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Get Ready to Explore Maine: Places, Books and Photos by Members, and Much More

It's time to start making your summer plans, and this year, there's a special something to celebrate: our new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (KWW)! Located east of Baxter State Park, KWW embodies what we love best about Maine's North Woods: wild rivers and shimmering lakes; bold, beautiful mountains (including extraordinary views of Katahdin), an abundance of moose and other wildlife—and plenty of opportunities to enjoy it all! This year's edition of *Explore Maine* provides "insider" tips from NRCM staff members on their favorite KWW spots for hiking, biking, paddling, birding, camping, and more.

Also highlighted are new, or newly discovered, books by our members, and a series of stunning photographs taken by some of our members who regularly contribute to our My Maine This Week website feature. We've got NRCM gear, sporting camp discounts, a photo contest, and more. Enjoy, and see you outside! —Allison Childs Wells, Editor

Are you an author? Artist? Musician? Nature-based business owner? If so, we invite you to send us information about your work so we can make it available on our website and perhaps feature it in next year's edition of *Explore Maine*.

WHAT'S INSIDE:



My Maine
This Week:
Featured
Photographers

New Books
by NRCM
Members

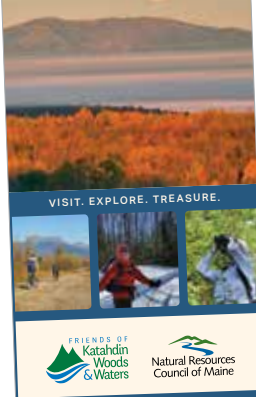


Tips for
Exploring
Katahdin
Woods & Waters

Land for
Maine's Future
Photo Contest



Visitors Guide to
**KATAHDIN
WOODS AND
WATERS**
NATIONAL MONUMENT



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National Monument!**

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Maine's natural beauty is a photographer's dream. Our rocky coastline, crystal-clear lakes and ponds, rivers big and small, and spectacular wildlife are the focus of photography enthusiasts near and far. NRCM's My Maine This Week website feature is a hub of gorgeous photographs that showcases both the beauty of Maine and the keen eye of those who love it. We invited a few of our regular contributors to share their thoughts about one of their photos. To view more, and to submit a photo of your own, visit nrcm.org. —Allison Childs Wells, Editor



MOONRISE OVER ISLE AU HAUT FROM MT. BATTIE, CAMDEN

Peter Simmons of Brunswick

When I took this photo, my wife and I were camping in Camden Hills State Park with our 14-year-old nephew. Camden Hills is a favorite: the hiking is easy, the campground full-service, the views spectacular. We typically go in the shoulder seasons, but this was at the height of summer. The planetary alignment of the sun, earth, and moon during the rising of the full moon always puts us in mind of spaces and forces much larger than ourselves. I wanted to share a bit of that feeling with fellow travelers in the NRCM membership. It was not only a beautiful natural moment, but it also has a backstory: Our nephew complained the whole way up—we made him walk more than a mile, all uphill. His phone was dying, but there were s'mores to be had back at the campsite. Needless to say, he's been asking ever since when we're going back.



SQUARE LAKE THOROUGHFARE, AROOSTOOK COUNTY

Ann Flewelling of Sedgwick

To grow up having a family camp on a Maine lake is to become captive for life to the power of wilderness as deep as time, wide as water, quiet as woodland, and mysterious as stone. I find navigating the half-mile thoroughfare from Cross Lake to Square Lake, part of the Fish River chain of lakes, to be a mesmerizing journey. Below the placid surface are shadows of glacial boulders. For all of the thoroughfare's solitude, there is a determined force below, propelling all forward with soul-charging momentum. The mirrored sky confounds my understanding of the very water that buoys me up. And I am flowing, rapt in reverie, through a wildscape, the fluid grace of water fitting itself to green shore, and all the while reflecting the changing sky and everything under the sky. Surely water is a Spirit....



HOUSTON BROOK FALLS, PLEASANT RIDGE PLANTATION (SOMERSET COUNTY)

Sam Horine of Skowhegan

I connect with nature in a number of directions; most are off the beaten path, but seldom far from home. It may be a bog stream, an erratic, or a big pine tree where I sit to enjoy a good view. Houston Brook Falls is one of these places. It starts with a pleasant hike that winds down a trail surrounded by big trees, bird sounds, and the distant rumble of water. Suddenly the trail opens to the view of a cascading waterfall emptying into a series of quiet pools strewn with rocks and rips, and then into a stream that continues its downward journey. Years ago, during hot summer days, we brought our kids to Houston Falls. We enjoyed watching them frolic in the pools, play on the rocks below the falls, and skip rocks. Nowadays we visit the falls with our granddaughter and enjoy seeing her have the same kind of fun. There are changes over the years—trees fall down here and there, the trail widens, and now, there's a bridge over a gully—but the essence and joy of the falls remain.



MT. KINEO, MOOSEHEAD LAKE

Jayne Winters of South China

I took this picture of Mt. Kineo on Moosehead Lake last October, when my husband and I were out for one of our fall foliage drives. We both enjoy photography, whether it be birds, wildlife, or scenery, and often explore the Sebec Lake area, where we have a summer home. The lighting and fall colors were great this day, starting with the covered bridge in Guilford, past the Piscataquis River through Abbot, and up toward Rockwood. Although this view from the boat landing is certainly not new to us, the colors and contrast with the gray cliffs were too pretty to resist. While I love Maine's rocky coastline, its lakes and North Woods hold a beauty all their own. Our trip ended with a relaxing lunch at a Greenville restaurant with a beautiful view of Moosehead Lake: a great way to enjoy an October afternoon.



BRAVE BOAT HARBOR SALT MARSH, KITTERY POINT

Steve Cartwright of Tenants Harbor

An overnight at the Kittery Point home of a friend of over 50 years, inspired me to photograph this salt marsh on an early spring morning. Sitting in her kitchen, as I watched a hummingbird at the feeder, I thought, *how special to live beside a preserve, the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge*. This is the head of Brave Boat Harbor, navigable farther out but so named because you'd better be brave to enter it. The wooden pilings you see in the marsh grass once supported a coastal railroad, according to Christine Bennett of the Kittery Land Trust, another friend. She said hay was harvested here until the 1960s, and shellfishing was once common. The marsh provides habitat for migratory birds, plus plants and animals not found elsewhere. I love the sense of old and new in this photo. The stone wall, the weathered pilings, the color in the trees that signals renewal and springtime—I try, in my photos, to emphasize that we are part of nature. We separate ourselves from nature at our peril. Rachel Carson, who had a cottage in Southport, said, "Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life."



COMMON LOONS, PORTAGE LAKE

Gerard Monteux of Hancock

It was August, 2013. I was staying at a friend's camp up at Portage Lake. I'd gotten up at daybreak and was kayaking toward the north end of the lake when I spotted a group of loons. There must have been nine or ten of them—the most I'd ever seen in one flock. So I paddled, ever-so-stealthily, toward them. Naturally, most of them scattered when I closed in, but these two never budged. They “had each other's back,” so to speak. It was cool as hell. I call this image, “Wing Men.”



TUMBLEDOWN POND FROM LITTLE JACKSON MOUNTAIN

Linda Woods of Oakland

For years I have climbed Tumbledown Mountain, but I hadn't ventured over to Little Jackson. When a friend suggested it, I jumped at the opportunity. Although the hike up Jackson is easier than Tumbledown, it isn't as popular. After having been to its top, I'm not sure why. As you can see from this picture, the view from Little Jackson's summit is phenomenal. What a unique perspective of Tumbledown Pond. As soon as I saw this photo, I knew I had captured the magnificence of Little Jackson and was thankful that NRCM provided me an opportunity to share it. Since this initial trip, I have climbed Little Jackson a number of times. The windbreak on top is always a welcome sight. Even in the summer, Little Jackson is windy! Once in the spring, I got caught in a shower. Hiding under a big rock, I discovered a painted trillium beside a pile of snow. Fall hikes are my favorites as I love Maine's colors. With an open top, Little Jackson is an ideal location for a panorama.



SUNKHAZE MEADOW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, PENOBSCOT COUNTY

Pam Wells of Old Town

My husband and I own 1,000+ acres of forest land in Maine. Prior to our purchase, the property had been repeatedly overcut. There weren't a lot of wood resources left on the land. We often drove along the logging road that abuts our property but never considered purchasing a forest. Then one day, a game warden friend said, “You've got to see the gorge on the Sunhaze Stream. It's not like the bog in Sunhaze Refuge.” Into the woods we went. I was amazed by how the stream flowed: rocky, fast, and strong. We called the company that was finishing the current harvest and offered them a price. Since that time, I have taken a stream ecology class at UMaine. Spring-fed and full of stream invertebrates, our stream is one of the best natural trout hatcheries in the state. I have personally surveyed the life that resides in the stream. This photo always reminds me of why we initially purchased our forest, and how lucky we are to be stewards of the stream.



BILLINGS FALLS, GULF HAGAS (PISCATAQUIS COUNTY)

Wendy Weiger of Greenville Junction

I took this photo of Billings Falls, in Gulf Hagas, on October 2, 2013. Gulf Hagas lies just east of Moosehead Lake, along the fabled Hundred Mile Wilderness section of the Appalachian Trail. When my mother and I first visited the Moosehead region, at the peak of the 1998 fall foliage season, Gulf Hagas was our very first hike. Its extraordinary beauty was one of the reasons that we decided to move to Moosehead five years later. Since that initial visit, I've returned to Gulf Hagas many times, in all seasons. Each season offers its own special joys. The delicate loveliness of spring wildflowers. A refreshing (gaspingly cold!) dip beneath a waterfall on a hot summer day. The glory of blazing autumn leaves. The austere splendor of a wild river, tumbling through a slaty gorge, in the icy whiteness of a winter forest. As part of the Appalachian Trail corridor, Gulf Hagas belongs to our national park system. It's a unique and exquisite component of the natural heritage shared by all Americans.



THE BUBBLES AND JORDAN POND, ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

David Small of Old Town

Deb (my wife) and I like to travel around Maine seeking out the little nooks and crannies where special outdoor experiences may happen. Since our teenage years, Acadia National Park has given us many of those opportunities. Now, many years later, Jordan Pond is one of our special memory spots and has become a go-to place for us. A wonderful trail system connects Penobscot Mountain, Sargent Mountain, and the Bubbles. The carriage roads and canoe and kayak launching area are accessible there as well. As for this photo, we had just completed a hike up Penobscot Mountain then went over to Sargent Mountain for a picnic. We decided to hike back to the north end of the pond via the Deer Brook trail, which connects to another trail that circles the pond. At the south end there is a spectacular view northward toward the Bubble Mountains. I was experimenting with a new camera and wanted to do some depth of field imaging...thus capturing this photo. I love outdoor photography. Sometimes the image reflects so much more than I realized when I exposed it—animals, scenery, and wildflowers alike. I see the image on screen and I feel it and want to share. Shortly after I joined NRCM, I noticed the “My Maine This Week” feature and thought, “That's my feeling, too.” It's a great place to share my images and hopefully the feeling that accompanies them.

The unbroken vista of northern Maine is such a treasure, not just for Mainers, but also for people from across the country. This region boasts the largest undeveloped tract of forest east of the Mississippi River—the only place left on the eastern seaboard with a massive dome of the dark night sky. The Penobscot Indian Nation has called these woods home for hundreds of years. People who love the woods have been hiking, canoeing, and fishing here for generations. Many people are looking for just this kind of experience. It is totally rejuvenating to stand at the Overlook at the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and see lakes and rolling mountains blanketed in trees in all directions, with Mt. Katahdin standing majestically in the center. It reminds us of our smallness and the vastness of the planet. It reminds us that we are responsible for preserving this place so that our grandchildren and great-grandchildren can enjoy it, too.

We are already seeing the pulse of life quicken in the towns around the new National Monument. Community members are busy planning. Entrepreneurs are looking to invest. Lodging facilities are expanding. It is time to once again celebrate the rich history and culture of this region of Maine, which has been in decline but is now regaining its footing. We are pleased to help the hundreds of supporters in the region, and the thousands across the state, make sure the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is a huge economic and conservation success. Herewith, tips from NRCM staff members on some of the best ways to enjoy this spectacular place in the heart of Maine's North Woods. —*Lisa Pohlmann, Executive Director*



E. Theberge/NRCM

HIKING KWWNM is a hiker's dream. Short day-hikes, multi-day adventures—KWW's got them and everything in between. In fact, you can even hike the entire length of the East Branch of the Penobscot! No matter your skill level, there's a hike for you, and each provides spectacular views of ridgelines, lakes, even Katahdin. My favorite hikes include Barnard Mountain, Deasey Mountain, and Lunksoos Mountain; I also enjoy exploring along the Wassataquoik Stream and the International Appalachian Trail. —*Ryan Parker, Environmental Policy Outreach Coordinator*



Jon Luoma

PADDLING One of the exciting features of KWW from a paddler's perspective is that there are both challenging white water and rapids for experienced paddlers on the upper East Branch, and gorgeous flat water through great wildlife-viewing habitat on the lower East Branch, suitable for paddlers with limited white water experience. The Seboeis River that joins the East Branch has both white water and flat water, and the white water is a bit less challenging. These options provide some of the best paddling in the entire state for all skill levels. In 1857, Henry David Thoreau paddled the East Branch on his final trip in Maine. Breathtaking natural beauty awaits at every turn. —*Cathy Johnson, Forests and Wildlife Project Director and Senior Staff Attorney*

► **SKIING** Cross-country skiing is great at KWW, I can tell you from personal experience. Head to the northern part of the National Monument, park at the Matagamon Gate, and ski south. On groomed trails, you can ski right alongside the East Branch of the Penobscot River or opt for a southeastern route toward Baxter State Park. You'll have lovely views of the Traveler Mountain range. If you'd like, you can make arrangements with Katahdin Woods and Waters to sleep in the rustic cabins along the trail. Make sure to ski down to Haskell Rock Pitch for views of this dramatic section of the East Branch. For some challenging uphill skiing, ski to the Overlook—the view from there is well worth the effort! —*Emmie Theberge, Federal Project Director*



EPI

BIKING KWW includes an extensive system of old logging roads and woods trails that wind through the park lands. These provide a great opportunity for biking enthusiasts to enjoy the scenery. Park your vehicle at one of the parking areas noted on the National Park Service's recreation map and follow the old roadways along the International Appalachian Trail, into Orin Falls, Katahdin Brook, Haskell Hut, Grand Pitch, or any number of other beautiful places, including campsites and lean-tos. —*Eliza Donoghue, Forests and Wildlife Policy Advocate*



R. Parker/NRCM



A. Wells/NRCM

BIRDING KWW is home to many of Maine’s “specialty” birds. Spruce Grouse, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee—birders travel across the country to see these. Look for them in the Monument’s spruce-dominated habitat—near the Sandbank Flowage trail is a good spot. We saw a family of Rusty Blackbirds (a species of high conservation concern) at Lynx Pond—look for the path in from the Katahdin Loop Road, about halfway around—and for the elusive Olive-sided Flycatcher here, too. The beech-maple and mixed-wood forests that line much of this road are great places to look for a rich variety of colorful songbirds. The parking area at Sandbank Campground is another great place—we had Nashville Warblers, Northern Parulas, Black-throated Blue Warblers, Hermit Thrushes, and loads of White-throated Sparrows during an NRCM bird walk here.

—Allison Childs Wells, Senior Director, Public Affairs



L. Pohlmann/NRCM

WILDLIFE WATCHING On one of my early trips to the National Monument, I hiked a short trail off the Katahdin Loop Road to a little marshy pond. There I saw a mama moose and her baby, munching on grasses. Though I stood very still, Mama saw me and began walking away, and then the baby had to leap through the grasses to stay by her side as they ambled into the woods. I was fortunate to witness such a scene, and to capture it with this photo.

—Lisa Pohlmann, Executive Director



B. Comeau/NRCM

DRIVING The Katahdin Loop Road is a 16-mile loop providing access to a trail up Barnard Mountain, International Appalachian Trail, Wassataquoik Stream, great birding spots, and the Overlook at mile 6.5 (with awesome views of Katahdin), Katahdin Lake, and the southern end of Baxter State Park. This is a winding, gravel road with a few steep hills and sharp corners so go easy and watch for moose and other wildlife.—Beth Comeau, eCommunications Manager and Webmaster



E. Theberge/NRCM

CAMPING If you haven’t yet, I highly recommend camping at KWW. Choose from the comfort, including wood stoves, at Haskell and Big Spring Brook huts, open-faced lean-tos at Wassataquoik and Grand Pitch, or tent sites at Sandbank Stream. I stayed with friends at Haskell Hut for three nights during February, cross-country skiing all over, enjoying glorious winter days along the East Branch and cozy nights next to the woodstove telling stories. Whatever your own preference, expect peace and quiet in an extraordinarily beautiful place. —Leslie Burhoe, Executive Assistant



Courtesy Photo

Visiting KWWNM with Kids

We stayed at Haskell Hut during our three-day winter tour on the National Monument lands with friends and family. The hut was more than five miles in; we skied over groomed trails. This was very doable for our group of children who ranged in age from five to nine. As the kids grow, we’ll be back for a stay at Big Spring Brook Hut, farther in with more difficult (and fun) terrain to navigate. Haskell Hut is nestled near rushing rapids, boulders deposited by glaciers, and the serenity of draping forest cover. We saw tracks and scat in the snow, indicative of the animal life that this land supports even in the harshest conditions. It was a real treat to experience all this with kids, and then to have the luxury of escaping into our rustic, remote Maine cabin with a warm woodstove in winter.

—Stacie Haines, Membership Director

Getting There

Currently, there are two main points of access to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

To reach the southern portion: In Staceyville take the Swift Brook Road, which crosses Whetstone Bridge that spans the East Branch of the Penobscot at Whetstone Falls. Head to Sandbank Stream Campsite, which leads to the locations referenced in the Driving section. From Swift Brook Road you can also get to Hunt Farm, Lunksoos Camps, and parcels on the east side of the Penobscot’s East Branch.

To reach the northern portion: Take Route 159 from Patten to Mount Chase and approach Grand Lake Road to Matagamon or Haskell Gate, depending on the season. This way provides access to the International Appalachian Trail and the upper reaches of the East Branch, Stair Falls, Haskell Deadwater, Haskell Hut, Haskell Rock Pitch, Grand Pitch, Big Spring Brook Hut, Messer Pond, some fantastic falls called the Hulling Machine, and more.

Accommodations

NRCM has compiled a list of local businesses where you can find excellent eats (breakfast, lunch, dinner, or snacks) and places to stay, whether you’re looking for a hotel, cabin, or lodge. Find them on our website at www.nrcm.org/projects/forests-wildlife/katahdin-national-monument/accommodations-restaurants.

Trouble Maker, Mentor, Leader, Friend



B. Comeau/NRCM

Bill Townshend testifying in December 2007 at the Augusta Civic Center Land Use Regulation Commission hearing about Plum Creek's massive development proposal for Moosehead Lake.

Clinton B. "Bill" Townsend joined NRCM in early 1960, a few months after the organization was formed. At the time, Maine's rivers were terribly polluted. Bill worked along the Kennebec River and its condition was never far from his mind. It prompted him to pursue "a little piece in the *Waterville Sentinel* about the formation of the Natural Resources Council of Maine," Bill recalled for a documentary about NRCM. "I had a telephone number . . . it turned out to be a lawyer named Charlie Peirce in Augusta. The next time I was in Augusta, I stopped in to see Charlie and chatted with him. At that time I was on the board of the Somerset County Soil and Water Conservation District; Charlie suggested that because [NRCM] was a council at that point, that the District join as one of the council members and that I be their representative. I thought that was fine and that's what we did."

By the time he passed away last December, Bill had reshaped the conservation and environmental landscape of Maine. He served on NRCM's board for nearly three decades, and we

were one of many groups that benefited from his wisdom and commitment to protecting Maine's natural resources.

Bill was a tireless advocate for Maine's rivers and wild areas, including the fight to protect the Allagash and to prevent new dams, like the Big A Dam and Basin Mills, from being built. He helped to restore fish passage on the Kennebec River with the removal of the Edwards Dam, setting a precedent for restoring fish passage on the Penobscot and St. Croix rivers. Bill also helped create the Land for Maine's Future program, which has protected hundreds of thousands of acres across the state and along the coast.

But his legacy extends beyond the clean waters and well-managed forests of our current era. Bill was a mentor to hundreds of environmental advocates. He counseled NRCM staff members to understand the issues, work with others who care to find solutions, have a sense of humor, take time to enjoy the outdoors, and, above all, be patient—eventually you will outlast the other guy.

Trouble Maker is Bill's story, a look back at the extraordinary life of a family man, a city boy turned country lawyer, a hunter and angler, and a voice for Maine's environment. His memoirs will be released later this summer. We will let you know when it hits NRCM's online store and bookstores in your area. *Trouble Maker* is on NRCM's "must read" list. —Gretta Wark, Senior Director of Philanthropy



NRCM File

Among many things, Bill was a tireless advocate for Maine's rivers and wildlife areas.

Cruise with Us And Hike, Bike, Birdwatch, Ski, or Paddle

We work hard to protect Maine's environment, and we also spend a lot of time enjoying it. We invite NRCM members to join us for hikes, bird walks, paddles, biking trips, cross-country ski outings, even cruises to see Maine's "favorite summer residents," Atlantic Puffins! We'll keep you informed about the many opportunities we provide for you to enjoy Maine's spectacular lands, waters, and wildlife. Be sure to check out our website, too, at www.nrcm.org.



A. Wells/NRCM

Puffin cruise aboard the Hardy Boat to Eastern Egg Rock



Gerard Montoux



Biking in the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

E. Theberge/NRCM



Skiing at Hidden Valley Nature Center, Jefferson

NRCM File



Paddle on Long Lake, Belgrade

A. Wells/NRCM

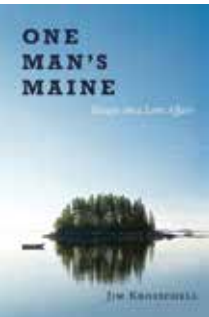


Birding in Acadia National Park

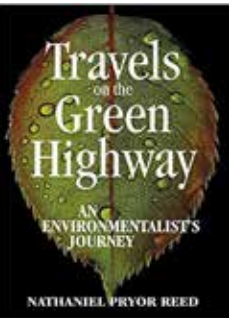
A. Wells/NRCM

Good Reads: Books by NRCM Members

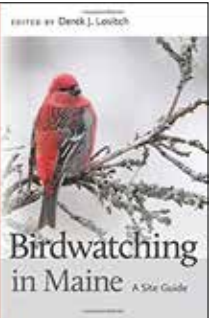
Time to start putting together your summer reading list, and NRCM members can help! Featured here are books published by our members covering a range of genres, from essay and memoir to poetry and fiction. There are also a few field guides to help you better understand—and find!—the nature of Maine. If you’re an author of a book about Maine or related to environmental issues, you are welcome to send them along for consideration for next year’s *Explore Maine*. —Allison Childs Wells, Editor



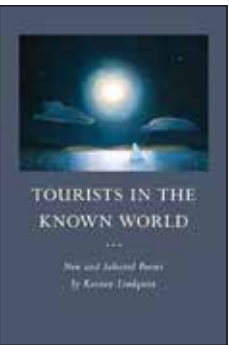
One Man’s Maine (Green Writer’s Press, 2017) by Jim Krossschell This is a book of essays full of observation and introspection, in the vein of E.B. White, whom Krossschell admires (and alludes to in the title). Each piece is powerfully contemplative. In “Walking on Ash Point” Krossschell “disremembers” two old folks that lived in now-dilapidated trailers, rooms filled with old fishing tackle and knick knacks. He considers his own aging parents and their inevitable last summer at their northern Maine camp: “I don’t know how they will do without the lake and the loons, the early morning mist.” There’s humor, too, but what I liked best about the book is how it documents Maine: its natural beauty, literary history, irresistible allure. Even when Krossschell contemplates his accomplishments (“I could be satisfied, I should be happy in a comfortable chair and a nice view. But all the while I was living for another world...”) isn’t he really describing us all? In *One Man’s Maine*, Krossschell has crafted far more than that.



Travels on the Green Highway: An Environmentalist’s Journey (Reed Publishing Company, January 2017) by Nathaniel Pryor Reed “We knew it was ‘The Moment,’ a unique age in which we were able to lay the groundwork of our nation’s environmental foundation.” Reed was in the right place at the right time, serving in high-level state (Florida) and federal positions. The author’s passion for conservation was key to his successes. He shares insider stories about how some of our country’s important natural treasures gained protection. Saving Virginia’s Great Dismal Swamp, for example, involved a rare meeting with the head of the Internal Revenue Service—and a box of pre-Castro Cuban cigars. He shares what it took to protect the Endangered Species Act, political behind-the-scenes jostling related to the Clean Water Act, and much more. Historical photos complement the stories. We owe a lot thanks to this savvy environmentalist who made it his mission to ensure future generations will be able to experience many natural wonders.



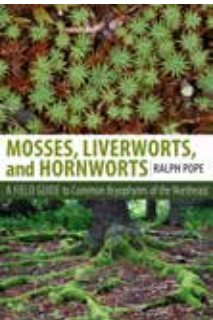
Birdwatching in Maine: A Site Guide (University Press of New England, 2017) Derek J. Lovitch, Editor Want to go birding in Maine? Pick a county, any county—this book has a hot spot for you! Its very purpose is to help your discover or deepen your love for birding in our big, beautiful state. Lovitch, a birding blogger, trip leader, and owner (with wife Jeannette) of Freeport Wild Bird Supply, tapped the expertise of birders throughout the state who have solid knowledge of great birding locales in all 16 Maine counties. The book includes gorgeous photos, maps, and detailed directions to each place. Contributors include NRCM members John Berry, Kristen Lindquist, Ron Joseph, Jeff Wells (with yours truly), and Herb Wilson. Don’t leave home without it!



Tourists in the Known World (Megunticook Press, 2017) by Kristen Lindquist It is a delight to have both new and selected poems in one collection. Lindquist’s verse invites you to slow down and contemplate, as in “The Color of Rain”: “...rain is music. Just ask the river,/burdened by all those notes, ask anyone/who has lain awake all night listening/to rain’s fingers tapping

a beat on the roof.” To enjoy her work is to appreciate Maine: this book travels to Waterville, Mexico, Lincolnville, Baxter State Park—viewed through the prisms of relationship and reflection. Any nature lover will relate to Lindquist’s poems; one of my favorites is “It’s Not That I Don’t Care,” in which she confesses her yard is not orderly because “I can’t bear to mow the little white faces of violets.” It’s not her fault, the hummingbird demands it, “that dazzling demon for whom I let the beebalm/spread...” You might say this book of poetry is as much a nature guide, and the poet is as bound as much to as one world as to the other.

Join Kristen for a one-day workshop on the nature-based poetry form, the Haiku. Tuesday, July 11, 10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m. Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. FMI www.maine gardens.org



Mosses, Liverworts, and Hornworts: A Field Guide to Common Bryophytes of the Northeast (Cornell University Press, 2017) by Ralph Pope Would you know a liverwort or hornwort if you saw one? Pope’s book ensures you will, and that you’ll come to appreciate the contributions of these little workhorses of the natural world. Liverworts are small, spore-producing plants; their close relatives, the hornworts, are so named for their horn-like structures. Mosses, liverworts, and hornworts anchor soil and prevent erosion. They also provide a home to insects, spiders, and other arthropods while capturing nutrients washed by rainwater. Pope’s guide is great for beginners; it features superb photos, straightforward text, and a “quick key” to identification based on habitat and physical attributes. Mosses, liverworts, and hornworts may at first seem not as flashy as some of the flowers, but getting to know them

Continued on page 8



What Do Maine and Aruba Have in Common?

The Dutch Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao have more in common with Maine than you might realize. ***Birds of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao: a Site and Field Guide (Zona Tropical/Cornell University Press, May 2017)*** is authored by Mainers (myself and my wife Allison, NRCM’s senior director of public affairs). What might really surprise you, though, is that the islands host many “Maine” birds. Among species seen on the islands when Maine is locked in winter’s icy grip: Ospreys, Peregrine Falcons, Black-bellied Plovers, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, and Blue-winged Teal. During migration, when birds are coming and going between North and South America, a visit to the “ABCs” might reveal Blackpoll Warblers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Black-and-white Warblers, American Redstarts, and many others that nest here in Maine. Imagine “our” Maine birds rubbing shoulders with exotic tropical species like Bananaquits, Brown-throated Parakeets, Ruby-topaz Hummingbirds, and Troupials. The book is an illustrated field guide and will also show you (with colorful maps) the best places to find birds on each island. Whether you’re planning a trip or want to gain a better understanding of this unusual part of the world, we hope that you enjoy the book.

Jeffrey V. Wells, Ph.D., is a birder and conservationist for the Boreal Songbird Initiative and a Visiting Fellow of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Get Your NRCM Member Discount for a Maine Sporting Camp Adventure

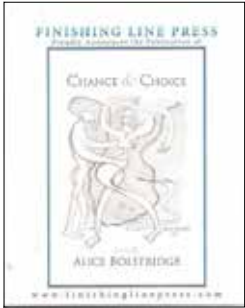
Enjoy a Great Maine Tradition

Imagine sitting on the porch of your own cabin listening to the call of loons after a day of fishing or paddling in the wilds of Maine. Many Maine sporting camps offer this very experience and much more. You and your family can enjoy the long-held traditions sporting camps provide—at a discounted price for NRCM members! Plan your memory-making vacation today by calling us to request your discount voucher at (207) 430-0106, or email Beth Comeau at bcomeau@nrcm.org. Learn more about these participating sporting camps by calling them or visiting their websites:

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- Chandler Lake Camps** and **4th Musquacook Lodge**, T9R8 (Aroostook) and T10R11 (Piscataquis) • (207) 290-1424
- Chewonki’s Debsconeag Lake Wilderness Camps**, T1R11, Katahdin region (Piscataquis) • (207) 460-5226
- Eagle Lake Sporting Camps**, Eagle Lake (Aroostook) • (207) 444-5108
- The Last Resort Cabins and Campground**, Jackman (Somerset) • (207) 668-5091
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- Red River Camps**, Deboullie Township (Aroostook) • (207) 554-0420
- Spencer Pond Camps**, Greenville (Piscataquis) • (207) 745-1599
- Weatherby’s**, Grand Lake Stream (Washington) • (207) 796-5558

Good Reads - from Page 7

opens up new worlds. Botanists and experienced naturalists will appreciate this new guide, but it will also be of interest to hikers, birders, gardeners, and other casual observers.



Chance & Choice (Finishing Line Press, 2017) by Alice Bolstridge In literature, few things are as satisfying as stopping to reread a phrase not because you have to but because you want to. Such is the case in Bolstridge’s book of poems, which draw their inspiration from subjects ranging from a robin’s nest to the birth of a child to the Milky Way, art, Adam and Eve, and more. I read it in one sitting, stopping often to ponder lines like, “...we say it as if// belief were a place on the way to where you want to go” and her description of tulips: “Lacking the shame of moral thought/ they flirt out their brief lives.” A line in her poem “Sunrise” rather embodies the need for the book and suggests why there may, hopefully, be more to come from this wonderful poet: “Even so, I sit with pen/and paper—there must be a poem/in this...”



Widowmaker (Minotaur Books, 2016) by Paul Doiron In Doiron’s fictional Mike Bowditch series, we’re off to the mountainous Maine wilderness. A mystery woman has set the game warden’s world spinning, claiming her son, missing from a work camp for criminals, was wrongly convicted—and that he is Mike’s half-brother. This sets Bowditch off on a trip that leads to, among other things, a top-secret military interrogation camp, all the while

forcing him to travel into the depths of his troubled past. Doiron’s straightforward writing style makes this, like all of the Bowditch books, easy to read, and the multiple conflicts within the story keep you turning the pages. Add this to your summer reading list, and when you’re done, pick up his next one *Knife Creek*, due out in June!



Ghost Buck (Islandport Press, 2015) by Dean Bennett “No one had ever seen the ghost buck, but they say you could see its tracks all over the woods. Some hunters said you could hear it moving through the trees.” The Bennett family’s Camp Sheepskin is a perfect setting for such a tale. It’s where the author heard many a hunting story, and learned from his family their strong hunting traditions. Bennett, an avid environmentalist, educator, and prolific writer, shares how his grandfather took him on walks in the woods and was struck by how his elder could, for example, both love a tree and value it for the wood it would provide. “I came away from these walks with a love and appreciation for nature, but I always saw the utility in it,” Bennett writes. *Ghost Buck* is also a testament to camp life, shared by a highly skilled writer and complemented by historical family photos. Anyone with a camp will appreciate the attachment Bennett and his family have for Camp Sheepskin and all of the memories made there.

Photo Contest

LAND FOR MAINE’S FUTURE TURNS 30!

Celebrate the Land for Maine’s Future’s 30th anniversary by participating in NRCM’s photo contest! Now through Friday, August 18, send us your photos of these spectacular lands for your chance to win a prize and have your photo featured on our website (visit nrcm.org for a full set of rules). LMF has protected more than 600,000 acres that include not only important wildlife habitat and recreation areas, but also farmlands and working waterfronts, in all 16 counties. Use our NRCM Environment app on your smartphone or visit our Explore Maine map at nrcm.org to find LMF locations near and far throughout Maine. Go for a hike, bike, swim, paddle, or a great day of watching wildlife and bring your camera! Send us your photos with a description of where the photo was taken, along with your name and town of residence, and we’ll add it to our website slideshow. Questions? Need help? Contact me at beth@nrcm.org or (207) 430-0106. Good luck and have fun!

—Beth Comeau, Public Affairs and eCommunications Manager



Marshall Island by Todd Martin

It’s Camp Season!

DO YOU HAVE YOUR PASSAMAQUODDY BASKET?



If you don’t, you’re in luck: Our friends at Save Passamaquoddy Bay have come across a few more of these historical treasures. The sturdy ash baskets were made in the 1960s by skilled Passamaquoddy basket weavers, intended for use gathering herring scales for nail polish, lipstick, and other commercial purposes. But they were replaced with plastic baskets, so these particular baskets were never used. You can purchase one for \$200, in support of Save Passamaquoddy Bay’s work protecting one of the most significant fishing grounds in Maine, and the world! A portion of funds stays with NRCM in support of our work protecting the nature of Maine. To order your basket, visit our online store at <https://secure.nrcm.org/>.

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BANNER / Biking the Katahdin Loop Road, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. Photo by Scott Spaulding.			
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