



Maine Sierran

Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club

Fall 2018

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Let's vote pro-Wall Street, anti-environment incumbent Bruce Poliquin out of office.

Maine and America Need Jared Golden in Congress

The upcoming mid-term congressional election could not be more important. The stakes are high for reproductive rights, personal freedoms, affordable health care, and social justice. But no issue is more on the line than climate change and the very future of our planet.

To counter the dangerous, anti-environmental policies of the Trump Administration, it's essential that we elect a pro-environment majority in Congress. And while that may be difficult to do in the U.S. Senate, it's a real possibility in the House of Representatives.

Maine's second district has the opportunity to help that effort by replacing one of the most anti-environment members of Congress, incumbent Bruce Poliquin, with forward-thinking State Representative Jared Golden—a candidate who fully grasps the importance of environmental quality to Mainers and the urgent need for America to take action on climate change.

To grasp just how bad Bruce Poliquin is on environmental issues you only have to look at his League of Conservation Voters lifetime voting score of 17 percent. That's right, 17 percent!

In fact, Poliquin was recently cited by the Envi-



ronmental Defense Fund as one of five members of Congress who has repeatedly failed to live up to promises on climate change solutions and has consistently opposed actions to address the growing threat.

"Congressman Poliquin says that he wants to address climate change, but he's repeatedly failed to do anything about it," stated President of EDF Action, Joe Bonfiglio.

By contrast Jared Golden has an established record of supporting clean energy and clean transportation in the Maine Legislature. He understands that our society needs to shift away from fossil fuel as quickly as possible.

"The 21st century is about new energy sources and technologies—solar, wind, geothermal," Golden says. "And

that won't just help fight climate change, it will help create good jobs."

Golden is in line with most of Sierra Club Maine's positions, including stopping off-shore drilling and protecting public lands in Maine and across the country.

"I've been a strong supporter of Land for Maine's Future," Golden says. "And in Congress I will support the Forest Legacy Program. Conserving our natural areas is essential for protecting our wildlife habitat and for the outdoor sports that are part of our Maine heritage."

Representative Poliquin, not surprisingly, never even supported one of the most important public land acquisitions in recent Maine history—the establishment of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. As is typical of the congressman, he did his best to remain hidden and silent on the issue. That led to this evaluation in a 2017 *Portland Press Herald* editorial:

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Alice Elliott brings a strong commitment to protecting the Maine environment and to social justice.

Our New Chapter Director is on the Job



Maine native Alice Elliott began her work as the new Sierra Club Maine chapter director on September 24. In her new role she will spearhead the environmental advocacy and education efforts of the chapter's volunteer teams.

"We're very pleased to have Alice take on this management position," said Chapter Chair Tony Donovan. "Following a nationwide search, we found the right person right here in Maine."

Prior to joining Sierra Club Maine, Alice served as Associate Director of Community Engagement at Colby College. She says she's eager to put her organizational experience and her communication and interpersonal skills to work with volunteers on the Chapter's priority issues.

"I'm thrilled to help lead our volunteers and activists in their important environmental advocacy work," Alice said. "These dedicated volunteers have an incredible track record in protecting Maine's wilderness heritage, its waters, and its stunning coastline. I share their passion for protecting Maine's environment and addressing the devastating effects of climate change."

Alice has lived in virtually every region of the state. She now makes her home in Topsham. An avid gardener and birdwatcher, Alice also enjoys camping in Maine's many beautiful parks.

Don't Miss Our Annual Dinner and 25th Anniversary Celebration



Sierra Club Maine is 25! Come celebrate with us on November 10 at the Maple Hill Farm Inn in Hallowell. It will be right after Election Day, so we'll also celebrate the victories of our endorsed candidates!

You'll enjoy a cocktail reception, dinner, annual award presentations, our anniversary celebration, and of course the good company of fellow Maine Sierrans.

You can register for this special event at sierra-club.org/maine. We also need volunteers to help plan and organize. Please contact Becky Bartovics at bbartovics@gmail.com.



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Golden, continued from page 1

"In these polarized times, it's hard to see how anyone could be satisfied with a congressman (Poliquin) who tries to straddle every issue."

Jared Golden won't straddle the issues. He was born and raised in Maine's 2nd District and has a deep understanding and love for that part of the state. Following the September 11th attacks, Golden enlisted in the Marine Corps and served combat tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. After returning from the war he worked numerous jobs before being accepted to, and graduating from, Bates College.

It's revealing of Golden's character that, following college, he returned to war-torn Afghanistan as a civilian to serve as a volunteer schoolteacher.

Second District Sierrans can help make a big difference on November 6 by voting for Jared Golden and helping to rid ourselves of at least one anti-environmental member of Congress.

In his military service, Golden lived by the motto, "No Marine left behind." As a candidate he has adapted that motto to "No Mainer left behind." We are confident that when he gets to Congress, Golden will also not leave our children and grandchildren behind by fighting for action on climate change.

To make a donation or volunteer to help the Golden campaign visit jaredgoldenforcongress.com



Congress is a Dismal Failure at Protecting the Environment

Yes, Donald Trump's ignorance on environmental issues is appalling and his destructive policies are frightening. But the fact is that it's largely the Republican-controlled Congress that has us going backwards in protecting the environment and fighting climate change.

This past winter, The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) reported that in 2017, there were 35 House votes and 19 Senate votes to overturn climate regulations, open drilling on public lands and waters, undermine the Endangered Species Act, and confirm numerous extreme, anti-environment Trump-appointed judges and cabinet members.

Things have not improved in 2018.

Perhaps the only good news is that Democrats in Congress have been able to block some of the most egregious attacks on the environment. And while it's shameful that 2nd District Congressman Bruce Poliquin fell in line with his Republican Party on most of those votes, we can be proud that 1st District Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (lifetime environmental scorecard of 96 percent) and Maine Senator Angus King (lifetime environmental scorecard of 90 percent) are fighting the good fight for the environment.

Indeed the gap between Democrats and Republicans on environmental issues is remarkable. The average 2017 environmental LCV scorecard for Senate Republicans was one percent. In the House the Republican average was only slightly better at five percent.

By contrast the average 2017 LCV score for House Democrats was 94 percent and for Senate Democrats just slightly lower at 93 percent.

"We've seen the parties have gotten further and further apart," Tiernan Sittenfeld, LCV's senior vice president for government affairs told *Mother Jones*. "And more Democrats have recognized that good climate politics is good politics."

Support Pro-Environment Candidates

Sierra Club Maine's Political Team has worked hard through the summer reviewing Questionnaires of candidates in Maine's various federal and state elections. Following several months of review and discussion, the committee recommended the following endorsements which were subsequently approved by the Chapter's Executive Committee. Many thanks to the political team for their hard work. Now let's back their efforts by doing everything we can to get these forward-thinking, environmentally friendly candidates elected on November 6.

For United States Senate

Angus King

For Maine's 1st Congressional District

Chellie Pingree

For Maine's 2nd Congressional District

Jared Golden

For Maine Governor

Janet Mills

For the Maine Senate

SD 1 Troy D. Jackson, Allagash
SD 5 James F. Dill, Old Town
SD 9 Geoffrey M. Gratwick, Bangor
SD 11 Erin Herbig, Belfast
SD 12 David R. Miramant, Camden
SD 13 Laura Fortman, Nobleboro
SD 14 Shenna L. Bellow, Manchester
SD 15 Kellie Julia, South China
SD 16 Karen Kusiak, Fairfield
SD 17 Jan Collins, Wilton
SD 20 Ned Claxton, Auburn
SD 21 Nathan L. Libby, Lewiston
SD 23 Eloise A. Vitelli, Arrowsic
SD 24 Brownie Carson, Harpswell
SD 25 Catherine Breen, Falmouth
SD 27 Benjamin M. Chipman, Portland
SD 28 Heather Sanborn, Portland
SD 29 Rebecca J. Millett, South Portland

For The Maine House

HD 3 Lydia Blume, York
HD 9 Diane Denk, Kennebunk
HD 11 Ryan Fecteau, Biddeford
HD 13 Lori Gramlich, Old Orchard Beach
HD 14 Donna Bailey, Saco
HD 24 Mark Bryant, Windham
HD 25 Jennie Butler, Windham
HD 26 Maureen Fitzgerald Terry, Gorham
HD 29 Shawn Babine, Scarborough
HD 30 Anne M. Carney, Cape Elizabeth
HD 31 Lois Reckitt, South Portland
HD 32 Christopher Kessler, South Portland
HD 37 Richard Farnsworth, Portland
HD 39 Michael Sylvester, Portland
HD 41 Rachel Talbot-Ross, Portland
HD 41 Erik Jorgenson, Portland
HD 42 Benjamin Collings, Portland
HD 44 Teresa Pierce, Falmouth
HD 45 Dale Denno, Cumberland
HD 47 Janice Cooper, Yarmouth

HD 48 Sara Gideon, Freeport
HD 50 Ralph Tucker, Brunswick
HD 51 Joyce McCreight, Harpswell
HD 53 Alison Hepler, Woolwich
HD 54 Denise Tepler, Topsham
HD 55 Seth Berry, Bowdoinham
HD 57 Eryn Gilchrist, Greene
HD 58 James R. Handy, Lewiston
HD 59 Margaret Craven, Lewiston
HD 61 Heidi Brooks, Lewiston
HD 64 Bettyann Sheats, Auburn
HD 66 Jessica Fay, Raymond
HD 72 Dennis O'Connor, Oxford
HD 73 Bob Faunce, Hebron
HD 80 Stephen Ball, Windsor
HD 82 Ken Ackley, Monmouth
HD 83 Thom Harnett, Gardiner
HD 85 Donna Doore, Augusta
HD 86 Jennifer Day, Augusta
HD 88 Chloe Maxmin, Nobleboro
HD 90 Mick Devin, Newcastle
HD 91 Jeffrey Evangelos, Friendship
HD 94 Owen Casas, Rockport
HD 95 William Pluecker, Warren
HD 96 Stanley Zeigler, Montville
HD 101 James Davitt, Hampden
HD 105 John Clark, Hartland
HD 110 Colleen Madigan, Waterville
HD 111 Kathy Wilder, Norridgewock
HD 114 Cherieann Harrison, Wilton
HD 118 John Thiele, Bingham
HD 119 Jaco Bebop Deertrack, Abbott
HD 120 Richard Evans, Dover-Foxcroft
HD 123 Ryan Tipping-Spitz, Orono
HD 126 John Schenk, Bangor
HD 127 Barbara Cardone, Bangor
HD 130 Michael Reynolds, Bucksport
HD 135 Brian Hubbell, Bar Harbor
HD 137 Douglas Sherwood Bunker, Franklin
HD 147 Robert Saucier, Presque Isle



Let the PUC know you oppose this misguided effort.

CMP's Transmission Project is a Bad Deal for Maine

There are so many reasons to oppose the Central Maine Power (CMP) proposal to transmit Hydro-Quebec power through Maine for use in Southern New England that it's hard to know where to begin. Even the project's name, the New England Clean Energy Connect Project (NECEC), is misleading. There is nothing "clean" about this energy plan.

The \$950-million project could potentially deliver up to 1,200 MW of hydro-generated electricity to the New England grid by way of 145 miles of transmission lines and the use of the new CMP substation in Lewiston. But at what cost? And how would it benefit Mainers?

Sierra Club Maine believes the risk to Maine's natural environment is too high and that the CMP project will have little benefit to ratepayers or the state's economy.

"In reality, this project will only really benefit the shareholders and administration of Central Maine Power and its parent company Iberdrola," says Chapter Chair Tony Donovan.

The Chapter has been actively engaging its members and other concerned citizens on the transmission line proposal including co-sponsoring public forums on the issue.

The CMP application for the project is now under consideration by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). According to its own rules, the PUC can't grant a permit without a demonstration of "public need." Thus far, no "public need" has been demonstrated.

One warning that NECEC is a bad deal is the fact that New Hampshire's Site Evaluation rejected the original Hydro-Quebec transmission plan for New Hampshire earlier this year. Their concerns would be the same we face here in Maine—it would interfere with economic progress of small towns, lower property values, and adversely affect outdoor recreation experiences.

Impact on Maine's Western Landscape

As stated previously, the CMP plan would involve 145 miles of transmission lines—running across 115 streams, 126 wetlands, and numerous lakes and ponds.

Putting in the transmission lines would mean a significant amount of clear cutting. And maintaining the corridor would mean periodic chemical spraying that would affect the quality of rivers, streams, and lakes along the route. Bisecting 54-miles of forest with this corridor would fracture vital habitat threatening wildlife migration behavior and food and water supplies.

The CMP route includes iconic areas of forested waterways. People travel long distance to enjoy these special wilderness experiences—experiences that would be visually marred by the CMP plan. For example at Kennebec Gorge there would be transmission lines strung 200 feet above the river. On top of the lines would be a series of large safety-marker balls.

As former guide and Kennebec River lover, Pete Dostie noted in a June *Portland Press Herald* article:

"This is one of the last pure river gorges in the Northeast. I don't want to see wires with giant beach balls on them."

Hydro-electric is not Clean Energy

While CMP and Hydro-Quebec promote hydro power as clean energy, the claim is unjustified. For starters, the project would result in the flooding of boreal forest covering an area the size of Vermont—drowning thousands of acres of carbon-sequestering forest. And research clearly shows that flooded lands produce significant methane gas. Methane accounts for 20 percent of our greenhouse gases.

In addition, a highly poisonous form of mercury



"In reality, this project will only really benefit the shareholders and administration of Central Maine Power and its parent company Iberdrola."

would be released into downstream communities, contaminating water resources and fish populations. While mercury release continues for 5 to 10 years after flooding, it remains in the food chain much longer. The threat is so real that there are already plans on restrictions of fish consumption in downstream communities. Among those are Innu First Nation communities where fish are the one of the most important traditional food sources.

Massachusetts Emissions Go Down While the Region's Increase

The Massachusetts 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act requires a 25 percent reduction in greenhouse

gas emissions below the 1990 baseline emissions level in 2020 and at least an 80 percent reduction by 2050. In addition, a 2016 Energy Diversity Act called for increased power from renewable sources such as offshore wind and solar. But the act also allows for a significant amount of the renewable requirement to come from hydro power.

While Massachusetts may have admirable goals on emissions reduction its decision to import hydro power as part of the solution is misguided.

Even if we don't take into account the previously mentioned environmental effects of producing hydro power, the use of electricity from Quebec will, according to many experts, result in increased overall emissions.

In a story in *CommonWealth* online magazine, several experts speculate that the electricity Hydro-Quebec will transmit to Massachusetts is energy it would have sold to customers in other areas such as New York and Ontario. Those areas would then need to rely on other energy sources, most likely carbon-producing sources such as natural gas and oil.

So while Massachusetts may reduce its in-state carbon footprint, there would be no reduction, and most likely an increase in emissions in the overall Northeast Region (and parts of Canada).

Hydro-Quebec continues to assert that its plan to transmit power to Southern New England would result in a net carbon reduction of three million tons.

But that claim is disputed by many environmental groups and energy consultants. The data backs them up. *CommonWealth* cited James Speyer of Energyzt as predicting that overall emissions would increase by some 384,252 metric tons. Speyer used assumptions developed by CMP's own consultants.

The whole point of the Massachusetts/Hydro Quebec agreement was to reduce carbon emissions. If it doesn't do that, what would be the justification for adversely impacting 53 miles of beautiful Maine forest?

The Maine PUC needs to reject this plan, and Massachusetts should look to increasing the development of true renewable energy sources such as solar and offshore wind.

We urge Sierra Club members to attend the PUC public hearing or submit written comments on the CMP application (see box at left).

October 17 in Hallowell



Let Your Voice be Heard

There are still opportunities to let your opinion be heard on the CMP transmission project.

A public hearing is scheduled for October 17 at 6 p.m. at the Public Utilities Commission located at 102 2nd Street in Hallowell. This is the last time that citizens will have the chance to get information into the public record.

Public comment will continue to be accepted until the CMP case is decided; however it is not considered sworn testimony for the record.

Comments can be submitted to PUC Administrative Director Harry Lanphear at Harry.lanphear@maine.gov. Include your name, address, and phone number (or email address). The docket number for the project is 2017-00232.

Over 500 March for Climate, Justice, and Jobs in Portland

Sierra Club Maine co-sponsored event brings attention to Gulf of Maine warming and other adverse effects of climate change.

There was music, humor, and lots of joy. But the message of the Rise for Climate, Jobs, and Justice March in Portland on September 8 was serious—the Gulf of Maine is warming at an alarming rate, and that warming could result in major disruptions of the state’s coastal environment and economy.

Over 500 concerned Mainers turned out for the event, which was sponsored by Sierra Club Maine, 350.orgmaine, and Poor People’s Campaign.

Among the highlights of the march were speeches by high school students. One of the speakers was Raina Sparks of Cape Elizabeth.

“What I love about democracy and grassroots organizing is that they have the same foundational message, and that is ‘people power,’” she said.

Also speaking was Hunter Lachance from Kennebunk High School. Hunter spoke about how climate change is adversely affecting him and others who have asthma.

“Pollution and climate change both have effects on asthma,” said Hunter. “Climate change focuses on natural occurrences that will affect asthma...pollution itself is a trigger, a very dangerous one—one that’s powerful enough to swell airways completely.”

He added that he hoped the march would raise concern about the fact that climate change has not gotten the attention it deserves.

The Portland March was part of a worldwide mobilization that took place just days before the Global Climate Summit in San Francisco. The Summit brought leaders together from around the world—celebrating achievements and calling for even deeper worldwide commitments and accelerated action from all countries.

Make a Difference: Join or Start a Climate Action Team

It only takes one person to get the ball rolling on taking local action on climate change. Here’s an example:

A Sierra Club member from Gorham who wanted to do something to reduce her community’s carbon footprint reached out to the Sierra Club Maine office. The Chapter contacted other Sierra Club members in her community and helped set up a meeting. At the first meeting, 20 Gorham area residents voiced their concerns and ideas for taking action. A Climate Action Team (CAT) was formed and they agreed on two projects. They have organized a Window Dressers Community Build for constructing insulated window inserts and are exploring a town-wide system for composting food waste.

This can happen in your community too. It just takes one person who wants to take action. And Sierra Club Maine will provide the resources to build a CAT in your area.

The overall goal for our CATs is to empower communities to reduce their carbon footprint and create strategies for adaption and mitigation of our growing climate problems. Among the possible CAT projects are: advocating for energy efficiency, municipal and community solar projects, community gardens, developing municipal energy efficiency plans, launching recycling and compost programs, weatherizing residences, and more

To learn more about how you can start a CAT in your area visit sierraclub.org/maine or call 761-5616.



One of the highlights of the Portland event was a funeral march emphasizing the effects of climate change on Maine fisheries. (Photo by John Duncan.)



Concerned youth were a big part of the Portland event. (Photo by Susan Gatti.)

The Summit underscored the urgency of the climate threat by mobilizing and giving voice to real people in real communities already facing stark threats.

And while President Trump has pulled the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Agreement, states and communities in America, and countries around the world are taking significant actions to reduce carbon emissions.

At the Portland march, attendees brought attention to the upcoming November election and the need to elect candidates who are committed to a clean energy future and addressing the effects of changes in the climate.

“We need to vote in a legislature and governor in Maine committed to further reducing carbon emissions,” said march

participant Becky Bartovics, who chairs the Chapter’s political team. “With the White House going backwards on clean energy, it’s important that we move forward as a state.”

The Portland March sent a strong message to our elected officials that we need to act now to slow the warming in the Gulf of Maine. The Gulf is warming faster than any other part of the global oceans. Seafood populations are already being significantly affected by the changes in the Gulf—and it’s likely to get worse. Already cold-water-loving species like cod, shrimp, and haddock are migrating north to colder waters. Maine’s lobster industry is doing well, but that could well change in the future.



A New Resource From the Climate Advisory Action Team

The Sierra Club Maine Climate Advisory Team recently published an eight-page publication that serves as a helpful resource for people who are involved in community climate projects, or are looking for ways to take local-based action.

Building Thriving Communities not only provides helpful ideas and methods for taking action to lower carbon emission in communities, it also contains information on what Maine communities are doing and need to do to adapt to our changing climate.

The publication tells inspiring stories of community solar, weatherization, and smartgrid projects as well as how Maine farmers, woodlot owners, and fishermen are creatively adapting to a changing climate.

Supplies of this valuable aid are available for free. They can be distributed when canvassing in your neighborhood and make for helpful handouts at community events.

For free copies of *Building Thriving Communities*, or to start a Climate Action Team in your community, contact the advisory team at sierraclub.org/maine or call 761-5616.

Congratulations, Cumberland!

In September, the Town of Cumberland will begin construction of a solar farm that will meet 80 percent of electricity needs for the town government. Kudos to the Cumberland Climate Action Team that served as technical advisor to the town manager and helped win unanimous planning board approval for the 475KW solar project on the town’s capped landfill. The town council had unanimously approved the project earlier in the year.

At the meeting, some abutters were unhappy with the viewshed and pressed for more extensive buffering. However, the planning board ruled that the distance of approximately 1000 feet provided adequate buffering under the ordinance.

And Bucksport...

A 79.8 KW municipal solar array, installed on the Bucksport Public Works Department building will generate an estimated 85,000 KW-hours of electricity to the town every year—saving taxpayers a nice chunk of money along the way. The array was installed by ReVision Energy.

“It’s clean. It’s green. It’s using a natural resource, and the savings over time will benefit the taxpayers of the town,” Richard Rotella, Bucksport’s economic development director, told the *Bangor Daily News*.

Bucksport is also planning another solar array to power its new wastewater treatment plant. In addition, the town has recently installed LED lighting in the town office and an electric-vehicle charger on Main Street.

More than 100 gather at the Water Security Summit to share experiences and explore solutions on water security.

Coming Together to Protect Maine Water

The tone for the September 29 Water Security Summit at the University of Maine was set at the opening ceremony—a Penobscot invocation and song followed by a welcome from Tribal Chief Kirk Francis.

Interwoven into the messages from the event's main speakers were the lessons to be learned from the current and historic struggles of indigenous people for water rights and security—here in Maine, and around the world.

Also very much present throughout the day was an awareness of how much the world needs the wisdom of indigenous people—an understanding that water is sacred, that the earth is one organism and when we damage any part of that organism we damage ourselves, and that to be a whole and healthy person you need to be connected to the natural world.

Those messages and much more were conveyed to attendees of the Water Summit during inspiring talks by two Native American attorneys and activists Tara Houska of the Couchiching First Nation and Sherri Mitchell of the Penobscot Nation.

Houska currently serves as National Campaigns Director for Honor the Earth. In 2016 she served as an advisor to presidential candidate Bernie Sanders. Houska also spent six months on the frontlines at Standing Rock fighting against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

“At Standing Rock there was a complete disregard for life,” she said. “It demonstrated where we are today. People are not important when it comes to advancing the economic welfare of the few.”

She noted the sad irony that people trying to protect life on the planet are imprisoned.

“Water protectors go to jail while the world burns,” Houska said.

Another message that both Houska and Sherri Mitchell stressed is the vital importance of protecting indigenous land for biodiversity and protection of ecosystems. In fact, 80 percent of the world's biodiversity coincides with indigenous land areas.

“Protection of indigenous peoples' rights is the protection of our last pristine places,” Mitchell, who is executive director of the Land Peace Foundation, said. “If we all stand together on indigenous rights we protect the waters and lands of Mother Earth.”

In another address, Michelle Sanborn of the New Hampshire Community Rights Network emphasized citizen-based action to protect the rights of communities and the rights of nature. As with Hous-



Among the 100-plus summit attendees were a good number of students from College of the Atlantic.



Water activist Nickie Sekera (left), one of the water summit organizers, talks with keynote speaker Tara Houska.

ka and Mitchell she emphasized the need to counter corporate power in the world.

“Your rights often don't matter in the face of corporate economic well-being,” she said.

The summit also featured presentations by activists working on five different, but related, water issues in Maine. The presentations were followed by breakout sessions to give attendees the opportunity to discuss those issues in more depth.

Nickie Sekera discussed her own experience in battling Nestles' operation in her home town of Fryeburg and the growing threats of water ex-

traction and export in the state.

Ed Spencer talked about Juniper Ridge Mega Landfill and the almost inevitable leakage threat it poses to the Penobscot River.

Ellie Daniels informed attendees of the dangers from the proposed industrial salmon farm in Belfast. The farm would use local water to the tune of 1.7 million gallons per day.

Jim Freeman discussed the potential East-West Utility Corridor and its impact on surrounding forest, waters, and wildlife.

Landis Hudson of Maine Rivers discussed the importance of preserving rivers and the 12 species of migratory fish that come through Maine rivers.

And Hancock County Commissioner Antonio Blassi led a discussion on developing a constitutional amendment to protect the rights of communities and nature.

It was a special gathering, as one participant noted in thanking the organizers, “This was a terrific summit, and I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the attention to indigenous women's leadership, and all three main speakers being women, this happens so rarely I can count it on my fingers.”

The summit, sponsored by Sierra Club Maine, Community Water Justice, and the Penobscot Nation, has inspired many of the 100-plus attendees to get involved in protecting our Maine water resources. That was a major goal for the volunteers who organized the summit—getting people involved in their own communities and building a network of activists to work on protecting the state's precious water while it is still abundant and clean.

For more information about how you can get involved visit <http://bit.ly/2LtaQ8U>.

2019 Sierra Club Calendars



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Let's Celebrate!

Sierra Club Maine Annual Dinner and 25th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, November 10—5:30 p.m.
Maple Hill Farm Inn, Hallowell

Register at: sierraclub.org/maine



It's hard to believe that 25 years have passed since Chapter founders Joan Saxe, Ken Cline, and John Boomer opened Sierra Club Maine's first office in Portland. Since that time our volunteer-driven chapter has accomplished much to preserve the Maine environment and reduce the state's carbon emissions.

At our special 25th Anniversary gathering on November 10, we'll celebrate those successes and the people who helped achieve them. And with the event coming just days after the November election, we'll also celebrate the victories of our endorsed candidates.

The gathering will also feature a cocktail reception, a Maple Hill Farm Inn dinner, inspiring speakers, and presentations of our annual environmental awards.

Please join us! Register today at sierraclub.org/maine.

Environmental Updates From Sierra Club

Trump continues his assault on clean air and public health

In mid-September Ryan Zinke's Department of the Interior released its final rule effectively eliminating a key safeguard that would limit methane pollution and other harmful emissions from oil and gas drilling operations on public lands.

Methane is a greenhouse gas that is 87 times more potent than carbon dioxide during the time it remains in the atmosphere. The standard that Zinke now seeks to eliminate would also reduce ozone-forming pollutants that aggravate lung and heart ailments and can lead to asthma attacks and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, as well as hazardous pollutants such as benzene, a carcinogen.

The announcement comes on the heels of a proposal released by the Environmental Protection Agency last week weakening another Obama-era protection on methane pollution.

In response, Lena Moffitt, Senior Director of the Sierra Club's Our Wild America campaign, released the following statement:

"Today's announcement is just a continuation of this administration's ongoing assault on clean air, public lands, our health, and our climate. Millions of Americans weighed in when this commonsense standard was developed, and the only people who want to see it weakened are fossil fuel industry executives who don't want to be held accountable for the threats their outdated and reckless practices pose to the public. We've already successfully defended these protections in court and in Congress, and the fight won't stop here."

EPA Acting Director Wheeler's latest proposal threatens kids' health

The *New York Times* reported that former coal lobbyist and acting Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator, Andrew Wheeler, has finalized his proposal to undermine the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS), which will increase the profits of his former coal clients and threaten the health of pregnant women and young children. MATS protects the public from mercury, arsenic, hydrochloric acid, and a variety of other toxic air pollutants, which are especially harmful to

vulnerable populations like infants and mothers.

The proposal is expected to benefit both Mr. Wheeler's former clients -- notably, the coal company Murray Energy, who are challenging the MATS in court -- and those of EPA's Assistant Administrator William Wehrum, who worked for years as a lawyer for coal companies. MATS requires coal- and oil-fired power plants to significantly reduce their emissions of toxic pollutants and, by doing so, safeguards American communities from the largest single source of mercury, arsenic, and a host of other dangerous substances.

The EPA estimates that the MATS protections prevent up to 11,000 premature deaths and more than 100,000 asthma attacks and heart attacks each year. EPA's proposal, according to the *Times*, attempts to adjust EPA's analysis of the standards' benefits so as to ignore all of those public health benefits, and thereby tilt the EPA's accounting decisively in favor of the coal industry. That maneuver -- which would permit EPA to ignore a wide swath of public health benefits, even while providing much more favorable treatment to health protections' effects on polluters could undermine both MATS as well as many other public health protections.

Virtually every plant subject to MATS has already met the standard that Trump is now proposing to reconsider. For that reason, numerous utilities and manufacturers have pleaded to keep MATS in place.

Sham Report on Keystone XL

On September 21, Donald Trump's State Department released a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement of the proposed Keystone XL tar sands pipeline's route through Nebraska, finding that it would have "no significant" impact on the environment.

The draft comes just a week after the State Department announced that it would conduct this review.

"The Trump administration sees no problem with building Keystone XL—in other news, the grass is still green and the sky is still blue," said Sierra Club Beyond Dirty Fuels campaign director Kelly Martin. "Keystone XL is a threat to our land, water, wildlife, communities, and climate. We've held off construction of this pipeline for 10 years, and regardless of this administration's attempts to force this dirty tar sands pipeline on the American people, that fight will continue."

Nominations Welcome for Sierra Club Maine Executive Committee

Nominations are now being accepted for the Sierra Club Maine Executive Committee (excom). The deadline for nominations is October 15.

The slate of nominees will be announced October 25th. Voting begins November 1 and closes December 1.

Our new excom members will be announced December 7 and will be installed at the first meeting of the new year.

The 11-member excom manages the affairs and activities of the chapter, including setting priorities and supervising and evaluating staff members. The excom is responsible for assuring that the activities and services provided for the benefit of Chapter members comply with the bylaws and standing rules of the Sierra Club.

The committee meets monthly, with at least four meetings held in person and the remaining by conference call. Excom terms are for two years.

All committee meetings are open to all members. Serving on the excom is an excellent way to participate in the important work of protecting our wonderful Maine environment. As a volunteer-driven group, Sierra Club Maine excom members have a major role in the direction of the Chapter.

If you think you or someone you know would like to join the Sierra Club Maine leadership team, please contact Becky Bartovics at bbartovics@gmail.com or 207-867-4938.



Donated Cars Benefit Sierra Club's Important Work

Your car donation to the Sierra Club Foundation will not only clear up space at your home, it will help support our work to protect the planet. Vehicle donations are a great way to add another tax deduction to your list.

Donate now by calling (844-674-3772) or visit <http://scfch.careasy.org/HOME.html> to fill out our secure online form. Our partners at CARS Inc. will handle the rest—including picking up your vehicle from any location, no matter its condition. CARS accepts trucks, trailers, boats, RVs, motorcycles, and more.



Sign up for Upcoming Window Dresser Workshops

Drafty windows? High heating bills? Would you like to have a warmer home and save money? Nonprofit Window Dressers can help. The insulating window inserts fit inside of your existing windows to let in sunlight and views while keeping more heat inside your home. The inserts are high quality and low cost because they are built at barn-raising-style community workshops across Maine.

Gorham—November 13-17

South Portland—January 5, 2019

(see Upcoming Events for details)

Upcoming Events



Mt. Megunticook Hike

Saturday, October 13—10:00 a.m.
Camden Hills State Park

We'll hike up the Megunticook trail and stop for lunch at a beautiful ocean lookout. We will continue on across the tablelands and make about an 8-mile loop of it. The hike will be at a moderate pace and will climb about 1200 ft of elevation. It should be very pretty with fall colors. If you don't have a current state park vehicle pass, there may be parking fees.

Event Organizers:

Sue Levene

suelevene@gmail.com—207-386-0128

Eric Schade

eric@shearwater-boats.com—207-386-0129

Kennebunk Film Series

Reinventing Power

Friday, October 26—7 p.m.

For dessert and coffee arrive at 6:30

Kennebunk Unitarian Universalist Church

Reinventing Power: America's Renewable Energy Boom takes us across the country to hear directly from the people making our clean energy future achievable. These individuals are working to rebuild what's broken, rethink what's possible, and revitalize communities.

Sierra Club Maine Annual Dinner

Saturday, November 10—5:30 p.m.

Maple Hill Farm Inn, Hallowell

Join us for our special 25th anniversary celebration and dinner at the lovely Maple Hill Farm Inn in Hallowell. Register at sierraclub.org/maine.

Buxton-Gorham Window Dressers Workshop

November 13-17

Galilee Baptist Church, 317 Main St. Gorham

Nov. 13-16—8:30-12:30 and 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Lunch will be served.

Nov 14th— 5:30-8:30 p.m. (dinner served)

Sat. Nov. 17th, morning only—8:30-12:30 p.m.

Volunteers are being asked to sign up for this workshop to assist in the assembly of the window inserts, thereby lowering the cost of the inserts to customers. For more information contact: buxtongorhamWindowDressers@gmail.com
Sign up at: windowdressers.org/volunteer

South Portland Window Dressers Workshop

Saturday, January 5, 2019

SMCC Building Technology Building

80 Fort Rd., South Portland

Once you sign up, trained volunteers will schedule a time to measure your windows for the custom-built inserts. Then, in January, you and other community volunteers will gather to build inserts at SMCC's Construction Technology building.

Pricing is based on size and finish.

Contact person: Jessica Williams

jsw613@hotmail.com—(207) 831-8439

To stay informed on all upcoming events visit the events page at sierraclub.org/maine

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Statement of Purpose of the Sierra Club

"To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the Earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives."

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Enroll your workplace for the current campaign online at www.mainshare.org or contact us directly.

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In a world with a growing population, overdevelopment, increasing corporate power, and a changing climate, water security has emerged as one of our most pressing environmental issues—and Maine is not immune.

Our Water is Our Lifeblood

It makes up more than 60 percent of our bodies. It's the most vital resource needed for life on the planet. Yet too often we take water, especially our drinking water, for granted. We turn on the tap with the faith that it will always be there—clean and seemingly inexhaustible.

But the fact is that less than two percent of the earth's water is drinkable (and much of that is ice). And with an ever-growing world population and threats from energy production, overdevelopment, and climate change, our water resources need greater and more effective protection. Water scarcity currently affects some 40 percent of the world's population, with one out of every nine people lacking access to safe water.

Water is also a critical element for preventing disease, providing economic stability, and adapting to climate change.

Here in Maine we are fortunate to have a plentiful supply of water. But there are growing threats, and now is the time for action to protect our precious resource.

One of the primary threats is commercial water extraction. Commercial operations (notably Nestle) are grabbing water rights in various parts of the state and exporting our valuable water resource to feed the booming bottled water industry. Nestle's operations displace more than 1.1 billion gallons annually from Maine's natural hydrologic cycle. That amounts to about 850 gallons per Mainer, per year.

Maine's current "absolute dominion" groundwater law (last updated in the 1800s) does encourage "reasonable use." But is 1.1 billion gallons reasonable?

The town of Fryeburg has been at the center of Maine's most visible groundwater controversy. Nestle, owner of Poland Springs, negotiated an exclusive contract with Fryeburg to extract water from its aquifer for 45 years. Just recently, the towns of Lincoln and Rumford have also sold water extraction rights to Nestle. Altogether, Nestle now mines water in 10 Maine communities, and has bottling plants in Poland, Kingfield, and Hollis. In fact, Hollis is home to the largest bottling plant in North America, producing more than 250,000 cases of single-serve bottle water per day.

Water activist Nickie Sekera (a native of Fryeburg), believes strongly that towns like hers lose much more than they gain by contracting out



their water rights. She notes that Nestle is making millions in sales and tax breaks while paying very little back to the communities they exploit. Of course, in addition to the concern of exporting Maine's water supply, there are the staggering environmental issues surrounding bottled water. Some 50 billion plastic bottles of water are sold annually around the world—30 billion of those in the United States. While some of the plastic bottles are recycled, it's estimated that over 75 percent end up in landfills, or worse, in our oceans. And consider this: It takes three times the volume of water to produce a container of bottled water than it does to actually fill it up. Oh yes, it also requires a significant amount of fossil fuel.

And while some affected communities, most notably Flint, Michigan, do need to import clean water, most areas of the U.S. have tap water that is as high a quality (if not higher) than what comes in a bottle—not to mention being infinitely better for the environment.

Maine has other water security and water rights issues, including the impact of the Juniper Ridge Landfill expansion on the Penobscot River, forestry

and mining practices in the Maine Woods, and proposals for an east/west corridor.

One of the most disturbing water issues in Maine involves the rights of the Penobscot Nation to protect and manage the Penobscot River. The state of Maine has sought to limit the tribe's rights to ownership and management of the main stem of the river that is their namesake. In addition, Maine's Attorney General has sued the EPA for trying to protect the health of people who would like to consume the



"Most areas of the U.S. have tap water that is as high a quality, if not higher, than what comes in a bottle."

fish they catch. Maine is arguing that its fresh water quality standards for the river, which are lower than the EPA's, be invoked. Reducing the water quality standards would be a direct threat to the Penobscots' heritage of sustenance fishing. Beyond that, why would you not want the highest standard for a river that is the lifeblood for a large part of Maine?

The Penobscot case is just one of many assaults on indigenous peoples' water rights and water security throughout the U.S. and the world. Pipelines, in particular, are threatening water resources for many Native Americans. We are all familiar with the historic grassroots resistance movement on Standing Rock Sioux Reservation to protest the dangers of the Dakota Access Pipeline. But there are others including Line 3, Keystone XL, and Alberta Clipper.

Native Americans believe that water is not just essential—they believe it's sacred. By not respecting rights and degrading water resources we not only diminish quality of life, we disrespect a cultural heritage.

So what can we do to protect Maine water while it's still clean and abundant? That was the question water advocates addressed at a recent Water Security Summit in Orono, sponsored, in part, by Sierra Club Maine (see story on page 5). There are no easy solutions—corporate power and the current political climate make the task difficult. One of the very first steps is building a strong water activist network in the state, ready to take action at both the community and state level. Sierra Club Maine will continue to be committed to that effort.

Patagonia founder, Yvon Chouinard

Lewiston Native Earns Sierra Club's Top National Award



A rock climber who built a billion-dollar company, a photographer known for his iconic images of bears in Yellowstone National Park, and two red-state mayors who have been leaders in moving their towns toward renewable energy were among those receiving national awards from the Sierra Club this year.

The club's top award, the John Muir Award, went to Patagonia founder, and Lewiston native, Yvon Chouinard. A climber who took part in Yosemite's golden age of big wall

climbing, Chouinard as a teenager started to make gear to meet the needs of his friends to climb in a clean, minimalist, self-reliant style inspired by the writings of John Muir. In the 1970s, Chouinard launched Patagonia, a clothing company for whom sustainability and responsible practices are core to the business. It has given more than \$89 million to grassroots environmental organizations, and has encouraged other companies to contribute at least one percent of their annual sales to environmental causes as well. More recently, Chouinard and his team at Patagonia have started a venture capital fund called Tin Shed Ventures, which invests in start-ups that offer solutions to environmental problems, as well as Patagonia Action Works, a new platform to connect customers with nonprofit environmental groups to take meaningful action to protect our planet.

"Patagonia's business model is truly inspiring," said Sierra Club President Loren Blackford. "It is a blueprint for other businesses, large and small, to follow." Blackford also noted that Chouinard has been a leader in opposing the Trump Administration's anti-environmental efforts.

A complete listing of this year's Sierra Club awards is available at sierraclub.org.