A HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY: A New National Monument in Maine By Cathy Johnson

Spectacular views of mountains. Forests stretching to the horizon. Huge trees. Gorgeous waterfalls. Wildlife-rich ponds, streams, and rivers. Moose, bear, lynx, eagles. Hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, bird and wildlife watching, fishing, hunting, and whitewater and quiet water paddling.

Discovery and interpretation of the human history of the region, including historical and present-day Native American sites and traditions, and the logging heritage from river drives to modern paper-making. A new Maine Woods National Monument east of Baxter State Park has something for everyone.

More than 1,100 people from across the state helped make that point at a public hearing with National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis on May 16. The event, sponsored by Senator Angus King, packed the Collins Center

for the Arts at the University of Maine in Orono, with some 1,400 people attending. Senator King and Director Jarvis held the meeting to help gauge public opinion about the possibility of a Maine Woods National Monument.

They got their answer, with over 80 percent of those attending expressing support. Some 218 people arrived on buses from all over Maine, including 39 people on a bus from Patten and Medway. The other 900+ supporters came on their own, or with their families or friends, to help make history.

This year, 2016, is the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and offers an opportunity to protect this land forever. This could be the year that President Obama designates this area a new National Monument.

Maine does not currently have any National Monuments. But it did at one time. Acadia National Park began as Sieur de Monts National Monument. Like the National Park Service, Sieur de Monts National Monument was



A recent public hearing in Orono with National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis drew well over a thousand national monument supporters in May

"Polls taken in the second Congressional district covering northern, western, and eastern Maine indicate that 67 percent of residents in those areas support the creation of a new National Park

east of Baxter." —Cathy Johnson, NRCM

established in 1916 so its successor, Acadia National Park, is also celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

The U.S. currently has 121 National Monuments protecting natural, historical, and cultural sites in 30 states, plus the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Minor Outlying Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. President Theodore Roosevelt established the first National Monument, Devils Tower in Wyoming, on September 24, 1906. Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah, the Statue of Liberty in New York, Fort Sumter in South Carolina, and Muir Woods in California are some of our current National Monuments.

Sixty previously designated National Monuments are no longer National Monuments. Many, like Acadia, the Grand

Canyon, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Carlsbad Caverns, Denali, Death Valley, and Joshua Tree, have become National Parks. Others have become National Wildlife Refuges, National Battlefields, or National Historical Parks.

President Obama has created 23 National Monuments, the most of any President, recently surpassing Theodore Roosevelt and Bill Clinton. The National Monuments created by President Obama range from the 1.6 million-acre Mohave Trail National Monument in the California desert to the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, an historic house in Washington, D.C. Designation of a Maine Woods National Monument would be an important step forward in the effort to create a new National Park and Recreation Area in Maine's North Woods. National Monuments can be created by the President using the authority granted under the Antiquities Act of 1906. They do not require Congressional action. On the other hand, a

- Continued on page 2

Solar Legislation Defeated, But We Are Not

A special thanks for joining with NRCM. solar businesses, and others across the state to try to pass a landmark solar energy bill that would have greatly boosted solar energy and created hundreds of solar energy jobs. Despite a massive effort, we fell just short of the votes needed to override a veto by Governor LePage. The bill passed unanimously in the Senate and with a bipartisan majority in the House, but fell just two votes short on the veto override vote in the House. Republican Minority Leader Ken Fredette (Newport) was the lead opponent of the bill, applying intense pressure on his Republican colleagues to support the governor's misguided position.



NRCM members show their support for solar at a rally at the State House in May.

Unfortunately, these tactics worked. But we're not giving up. And neither should you. NRCM has been at the center of the collective effort to develop and advance Maine solar legislation for more than two years. Collectively, NRCM supporters made thousands of phone calls, held meetings with legislators around the state, and made multiple trips to the State House in support of the clean energy future solar helps ensure. Here in Augusta, we worked closely with a broad coalition of groups and legislators on both sides of the aisle. Because of this work we've done together, we are stronger than ever.

Maine has been on the forefront of policies that protect our air, land, water, and wildlife. NRCM has been a big part of that legacy for 57 years. We know that sometimes we have to regroup and come back again. We will continue to push for policies that help Maine catch up with the solar revolution happening in our neighboring states and around the world. As always, we'll do it together. —Lisa Pohlmann, NRCM Executive Director





• THE BIG PICTURE •

Standing Tall

by Lisa Pohlmann, NRCM Executive Director

I am often asked, "How do you do the work you do?" People inquire because they know NRCM's work to protect our woods, water, air, and wildlife is tough. They know we effectively lead the charge, no matter how difficult the task.

Most of you know by now that Governor LePage began publicly attacking NRCM this spring, calling us an "enemy" and vowing to "wage a little war" against us. We all recognize that it's a badge of honor to be called out for so effectively stopping the governor's unprecedented anti-environmental agenda for the last five years. Trying to discredit one's opponents is not a new tactic, but such targeted, aggressive public behavior is foreign to Maine. It's a desperate move, and we can't let his rants distract us from our mission of protecting Maine's environment for future generations.

A healthy environment is the foundation of Maine's economy. Think of the thousands of jobs and millions of dollars that flow to Maine because of our natural resources.

Meanwhile, Governor LePage has actively derailed opportunities to build more good jobs creating clean, renewable homegrown energy; has diverted funding away from energy efficiency improvements that would employ Maine people and save Mainers money, too, and has undermined land conservation efforts that bring us all enormous economic and recreational returns.

NRCM has been working cooperatively with utility companies, the solar industry, and the public advocate to create 800 new solar jobs. We have worked with weatherization and efficiency professionals, and with major businesses seeking to remain competitive, to defend and boost efficiency opportunities for Maine homes and businesses.

And we are working hard to create a new national monument in northern Maine with the support of scores of local people, including the Katahdin Region Chamber of Commerce, who want to diversify and grow their local economy. Groups like the Maine Innkeepers Association also support the proposal, knowing that there will be economic benefits for the entire state.

The governor wants us to go away, but, of course, we are not going anywhere. We have a powerful 57-year history of achievements that have ensured that Maine is the special place you love and will be proud to leave your grandchildren. NRCM was founded in 1959 by Maine people and now represents more than 16,000 supporters from almost every legislative district in the state. Our members come from both political parties, from all socioeconomic backgrounds, and from rural and urban communities. We are lifelong Mainers and transplants alike. NRCM's work is fully financially supported by our members and foundations; we take no government funding. We have been around through the administrations of seven governors previous to Paul LePage, and we will be around for many more to come.

There will always be a need for the Natural Resources Council of Maine, the watchdog at the gate, a guardian making sure that we balance the protection of our resources with the economic vitality of our communities.

NRCM is really you. Our staff team of scientific, legal, and policy experts works for you. An attack on NRCM is an attack on the people of Maine who care enough to call their legislators, testify at hearings, and write letters to the papers. You are the reason we exist, why we are so successful, and why no one's threats will stop us.

I believe in our power, and I am confident we will continue to find ways forward here in Maine, by bringing together even more people who want to ensure we protect and sustain our clean air, clean water, and the habitats that nourish us and our wildlife.

I appreciate that you are standing tall with me right now. Let's keep our eyes on our goals; share stories of positive actions with our neighbors and friends; call our decision makers when we need to, and stay connected. We stand on the shoulders of the giants who came before us, and we are the giants who will carry this legacy forward.

National Monument - Continued from page 1

National Park and Recreation Area can only be established by an Act of Congress.

For several years,
NRCM has been working
to build support for a new
National Park and Recreation
Area east of Baxter State
Park on land owned by
Elliotsville Plantation, Inc.
EPI currently owns 87,500



Bald Mountain from Haskell Rock

acres in the Katahdin region and that is the land that would become the National Monument. EPI proposes to donate the land, along with a substantial endowment that would help pay for operating costs of the National Monument.

In late March, Senator King invited the National Park Service to come to Maine and hold a public meeting to hear what Maine residents think about the proposed National Monument. The standing ovation that the audience in the packed Collins Center gave to Lucas St. Clair after he presented the proposal could not have been a clearer signal that Maine people overwhelmingly support a National Monument.

Supporters of the Monument include many residents of the Katahdin region. The Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce, representing 140 businesses in Millinocket, East Millinocket, Medway, Lincoln, Sherman, Brownville, Patten, and surrounding unorganized townships, endorsed the National Park and Recreation Area proposal, as has the Katahdin Rotary Club. The Houlton Chamber of Commerce, the Bangor City Council, and the Maine Innkeepers Association have also endorsed the proposal, recognizing that the substantial economic benefits the adjacent communities will experience once the National Monument/Park is established will flow as well to the region, and indeed, the entire state.

Many residents whose families have lived and worked in the Katahdin region for generations support the proposal because they see the downward economic spiral that has overtaken their communities as one mill after another has closed. Schools are struggling, home prices have plummeted, and food pantries and thrift stores have replaced vibrant businesses. The public and private sector jobs that will be created after the establishment of a new National Monument could be an important piece of a more diverse future economy for the region.

But change is hard for any community, and there remain those in the Katahdin region who oppose the proposal. Some don't trust the federal government; others fear that it would harm their prospects for future forest products-related industry. However, as other National Parks around the country have shown, there is no need to choose between a forest products-based economy and a National Park. They can and do successfully co-exist.

Many National Parks faced local opposition when they were initially created. However, without exception, every National Monument and National Park across the country has provided substantial benefits to neighboring communities and eventually have been embraced by them.

Polls taken in the second Congressional district covering northern, western, and eastern Maine indicate that 67 percent of residents in those areas support the creation of a new National Park east of Baxter. Polls in the southern part of the state, not surprisingly, show even stronger support.

With the closure of five paper mills in the last two years, northern Maine is in a time of change. The possibility of a new National Monument, and ultimately a new National Park and Recreation Area, is a historic opportunity for the Katahdin region and for the entire state. It is a chance to protect and introduce the world to all of the natural beauty, wildlife, and recreational opportunities that Maine's North Woods offers while providing an economic boost for struggling communities.

It's a historic opportunity we should seize.

—Cathy Johnson is NRCM's Forests and Wildlife Project Director

Restoring the Penoboscot: the End is in Sight

Great news for fish, communities, and the entire Penobscot River ecosystem: The Penobscot River Restoration Project is nearing completion, which is expected this June. As a result, salmon, shad, and other sea-run fish will regain access to 1,000 miles of their historic habitat on the Penobscot River for the first time since dams were built almost 200 years ago.

NRCM is proud to be a founding member of this project, working on these efforts from 2000 to this day. The Penobscot is Maine's largest river, connecting Maine's great North Woods with the Atlantic Ocean. The opening of a new river channel around the old dam in Howland marks the final step in this initiative, the largest river restoration project in the country. Reopening the river to the sea will increase numbers of sea-run fish, help members of the Penobscot Indian Nation practice their treaty rights to sustenance fishing, and boost populations of wildlife including Bald Eagles, Osprey, mink, and otter. Restoring historic sea-run fish is also critical to bringing back halibut, cod, and other groundfish to the Gulf of Maine because groundfish eat sea-run fish.



Howland dam bypass construction September 2015

NRCM is very proud of the Penobscot River Restoration Project's success. We are grateful to its hard-working staff and its other member organizations: the Penobscot Indian Nation, American Rivers, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Maine Audubon, Trout Unlimited, and The Nature Conservancy.

—Judy Berk, Advocacy Communications Director

2016 ALLAGASH AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Natural Resources Council of Maine is honored that you have chosen us to help protect Maine's environment. This year, nearly 100 of you will mark your 20th anniversary as members of NRCM. We will celebrate your commitment to Maine's environment at the Allagash Awards on Thursday, July 14, at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath. We invite current and previous Allagash Award recipients to join us at 5 p.m. for refreshments, entertainment, and a great view of the Kennebec River. Allagash Award recipients are also invited to come early to tour the museum, which celebrates Maine's shipbuilding history. Invitations to follow.

Tom and Diana Allen Richard Barringer and Martha Freeman Jacqueline M. Bate Mark Berghash John Blodgett Deborah S. Bowie Gary M. Brookman Blakeslee and Allison Brown Deborah M. Burd Katharine F. Burnett David and Christine Colson Mark S. and Amy C. Cooper Paul W. Cousins Joseph N. and Hilly W. Crary John C. Davis Thomas L. and Bonnie Dean Constance Donovan Donna J. Doughten and Joel Eckhaus Dr. Donald Endrizzi and Dr. Peggy Pennoyer David and Judith Falk

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Edward Rooney Robert A. Roth David and Ellie Sanderson Kevin and Linda W. Sheehan John and Linda Shepard John P. Simpson Bob F. Sipe Mary-Leigh Smart Ronald G. and Kim Smith Susan B. Sterling and Paul Machlin Ann Tani Matthew F. Thayer and Margaret L. Hazlett Anna Marie and John E. Thron Douglas Van Horn Curtis and Judith M. Webber Harvey Wheeler Moira and George Yip Kathleen C. Zambello



Linda Newcomb & Buck O'Herin, Montville

Long-time members Buck O'Herin and Lisa Newcomb share a love of nature. Buck, especially, can be found outdoors, hiking and paddling the lands and waters for which he has been a great advocate.

What issue first caught your attention and led you to join NRCM?

The Big A dam first caught my attention before I joined

as a member. I probably joined when forestry issues and land conservation were at the forefront, and because of your advocacy in Augusta.

Allagash Awardees are recognized for 20 years of support. What NRCM moment do you most remember from the last 20 years?

I think the decision to back the National Park near Millinocket is a really big one. NRCM was also a big supporter of the Penobscot River Restoration Project, which has been really important. Another one that impressed me was the fight against the AES coal-fired plant in Bucksport in the late 80s. NRCM really stepped up to the plate on that. It was a grassroots efforts, and the [local opponents] approached NRCM and said your support would help stop it. And the plant was defeated. At that time it was a little bit of a risk for NRCM to support that effort.

What has kept you supporting NRCM for the last 20 years?

I feel as though your work has stayed vital and right at the heart of protecting Maine. Having NRCM in Augusta, paying attention to what is happening there, advocating, and letting members know what to do has just been a critical piece of your work. And NRCM does a great job at it.



Kate Robinson

Paul Cousins, Falmouth

Meteorologist Paul Cousins is well known to most Maine people, thanks to his chosen profession. At NRCM, we know him as a twenty-year member, one of nearly 100 members who will receive NRCM's Allagash Award this summer in recognition of his long-time support of our work.

Can you share what area of our work first attracted you to become an NRCM member?

The creation of the Caribou-Speckled Wilderness

area in the early 90s. As an avid hiker, I took notice. I have enjoyed several sorties through that region during the past quarter century. It is a gem.

Twenty years is a long time, and much has happened in Maine's environmental history during those two decades. Is there a particular issue you remember particularly well?

A challenging selection to decide upon.....the removal of the Edwards Dam? Please don't make me choose!!

Being an Allagash member means you have been supporting NRCM for the last 20 years. What is it about our work that inspires you to stay with us? NRCM is a champion for clean air and water, healthy rivers, Land for Maine's Future—you name it. NRCM is also working on climate change. As a decadelong homeowner of solar thermal and PV arrays, I share NRCM's commitment to renewable energy as one of many important steps to addressing global warming.

NRCM RISING: Uniting and engaging the next generation of people who love Maine



In September 2014, the Natural Resources Council of Maine launched a new group—NRCM Rising—for Mainers in their 20s and 30s to meet-up, connect, and get involved with issues facing our air, land, water, and wildlife. NRCM

Rising, led by NRCM's six young professional staffers, hosts fun outdoor trips, engaging presentations on issues facing Maine's environment, a State House action day, and other ways for young Mainers to work together and with NRCM to find solutions that will protect Maine's environment for generations to come. Over the past year and a half, *NRCM Rising* has held nearly 20 events around Maine from Portland to Mt. Chase, and Lewiston to Belfast. We have an active base of more than 300 young Mainers and continue to grow each year. In 2016, we added an eight-person Leadership Team. These Leaders have provided ideas, energy, and momentum to *NRCM Rising*, and bring diverse skills and experience to the team.

For 57 years, NRCM has been connecting people like you who care about Maine's special places and the environment we love and depend on

for our way of life. Now, we are helping to connect the next generation of people who love Maine, too.

I have lived in Maine all my life, and like other *NRCM Rising* members, I have made a choice to stay here, work, and start a family. Maine's quality of place and stunning natural resources are what draw many people here. Finding a connection is what keeps people from leaving. NRCM has been instrumental in protecting the nature of Maine—both our natural resources as well as what makes Maine, *Maine*. I'm thankful to previous generations who have worked tirelessly to restore our lakes and rivers, clean up our air, and protect critical lands for wildlife to thrive.

As we face new challenges in the years ahead, *NRCM Rising* members will build on the notable successes that generations of NRCM supporters like you have accomplished together. That's why we created *NRCM Rising*—because there will always be important and challenging work to do to protect the nature of Maine. We want to make it as easy and fun for people in my generation to feel connected to each other, the places that make Maine special, the policies that protect our natural resources, and the philanthropy that supports NRCM's important work. —*Emmie Theberge, NRCM Rising Director and Clean Energy Policy Advocate*

Do you know people in their 20s or 30s who might be interested in joining NRCM Rising?

If so, please encourage them to sign up at www.nrcmrising.org!

Thanks for NYO 5K!



More than 50 participants joined us May 15th in Augusta for our Not Your Ordinary 5k. Participants and sponsors raised \$3,000 for our work to protect Maine's environment—thank you! Top fundraiser was Aaliyah Cruz, top fundraising team was Los Super Atletas, and the first team to cross the finish line was the Buffalo Squad, Nicely done! Warm thanks Jon Berry, LMT, for providing massages at the event, Lakers Timing Management for providing race timing, Maine Primitive Skills for providing a fan-favorite challenge station, and to Lamey Wellehan, SunriseGuide and Tilbury Publishing for providing prizes. Also, a huge thank you to Atlee-Gleaton EyeCare, The Breathable Home, Cribstone Capital Management, Dirigo Capital Advisors, Kennebec Savings Bank, and the Milkhouse for their generous business sponsorships. Visit our Facebook page to see photos from this fun event!

JOIN US! Friday, July 22, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Hardy Boat Puffin Cruise with Dr. Steve Kress

Puffin Watch to Eastern Egg Rock Aboard the Hardy Boat, leaving out of New Harbor Join NRCM for an hourand-a-half cruise out of New Harbor to Eastern Egg Rock aboard the Hardy Boat for an up-close look at some of Maine's favorite coastal summer residents, Atlantic Puffins. Mid-July is the perfect time to see the puffins as well as other seabirds and wildlife. We'll be joined by Dr. Stephen Kress, founder and director of Project Puffin, who will give



an overview of the puffin project and answer your questions. NRCM's Allison Wells and her husband, Jeff, lifelong birders and authors of Maine's Favorite Birds, will also be on board to help you see and identify birds and other wildlife. Space is limited so sign up today at www.nrcm.kintera.org/puffins2016.



Congratulations, Emmie!

NRCM Climate and Clean Energy Policy Advocate Emmie Theberge was given a 2016 Bates-Morse Mountain Award for Environmental Stewardship. Way to go, Emmie!

New NRCM Blog

Quest for Protection: The Headwaters of Maine's North Woods— Erika Zambello, a former NRCM intern, is spending part of each season this year in Maine's North Woods, traveling the headwaters of five major rivers. Erika's photos and stories will transport you to the beauty and solitude of Maine's North Woods. Read her posts here: http://www.nrcm.org/category/blogs-ofnrcm/quest-for-protection/

New at our Nature of Maine blog:

- ▶ Just Eat It: My Food Waste Story : NRCM's Gretta Wark, inspired by the "Just Eat It" food waste documentary, shares her month-long quest to use food sitting in her cupboard while saving money on her grocery bill.
- ▶ Reuse—Recycle—Remember NRCM member Leda Beth Gray shares memories of her dad and the steps he inspired her to take in her own life to reduce and reuse items.

Maine Environment

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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 Tony Owens, M.D. for future generations. Membership starts at \$35/year. Join online at www.nrcm.org

Cover Banner / Big and Little Spencer mountains from First Roach Pond by NRCM member Kathy Maxsimic of Portland.

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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!

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David E. Wood and Maggie C. Warren

Take A Virtual Visit to the Allagash

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Allagash protection—the issue upon which NRCM was founded. In celebration, the editors at Down East created a short video visit to this special place. You can view it, and read an in-depth article about the Allagash and an interview with NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann at http://downeast.com/allagash50/. Be sure to read our special Allagash feature article in our enclosed Explore Maine publication, too!



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Green Tip of the Day

Catch & Reuse Rainwater Invest in a rain barrel with an attached hose to catch rain water you can use in your garden. Also, set smaller containers under eaves or rainspouts to collect rain water to provide to your indoor plants and patio flowers. 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!



Casco Bay Trail, Wolfe's Neck State Park, by NRCM member Anne Rankin-Lotchek. "The air was exhilarating, and I found myself taking some of the most peaceful breaths I'd had in some time, feeling like I was having a high tide of my own. I marveled at how just being among the pines and firs was helping me so much. The bubbly gurgle of the waves lapping up against the land is one of the sweetest sounds on earth wondrous as a baby cooing in your arms."

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.