



3 Wade Street • Augusta, Maine 04330 • (207) 622-3101 • Fax: (207) 622-4343 • www.nrcm.org

Bonnie Pooley

2015 People's Choice Award

For her outstanding success in engaging young people in the work of protecting Maine's environment

This is the tenth anniversary of our People's Choice Award, which was created to give NRCM members and activists a way to honor those in their communities who go to great measures to protect Maine's environment. This year, we received our strongest response yet, with 34 People's Choice nominations from across the state. From those, our five finalists this year were: Ken Crowell of Sunset, for his work to preserve the land and islands around Deer Isle and for his efforts creating a smart phone app and information about nature trail walks around the island; Becky Halbrook of Phippsburg, for inspiring greater participation in activism, especially on climate and energy issues; Lew Kingsbury of Pittston, for his work to protect Maine from weak mining rules by attending hearings and work sessions, meeting with legislative leadership, and keeping others informed throughout the process; and Maria Girouard of Orono, who continues to be a tireless volunteer in the effort to raise awareness and work for Penobscot River issues and indigenous rights, and for her work protecting Maine's land from the threat of a significant landfill expansion.

Each of these finalists received a certificate of recognition. Thanks to everyone who nominated candidates and who took the time to vote. We hope you will participate again next year.

The winner of our People's Choice Award is determined by vote by NRCM supporters, and they showed tremendous support for all of the nominees. The winner of the 2015 People's Choice Award is Bonnie Pooley of Bethel, for her outstanding success in engaging young people in the work of protecting Maine's environment. Bonnie has shown how one person can make a significant contribution toward protecting Maine's environment for future generations. During her 35-year teaching career, Bonnie helped students at Gould Academy understand that responsibility for the environment starts close to home. Bonnie's work includes Earth Day celebrations and the Gould Goes Green student organization. She helped establish a student-run recycling program resulting in a comprehensive recycling system at the school. In addition to her work with students, Bonnie is a board member of the Alan Day Community Garden in Norway, and she works with local food initiatives. She is also a founding and long-serving member of the Bethel Conservation Commission, the advisory body for the protection, development, and use of natural resources in the town. For 25 years she has served on the Mahoosuc Land Trust Board, including as president. Amazingly, there is much more, all of which makes it a pleasure, on behalf of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, to present the 2015 People's Choice Award to Bonnie Pooley.