



NRCM Rising: Connecting the Next Generation of Maine's Environmental Stewards



*Todd Martin
Director,
NRCM Rising*

The Maine environment we know and love today exists because of the efforts of countless individuals, organizations, businesses, and elected leaders who have shared a passion to protect Maine's natural resources. One generation after another has dedicated their talents and time to the mission of cleaning up our rivers, lakes, and streams; promoting clean, renewable energy; adopting more sustainable lifestyles; demanding cleaner air and action on climate change, and speaking up for wild places and wildlife.

Now, Mainers emerging from college and early in their careers are picking up this mantle and doing amazing work. They're installing solar panels, serving in the Maine Legislature, starting sustainable businesses, studying the impacts of humans on the natural world, working at nonprofits whose mission is to protect the environment, and more. At NRCM alone, one-third of our staff members were born after 1980.

We created NRCM Rising to engage and unite the next generation of stewards of Maine's environment.

NRCM Rising is a network that engages and connects people in their 20s, 30s, and into their 40s who love Maine's beautiful outdoors and are ready to take action to protect it. We are building a community of young professionals to advocate for environmental safeguards at the State House in Augusta, contact their legislators, and enjoy fun outdoor adventures around the state. We connect people, policy, and place, with the goal of ensuring that Maine's young, emerging professionals are equipped with the skills, relationships, knowledge, and connections needed to successfully defend environmental laws established over the past 40 years and to tackle the challenges of our future.

At its core, NRCM Rising is about building a sustainable movement for our environment. If you are in your 20s, 30s, or into your 40s, and love and want to protect Maine's environment, please check out our website for more information and plan to attend an NRCM Rising event. If you know people you think would be interested in being part of NRCM Rising, please share this information with them. If they're not already members of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, consider giving them a gift membership so they can get to know us. We want to reach and engage young professionals in all parts of Maine.

Thank you for all you do to help keep Maine special, today and for generations to come!

Become part of
NRCM Rising,
the next generation of
Maine environmental leaders.

Contact Todd Martin
(207) 430-0115 or
tmartin@nrcm.org.



*Lisa Pohlmann
NRCM Executive
Director*

For 58 years, NRCM members have worked together to protect the nature of Maine. To keep up this good work, it is time to engage the next generation to take up the cause. We are grateful that so many of Maine's young adults work in, play in, and appreciate Maine's outdoors, and are willing and ready to work to protect it. Through NRCM Rising, we share outdoor activities, stories, and skills to connect younger folks and help them be effective advocates and strong leaders, too. Please, reach out to your friends, colleagues, kids, and grandkids in their 20s, 30s, and into their 40s, and urge them to connect with NRCM's Todd Martin and our team of fabulous NRCM Rising volunteers! Todd can be reached at tmartin@nrcm.org or by calling (207) 430-0115.

NRCM Rising: Connecting With People

In the age of social media and engaging the power of networks, NRCM Rising is focused first and foremost on identifying and connecting like-minded young professionals statewide. We've hosted many gatherings, including in Belfast, Bangor, Hallowell, Portland, Freeport, and Lewiston. We maintain a presence on Facebook and Instagram, and share information through our e-newsletter. The NRCM Rising network currently consists of more than 1,000 people from the Katahdin region to Kittery.



A special NRCM Rising meet-and-greet at Baxter Brewing in Lewiston.



Teaming up for NRCM's Polar Bear Dip & Dash.

NRCM Rising: Connecting With Policy

Now more than ever, the future of Maine's environment depends on Mainers weighing in on environmental decisions made in Augusta and Washington, D.C. NRCM Rising helps to focus young adults in Maine on critical policies. We host Citizen Action Days at the State House, meetings where Rising members can engage with young state legislators, and special briefings on the most pressing environmental policy issues. Rising members can receive our action alerts and other information to stay up to date on when and how to contact their elected representatives. Members of NRCM Rising have testified at the State House, spoken at news conferences, written op-eds and letters to the editor on policy issues, and met with members of Maine's Congressional delegation.



NRCM Rising members met with young legislators at a special event at Joyce's bistro in Hallowell.



NRCM Rising member James Manzer testifying at the Legislature about the benefits of more solar energy for Maine.

NRCM Rising: Connecting With Place

To know Maine is to love Maine, and when you love this place, you want to protect it for today, and for future generations, too. NRCM Rising holds events solely for the purpose of getting out into Maine's great outdoors. We host hiking, cross-country skiing, and mountain bike trips in the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. We enjoy sailing adventures in Penobscot Bay and kayaking trips in Casco Bay. All of us who are fortunate enough to live here know that Maine has a tremendous sense of place. That's why connecting with Maine's lands and waters is a priority for NRCM Rising.



NRCM Rising cross-country ski trip to Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.



NRCM Rising sailing adventure out of Belfast.

Meet a Few of Our NRCM Rising Members

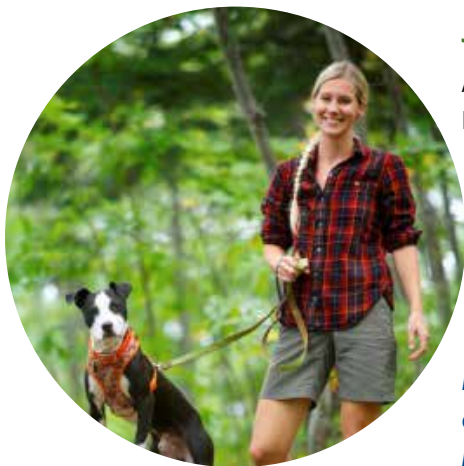


ENTREPRENEUR **Ryan Linn (Portland)**

Ryan grew up in Belfast and eventually settled in Portland. Along the way he discovered that the mountains of northern New England were among the few places where he could truly relax and gather his thoughts. After hiking both the Appalachian Trail and Pacific Crest Trail, he started Guthook Hikes, a smartphone-based hiking app to share the joy he found hiking all over the country. **Ryan was a featured speaker at an NRCM Rising gathering at Maine Beer Company where we featured young Maine business leaders.** *“Maine has so much to offer in the way of wild places, yet so little public land. I became a member of NRCM when I learned about their involvement in protecting and increasing the precious little public land we have here in Maine,” says Ryan.*

FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONAL **Alicia Rea (Lewiston)**

Alicia lives in Lewiston and currently works as Assistant Director of Annual Giving at Bates College. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Lewiston Education Fund. In November, Alicia 2017 was elected to the Lewiston City Council. **Alicia has served as a member of the NRCM Rising Leadership Team.** *Alicia says, “As a fundraising professional, I make my living by asking people for money – but only for causes that I care deeply about. NRCM Rising is one of those causes because I believe Maine’s greatest resource is its environment.”*



JOURNALIST **Aislinn Sarnacki (Bangor)**

Aislinn’s enthusiasm for the outdoors started at a young age, collecting bugs and chasing wild turkeys in the woods of her hometown of Winterport. While working at an outfitter in Bangor, she learned volumes about being active in the outdoors from experienced thru-hikers, paddlers, bird watchers, and climbers. Aislinn has spent her life in the outdoors, from working as an outfitter to completing a year-long honors thesis at the University of Maine about Maine trails and the benefits of an active outdoor life. She is a reporter for the “Outdoors” and “Living” sections of the *Bangor Daily News*. She published her first book in 2017, *Family Friendly Hikes in Maine*, with Down East Books. Her second book, *Maine Hikes Off the Beaten Path*, will come out in the spring of 2018, also by Down East Books. **Aislinn was a featured presenter at an NRCM Rising event held at Elements: Books Coffee Beer, in Biddeford.** *Aislinn says, “Maine has so many beautiful mountains, rivers, lakes, and trails to explore. I am so lucky to be able to visit and write about those special places and help other Mainers access and enjoy them, too. I just published my first book with Down East Books and am looking forward to publishing more of my adventures in the years to come.”*

OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST **Katie Wood (Biddeford)**

Katie grew up in Hope. After receiving her BS in Engineering Science at Smith College, she returned to Maine. She currently works as Product Development Engineer for Sterling Rope Co. in Biddeford, designing safety ropes for a broad range of applications and industries where the strength of a rope can mean life and death. **Katie loves the wonderful opportunities for outdoor adventure in Maine and has participated in many NRCM Rising events, both indoors and out.** *She says, “NRCM Rising outing trips are always a blast. I’ve gone cross-country skiing on the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, kayaking to Fort Gorges in Casco Bay, and attended sustainability talks at Maine Beer Company in Freeport with NRCM Rising. It’s a great way to meet like-minded people and do cool things while supporting an organization whose mission is to help protect Maine’s environment.”*



SOLAR ENERGY ADVOCATE **Rob Ellis (Portland)**

Rob is a solar design specialist at ReVision Energy in Portland, Maine’s largest residential and commercial solar panel installer. At ReVision, Rob helps Maine homeowners understand the potential of solar energy and the options available for their homes. In 2014, Rob successfully turned his oil-sucking home in Waterville into an all-solar electric home using heat pumps and solar power. No longer is the property reliant on dirty fossil fuels for its energy needs and no more checks for thousands of dollars on those winter oil bills! Rob graduated from the University of Southern Maine in 2009 with a degree in political science. **Rob’s involvement with NRCM Rising has included testifying in support of solar energy legislation at the Maine Legislature.** *“Maine citizens like you and me can make a difference on important issues in Augusta,” says Rob. “Over the last few years, I have testified in support of solar energy legislation and spoken directly to legislators at the State House in Augusta. Legislators really listen to what you have to say and it can make a real impact on the outcome of common sense legislation.”*

The NRCM Rising Leadership Team

The NRCM Rising Leadership Team helps provide ideas, energy, and momentum to NRCM Rising. The Leadership Team acts as an advisory board to NRCM staff who are involved with NRCM Rising. They help organize events and activities to engage young people who care about Maine's environment by connecting them to high-priority environmental issues, and to special places across the state. If you're interested in being considered as a candidate for a two-year term on the NRCM Rising Leadership Team, please contact NRCM Rising Director Todd Martin at tmartin@nrcm.org. Pictured below are some of the great young Mainers who have served on the NRCM Rising Leadership Team.



Adam Turner
HALLOWELL



Ellen Sabina
BELFAST



Jesse McMahon
TOPSHAM



Sarah Short
PORTLAND



Kelly Corbin
SOUTH PORTLAND



Mike Williams
CUMBERLAND



Sadie Lloyd
WALDO



You!
JOIN US!

Get Cool NRCM Rising Gear!

NRCM Rising members are the beneficiaries of cool Rising-branded stuff, like t-shirts and beer glasses, when they attend certain events. You can also buy beanies and other Rising gear at our customized online store with Atayne, where all products are made from recycled materials, and a portion of proceeds is donated to support our work protecting Maine's environment. Check it out at nrcm.atayne.com



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BANNER IMAGE / NRCM Rising kayaking event in Casco Bay

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