



Little Moose Public Reserved Lands by NRCM member David Preston

FALL/WINTER 2022

MAINE Environment

Be BOLD in the COLD!

Sign up for our Polar Bear Dip & Dash - it's in person or remote, you choose!

Saturday, December 31

See page 3 for lots more info!

Maine EV Owners Say Reliability, Cost Savings Among Top Benefits

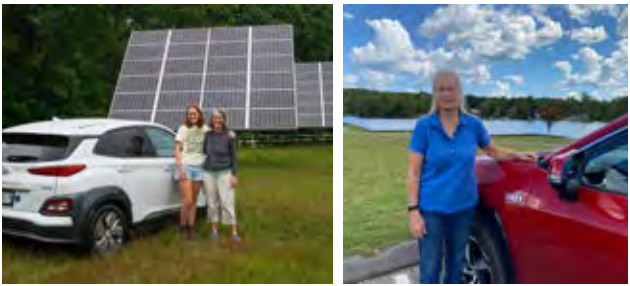
BY JOSH CALDWELL, CLIMATE & CLEAN ENERGY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

If you've spent any time recently on Maine's roads, you've likely recognized an emerging reality: the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) is well under way, and more Mainers than ever are driving electric. Acknowledging that there are still a lot of questions about this new technology, the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) decided to go straight to the thousands of Mainers who own EVs to learn about their experience.

In the spring of 2022, NRCM sent a survey to every electric vehicle owner in the state. The results showed that there are near unanimous levels of support for electric vehicles for their reliability, performance, and cost savings. EVs are also helping Mainers avoid the high price of gas: 79% percent of those surveyed save \$25 or more per month on gas, and 56% save \$50 or more.

Transitioning from fossil fuels to efficient electric vehicles is a key part of Maine's Climate Action Plan, so these results—and the overwhelming response to the survey—are exciting. But we wanted to get an even more personal sense of how people are using their EVs across the state. So we took a road trip from Lubec to Newry and down to Sanford to meet with more than 20 Mainers who own EVs.

What we heard was both inspiring and unequivocal: EVs are helping Mainers live their best Maine lives and making things better for them in many different ways. Here are a few of the people we met with who shared why they love their EVs.



▲ Suzanne and her daughter Hannah both use electric vehicles powered by the solar installation on their family farm, while, from her home base in Greenville, ▲ Laurie accesses scenic points on Moosehead Lake with her electric RAV-4.



◀ Serena in Waterville loves her EV as she sets an example for her young kids, while ▲ Dick in Limington sports three electric vehicles with his wife and daughter alongside their electric mower and chainsaw.

Story continued on page 2

Building Enduring Power to Strengthen Maine's Environment



Regional Outreach Coordinator Marc Edwards and Sustainable Maine Outreach Coordinator Vanessa Berry at the Farmington Earth Day Clean-up

Since our founding, NRCM has relied on working together with people across the state to accomplish our shared mission of protecting the nature of Maine. We use policy, science, and the law, but also use the power of Maine people to get things done. Now, NRCM has made a commitment to invest resources, including additional staff capacity, to expand on our long history of partnering with people across Maine. Our goal is to deepen relationships in all 16 counties to build enduring power that will protect and strengthen Maine's environment for this and future generations.

As part of this effort, long-time staff member Emmie Theberge recently assumed the new role of Outreach Director, and Marc Edwards of Strong was hired as our first Regional Outreach Coordinator in Franklin County. Marc's outreach efforts in Franklin County started off with more than 20 introductory meetings with those most intimately linked with natural resources in the region, including Registered Maine Guides, businesses, and nonprofits, as well as municipal leaders and selectboards.

He organized an evening of storytelling with Master Maine Guides Roger Lambert and Milt Baston at Twice Sold Tales in Farmington and presented a talk on climate change at the annual Rangeley Appalachian Trail Town Festival. Marc has also attended several outdoor events in the Rangeley Lakes region to connect with people with a wide range of interests.

In a Q&A with former CEO Lisa Pohlmann that was posted on NRCM's blog, Emmie spoke with excitement about the organization deepening its commitment to listening to concerns people have in rural communities to better understand the issues they're seeing on the ground and how that aligns with NRCM's mission. "I feel really proud that NRCM is taking this step to engage more deeply with people across Maine. To develop meaningful relationships. To work closely with highly engaged activist leaders. To bridge differences. To find common values," said Emmie.

—Colin Durrant, Media Relations & Advocacy Communications Director

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A Note from Pete

Elections deliver change, and that was certainly true this year. Yet NRCM's mission and determination to achieve progress for Maine's environment always remains the same. Since 1959, NRCM has worked with Democrats, Republicans, and Independents to build nonpartisan support for legislative actions to protect Maine's woods, waters, and wildlife. We

are proud of our record of success connecting with the values of all Maine people who appreciate the significance of our natural resources and the importance of protecting them for future generations. We strongly believe that our environment is a unifying force that brings people together and should never be a source of division.

As we approach the start of a new legislative session, our staff already is deep in the process of working with coalition partners and legislators on bills to advance climate action and clean energy; protect our waterways, wildlife, and North Woods; and promote sustainable communities. We also are reaching out to legislators who are brand new to the State House, starting the process of sharing information and building relationships.

From experience, we know that being a trusted source of information is critical. We also know that relationships with lawmakers are equally important, if not more so, and that some of the most important lines of communication and relationships involve you, as constituents of your elected representatives.

People across Maine have been the true environmental leaders of our collective efforts, which we recognized and celebrated during this year's Conservation Leadership Awards. Read a little about this year's recipients in these pages, but also be sure to visit our website for more about our extraordinary awardees.

During the year ahead, we encourage you to reach out to your elected officials to urge their support for priority bills that NRCM identifies on our website, and in action alerts and future publications.

With your involvement, we will continue to achieve progress for the Maine we all love. —Pete Didisheim Advocacy Director and Interim CEO

For updates on our CEO search process, visit our website at www.nrcm.org/about-nrcm/ceo/

Welcome New NRCM Board Members

At its August 2022 meeting, NRCM's Board of Directors elected the following new members:



Sam Day grew up in the Kennebec River Valley, left for a few years, then returned to build a home in Dresden with his wife, Anna, and their bird dog, Hank. He owns a small construction company, specializing in energy-efficient remodels and new construction. Sam has a long history of advocating for Maine's environment with NRCM, Trout Unlimited, Say No to NECEC, and others. He served on the board of Maine Rivers prior to joining NRCM's board.



Anthony Eames of South Freeport serves as Managing Director of Responsible Investment Strategy for Calvert Research and Management, an affiliate of Morgan Stanley Investment Management, and is also a director of US SIF: The Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment. He is an Accredited Investment Fiduciary (AIF), Accredited Asset Management Specialist (AAMS), and Global Financial Steward (GFS), and holds FINRA Series 7, 24, and 63 licenses.



Diana McDowell of Lamoine is a full-time artist who has called the Mount Desert Island region home for the past 44 years. She attended local schools and majored in art at the University of Maine. After 20 years, she retired from Friends of Acadia, where she served as Director of Finance and Administration. Diana is interested in keeping Maine's air and water clean, and wild lands accessible to the public.



David O. Schylling of the Pemaquid Peninsula began his career at Mellon Bank in Philadelphia and returned to New England to partner with his brother to create one of the country's leading specialty toy brands, Schylling Toys, where he pushed for sustainable production throughout their global supply chain. As an avid environmentalist and early adopter of clean energy, David has had solar panels in operation at his property since 2006.

We extend our gratitude for the dedication and expertise of three members whose terms recently expired—Sarah Short of Portland, Dennis King of Freeport, and William Meserve of Falmouth. To learn more about our board members visit nrcm.org/about-nrcm/board-of-directors.

EVs - from Page 1



▲ Ben in Windham owns an organic farm and just purchased a fully electric van with help from a small business rebate that gets their produce to the Portland farmer's market and back without using a drop of gas.



▲ In Sanford, Johanna serves in the Navy and trains new recruits using her electric Jeep on tough, off-road trails in the western foothills and White Mountains.



▲ Marianne in Penobscot says her dog loves their EV and is much more comfortable in the car than in their previous gas-powered vehicle, and ▼ Michael is able to quietly watch birds on wildlife tours on Mount Desert Island with his quiet electric van.



▲ McGinley and Gale own Lubec Brewing Company and have two Nissan Leafs that they use for delivering beer around town and getting out to their camp in Downeast Maine.



▲ Jim in Old Town hitches a trailer to his EV to help with yard work and mulch towing, while ▼ Justin uses his workplace charger in Orono to stay charged up through the work week.



◀ In Whitefield, Jessie Mae takes full advantage of her EV by loading it up with her kayak, bikes, and boat trailer to get out to Maine's many recreational spaces with her son.

As you can see, Mainers are out there putting their electric vehicles to use in all kinds of ways, and more are joining them every day. Though the survey and our conversations with owners proved to be a ringing endorsement of electric vehicles, some concerns persist. These challenges provide opportunities for improvement, especially around availability of public charging across the state.

We're in the midst of an exciting technological transition for cars and trucks, and if the experience of today's electric vehicle drivers in Maine is any indicator, we're moving in the right direction!



WHY EVS MATTER

Pollution from cars and trucks represents the largest and fastest-growing portion of Maine's greenhouse gas emissions. We can dramatically reduce these climate-changing emissions by transitioning to electric cars, trucks, and buses, and helping people drive less with investments in better transit, smart growth, and safer biking and walking paths.

HOW WE'LL POWER EVS

Maine is already adding record amounts of clean energy to our electric grid to help power our homes, cars, and businesses. Most of it is coming from large-scale solar projects or community solar farms. Building on this progress will require responsibly developing floating offshore wind in the deep ocean waters of the Gulf of Maine where winds are some of the strongest and most consistent in the world.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT EVS?

New provisions in the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act support the buildout of Maine's electric vehicle charging network and boost incentives for electric vehicles, including for used and heavy-duty vehicles. You can learn more by visiting Efficiency Maine's website at efficiencymaine.com/ev.

15th Annual Polar Bear Dip & Dash

Join the Natural Resources Council of Maine
DECEMBER 31, 2022
 Southern Maine Community College campus
 in South Portland
 5k at 11am • Polar Dip in the Ocean at 12pm

Special Shout Out to Our Champion Sponsors:

EAST BROWN COW 98.9 WCLZ LEE AUTO MALLS

Join us in person or pick a place of your own.
Earn bragging rights by dipping, dashing, or both!

The funds you raise support NRCM's work fighting climate change in Maine.

Get the latest info at
www.nrcm.org/events/polar-bear-dip-dash

CORPORATE TEAM CHALLENGE! Amp up the energy by gathering your colleagues to compete against other teams at your business or in your industry. Team prizes will be awarded, but what could be better than bragging rights? Select your captain and start a team today!



"If you like to have fun while challenging yourself and helping to protect Maine's beautiful environment, then you don't want to miss the NRCM Polar Dip & Dash (actually, it's dash through the 5K race and then dip in the chilly waters of Casco Bay!). ReVision

Energy is a proud sponsor of the Dip & Dash because we know it's always a great time for our employee-owners, and because we are helping to protect the things we love about Maine: clean air, clean water, and clean land. Along with a good workout, we also enjoy the piping hot coffee and tasty treats at the finish line! Please consider getting your business involved in this awesome wintry event—in our experience, the people who participate and spectate pay attention to which businesses are sponsoring, and go out of their way to support them. It's a win, win, win!"—Phil Coupe, Co-Founder, ReVision Energy

Congratulations 2022 Conservation Leadership Award Recipients



B. COMEAU/NRCM

(Back row, L to R): NRCM Advocacy Director and Interim CEO Pete Didisheim; Kathleen Rybarz, James Paterson, Jackie Weaver (Frenchman Bay United); Bill Lippincott, Ed Spencer, and Cheryl Spencer (Don't Waste ME); NRCM Board Chair Ed Simmons (Front row, L to R): Ted O'Meara of Frenchman Bay United; Julie Rosenbach; Dr. Robin Hadlock Seeley; Dr. Steve Kress; Troy Moon.

On Wednesday, October 26, 2022, we were delighted to gather in person at Maple Hill Farm Inn and Conference Center in Hallowell to recognize this year's Conservation Leadership Award winners. Nearly 100 NRCM members, special friends, board, and staff enjoyed a reception with music by NRCM member and recording artist Justin Walton, delicious hors d'oeuvres, photos, and short videos celebrating the accomplishments of this year's award recipients. Following the presentations by NRCM staff, recipients shared remarks—always the highlight of the evening. "Maine is blessed to have extraordinary leaders who dedicate their time and passion to protecting the environment we all love. This year's winners are champions for clean water, climate action, social justice, and wildlife restoration," says NRCM Interim CEO Pete Didisheim. "They are among the guardians, activists, scientists, and educators who work every day to protect the woods, waters, and wildlife of Maine, and we are so thankful for their dedication and accomplishments." Congratulations to this year's recipients:

Dr. Steve Kress (Damariscotta and Ithaca, New York), Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering work restoring and managing breeding colonies of Atlantic Puffins and other seabird species, in Maine and around the world, and for raising awareness about conservation and current threats to the world's ecosystems.

Frenchman Bay United, Conservation Leadership Award, for leading the campaign in opposition to an industrial fish farm in Frenchman Bay that would pose a serious threat to the environment, surrounding communities, and fishing families.

Troy Moon and Julie Rosenbach, Conservation Leadership Award, for leading sustainability efforts in Portland and South Portland, including development of "One Climate Future," a comprehensive climate and sustainability plan for both cities, one of the most ambitious local climate plans in the country.

Dr. Robin Hadlock Seeley, (Pembroke) for her work to ensure the protection of rockweed, a keystone species found on the Maine coast, and her leadership in the successful effort to ban industrial mining in Pembroke.

Don't Waste ME, People's Choice Award, for advocating for policies that protect communities most at risk from the negative impacts of waste facilities, including their recent work to close the out-of-state waste loophole in Maine law.

Read the award citations, tune in to our podcast showcasing the recipients' remarks, view photos, and more at our website nrcm.org/events/conservation-leadership-awards.

A Clean, Beautiful Maine Environment is the Perfect Gift



Gifts for Family & Friends

Looking to cut down on giving "stuff" this year? How about an NRCM gift membership? Your special someone will receive our beautiful Nature of Maine wall calendar in addition to timely communications and event invitations throughout the year. The perfect gift for

anyone who loves Maine! Purchase at nrcm.salsalabs.org/giftmembership or contact Codi Riley-Havu at (207) 430-0128 or criley@nrcm.org.



JON LUOMA

Gifts to NRCM

Is NRCM on your holiday gift-giving list? Renew your membership or make an additional gift at nrcm.salsalabs.org/2022 or by mailing a check to 3 Wade Street, Augusta, ME 04330. **Don't forget to ask your employer whether**

your gift is eligible to be matched! NRCM can also accept non-cash gifts of appreciated securities, bonds, and mutual fund shares as well as qualified charitable distributions from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) held by individuals aged 70 ½ years or older. We also welcome and appreciate beneficiary designations through estate plans. Consult with your tax advisor and contact Marisa Simonson at (207) 430-0108 or msimonson@nrcm.org for more information.

NRCM Pods & Blogs

Stay informed and entertained with our picks for recent must-reads and listens:

NRCM BLOGS nrcm.org/blog

→ **Critter Chatter:** “Oh, Deer! What’s Up with That?” NRCM member Jayne Winters shares photos and a visit with a long-term resident deer, from her most recent time with Don Cote at Duck Pond Wildlife Center.



→ **Maine Adventures with Josh** “The Community Cider Press: A Maine Fall Staple” In his latest post, NRCM’s Josh Caldwell shares photos and stories from his recent visit to a public orchard in Portland.

→ **Nature of Maine blog** “A Conversation with 2022 Allagash Visiting Artist Jordan Parks” NRCM’s Melanie Sturm speaks with this year’s Allagash Wilderness Waterway Visiting Artist Jordan Parks, who was also an NRCM 2020 Brookies Award winner.

→ **Birding with Jeff and Allison** “New Mind-blowing Tool Unveils the Secrets of Bird Migrations” NRCM’s Birding experts Jeff and Allison Wells review an amazing new tool that tracks bird migration around the world.



nrcm.org/our-maine/maine-environment-frontline-voices-podcast/

→ **Maine’s Outdoor Recreation Economy is Booming** Maine’s spectacular outdoors are central to our way of life, and nowhere is that more evident than in the state’s booming outdoor recreation industry. In this episode, host Colin Durrant speaks with Maine Outdoor Brands’ Jenny Kordick, about what makes Maine’s outdoor industry unique.

→ **Maine’s Clean Water Champions** Hundreds of Mainers gathered on the banks of the Androscoggin River in Lewiston to honor some of Maine’s 100 Clean Water Champions and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. We spoke with a few of the Champions and asked them to share their unique connection to clean water in Maine.

→ **New Creature Feature!** The spotted salamander is the only known animal with a backbone that can photosynthesize—that is, turn sunlight into food, like a plant! Learn more about this and other native Maine wildlife at our website nrcm.org/nrcm-creature-feature/spotted-salamander



MY MAINE THIS WEEK

Enjoy this view of the Sandy River from a bridge in Phillips. NRCM member Callie Wronker of Jefferson and Portland said this was a part of Maine she and her husband had passed through on the way to Rangeley but had never explored. We are certainly glad they explored it on this trip and that Callie shared her beautiful photo with us!

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.

Fall 2022 Tribute Gifts

Among gifts received from May 1, 2022–October 31, 2022

IN HONOR OF:

Paul Cook from Nicholas Cook
Bart Hague from Elizabeth W. Hague
Lynne Lewis from Anne D. Williams

Lisa M. Pohlmann from:

Dr. Lani Graham
Marion W. Brown
Mary P. Chatfield
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Pamela Kohlberg and Curt Greer
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Ian Ryan from Jason and Carrie Cianchette
Sarah Bierschwale from Steve Podgajny and Laura Bean

IN MEMORY OF:

Carol Lee Swaltek from Linda D. Brittain
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Margaret Boesch	John Shore
Robert Dresser	Joe R. and Gayle E. Simons
Anita Kerr	Lisa St. Andre
Marilyn Lobe	Steve and Carla Treadwell
Betty M. Mahanes	
Deborah G. Lord from all her friends at Rutgers Water Resources Program	
Dennis E. Kordish, Esq. from Victor A. Kordish	
Gary Delong from Dr. and Mrs. Edward M. Harrow	
Irma Simon from Emily T. and Russell P. Poulin	
John Tamaro from Nicole and Sean Tamaro	

Save the Date to Support NRCM Rising on Giving Tuesday

Be a part of the largest day of philanthropic giving all year! This year, donations made to NRCM on Giving Tuesday (November 29) will support NRCM Rising, our program that engages Mainers in their 20s, 30s, and 40s. Your Giving Tuesday gift helps us empower the next generation of Maine’s environmental leaders.



NRCM Green Tip

TURN OFF COMPUTERS AND OTHER SMALL APPLIANCES

Plug your cell phone chargers, computer, microwave, and other small appliances into power strips—and switch them off when not in use to stop “phantom load” electricity from wasting energy and money. For more money-saving tips to reduce your energy use, download or request a copy of our brochure, *Bright Ideas: Tips for Home Energy Savings* at nrcm.org/our-maine/publications.

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BANNER IMAGE / Little Moose Public Reserved Lands in Fall, by NRCM member David Preston

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