRCM helped develop legislation for the state in 2009 to better track and report on tar sands. This early legislation failed to pass, but NRCM kept an eye on what would become a multi-year, multi-front campaign. In 2011, NRCM joined two Canadian groups and an organization in Vermont to file a protest letter with Canadian regulators stating that they were attempting to skirt public scrutiny



Emmie Theberge, Todd Martin, and other NRCM staff were among the crowd at the Hands Across the Bridge rally in 2013.

through piecemeal permitting.

Public awareness and community opposition began to take off in 2012, with Canadian oil companies actively pursuing their plan to bring tar sands to Montreal. That February, NRCM held another public talk, and a press conference, featuring national and regional experts explaining the full threat to Maine and the region. NRCM began our effort to inform citizens along the route of the pipeline. Over more than 18 months, we helped concerned citizens in four key western towns pass resolutions at town meetings, expressing opposition to the tar sands plan.

The threat of tar sands moving through the pipeline from Montreal was especially concerning because tar sands is so toxic and heavy, and the pipeline route crosses treasured water bodies like the Androscoggin and Crooked rivers, along with Sebago Lake—the drinking water supply for one out of seven Mainers. Working across Maine’s Lakes Region, NRCM’s experts and organizers put hundreds of hours into presentations, living room meetings, press conferences, mailings, and rallies, and in supporting good old-fashioned neighbor-to-neighbor organizing. This resulted in four towns passing resolutions against tar sands. Highlights from that year also include four simultaneous rallies in July that NRCM organized along the water bodies at risk—the Androscoggin River, Crooked River, Sebago Lake, and Casco Bay. More than 250 people rallied with us.

Rallying Support

In 2013, NRCM and our allies held the biggest tar sands rally in the Northeast. NRCM played a lead role in bringing nearly 1,500 people to march and rally in Portland on a freezing January day. A huge diversity

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Summer on the Proposed National Park Lands

This summer, NRCM held a wide range of events on the proposed new National Park and National Recreation Area east of Baxter State Park. We led a bird tour in June, a bike ride in July, and a watercolor painting workshop in August. These special events provided opportunities to visit the land and learn more about the proposed National Park and National Recreation Area. A “North Woods specialty” Black-backed Woodpecker, a family of Rusty Blackbirds (a species of increasing conservation concern), and views of beautiful Orin Falls on Wassataquiok Stream were some of the highlights of the events. Meanwhile, we continue to build local



Bikers take a break at Orin Falls during NRCM’s bike riding event through the proposed national park lands.



Birders on the NRCM trip to proposed national park lands take in great views of a Rusty Blackbird family at a bog just off the Katahdin Loop Road.

Natural Resources
Council of Maine
3 Wade Street
Augusta, Maine 04330-6317

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and regional support for the proposed National Park and National Recreation Area. The Katahdin Region Chamber of Commerce endorsed the proposed National Park and National Recreation Area in the spring and wrote a terrific op-ed in the *Bangor Daily News*. This summer, both the Katahdin Rotary and the Town Manager of the Town of Lincoln have endorsed the proposed National Park and National Recreation Area. NRCM has also been giving presentations about the proposed National Park to groups in Ellsworth, Hampden, Boothbay, and Alna. If you have a group that would like to learn about the proposed National Park and National Recreation Area, contact Eliza Donoghue at eliza@nrcm.org. Meanwhile, you can learn more about the proposal and this special area on our website at www.nrcm.org.



• THE BIG PICTURE •

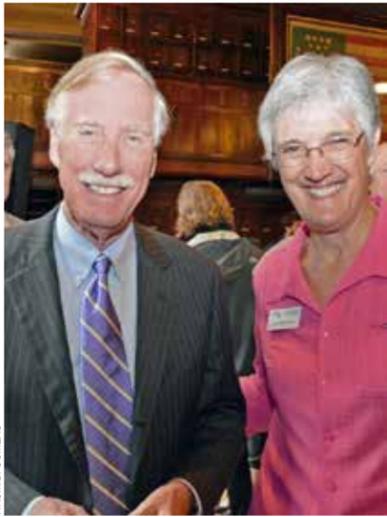
Leading Action on Climate Change

by Lisa Pohlmann, NRCM Executive Director

More and more people are coming together to work on climate change. It's no wonder. We can plainly see changes in our lakes, forests, and backyard gardens. The number of cases of Lyme disease is exploding and many of us have had to take antibiotics because of deer tick bites. We hear on the national news about property damage from wildfires, flooding, and other extreme weather.

The science is settled for you and me—and, as most polls show, a clear majority of Americans. We understand that climate change is caused by our century-old convention of spewing unlimited carbon pollution into the air through burning coal in power plants, running vehicles on gasoline, and heating homes with oil, which, in turn, warms the planet. That warming is causing climate change and a wide range of very serious problems for all of us.

NRCM has been leading the charge for several decades to reduce carbon emissions in Maine, through public education and policy change. We helped Maine become the first state in the nation to set statutory goals for carbon reductions in 2003. We helped Maine adopt tailpipe emission standards in 2005 for all new cars and trucks sold here. Through our efforts, Maine capped carbon emissions from power plants by joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) in 2007 with unanimous bi-partisan support. NRCM played a lead role in creating the Efficiency Maine Trust in 2009 to increase and broaden homeowner and business access to loans and grants to decrease energy use and save money. We achieved Maine's first energy efficiency building code standards in 2012. In 2013 NRCM was central to achieving increased funding for both electric and home heating energy efficiency grants and loans.



Senator Angus King and Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann at the June climate event.

We've brought you and the public inspiring and knowledgeable speakers about climate change, from Alberta tar sands activist Melina Massimo-Laboucan to outspoken climate scientist Michael Mann. During these years, we have also urged our federal elected officials to be leaders on national climate action. In June this year, we partnered with the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce to showcase the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recently announced new rules to limit carbon emissions from existing power plants across the country. Finally, the federal government is poised to require *all* states to follow our lead in the Northeast with programs

like RGGI. This is huge! It's the biggest single step the U.S. will have ever taken to cut carbon pollution. Our event featured Senator Angus King, USM economist Charles Colgan, U.S. EPA Deputy Administrator Bob Perciasepe, and four Maine businesses and experts who have seen the benefits of Maine's participation in RGGI.

Meanwhile, NRCM continues to engage and assist local communities with their own climate action. In 1993, we helped the residents of Bucksport defeat a proposed coal-fired power plant. In 1973, NRCM was there with citizens to help defeat an oil refinery proposed for Sanford. And most recently, for the last year and a half, we worked side by side with South Portland citizens, and celebrated with them in July when their City Council approved an ordinance to block a tar sands loading terminal from being built in their city. By standing up to out-of-state fossil fuel interests, we have sent a powerful message that Maine people don't want polluting energy sources in our communities, and that other places around the country can stand up and say no, too!

You can take action by making your homes and cars more efficient, urging our U.S. Senators to support the EPA's new carbon emission standards for power plants, and joining NRCM as we craft Maine's next major legislative climate agenda for 2015. Coming together and demanding change at the policy level is the most effective way to drastically shift our energy production and use, and ultimately reduce the amount of carbon going into the air. The need for our collective leadership is more apparent and urgent every day.

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of citizens came together from Maine and the region, culminating in inspiring speeches by Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, Portland Mayor Mike Brennan, and others. The event focused on what a tar sands project would mean for the communities at the end of the pipeline. That's



More than 100 residents of towns along the pipeline attended NRCM's talk in Casco in July 2012—a catalyst for tar sands resolutions in early 2013.

when NRCM began working

with concerned citizens in South Portland who learned that their community had just narrowly avoided construction of two 70-foot smokestacks on their waterfront that would have emitted harmful chemicals—part of a plan to load Canadian tar sands onto tankers. In March, the South Portland City Council asked NRCM to give a public presentation on tar sands, which 400 South Portland residents attended.

NRCM has a long history of working with concerned citizens to stop projects from polluting Maine's environment. The leadership of the citizens' group that came together in the form of Protect South Portland was awe-inspiring. Through an exhausting referendum process against the worst Big Oil could muster, the end result was a community-driven process to establish an ordinance spearheaded by the City Council.

The victory of South Portland residents and their elected officials helps protect them from breathing air pollution from a source that would also mar their waterfront and neighborhoods. It shows that local organizing and the democratic process can ultimately prevail. And it demonstrates yet another community facing down the harm tar sands could bring—destructive mining, risky pipelines, and polluting oil terminal smokestacks.

Unfortunately, Maine still faces significant threats from tar sands. NRCM remains committed to confronting those threats. Another proposed tar sands pipeline called Energy East looms just across the St. John River, 40 miles from the Maine border, crossing multiple waterways that could impact Maine's pristine northern and Downeast waters. Facing down new threats will continue to require citizen action. But history shows how much we can accomplish together. We look forward to our continued work with our supporters to keep Maine tar sands-free.

Expanded Energy Efficiency Opportunities

In 2013, NRCM played a lead role in passing the omnibus energy bill. This was Maine's biggest energy efficiency legislation since we helped create the Efficiency Maine Trust itself. The bill had big implications for Maine's larger energy efficiency policy and means new efficiency program opportunities for Maine homes and businesses. Now is the perfect time to figure out if Efficiency Maine can help you cut energy bills, improve the warmth and comfort of your surroundings, and cut your environmental footprint in the process.

FOR HOMEOWNERS: Efficiency Maine has a completely revamped Home Energy Savings Program, with comprehensive financial incentives and other assistance to seal up leaky homes, install sufficient insulation, and invest in high-efficiency heating systems from boilers to air-source heat pumps (think of it as a super-efficient reverse air-conditioner). Start with a home energy assessment bundled with air sealing to start saving from day one and go from there. Check out how far LED lighting technology has come for home use by picking some up at your local hardware or building store, with Efficiency Maine discounts built-in! Best of all, the home savings program now has sustained funding for years to come.

FOR BUSINESSES: Efficiency Maine's programs to help businesses cut electric costs are stronger than ever, with incentives for new measures, new strategies to reach small businesses, and more. Maine's largest businesses can apply for rolling competitive grants, while small and medium-sized businesses (and towns, non-profits, and others) can complete standard or custom projects with the help of a large network of qualified efficiency contractors and suppliers.

FOR MAINE: Energy efficiency continues to be the cheapest, fastest way to cut energy costs and pollution from power plants. While Maine has been a leader on efficiency in the past, our state ranking plummeted from 2011 to 2012, after failing to fund and implement policies. With the new omnibus legislation, and Maine now on course to capture all the achievable, cost-effective savings over time, we recently ranked 16th (and "most improved") among 50 states. For more info, visit www.energymaine.com and www.nrcm.org.

—Dylan Voorhees, NRCM Clean Energy Director

NRCM Honors Long-time Members with Allagash Award

NRCM is pleased to recognize 875 long-time members and member households with our newly created Allagash Award, established in honor of those who have supported the organization and our work for 20 years or more. In mid-July, we held events throughout the state and celebrated with these members whose financial support has, for two decades or more, helped sustain our work protecting Maine's air, land, water, and wildlife. In all, more than 100 members attended in person. A special thanks to all who attended, and for your unwavering support!



Allagash Awardees, Presque Isle event Front row: Bonnie Wood and Thurley Briggs. Back row: NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann, Stephen Wood, Kathy Olmstead.



Allagash Awardees, Ellsworth event From left to right: Richard Jagels, Sue Jagels, Gerald Simon, Iris Simon, Heidi Welch, Anne Dean, Patricia Tierney, Lawrie Harris, Ruth Herz, Betty Jean Mayberry representing the Penobscot Paddle and Chowder Society, Lorna Goodrich, David Goodrich, NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann, William Trimble, Jane Whitney, Richard Hero, Frank Herz.



Allagash Awardees, Androscoggin Yacht Club event Front row, from left to right: Phil Lilienthal, Wayne Thibodeau, Ruthanne Thibodeau. Second row: Jym St. Pierre, Dean Bennett, Sheila Bennett. Third row: Andy Lilienthal representing Camp Winnebago, Lynn Lilienthal, Bob Cohn, Jeri Cohn. Fourth row: Bruce Hunter, Sandra Hunter, Elizabeth Hays. Fifth row: Charlie Jacobs, Rebecca Stanley, Susanne Colson, Peter Garrett, Jean Ann Pollard. Final row: Dave Courtemanch, Gerald Colson, Lani Graham, NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann.



Allagash Awardees, Damariscotta event First row, seated from left to right: Irma Simon, Beedy Parker, Gretchen Kamilewicz. Second row: Board member and Allagash Awardee Didi Manns, Doris Barlow, Henry Barlow, Barrie Brusila, Betty Fosberg, Pete Fosberg, Dexter Kamilewicz, Eleanor Lacombe. Third row: Patricia Horine, Sam Horine, Bambi Jones, Tracy Moskowicz, NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann, Howard Whitcomb. Back row: Stan Moody, Michelle Moody, Stan Ziegler, Steve Plumb, Caren Minzy.



Allagash Awardees, Portland event Front row, from left to right: Barbara Harris, Elena Brandt, Bart Hague, Liz Wagner, Doris Whitten, Maurice Whitten. Second row: NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann, Chris Neagle, Margi Huber, Jay Reighley, Marta Morse. Third row: Charles Gruber, Jonell Solander, Alan Solander, Karen Massey. Back row: Dan Harris, Tony Owens, Bob Bittenbender, Betty Lawrence, Vin Lawrence, Jeff Thaler, Robert Wagner.

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us as we present our 2014 Conservation Leadership Awards

Shelly Mountain (Mapleton), **Gail Maynard** (Woodland), and **Alice Bolstridge** (Presque Isle), for their unwavering efforts to ensure strong, common sense regulations to protect Maine from dangerous mining pollution.

Peter Lowell (Bridgton) and **Peter Kallin** (Rome) for their tireless efforts to protect the water quality of Maine's lakes.

Jim and Kathy Wellehan (Auburn) for demonstrating that what's good for the environment is good for business.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 5-7 P.M. Maple Hill Farm, 11 Inn Road, Hallowell, Maine

We'll also be presenting our 2014 People's Choice winner. Please join us in celebrating these dedicated individuals who are making such a difference for Maine's environment. This event is free, and light refreshments will be provided.



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

www.nrcm.org

*Protecting, restoring, and conserving
Maine's environment, now and for
future generations.*

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Editor / Allison Childs Wells, Senior Director of Public Affairs

Design / brightredbicycle design

*Contributors / Pete Didisheim, Cathy Johnson, Lisa Pohlmann, Dylan Voorhees,
Gretta Wark, Allison Childs Wells*

Editorial Board / Judy Berk, Beth Comeau, Stacie Haines, Gretta Wark, Allison Childs Wells

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R. Stewart Strawbridge

*Cover Banner / Orin Falls, on the proposed
National Park and National Recreation Area,
by NRCM staff member Emmie Theberge.*

Maine Environment is provided five 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 \$35/year. Join online at www.nrcm.org.

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“Not Your Ordinary” Day

More than 50 people gathered at Augusta's Capitol Park for the inaugural *Not Your Ordinary 5k!* Competitors completed challenge stations such as a wildlife speed doodle, ID-ing Maine's natural landmarks, knot tying, starting smoke from a bow drill, and more, on a 5k course along the Kennebec River Rail Trail. The fun event helped raise \$2,500 to protect Maine's air, water, wildlife, and forests. Thanks to all participants! Please support these local business sponsors that helped make the event a success: lead sponsor **Kennebec Savings Bank** and silver-medal sponsor **The Breathable Home**; generous in-kind sponsors **Lamey Wellehan**, **Maine Primitive Skills School**, and **Tilbury House Publishers**. Thank you!



Thanks to all participants!



Participants tried their hand at making smoke with a bow drill.



The favorite obstacle? The spider web!

Congrats to top fundraisers **Tom Ferrero** and **Jason Langley**, and to top fundraising teams **Chimney Runners** and **Los Super Atletas!** Nice work to the top finishers: **Matt Pettengill**, **Lindsay Watts**, **Brett Goodrich**, **Amanda Costa**, **Rose Warren**, and **Jason Langley**. Thumbs up to the fastest teams: **Chicks with Kicks** and **The Love Connection!** We hope to see you all again next year!

Vote “Yes” on Question 6 for Clean Water



On November 4, 2014, Maine residents will have an opportunity to vote in support of an important \$10 million bond that would provide funding for clean water and water infrastructure projects. We urge you to vote yes on Question 6. Nothing is more important than having clean water to drink. Investing in clean

water and infrastructure can protect our communities and will help keep pollution out of our rivers, lakes, and streams. NRCM joined with a broad coalition to support passage of the Clean Water Bond during the legislative session, and now it's up to the people of Maine to enact it. Please urge your friends to join you in voting YES on Question 6.

New in the NRCM Blogosphere

Visit our blog to read the latest posts:

- ▶ [Wildlife in the Wild Lands of Northern Maine](#) – by Lisa Pohlmann
- ▶ [Birding the Proposed National Park Lands](#) – by Allison and Jeff Wells
- ▶ [At the Maine Moose Permit Lottery](#) – by NRCM member Alice Bolstridge
- ▶ [A Kennebec for the Generations](#) – by Stacie Haines

Registration is Open! Sign Up to “Dip & Dash”

Register today for NRCM's 7th annual Polar Bear Dip & Dash, in Portland's East End on Wednesday, December 31, 2014! Push yourself and check this off your bucket list! Join us for a Polar Bear dip at noon at East End Beach, and/or run (or walk) in our 5k “warm up” around Portland's Back Cove trail. Multiply the fun and excitement by creating a team with your friends, family, or coworkers! Bonus: the first 50 registrants will receive a free day of mountain biking with Back Country Excursions. Sign up today at <http://nrcm.kintera.org/dipdash>.



My Maine This Week



“Skies in Downeast Maine rival those of Arizona, but we have the added bonus of watery reflections. This is Sorrento Harbor with Mt. Desert Island in the distance.” –Photo by Paul Breeden of Sullivan, Maine. We invite you to view Paul's beautiful wildflower photos in the slideshow on our website at www.nrcm.org.

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 at www.nrcm.org.

Special Memberships Given May 1 to July 31, 2014

Gift Memberships

Jesse and Jennifer Abbott by Peter Bradley
Chris and Matti Bradley by Peter Bradley
Rob and Nancy Bradley by Peter Bradley
Ellen B. and Robert Elliott by Peter Bradley
Bess Cooke by Peter Bradley
Adam and Katie MacLeod by Peter Bradley
Jeri Appier and Liz Turnock by Cat and John Erdman
Kurt and Hope Becker by Constance G. Schwarzkopf
Halsey Snow by Amy Ford
Dr. Roger Renfrew by Mark and Judith Silver

Honoraria and Memorial Gifts

Susan Landry in memory of Ralph Ray
Richard L. and Barbara S. Roy in memory of Burchard Ranger
Peggy Smith in memory of Melissa Laser

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!

Anne Cronin	Sherman and Suzanne Hoyt
David Cumiskey and Vanessa Nesvig	Solveig S. Leblanc
Bill and Sandy Fletcher	Elizabeth L. Small
Barbara Goodwin	Mary and Walter Voskian

Give to NRCM through MaineShare

MaineShare makes it easy for you to donate to statewide progressive organizations through workplace giving. MaineShare receives year-round payroll deductions that provide groups like NRCM, who are working everyday to make Maine a better place to live, with a steady flow of income to keep important programs going. Sign up to give to NRCM through MaineShare at your workplace today!



MaineShare

PO Box 2095
Augusta, Maine 04338

207-622-0105
giving@maineshare.org

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Looking for places to enjoy Maine's great outdoors?
Download our free NRCM My Maine app to your smartphone or visit our Explore Maine map at www.nrcm.org!

Green Tip of the Day

Some Like It Raw Summer is a great time to save energy by not cooking dinner once a week. Serve salad, sashimi, and fruit. Bonus: fruits and vegetables are better for you when you eat them raw. 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!

