This year we recognize the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act (CWA), a momentous piece of legislation created to improve the quality of U.S. waterways that were once treated like open sewers. To celebrate progress that has been made since its passage, NRCM is joining together with partners across Maine to host informational panels, beach cleanups, river trips, and more. Here are a few of the things we have planned:

50 CLEAN WATER CHAMPIONS: The CWA was championed by Maine’s own Senator Edmund Muskie, but the progress we’ve made since then is thanks to the incredible work of countless individuals, organizations, and businesses around the state. NRCM will recognize 50 Clean Water Champions who have been leaders in river, lake, coastal water, and drinking water clean-up. Nominate a Mainer today at www.nrcm.org/programs/waters/cwa50!

CELEBRATION ON THE BANKS OF THE ANDROSCOGGIN: Fifty years ago, the Androscoggin River was a poster child for polluted rivers. Today, it’s a beautiful place to gather and celebrate the Clean Water Act! Please join us on September 29 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Simard-Payne Park in Lewiston to hear from leaders in water quality protection and recognize Maine’s 50 Clean Water Champions.

STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES ON OCTOBER 18: The official anniversary of the CWA is October 18. That’s the date in 1972 when Congress voted to override President Nixon’s veto and the bill finally became law. This year on October 18 at 12:00 p.m., NRCM is encouraging Mainers to celebrate their favorite river, lake, stream, or coastal waters with a clean-up, a poem, music, meditation, a paddle, or whatever helps them appreciate Maine’s clean waterways.

I hope you can join us!

— Anya Fetcher
Federal Project Advocate
Exploring and Celebrating Maine’s Clean Waters

The 50th anniversary of the iconic Clean Water Act (CWA) is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the health and beauty of Maine’s water resources. Our lakes, rivers, streams, and coastline are central to what makes Maine so beloved. There are so many spectacular places to visit, how do you decide where to go? I hope the recommendations here from a few NRCM staff, board, and members will help. Exploring these extraordinary places is a fantastic way to honor those like Senator Ed Muskie whose CWA efforts resulted in the restoration of Maine’s badly polluted rivers. A visit to these special places also reminds us about what’s at stake, and how important it is to stay diligent about protecting our precious water resources, so that future generations will be able to enjoy the same treasured places we love today.—Allison Wells, Senior Director, Communications & Public Affairs

SMALLS FALLS, FRANKLIN COUNTY

Easily accessible off Route 4 just north of Madrid, Smalls Falls is a wonderful place to experience the awesome power of water. For more than 12,000 years, the Sandy River has been carving its way to the Kennebec, and Smalls Falls provides a record of that journey as it cuts down through bedrock creating a gorge and a series of waterfalls. The falls pulse with the rhythm of the seasons, roaring to life in early spring swollen with snowmelt and spring rains, settling down to a steady, albeit softer flow in the summer months, and surging once again with the fall rains. When I am in this wondrous place, I slow down to geologic time. The fast pace of our human lives gives way to the slow, steady, ongoing natural process that shaped and continues to shape this landscape. There are picnic tables, grills, and an accessible restroom. A few steps from the rest area is the last pool in a series of waterfalls. Crossing a footbridge over the Sandy River leads to a wooded area with trees and shrubs. A few steps from the river is a small waterfall with a rockslide. The area is a great place to explore the natural beauty of this landscape. There are many trees and shrubs to observe and enjoy. It is a great place to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature.—Marc Edwards, Regional Outreach Coordinator

SEBAGO LAKE

Derived from the Abenaki term “sobagoo” meaning “resembles the sea,” Sebago Lake is 45 square miles of clear water, the deepest lake in New England, and the second largest lake in Maine. Sebago is not only a recreational resource, but a drinking water supply for one out of every six residents in Maine, and the water source of choice for numerous Maine breweries. Thanks to its heavily forested, 440-square-mile watershed, natural filtration makes Sebago one of a select few lakes in the United States so clean that it requires no filtering. There are numerous access points for tourists and boaters, but I recommend visiting Sebago Lake State Park in Casco, one of the most popular, and for good reason. Last year, I was able to slip in on Maine Resident’s Day (June 19), when access to State Parks is free. But if you can get in after summer crowds, so much the better. Whether it’s the highly affordable night camp sites, lovely tree cover so near to long stretches of sandy beach, or the walking paths noted for beaver activity that run along the Songo River (sometimes called the Crooked River, as it looks like a crazy straw from overhead), Sebago is widely celebrated as one of the most beautiful, accessible, and pristine natural resources in Maine.—Abben Maguire, Accounts Payable Coordinator and Administrative Assistant

REID STATE PARK

One of my favorite ways to spend a Saturday is getting together with my grandchildren, whether it’s hiking, swimming, or just enjoying being together outdoors. Each Saturday we set out on a new adventure to a place we haven’t been before, or to one we haven’t visited in a while. Early May brought us to Reid State Park, located in the town of Georgetown. May in Maine is normally a little cool for swimming, but that didn’t stop my grandchildren from dipping their toes into the cold Atlantic and exploring the rocky shore. After spending time on the East Beach, we went off to explore further. The lagoon was a short walk, where we found the water was much warmer and fun for all. We then continued down Mile Beach, playing leapfrog with the cold crashing waves. The third beach is called Half-Mile Beach, but by then the troops were beginning to tire from the day of fun and sun. It was time to pack up and head home. The day was an exploration of the beaches; next time we will return to walk the Little River Trail, and of course enjoy the beach and lagoon again.—Kathy Hyttel, Senior Director, Finance & Administration

PEMAQUID POINT

My wife, Kathy, and I regularly go to Pemaquid Lighthouse to relax in the spring, summer, and fall. We carry our portable chairs, cooler with drinks, and stop at Riley’s in New Harbor to get the newspaper to read. Sometimes there are weddings that we observe from afar, but mostly there are just folks there to enjoy the iconic lighthouse, the rocks, and the crash of the surf—a reminder that Maine’s inland waters eventually lead to the sea and why it’s so important to protect our water resources wherever they are. To me, it’s also a perfect place and time of year to say thank you to Senator Muskie for protecting our waters!—Lisa Pohlmann, CEO

BOOTHBAY HARBOR

Growing up in Portland, I was fortunate to have easy access to Maine’s beautiful beaches and rocky coastline. Within a 30-minute drive, I had my pick of dozens of beaches, coastal trails, and parks with tide pools to explore, marine wildlife to watch, and ocean sunsets to enjoy. Now that I live in Winslow, I’ve got to travel a bit farther for those experiences. As a dad to a curious and adventurous three-and-a-half year-old, I want to ensure she has the same formative experiences on Maine’s coast that I enjoyed in my youth. That’s why each summer I make a point to take Stella to Boothbay, one of my favorite spots in Midcoast Maine. We especially enjoy exploring the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens and the pathways through the woods and along the shore on the property. Seeing the pure joy on her face when she spots a crab walking across the beach, squawking gulls flying overhead, or a jellyfish washed up on the beach reminds me how lucky we are to live near the ocean in Maine. I’m looking forward to our trip to Boothbay again this summer and for many years to come.—Todd Martin, NRCA Rising Director and Grassroots Outreach Coordinator

Explore the Nature of Maine

Lisa Pohlmann, CEO

Kathy Hyttel, Senior Director, Finance & Administration

Todd and Stella in Boothbay
On a rainy day in October, we set out to hike Tunk Mountain and Hidden Ponds, at the northern end of Donnell Pond Public Lands, an ecological reserve nestled between blueberry fields and the coast. As you start the trail, the geologic past and impact of the glaciers are all around you as large boulders are scattered across the landscape. The trail is a moderately difficult out-and-back with the option of a highly recommended side loop to glacially formed ponds, Salmon Pond, Mud Pond, and Little Long Pond. Being a rainy day, we were the only hikers on the trail. As we hiked through the rain, we hoped the ponds would be worth it, and they did not disappoint. The ponds, Tunk Lake, and a glimpse of Frenchman Bay. Tunk Mountain and Hidden Ponds are a short drive from Mount Desert Island, and if you find yourself out that way, we highly recommend a visit.
Clean water is central to Maine’s identity and vital for the future of our economy and way of life. We love our rivers, lakes, streams, and coastal waters. That’s why we’re excited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the nation’s Clean Water Act, which has played a critical role in Maine and across the nation in improving the quality of waters that once were treated like open sewers.

As many people know, former U.S. Senator Edmund Muskie provided the necessary leadership to develop and secure passage of the Clean Water Act of 1972. Less well known is the fact that state-based conservation groups like the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) helped create vital early support and momentum for national action to address the sorry state of our polluted waterways.

Muskie grew up in Rumford, on the banks of the Androscogggin, and knew firsthand that the river had become a disgrace, largely from untreated waste and chemicals dumped into the river by the paper mills—including the Oxford Paper Company in Rumford.

On October 4, 1972, after years of work by Senator Muskie and others, Congress approved a final version of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and sent it to President Richard Nixon for his signature. Nixon vetoed it, on October 17th, complaining about the bill’s high cost for cleaning up municipal treatment facilities. But the next day, the U.S. Senate and the House both debated and voted to override the veto, by 52-12 in the Senate—with 17 Republicans voting to override—and 247-23 in the House, with 96 Republicans voting against their President.

In 2012, speaking at Bates College in Lewiston, a city located along the Androscogggin, I spoke at an event honoring the CWA’s 40th anniversary. In my presentation, I detailed the unique role that Maine people, like Bates College chemistry professor Walter Lawrence and NRCM supporters like NRCM’s former board president Bill Townsend, played in passage of the CWA.

In June 1965, Senator Muskie’s Subcommitte on Air and Water Pollution began 13 days of field hearings on federal water quality programs—and they selected Portland, Maine, as the location for their first hearing. At the invitation of Senator Muskie, President Johnson’s Clean Water Advisory Board also held its first meeting in Portland, and Bill Townsend was there to share a piece of his mind about how bad the situation was in Maine’s rivers. At that hearing, Bill said, “...During the past week thousands of fish have been found dead along the shores of the Kennebec River above Mereymeeting Bay...Possibly a fish kill like this and the steadily growing concern of the people of Maine for its natural resources will create enough public sentiment so that some action will be taken.”

Bill was an avid sportsman all his life. He knew something needed to be done. The pollution was destroying a natural resource that was dear to him. In a piece entitled “Kennebec Memories” for Maine Audubon’s journal Habitat, Bill wrote, “I witnessed the Kennebec nearly die, for men can murder rivers, and there are those who still wish to do so...Yet even when the Kennebec was near death, there were men and women who saw the spark of life still in its waters and who spent long and weary years nursing it back, in legislative halls, in administrative hearings, by writing letters, supporting political candidates, and in a dozen other ways.”

Walter Lawrence, a Bates College chemistry professor, was an intrepid advocate for cleaning up the Androscogggin. In the early 1940s, Professor Lawrence was hired as a consultant by the State of Maine following the first of several lawsuits brought by the State against the three major paper mills on the Androscogggin. For decades, the paper mills had claimed that their raw sewage discharges into the river weren’t causing a problem, but Professor Lawrence and his Bates assistants showed that 90% of the pollution in Maine’s rivers was coming from the paper mills, a situation that had to change.

Maine’s most polluted industrial rivers, including the Kennebec, Androscogggin, and Penobscot, drove people to act and motivated Senator Muskie to become the champion for clean water he proved to be. Across Maine, other champions for clean water emerged, fighting to protect the lakes, rivers, and streams that meant so much to them. Over the past 50 years, countless thousands of Maine people and local groups have worked to improve the quality of our waterways—including staff at the Department of Environmental Protection, municipalities, businesses, volunteers with the Lake Stewards of Maine program, members of lake associations and land trusts, and state organizations like NRCM, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation Law Foundation, Friends of Casco Bay, Maine Rivers, and Maine Audubon. Maine is fortunate to have so many wonderful waters, and so many champions eager to protect them. As one of many examples, NRCM was founded in 1959 to protect the Allagash River.

Since the CWA became law in 1972, we’ve experienced a dramatic improvement in water quality. Millions of sea-run fish now migrate annually into the very rivers that once were written off as near dead.

But our work is not finished. Maine’s lakes face the challenge of invasive species. Municipal wastewater treatment plants still release nearly half a million gallons of wastewater into rivers and the ocean when overloaded during extreme rain events. Stormwater runoff is causing algal blooms and nutrient overloading in many waters.

Numerous dams across the state pose unacceptable, ongoing obstacles to the further restoration of our rivers. And some proposed industrial activities, such as mining operations or massive off-shore aquafarms, pose major pollution risks to Maine’s water resources and the life within them.

As Mainers, our connection to clean water comes from many places. A favorite river walk or stream to fish in. A memorable canoe paddle or boat trip. Tasty beer brewed with water that requires no treatment because it’s so clean. Water brings us closer to nature and supports our economy.

With more than 30,000 miles of rivers and streams, and more than 6,000 lakes and ponds across the state, we are all connected to water. As Mainers did in 1972, we must continue to stand up and speak out for clean water. While the CWA remains a cornerstone environmental law, we must not let up our guard or become complacent. This signature accomplishment by Senator Muskie must be defended from any efforts to weaken it, and we must also respond to the new threats to water quality posed by climate change, development, pollutants such as PFAS and pesticides, and other pressures that threaten water quality.

So, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the CWA through activities and events this year, I hope you will reflect on the progress we’ve made. Think, learn, and have conversations about the time when nobody wanted to spend time in, on, or near our foul, polluted rivers. And also use this time to commit to helping protect a favorite river, lake, stream, or stretch of coastal waters that matters to you.

When the Clean Water Act was signed into law on October 18, 1972, the nation made a decisive choice for a healthy environment over pollution. We are blessed by those who continue to work to advance the law’s goals of eliminating all discharges to our waters and making all our waters fishable and swimable, and by the people and organizations that made the Clean Water Act a reality—Pete Diddielshen, NRCM Senior Director, Advocacy
Wendy Weiger, NRCM member, Greenville Junction

“Maine’s rivers were the highways of the Wabanaki. What an adventure to paddle these ancient travel routes today! Each bend in the river yields new discoveries: a challenging rapid to negotiate; a waterfall whose beauty is well worth the effort of the portage; a wandering moose; otters who approach to investigate my canoe with a blend of curiosity and caution. In the Maine Woods, many remote lakes and ponds are accessible only on foot, or by canoe or kayak. They offer wild solitude that is rare and precious in today’s world. And I rejoice in winter’s annual transformation of our lakes. Cold weather grants me the power to walk on (frozen) water, opening new realms for exploration.”

David Small, NRCM member, Old Town

“I’m an out-of-control amateur photographer and have been for 62 years, give or take a few years for fluctuation of interests and what I call life’s anchors. I canoe, hike, bike, and lately, stumble around with my Canon camera and lens in tow to explore Maine’s fields and forests, trails and waterways looking for wildlife and scenic opportunities to photograph. Outdoor Maine has so many clean and healthy places to visit it is difficult to pick just one. Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge, located at the end of Pigeon Hill Road in Steuben, is one of my favorite go-to-places featuring several miles of undeveloped, pristine shoreline and many bird and other wildlife species. Check out two trails, Hollingsworth Trail and Birch Point Trail—neither will disappoint you. My first visit to the Refuge was many fall seasons ago. While wandering along the flats during outgoing mid-tide, I noticed that some baseball-sized stones were moving about just ahead of my footfalls. Okay, not stones, but a foraging flock of Semipalmated Plovers. A wonderful image-capturing adventure ensued. Checking my images later I discovered that this group included Semipalmated Plovers, a few Black-bellied Plovers, and maybe a few sanderlings. Least Sandpipers were among them as well. The fall migration turned into my favorite time of year to visit Petit Manan, and I’ve not missed a fall seasonal visit to this spectacular slice of natural Maine coast since. Subsequent visits have revealed many other species to observe and photograph. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpipers, twice I even photographed an American Oystercatcher. Great Blue Herons, Great Black-backed Gulls, various hawks, and Bald Eagles also appear in this unspoiled natural marine habitat. If you’re lucky, sometimes a Spruce Grouse will wander out onto the Hollingsworth Trail to give you a glimpse. Take a peek!”

Gerard Monteux, NRCM member, Hancock

“In the wildlife and nature photography business, the importance of clean water is what’s referred to as a ‘No-Brainer’ (LOL). The overwhelming majority of my shooting is based in the state of Maine, and without clean water, I simply can’t do what I’m so passionate about. Why not? Because my passion revolves around producing images of living things, and they all depend on clean water to survive, procreate, and prosper. It’s inspirational knowing that wildlife thrives in this state, and my chances of finding, photographing, and communicating with them are inextricably tied to the positive outcome of the enforcement of the Clean Water Act.”

This four-season guide to Maine's outdoors provides the perfect roadmap for families to explore Maine. With an introduction on how to use the book; sections split by season, location, and type of activity; and considerations for COVID-19, the author has made finding fun as accessible as possible. All the activities are geared toward the whole family, including notes on what considerations you might need to make for children of all ages. Some pieces of information are especially helpful, like wheelchair accessibility or information on making reservations for State Parks. I took my family to the Sebago to the Sea Trail after perusing the “Spring” section for a fun day trip. We were able to walk the trail, have a picnic, let our dog swim, and enjoy a beautiful day. Hazard’s recommendation was excellent. For the ambitious planners, there is a section on “Recommended Day Trips” that combines a few attractions to maximize the day. Whether you want to go skiing, swimming, or berry-picking, this book has a wealth of information. If you are looking to explore your own backyard or add some activities to your family vacation, I would recommend this book for any season.—Becca Troast, Philanthropy & Board Assistant

**Nature Notes from Maine, Volume Two: Puffins, Black Bears, Raccoons & More, by Ed Robinson (Harpwell Heritage Land Trust, 2021)**

In his second volume of Nature Notes, Ed Robinson brings the reader on a tour of Maine creatures familiar and remarkable over 40 short chapters of colorful anecdotes and photos. Ed shares the ingenious strategy by which Herring Gulls lure fish to the surface, tales of unexpected visitors large and small to the backyard bird feeder, and just when you think you’ve heard every surprising fact about the monarch butterfly, they will surprise you once more (every few generations, at least), From the North Woods with the Canada lynx and the black bear, to the nests of Piping Plovers on sandy beach dunes, to roadside ditches brimming with lupines, a common story emerges of flourishing populations culminated by the arrival of humans. In most cases, the stories continue with attempts at correction by state agencies and conservationists. By the time Ed brings you to the present day, you are hearing updates on these conservation efforts, now decades in the making. In addition to humorous anecdotes, such as the one about a camping buddy awoken with a start by a mysterious gloom in the night, these chapters are grounded in recent history, with details on how the reader can play a role. If Ed writes a third volume, it may well contain stories of readers inspired to become involved by this colorful catalog of facts, anecdotes, and environmental history.—Abben Maguire, Accounts Payable Coordinator and Administrative Assistant


Many climate-related books line up on my shelves, but few are as easy to read as those by Porter Fox. Porter grew up in Southwest Harbor in freezing weather, enjoying skating and skiing. He tells tales of being a ski bum across the winter landscapes of Maine and around the world. He sprinkles into these adventure tales his encounters with others who are as bent as he is on ensuring there will be snow for the future of human kind. His particular gift is to tell a compelling story with a dose of scientific fact. For example, he notes, “It’s impossible to fully comprehend climate change, its causes and the coming doom it promises without knowing where your cooking gas comes from or where your garbage goes. In the fog of modern convenience—and perhaps a decade from the point of no return—the nations of the world are now carbonizing the atmosphere ten times faster than at any time in history.” Porter’s stories remain upbeat as he snaps the snow off his boots in the living room and even while he explains the fires, water loss, and human conflicts caused by climate change. In a recent NRCA-sponsored webinar about this book, I pressed him on how he stays upbeat despite the gloom he is reporting on. He joked that he “ignores it like everyone else.” But he does. Although, he doesn’t, as this book can attest. He can’t bear to think he stays upbeat despite the gloom he is reporting on. He joked that he “ignores it like everyone else.” But he does. Although, he doesn’t, as this book can attest. He can’t bear to think


Dip into Where Cool Waters Flow, and you’ll soon find yourself following a stream floated by the memorable originals who explored, discovered, and guided their way through Maine’s mythical fishing spots. The book tells the stories behind the Maine fishing experience through the individuals, fish, streams and lakes, bait, canoes, and the weather. You’ll meet fishermen with “ credentials from another era” drawn in Spencer’s colorful and poignant prose. The book offers Maine history through a fishing-guide lens and brings it to life with colorful portraits of individuals who led the way. Not a work for specialists, nor just about fishing, this book is for anyone who’s looking for a good regional state guide. Randy Spencer’s Where Cool Waters Flow is taken readers, pro and amateur alike, season by season, into the world of a Maine fishing guide.—Fiona Gordon, Director of Leadership Giving


This new book by Sue Inches is a phenomenal guide for aspiring and experienced environmental activists alike. Inches takes on issues of massive scope and scale, and grounds them in lived experiences and case studies from Maine and beyond to make them accessible for every reader. The cohesive trajectory of the book builds from advocacy basics to the nuts and bolts of decision making, using real world examples throughout to tether concepts to evidence of their efficacy. Many books of this strain use the magnitude of the climate crisis to instill a fear-based urgency among readers, but Inches insists on a more positive, energizing approach. She encourages readers to “begin right where you are” and emphasizes the power of the personal story before outlining the ins and outs of effective advocacy, providing tips and templates that are helpful for both new activists and established advocacy organizations. This book pairs the depth of a textbook with the readability of a novel, which is a remarkably difficult combination to pull off gracefully, I’ve already found myself referencing chapters in my day-to-day work, and I’m excited to share my copy with friends and family. I hope you’ll give it a read!—Josh Caldwell, Climate & Clean Energy Outreach Coordinator


Dean Bennett has written many books on the nature of Maine, and he is a wealth of scientific knowledge as well as an environmentalist. Throughout Thoreau’s Maine Woods, the author pairs descriptions of places and natural features with maps, personal illustrations, and quotes from Henry David Thoreau. Feature by feature, the book gives the reader an intimate look at the Maine Woods through Thoreau’s eyes on his journeys to Maine in the 19th century. In one passage, Bennett quotes Thoreau’s experience hearing loons and writes, “For many places in Maine today, the call of the loon is a call for conservation, to be echoed through the world.” Like many of us, Thoreau adventured into the North Woods and was delighted as well as challenged by the elements and his encounters. I enjoyed how the book creates a common thread between the past and our shared responsibility to future generations.—Melanie Sturm, Forests & Wildlife Director


Based on interviews conducted by the authors, and accompanied by beautiful black and white portraits, Dear Maine offers a window into the life experiences of refugees, how they came to America, and what it means to have found homes in Maine. A wonderful way to approach these stories is suggested in the authors’ notes: “Think of this book as a local dinner party. We are introducing you to some of our neighbors. We hope you leave this party with a new perspective, an appreciation of the people you’ve met, and, hopefully, with some new friends. We also hope you leave inspired.” Our neighbors include people originally from Cambodia, Rwanda, Somalia, India, Iraq, Vietnam, and El Salvador, among other places. Told in simple, matter-of-fact language, the stories are by turns heartbreaking and uplifting. Beyond the traumatic events many of our neighbors lived through, there is a longing to retain the culture and language of their home countries while also embracing being an American (and the difficulties that go with our country’s history and divisive politics). Courage and resiliency, respect for traditions and the sacrifices of their families, and the contributions we can all make to improve our local communities are central to the experiences shared in this book. The stories stick with you long after putting the book down, and I continue to ponder what it means to belong, and what I can do to ensure my new neighbors feel they are home. I recommend reading Dear Maine and sharing it with your family and friends. Note: Morgan Rielly is a Maine State Representative and a member of the Maine Legislature’s Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee; Reza Jalali is a writer, former refugee, and the Executive Director of the Maine Immigrant Welcome Center.—Toby Kilgore, Grants Manager

**POETRY**

**I Never Promised You a Cherry Orchard, by Danielle Woerner (Sunrise Song Press, 2021)**

This little book of poetry (it’s a pocket-sized six by eight inches) is packed with delightful verse in the Japanese tradition. Some pages feature multiple poems, thoughtfully arranged, accompanied by a photo that complements the verse. I read through the book in one short sitting and enjoyed the consistent tone from start to finish. One of my favorite haikus reminds me of my own apple-picking experiences: “Apple, flushed and warm/from the branch, falls to my hand,/puts sun on my tongue.” Others are quirky: “Beer bottle, half full,/sings from the picnic table/seeks love in the wind.” This book uniquely encapsulates the poet’s life while also welcoming everyone in. —Allison Wells, Senior Director of Communications & Public Affairs
Creation Now with Words, by Tom Fallon (Goose River Press, 2020) Fallon, a prolific poet, describes his latest publication as “A primer presenting literary evolution based on the great revolution in art during the early 20th century.” With that in mind, I wasn’t surprised to find that this book reflects while also pushing the limits of words on the page. Fallon plays with space (not merely margins), rhythm, font—entire vertical pages are forced to accommodate horizontal presentations. The effect is a tidal wave of expression, and to snip out a piece to include here would not do the poet justice.

In the traditional back page bio (he also includes a poem with the same title), Fallon notes his exposure to modern painting and jazz, experimental classical music, and other boundary-edge media. By experiencing this book, I found it fascinating to see, and almost hear, those art forms both captured and trying to escape these pages.—AW

COLORING & CHILDREN’S BOOKS

12 Sea-Run Fish of the Gulf of Maine: A Coloring Book for All Ages, by Isabella-Zoe Clift (2022) I love this picture because it is so colorful. I love this book because all of the pictures are so amazing! But I love this picture more than all of them because it is so bright, beautiful, and full of spirit, life, and nature.

—Zoe, age 8, daughter of Colin Durrant, Media Relations & Advocacy Communications Director

POEMS

Moment

I woke to see white snow heaping dark tree branches
with beauty, and I see
beauty exploding in the creation of this moment’s flower.  


Coloring Maine, by Blue Butterfield (Islandport Press, 2016) For me, there’s something so cool about seeing the places I love captured so perfectly in a piece of art. That’s how I felt when I first saw Blue Butterfield’s woodblock print postcards of the East End in Portland, so I couldn’t wait to get my hands on Coloring Maine. The book is filled with incredible, detailed woodblock prints of places all across the state, ready to come to life once you begin coloring. Some of the images are set in iconic Maine locales—like “Pasture near Katahdin,” “Jordan Pond,” or “Beehive Mountain Vista”—while others, like “Backyard Chicken” and “Apple Picking,” could be a snapshot of just about any community in Maine. As a current resident of Portland, Butterfield includes many depictions of Portland and Casco Bay living that exude the heart of the region. This coloring book is the perfect indoor activity for when you still want to appreciate the nature of Maine, for adults and children alike.

—Kristin Jackson, Digital Outreach Manager

Sea Run Fish of the Gulf of Maine from Coloring Maine

Mud, Sand, and Snow, by Charlotte Agell (Islandport Press, 2019) My three-year-old daughter, Stella, and I had the pleasure of reading Wind, Sand, and Snow by Charlotte Agell on a recent rainy spring morning. This children’s board book is perfect for little learners who love to explore all that Maine’s environment has to offer in all four seasons. From dancing in spring mud puddles to savoring the smells of summer to walking in white winter snow, the book highlights many of the things we enjoy doing together outdoors. The colorful minimalist illustrations bring the story to life. The curious and joyful nature of the little girl in the story, and her colorful clothes and reddish hair, is the spitting image of my daughter, which brought a smile to my face. If you have a curious and joyful little one in your life, you’re sure to love this story as well.

—Todd Martin, NRCE Rising Director and Grassroots Outreach Coordinator

Chickadees

Stories in the garden. Flowering clusters of ginseng. The sea’s bubbling edge, tide bright shells, opales, quartz. Silk tufts of milkweed, distant clouds. Leaves on a fluttering aspen only the ready can see.

—Allison Childs Wells from Goose River Anthology 2022

The Shark, The Girl & The Sea, by Charlene D'Avanzo (Maine Authors Publishing, 2021) Are you looking for an oceanic mystery showcasing the stunning Maine coast? Be sure to check out The Shark, The Girl & The Sea. The book follows oceanographer Mara Tuscioni as she witnesses a shark attack that kills a young swimmer. But is it just a shark attack? Mara isn’t too sure since great whites typically avoid shallow water. An investigation starts as she works with a shark expert who becomes more than just a colleague. The stunning beauty of Maine’s coastal waters is featured throughout the book as you discover more about what’s under the sea. While shark attacks may seem like a thing of fiction in Maine, in 2020, a fatal attack off Bailey Island showed us that more of these creatures might be swimming off the state’s shores than we think. Scientists are currently studying the shark populations in Maine and understanding how climate change could be affecting them. The author weaves oceanic and shark studies into an adventurous and mysterious tale.—Sarah Bierschwale, Digital Content Manager

Continued on page 8

One Turtle’s Last Straw: The Real-Life Rescue That Sparked a Sea Change, by Elisa Boxer (Crown Books for Young Readers, 2022) My love of children’s literature started in college when I took a class focused on books for young children and young adults. This book by Elisa Boxer is based on a video by researchers in Costa Rica who, while researching turtles, found one turtle with something in its nose, which they later discovered was a plastic straw. Elisa does a wonderful job explaining the “life cycle,” of sorts, of plastic straws, from initial use to where they can end up, including in ocean wildlife. The illustrations are beautiful and lend themselves to discussions with children about what they see regarding other ocean pollution. A bonus at the end of the book is a piece by the researcher who discovered this distressed turtle and recorded the video of her team removing the straw from its nose. The book also includes resources for older children who might want to learn more about plastic ocean pollution and how they can be involved in reducing it.—Beth Comeau, Communications Manager

FICTION

Hatchet Island, by Paul Doiron (Minotaur Books, 2022) Unlike Paul Doiron’s previous Mike Bowditch mysteries, which are set in the Maine woods, his latest is set on islands off the coast of Maine. Those NRCE members who have participated in the NRCE puffin cruises will recognize right away that Eastern Egg Rock is Baker Island in this mystery. Doiron’s details of the island took me back to those cruises and the noise of the gulls, guillemots, and terns, as well as the puffins. Stacey Stevens, Mike’s girlfriend, has been contacted by her friend, an intern on the island, because of the strange behavior of Dr. Maeve McLeary, the leader of the research on the island. Dr. McLeary has been gone several days without explanation. Stacey, herself a wildlife biologist and former intern on the island, and Mike paddle their sea kayaks out to the island from East Boothbay only to find local lobstermen have been harassing the three interns, that someone has brought wastes to the island to destroy the puffin population, and that a solitary boatman on the ocean has been photographing them. The suspense escalates from there. I was intrigued by how the author was able to intertwine current issues along the Maine coast such as the debate over right whales and the threats to puffin populations due to the warming of the Gulf of Maine with the rest of the plot. In true Doiron style, this mystery is fast-paced. I could not put it down!—Betsy Hartley, NRCE member, Brunswick

Maine’s coastal waters is featured throughout the book as you discover more about what’s under the sea. While shark attacks may seem like a thing of fiction in Maine, in 2020, a fatal attack off Bailey Island showed us that more of these creatures might be swimming off the state’s shores than we think. Scientists are currently studying the shark populations in Maine and understanding how climate change could be affecting them. The author weaves oceanic and shark studies into an adventurous and mysterious tale.—Sarah Bierschwale, Digital Content Manager

Continued on page 8

Continued on page 8
Clean Water Word Search

Hint: words can be forward, backward, or diagonal.

ANDROSCOGGIN
MUSKIE
MAINE
NRCM
RIVERS
LAKES
STREAM
POLLUTION
CONGRESS
WILDLIFE
LOON
FISH
CANOE
SWIMMING
ANNIVERSARY
PENOBSCOT
KENNEBEC
RESTORATION
CLEANUP
RECREATION
SEBAGO
MOOSEHEAD
WATER
RESTORE
EPA
PROTECT
ALLAGASH
HABITAT

| A | R | T | U | P | P | B | O | E | Q | D | N | X | E | E | Q | K | J | J | L | I | N | N | P |
| M | X | S | Z | D | G | R | T | K | Z | E | K | O | Y | Y | W | B | F | V | G | T | S | J | X | C |
| V | F | N | S | R | Z | I | M | B | S | W | O | H | W | C | Z | V | T | Q | L | I | H | H | J | V | D |
| L | E | C | T | E | V | O | T | X | L | B | P | B | C | U | L | T | U | B | V | P | H | G | K |
| O | K | N | R | A | O | E | H | O | Q | O | H | E | I | X | A | F | Q | S | N | E | D | C | X | Q |
| Q | X | M | P | J | A | E | T | W | D | N | U | I | E | N | E | E | M | N | A | X | O | Y | P | R | J |
| Q | L | N | M | T | A | C | H | G | G | O | F | F | J | N | N | O | O | S | V | H | O | H | B | B | Q | E |
| B | B | U | I | E | L | T | X | E | I | N | K | P | X | N | C | Y | J | Z | I | R | A | S | C | N | C |
| Q | W | O | H | F | K | J | W | I | B | Y | F | E | L | D | Z | I | E | Q | O | C | L | F | R | I |
| P | M | E | U | S | O | I | L | X | V | Y | D | E | Z | Z | I | N | O | T | D | T | R | G | H |
| T | R | Y | F | G | Y | U | O | Q | A | P | S | E | Y | S | U | G | M | K | Y | J | K | N | L | O | Y | S |
| T | Z | O | O | M | Z | E | U | U | X | A | S | R | R | E | W | T | M | Y | G | J | V | I | S | Y | O |
| J | H | E | T | N | W | I | N | T | T | W | A | S | Z | Z | P | Q | A | E | L | S | X | W | C | X |
| A | I | G | O | E | O | X | W | A | E | B | E | A | V | E | F | P | O | L | L | U | O | N | U |
| R | F | V | K | N | C | S | B | O | I | B | P | R | H | R | I | X | H | W | F | I | Y | I | G | U | V |
| P | J | J | B | R | A | T | Q | P | Q | P | L | H | R | U | D | J | N | K | T | P | M | Z | Q | G | K |
| L | Z | S | S | O | W | C | H | C | E | X | S | B | T | P | I | C | E | G | N | W | O | T | I | S |
| D | W | S | J | G | W | A | W | A | C | S | Z | U | V | N | L | Q | S | S | T | C | C | E | K | Z | U |
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COOKBOOKS (Continued from page 7)

**Always in Season: Twelve Months of Fresh Recipes from Farmer’s Markets of New England, by Elise Richer (Islandport Press, 2013)*** In *Always in Season*, Elise Richer shares simple, down-to-earth recipes, with local ingredients that can be found seasonally at your local farmer’s market. Showcasing a few ingredients in season each month, you can create these delicious recipes immediately after your farmer’s market run or harvest from your garden—you don’t need to run to the grocery store for specialty or expensive ingredients. Mains, sides, soups, and baked goods are all showcased in this beautifully illustrated book. Not only is this cookbook a great kitchen companion, it also provokes deeper thinking about the slow food movement and how we can support and impact our local businesses by buying and eating seasonally and locally. —Codi Riley-Havu, Gifts, Records, & Stewardship Coordinator

**Green Plate Special: Sustainable and Delicious Recipes, by Christine Burns Rudalevige (Islandport Press, 2017)** In recent years, the once-pedestrian cookbook has achieved coffee-table-book status, enjoyed for its beautiful pictures and exotic descriptions. The prevalence of television cooking shows coupled with the generalized hibernation of the pandemic had a lot of us fancying ourselves the next top chef until we tried to actually make a dish from some of these cookbooks. *Green Plate Special* is a cookbook that belongs on the counter next to your stove, its cover splattered with butter and favorite recipes recognizable by tomato sauce-covered fingerprints. More than once I exclaimed, “yes!” as I read descriptive sentences that were earth-friendly, practical, and even better, achievable with items I already had in my refrigerator or pantry. This is not a cookbook that purports to achieve sustainability by demanding you shop at Whole Foods or order random ingredients from Amazon Pantry. Instead, it challenges you to pause and consider the sourcing of your items. The recipe for Pasta Carbonara is as classic as they come. But the author’s “30 ways to think, shop, cook, and eat just a bit greener” tips encourage you to find cheese made within 50 miles of your home and save bacon fat for use in other dishes. Buy eggs that traveled a few hundred feet to get to your local farm stand instead of a few hundred miles to the grocery store. Use black pepper and Maine sea salt from the purveyor at your local farmer’s market. And then...make the Kale Rabe and Potato Tart, too! —Marlisa Simonson, Senior Director, Philanthropy

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- Chandler Lake Camps and Lodge (Aroostook County)
- Chewonki’s Big Eddy Campground (Penobscot County)
- DoryWoman Rowing (Waldo County)
- Mahoosuc Guide Service (Oxford County)
- Red River Camps, Deboullie Township (Aroostook County)
- Spencer Pond Camps (Piscataquis County)
- Weatherby’s, Grand Lake Stream (Washington County)

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