

Ole and I are of course honored and very grateful for this award but what we are **most** grateful for is every single member of the NRCM staff. They are knowledgeable, professional, extremely dedicated and have an incredible ability to work with legislators to achieve real successes and when they are thwarted, they simply do not accept defeat but stand up and try again.

We deeply appreciate their willingness to educate all Mainers - in words and terms that people like Ole and I can comprehend and understand.

When we plan to lobby our legislators, we reach out to the staff to get the facts and background information that are driving a particular legislative effort - making our voice more persuasive. This support is invaluable.

When Lisa Pohlmann called to say we were chosen for this award, we were bewildered. Why us? It was only when we thought about their lobby days and their newsletters and their constant reaching out to all who care about the environment that we began to understand. We represent all the Mainers they strive to educate about important environmental issues.

We realized that as terrific as they are, they cannot do it alone. They need each one of us to assume personal responsibility and write our letters to the editors, speak to our legislators, request constituent meetings, lobby at the state house and encourage our friends and neighbors to be aware of the issues and to vote in candidates that support our environment.

Ole and I have stepped fiercely into our 80's and we may be old, but we have our eyes on the future.....and we are grateful that the wonderful staff at Natural Resources Council of Maine will be a part of our future.

And lastly, we know that you will all vote but we ask you to step out of your comfort zones and encourage friends and family across the United States to cast their ballots in this important midterm election. Thank you.