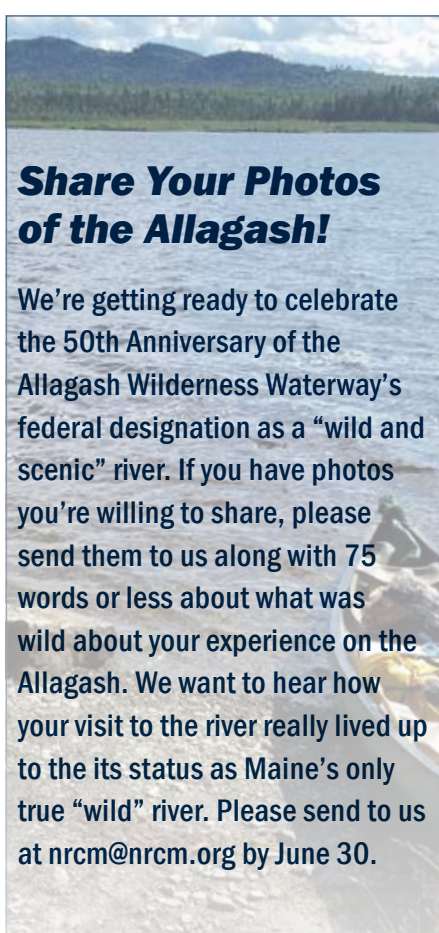




Mousam River Estuary Trail, Kennebunkport, a My Maine This Week photo by Laura Pope

SPRING & SUMMER 2020

MAINE Environment



Emmie Theberge

Share Your Photos of the Allagash!

We're getting ready to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway's federal designation as a "wild and scenic" river. If you have photos you're willing to share, please send them to us along with 75 words or less about what was wild about your experience on the Allagash. We want to hear how your visit to the river really lived up to its status as Maine's only true "wild" river. Please send to us at nrcm@nrcm.org by June 30.

Protecting Maine's North Woods: the Legacy of Cathy Johnson

BY DOUGLAS ROOKS

For 30 years, there's been no fiercer, more consistent or passionate advocate of protecting the Maine woods, and enhancing its wildness. Cathy Johnson came to the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) in 1990, and two years later began working full-time on NRCM's North Woods project – a role she fulfilled for the past three decades, as Forests & Wildlife Director, until retiring in February.

Her legacy for NRCM mirrors the values and ideals expressed at its founding more than 60 years ago, and which continue today: using science, the law, and the power of everyday people united in a call for protecting the nature of Maine.

Though "wilderness" is not a designation for state public lands programs, the value of the 10.5-million-acre Unorganized Territory—almost all forested—is incalculable, in Johnson's view. "There's nothing like it anywhere else. It has global significance."

There Through the Battles

She was there for all the great battles of the 1990s onward—the "Ban Clearcutting" referendum, attempts by Plum Creek to site massive development around Moosehead Lake, protecting the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. And finally, leading efforts to create the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

In interviews with Johnson—and eight colleagues, allies, and citizen collaborators—the picture emerges of a remarkable journey with a single, overarching goal. The promise was there at the beginning, said Brownie Carson, who hired her. "She was a young lawyer in private practice in Damariscotta," the former NRCM executive director recalls. He liked her toughness from the beginning, saying, "She's a strong and principled person."

Pete Didisheim, who joined NRCM in 1996 as Advocacy Director, became Johnson's boss and says, "She has her own network of experts

Story continued on page 2



T. Kilgore/NRCM

Cathy Johnson at Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, an important piece of her legacy. "She deserved all the applause she received," says NRCM CEO Lisa Pohlmann.

"We would always turn to Cathy for the detailed analysis of what was going on. She knows more about what's happening in conservation and land management, on the public side and the private side, than anyone else."

—Sally Stockwell, Maine Audubon

Envisioning a Clean Transportation Future



The coronavirus pandemic has led many Mainers to seek outside spaces, highlighting the importance of safe, accessible places to walk, bike, or explore. But for too many of us the only way to get around is to drive, whether we're running a short errand or commuting. At NRCM, we believe it's time to give Mainers more options that make it easier, healthier, and cheaper to get around. This is especially important because emissions from cars and trucks are the largest and fastest-growing source of climate-changing pollution in Maine. More electric cars, safer streets with accessible sidewalks, paths

for walking and biking to our destinations, or more frequent, reliable, and affordable public transit will all help us reduce our climate impact by making it easier to get from Point A to Point B. A necessary first step is for Maine to join the regional Transportation & Climate Initiative to provide much-needed funding for these investments.

We invite you to help us imagine what's possible by sending us ideas and photos of possible projects in your community. Is there a great place for a bike and walking path? A public electric vehicle charger? Or, when social distancing is over, a great spot for a bus stop that could take you to work or school? Please send your photos to nrcm@nrcm.org —Sophie Janeway, Climate & Clean Energy Outreach Coordinator

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Natural Resources Council of Maine
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• THE BIG PICTURE •

The Hard Work Continues

Greetings to you, dear NRCM members. This is a time of tremendous social upheaval. The blatant racism we have witnessed has shaken me to the core. I am greatly concerned that we are also dealing with a pandemic, and there is so little helpful leadership in our country now.

I lived through the 1960s and know what violence and hate can do. I am buoyed by the young people on NRCM's staff that are facing this for the first time and inspire us to move in new ways. We are all learning from these experiences. We know that our land, air, and water are not truly in the public trust until every person is safe to access them, free from intimidation, harm, or hate.

These last few months of the pandemic have taken us on a strange journey. Some have had to endure losing loved ones. We have been stripped down to our most basic needs, like food, shelter, and family – and many have lost these, too. We have publicly thanked our workers in health care and grocery stores for their help. And all the while, there has been a decrease in carbon emissions, the reappearance of wildlife, and a growing recognition that our society needs to change.

The world is changing. The staff at NRCM has changed the way we work, and members like you have found different ways to stay engaged. One thing has not changed: NRCM is committed to protecting the nature and beauty of Maine. Every day, we are in touch with legislators, agency staff, and coalition partners to shape Maine's climate and energy policies, to improve the state's waste management laws, and to protect our waters, forests, fisheries, and other natural resources. We are sharing more often through webinars, blogs, and podcasts, while also showing the world the beautiful poems you and your kids are writing and the photos you are taking. The good work continues, and you are as important as ever in making it happen.

COVID-19 has been a terrible scourge, but it has also required us to re-think what we have been doing to the earth. Racist violence has been heartbreaking, but it provides the moment to turn our country in a new direction.

Let's keep working together to create a more sustainable and equitable world where everyone gets a chance to flourish, where communities are more prepared for and resilient to crises, and where we live in better harmony with the natural world and with each other.

Thank you for all that you are doing to take care of yourselves and each other. Thank you for being with us in these challenging times. We will come out of this stronger together. —Lisa Pohlmann, CEO

Big Plastic, Big Oil

Our lives are increasingly overwhelmed by plastic. From our clothes and housewares to food and water, almost everything includes plastic in some way, and that is no accident. The plastics industry has produced more than eight billion tons of the stuff, roughly half of that in the last two decades. This has led to a dramatic cultural shift toward wasteful, single-use plastics that often can't be recycled. Who's behind this radical change? The same companies responsible for the climate crisis. More than 99% of plastic is made from fossil fuels. Dow, DuPont, ExxonMobil, Shell, Chevron, and BP all make plastic and are investing billions in building more than 200 new plastic manufacturing plants. It's projected that by 2050, these companies will consume 20% of the Earth's fossil fuels just to make cheap, toxic plastic.



Fossil fuel companies are hedging their bets as they lose money on dirty coal, oil, and natural gas due to a rising demand for clean energy. It's become clear that the fossil fuel industry's strategy is to swap one environmental and public health disaster, climate change, for another: widespread plastic pollution.

Thankfully, Mainers are working to fight the fossil fuel industry on both fronts. Please join NRCM in pushing for policies and laws that will lead to the systemic changes we need to hasten alternatives to plastic and hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for the harm it's doing to our environment and health. —Chrissy Adamowicz, Sustainable Maine Outreach Coordinator

Cathy Johnson - from Page 1

and policy advisors—pretty much everyone with a deep and abiding interest in the North Woods.”

By the time Lisa Pohlmann became Executive Director (now CEO), in 2011, Johnson was senior attorney. What impressed her most, says Lisa, “She has a great ability to connect with people, but also an amazing ability to compartmentalize. You can be on opposite sides, and it never affects the relationship.”

A keen legal mind was also in evidence, as Jeff Pidot, assistant Attorney General for natural resource and conservation issues, discovered. His role defending state policy sometimes put them on opposite sides, but Pidot became friends with Johnson and her partner, Jon Luoma. They enjoyed outdoor excursions together. Pidot is awed by her ability to be at home anywhere. “She thinks nothing of disappearing into the Himalayas for weeks.”

Decades of Accomplishments

It was in the 1990s, a turbulent decade for forest policy, that Sally Stockwell, long-time conservation director at Maine Audubon, began working with Johnson. Stockwell has compiled a long list of Johnson's accomplishments—broad, as well as deep.

For Karin Tilberg, now director of the Forest Society of Maine in Bangor, it was her work with Johnson through the Northern Forest Alliance that began a fruitful long-term relationship. The Alliance brought a dozen Maine groups together, ultimately leading to major conservation deals in the late 1990s.



Cathy Johnson testifying at a press conference in 1992.

State forest regulations had been premised on the short rotations preferred by the multi-national paper companies that owned the North Woods for generations. But with rapid sales to dozens of new landowners, the focus shifted dramatically.

“All the assumptions we had about good policy changed almost overnight,” Tilberg says. It was then, says Sally Stockwell, that she realized what an asset Johnson was. “We would

always turn to Cathy for the detailed analysis of what was going on . . . she had incredible passion, and compassion, for the North Woods,” Stockwell says.

The second decade of work featured one of the biggest development schemes ever proposed for the North Woods: Plum Creek's plans around Moosehead Lake, unveiled in 2005. Had Plum Creek been able to “sprinkle lots all over the woods,” says Pete Didisheim, it would have “opened the door to any and all development.” The agency approved a scaled-back, but still unacceptable plan, in Johnson's eyes.

NRCM took the unusual step of taking a Maine regulatory agency to court in 2009, and won. Brownie Carson remembers “jubilation” in Johnson's voice. He was surprised, given the deference usually given agency decisions. The victory didn't last. Judge Humphrey's ruling was reversed on appeal.

Still, Johnson was instrumental in pushing for better terms in the 363,000-acre conservation easement Plum Creek donated. Earlier this year, Weyerhaeuser (the company that purchased Plum Creek) petitioned the Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) to terminate the Concept Plan. “From the point of conservation, it was a great outcome,” Johnson says. Ever vigilant, she worries that recently approved “adjacency” standards from LUPC could lead to unwise development.

This period of her career also featured pitched battles over the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, an area Johnson knows as well as anyone. Sportsmen pushed for increased access at John's Bridge, and Johnson pushed back, with some success.

As it happened, Johnson's most important effort to preserve “wildness” still lay a decade into the future.

Monumental Legacy

Cathy Johnson has some personal attributes that may seem surprising. She's a talented amateur musician. Johnson played viola as a child, but

took up violin after meeting Jon Luoma, also a violist. They played together in ensembles, and she was a 25-year member of the Colby Symphony Orchestra. She now sings in St. Cecelia Chamber Choir.

A talent more closely related to wilderness excursions, one Karin Tilberg often observed, is Johnson's canoeing prowess. She recalls trips on the Allagash, and on the Penobscot's East Branch, which flows through the new National Monument. "Cathy is an amazing bow paddler," she notes.

The call for a national park in the North Woods found a sympathetic listener in Roxanne Quimby, who had built Burt's Bees into a national brand before selling to Clorox in 2007. She used some of the proceeds to buy land adjacent to Baxter State Park.

Ultimately, Quimby assembled more than 87,000 acres by the summer of 2011. Johnson says of Quimby, "She announced she had all this land and wanted to donate it." At first, things went well. "She represented it as a patriotic thing, that she wanted to give back to the country."

The idea was not immediately embraced by the Millinocket region. Yet Johnson thought the park plan was viable.

Over several years, she made progress by emphasizing a park's potential economic benefits. Opponents reconsidered, especially after the last paper mill, in East Millinocket, shut down.



NRCM File

Protecting the wild character of the Allagash was an important part of Johnson's work at NRCM.

One was Gail Fanjoy, executive director of Katahdin Works. A self-described "couch potato," she's also "a joiner" who led the town council and chamber of commerce. Still opposed, she attended a meeting where Lucas St. Clair, Quimby's son, and Johnson were speaking. "Lucas sold me, and Cathy hooked me," she says. "It was all about economic development. I'm the last person you'll see out in the woods."

By 2016, when President Barack Obama established the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, Johnson had become a hero to many. "She deserved all the applause she received," says Lisa Pohlmann. "She earned it."

Despite the triumph, Johnson would like to see the Monument expanded to Quimby's original plan of 150,000 acres. And while Maine has increased protected lands from 5 percent to 20 percent of its 12-million-acre forest base, she says, "There's eight million acres to go." As for what tactics—a national park, national forest, state ownership, or private stewardship—would be best, Johnson says simply, "I'm for whatever will work."

Douglas Rooks is a Maine author, editor, and journalist who writes frequently on environmental and conservation issues.



SARAH NICHOLS

Giving for Each Other and the Nature of Maine

BY STACIE HAINES

An NRCM member recently wrote, "With this virus in our country, please keep trying to protect the Maine environment."

NRCM will be here protecting the nature of Maine far into the future. That member and people like you are our heroes because we could not do this important work with you. Together, NRCM and you help to ensure that our air and water are clean and that Maine's wildlife thrive, thanks to protections for their diverse and vibrant habitat.

COVID-19 has shaken our state, our nation, and the world. It has affected many of us in ways that we never could have imagined. But one thing is certain: as we emerge from our homes or are able to stand down from essential roles, we will safely find ways to venture again out into the beauty of the natural world.

Please know that if your personal finances are affected at this time, we will extend your membership into the next year. When one NRCM member heard about others dealing with job losses and faced with the tough to decision to reduce their support, she increased her own monthly donation to help cover the shortfalls. Sincere and thoughtful gestures like these are truly humbling. If, like that generous donor, you are on sound footing and considering ways to help during this time, we have a few ideas:

1. **Make a donation in honor of NRCM's members who are unable to give at this time.** We'll ensure that memberships are renewed for anyone in need.
2. **Consider leaving a legacy to protect the nature of Maine by including NRCM as a beneficiary in your will or through your retirement account.**
3. **Switch your annual donation to monthly giving through our Partners in Maine's Future program.** A steady stream of income allows NRCM to respond to threats to Maine's environment as they arise. It's also easier on your wallet and is a cost savings to the organization.

Thank you for considering these giving opportunities. We will get through these tough times together. Please contact Membership Director Stacie Haines at (207) 430-0127 or shaines@nrcm.org to discuss any of these, or other giving options.

Clean Water Victory

Clean water is one of Maine's most valuable assets. People come to Maine to boat, swim, fish, and hunt because our water is clean. But it takes hard work and smart people to keep it that way. Even though the legislative session was cut short due to coronavirus, lawmakers moved to support clean water protection, passing a bill, supported by NRCM, unanimously in both houses. LD 1832, "An Act To Ensure Adequate Funding for the Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Waste Discharge Licensing Program," will increase fees from wastewater dischargers by 40 percent to support technical staff at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) who protect Maine's clean water. The DEP technical staff oversee hundreds of wastewater discharges throughout Maine, ranging from small

overboard discharges for individual homes to large industrial facilities and wastewater plants. They are the heart of clean water protection in Maine, and without them, our water quality would degrade quickly.

NRCM pushed strongly for this bill because DEP clean water staff have also been chronically underfunded. DEP has not requested a fee increase on dischargers since 2008. Other sources of funding, from both state and federal governments, have largely been flat or declining. These will be tough times for state government, so the increase in fees that LD 1832 requires will be even more important in supporting the people who do the hard work of protecting our clean water every day. —Nick Bennett, Staff Scientist and Healthy Waters Director

Pods and Blogs

New at the Pod & Blog:

- **A Conversation with Aislinn Sarnacki**
Tune in to our Frontline Voices podcast with Aislinn Sarnacki, outdoor reporter and editor of the Act Out section of the *Bangor Daily News*.
- **Four Ways to Improve Our Worsening Waste and Recycling Crisis** blog by NRCM Sustainable Maine Director Sarah Nichols
- **Working Together for Healthier, More Affordable Transportation Options in Maine** blog by Climate & Clean Energy Outreach Coordinator Sophie Janeway
- **The Trump Administration's Giveaways to Polluters Must Stop** blog by Federal Outreach Coordinator Bonnie Barclay
- **Birding with Jeff & Allison Wells** Read the latest at this monthly blog by NRCM's bird experts



Podcasts with Maine Poets:

- **Maine poets share their poems and how Maine's environment inspires them.** Richard Blanco (Pulitzer Prize winner); Mary Anne Libby, from the work of her late husband Russell Libby; Gary Lawless; Kristen Lindquist; Karin Spitfire



8 Great Kids Distance Learning Nature Resources by Maine Organizations

NRCM's Media Relations Director—and dad to a six-year-old—Colin Durrant shares his favorite resources from Maine-based organizations to help educate and engage kids on a range of topics related to nature and the environment.
www.nrcm.org/blog/kids-nature-activities-distance-learning-maine/

CELEBRATE the Waters of Maine

Take a trip to see dozens of Maine's lakes, rivers, ponds, and coastal areas! Visit our YouTube channel and watch our three-minute video of beautiful waters all across the state.
[youtube.com/watch?v=OWpjSj1DJ0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWpjSj1DJ0)



NORTHWOODS AERIAL

Green Tip of the Day

DON'T TRASH TREE LIMBS. Put in a pile in a corner of your yard to provide shelter for backyard birds. Do you have green tips to share? Send them to us at nrcm@nrcm.org. For more green tips, visit NRCM's website at www.nrcm.org.



MY MAINE THIS WEEK

When we asked NRCM member Betty Olivolo of Kittery, Maine, how she would like to caption her photo of Fort Foster in Kittery, she wrote, "I love where I live!" We couldn't have said it any better ourselves!

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 for guidelines and more photos.

Honoraria • OCT 1, 2019 TO APR 30, 2020

Nate Frederick in honor of Japhet Els
Caleb King in honor of Japhet Els
Susan Els in honor of Japhet Els
John Dervin in honor of Japhet Els
Kelly Jensen in honor of Japhet Els
Bunny McBride in honor of Japhet Els
Bob Mac in honor of Japhet Els
Reshma Mehta in honor of Japhet Els
Lark Rodman in honor of Japhet Els
Bob McIntire in honor of Japhet Els
Erica Wines in honor of Japhet Els
Pat Pinto in honor of Japhet Els
Laurie Beingtree in honor of Japhet Els
Eric Morse in honor of Japhet Els
Scott Briggs in honor of Japhet Els
Sammee Quong in honor of Japhet Els
Ifigenia Xifra© in honor of Japhet Els
Kelly Jensen in honor of Japhet Els
Patricia Oh in honor of Japhet Els
Kesra Hoffman in honor of Japhet Els
Stephanie Wallace Katz in honor of Japhet Els
Shannon Briggs in honor of Japhet Els
Danny Hoffman in honor of Japhet Els
Stephanie Case in honor of Japhet Els
Danny Hoffman in honor of Japhet Els
Veronica Fortier in honor of Amanda's birthday
Josh Kantor in honor of Amanda's birthday
Adam Smith in honor of Amanda's birthday
Rachael Alfond in honor of Amanda's birthday
Claudia Eaton in honor of Amanda's birthday
Denise Webb in honor of Amanda's birthday
Sally Clark in honor of Leisa Hodgkins
Cheryl Maschino in honor of Leisa Hodgkins
Persis Hope in honor of Leisa Hodgkins
Willow Belden in honor of Walter Muggan
Lynn Breckinridge in honor of Ryan Fitzsimmons
Cassandra Jasicob in honor of Joyce Bailey
Phil Lofters in honor of Sam Wheeler
Jolene Robichaud in honor of Jeremy Robichaud
James Parakalis in honor of Mary Hunter
Goodwin Realty Partners Inc in honor of Derek Ahl
Shorey Chapel in honor of the Earthcare and Spirituality Team of the Maine Conference of UCC

Maggie Bruno in honor of Steve and Tina True
Kate and Mark Campbell in honor of Beth and Raoul Falk Margues
Georgia Carrington in honor of Jeanne Gulnick
Elizabeth Davidson in honor of Becky Chadbourne
William L. and Marilyn Hartman in honor of Dr. Peter Millard
Karen B. Herold and Mark L. Isaacson in honor of the wedding of Emily Hager and Zach Eicherwald
Ms. Annamary McCarthy-Hobbs and Mr. Leo Karczewski in honor of Mila Zofia Karczewski
Dot Kelly in honor of Sue Ely and Dylan Voorhees
John P. and Maude March in honor of Cathy Johnson
Gloria Melnick in honor of our two youngest (ages 6 and 8) who chose NRCM as their charity
Jeremy N. and Ronald J. Pierce in honor of our family for Christmas
Pamela J. Smith in honor of Mary D
Laurie Wolko in honor of the wedding of Andrew Wanning and Brenna Cohen
Carole Gianquitto in memory of Nicholas Iacoviello Jr
Jane Robb in memory of Paul Crawford
The Arthur ViningDavis Foundations in memory of Joel P. Davis
Brent and Susan Baeslack in memory of Barbara Baeslack
Ronald and Sally Briggs in memory of Nancy Forgette
Gail Carman in memory of Nancy Forgette
Al and Gloria Ciejka in memory of Nancy Forgette
James Conway in memory of Rodney Reed
Johnny Fennell in memory of Nancy Forgette
Mary E. Garrett in memory of Nancy Forgette
Thomas Holman in memory of Nancy Forgette
Nancy Hubley in memory of Hattie and Ben Hubley
Kristin Jhamb and Paul Burns in memory of Rodney Reed
Mary Ellen Johnson in memory of Nancy Forgette
Dorothy A. Kenny in memory of Nancy Forgette
Elizabeth S. Luz in memory of Rodney Reed
Mary Patram Meaney and Joseph W. Zarzynski in memory of Nancy Forgette
Elizabeth A. Miller in memory of Nancy Forgette
Lee Myrbeck in memory of Althea Myrbeck
Paul E. Plumer in memory of Rodney Reed
Stephen Record in memory of Rodney Reed
Janet Senecal in memory of Nancy Forgette
Linda R. Stunder in memory of Nancy Forgette
Paulette S. Tidd in memory of Charles Tidd, Jr.

Gift Memberships • OCT 1, 2019 TO APR 30, 2020

Cherie Chiavaroli by Dianne Kidwell
Monica Cormier by Edward B. and Priscilla C. Simmons
Wendy Simmons by Edward B. and Priscilla C. Simmons
Kelley Simmons by Edward B. and Priscilla C. Simmons
Dr. William Hotchkiss and Mrs. Elizabeth Hotchkiss by Elmer Reed
Mike and Kara Bensen by Gary and Rosie Bensen
Greg Mahler by Henry Mahler
Mike and Tracy Gaito by Jaylene K. Summers and Richard Gaito
Kathy Gaito by Jaylene K. Summers and Richard Gaito
Nathaniel Tilton by Jaylene K. Summers and Richard Gaito
Celeste Tilton by Jaylene K. Summers and Richard Gaito

Shaw Tilton and Allison Miller by Jaylene K. Summers and Richard Gaito
The Coombs Family by John C. O'Brien
Geoffrey A. Lachance by John McKee
Anna Nellis Smith by Jonathan Smith
Nathaniel H. Smith by Jonathan Smith
Peter S. Gallace by Maria Gallace and Tim Soley
Patrick McNelis by Rose Marie McNelis
Christopher McNelis by Rose Marie McNelis
New Portland Community Library by Suzanne Broidrick
Jim Dorsky by Nancy Dorsky
Devin Hassett by Lucie Springman

New Partners in Maine's Future • OCT 1, 2019 TO APR 30, 2020

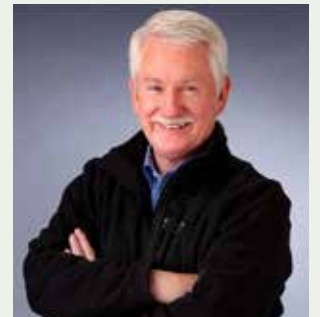
Ted E. and Donna Anderson
James Angley
Michele Benoit
Seth A. Berry and Adelaida Gaviria
Charles Byrne
Margaret R. de Rivera
Sarah J. Duncel
Karen Federle

Marya and Tor Goettsche Spurling
Dora Lievow
William Macomber
Patrick D. McCunney
Dori Newman
Dan Phelan
Lara Jane Que
Karen Roberts and Mindy Schwartz

Gordon W. Russell and Jane L. Rosinski
Igor and Karen Sikorsky
Irwin E. and Sonia A. Spalding
Eileen P. Sutula
Betsi Jane Taylor and Howard Hatch
Heather Wagner
David Weyrens

An Interview with Bill Green

Legendary journalist Bill Green was an anchor and reporter for more than four decades at News Center Maine, most recently hosting the popular weekly television series called "Bill Green's Maine." He retired in 2019. In our podcast conversation with Bill we explore his love for Maine's outdoors, why Maine is so special to him, and learn about some of his favorite places to visit. [soundcloud.com/nrcmenvironment](https://www.soundcloud.com/nrcmenvironment)



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Mainer Tees is donating 5% of proceeds from t-shirts to us in support of our work. Find them on Facebook! Also, reclaimEdsigns is donating 10% from their beautiful Pine Tree Coast collection—wine glasses, cards, and more. Find at www.etsy.com/shop/reclaimEdsignco. Thank you to these two innovative businesses!

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