



Maine Sierran

Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club

Fall 2012

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Sierra Club Maine endorses Barack Obama, Angus King, Chellie Pingree, and Mike Michaud

The Choices are Clear for Environmental Quality and a Clean Energy Future

With climate changes occurring sooner than predicted and fossil fuel prices steadily rising, it's more important than ever that we elect national leaders who are committed to energy independence and a clean energy future.

When voters go to the polls on November 6, the contrast between candidates could not be more obvious and the stakes for our environment could not be higher.

The Only Choice for President: Barack Obama

Here's how Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune described the differences between presidential candidates Barack Obama and Mitt Romney.

"How far apart are the two candidates on energy policy? They aren't in different rooms; they're on different planets," Brune said. "Never have two candidates openly presented such fundamentally disparate visions for America's energy future."

President Obama has made it clear that he's committed to building on the historic progress he has made building a clean energy economy. Over the past four years, the president implemented landmark vehicle fuel efficiency standards: the most significant action taken by any president in history to move our country off our dependence on oil and also mitigate climate disruption. He also implemented the single largest investment in clean and renewable energy in American history. During the Obama Administration, investment in wind energy has doubled and investment in solar has increased by a factor of five. Not satisfied with that, Obama is advocating "doubling down" on renewable energy.

In stark contrast, Mitt Romney (who still doesn't fully accept that climate change is caused by carbon pollution) opposes increasing fuel standards, opposes extending the wind production tax credit, and wants to increase reliance on the most polluting fossil fuels—coal and oil. That



President Barack Obama

means more drilling in the Arctic, offshore, and on our public lands. It also means pursuing dirty tar sands oil production. Perhaps all you need to know about Romney's energy plan is that it was crafted in consultation with oil company executives.

Energy isn't the only reason why the Sierra Club is backing President Obama. Here are a few others:

- During his administration, the Environmental Protection Agency released new protections for toxic mercury from power plants. After decades of delay, we now have strong nationwide protections against this dangerous threat.
- His administration established new safeguards under the Clean Air Act to protect Americans from dangerous carbon pollution.

These first-ever carbon pollution standards for new power plants means that business as usual for the nation's biggest sources of carbon pollution is over.

- The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of

2009 safeguarded millions of acres of new wilderness, protected hundreds of miles of rivers, and expanded public trails.

- New national monuments were designated at Fort Monroe and Fort Ord. In addition, one million acres around the Grand Canyon were protected from mining.

Romney, on the other hand, is not just taking his lead from the dirty energy industry, he's giving them the reins. He's made it clear that he would gut the Clean Air and Water Act and throw open our public lands to drilling and mining. And the Republican candidate has questioned whether public lands serve any purpose beyond their potential for mining and drilling.

For Americans who look toward a healthy planet and an economy that creates clean energy jobs there is only one choice—President Obama.

For U.S. Senate: Angus King

After reviewing his eight-year record as Maine governor and conducting a comprehensive interview, Sierra Club Maine is endorsing independent Angus King for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Olympia Snowe.

-Continued on page 2



Former Governor Angus King

Join us for our annual celebration of Sierra Club Maine!

Friday,
November 16
at the Inn at
Brunswick
Station



Sierra Club Maine staff and volunteers are busy planning another great annual dinner and celebration. This year the event will be held at the lovely Inn at Brunswick Station on Friday, November 16.

As always, there will a cocktail reception starting at 5:30 p.m. at which participants will get the chance to peruse and bid on an array of wonderful silent auction items. At 6:30 we'll be treated to a delicious Inn at Brunswick Station dinner. Following the annual presentation of Chapter awards, we will hear a talk by Sierra Club Mission Outdoors Director Stacy Bare. Stacy, a decorated Iraq combat veteran, will talk about how mountaineering and climbing mitigated his issues associated with post-traumatic stress and addiction. He will also share his vision for Sierra Club's outdoor programs. To read more about Stacy, see the profile on page 8.

For more information and to make reservations visit maine.sierraclub.org or call 207-761-5616 (after October 1).



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Elections: Continued from Page 1

"As governor, Angus King led us into one of the greatest periods of public land acquisition and land conservation in the state's history," notes Maine chapter co-chair, Becky Bartovics. "He's also been an advocate for rail transportation and clean energy solutions—all important Sierra Club priorities."

During his two terms as governor, King also crafted an unprecedented agreement with industry to eliminate dioxin discharges into Maine rivers, which led to the toughest dioxin controls in the nation. He also led a multi-faceted effort involving the other New England states and the eastern Canadian provinces to reduce mercury release levels.

King supports the Obama Administration's new fuel efficiency standards and EPA's authority over toxic mercury from power plants. He also supports the current ban on East Coast offshore drilling, although he will not commit to a permanent ban.

The former governor is also highly skeptical about the proposed east-west highway and supports Sierra Club Maine's rail alternative for moving freight across the state.

King is opposed to a national park in the north woods, stating that he "fears federal control of state lands." While he would not support a feasibility study for a park, he said he might be open to discussions about a narrow scope economic study.

And he seems somewhat undecided regarding the tar sands issue. While expressing concern about pipeline spills and safety, he believes this is mostly an engineering problem. King candidly admitted that he still trying to understand the issue, and is open to being persuaded.

1st District U.S. Representative: Chellie Pingree

Endorsing Chellie Pingree is an easy decision for any environmental group. She has been a longtime and passionate champion for environmental quality and she has a long and distinguished voting record to prove it.

"Congresswoman Pingree has consistently voted to defend cost-effective and common-sense environmental health and safety standards against a barrage of attacks by the anti-environmental Republican ma-

**1st District Congresswoman Chellie Pingree**

"Congresswoman Pingree has consistently voted to defend cost-effective and common-sense environmental health and safety standards against a barrage of attacks by the anti-environmental Republican majority in the House,"

majority in the House," says Sierra Club Maine director Glen Brand.

Pingree has worked hard to protect EPA authority to regulate global warming pollution, Clean Air and Water Act provisions, energy efficiency standards, and funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. She has also supported public investment in clean energy, cutting offshore drilling subsidies, and a review of the controversial Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.

In addition, Pingree helped form the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition in Congress. She also introduced the Spilled Oil Royalty Collection Act that makes sure oil companies pay royalties on all the oil coming out of the ground or the ocean floor.

And beyond the legislative realm, Pingree has consistently been a strong and effective advocate for small green businesses and the importance of sup-

porting and purchasing locally grown food.

2nd District U.S. Representative: Mike Michaud

Like his 1st District colleague, Mike Michaud has been a consistent supporter of clean energy and environmental quality in Congress. He too voted to protect EPA authority to regulate global warming gases as well as the Clean Air and Water Act provisions. And, as with Pingree, he supported public investment in clean energy and the cutting of offshore drilling subsidies.

Michaud has also been a leader in recognizing the dangers of climate change. He believes that we must significantly cut down on the use of fossil fuels "before it's too late." He has consistently fought for investments in clean energy and other solutions to our warming climate.

In line with the Sierra Club, Michaud believes that economic growth and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive. He believes that we must all do everything possible to protect the environment here in Maine and that America must lead the world in advancing global initiatives that will protect the planet.

**2nd District Congressman Mike Michaud (left)**

Many, many thanks to Sierra Club Maine's Political Team for their outstanding work on the 2012 election.

Sierra Club Maine Endorses State Candidates

The Maine Chapter endorses the following candidates for the Maine State House and Senate races. Through past performance, responses to questionnaires and/or interviews, these candidates have shown and expressed a commitment to preserving Maine's environment and protecting Maine's people and wildlife.

Please review the list and consider voting for an endorsed candidate in your district.

Also consider helping your candidate get elected to the State House. To learn how you can help, call the Sierra Club Maine political team at 207-939-2634.

Maine House of Representatives

District # 16: John C. Schneck (D-Bangor)
 District # 35: Brian Hubbell (D-Bar Harbor)
 District # 46: Joan W. Welsh (D-Rockport)
 District # 47: Elizabeth E. Dickerson (D-Rockland)
 District # 51: Michael Gilbert Devin (D-Newcastle)
 District # 67: Seth A. Berry (D-Bowdoinham)
 District # 68: Bettyann W. Sheats (D-Auburn)
 District # 69: Brian D. Bolduc (D-Auburn)
 District # 71: Michael E. Carey (D-Lewiston)
 District # 74: Margaret R. Rotundo (D-Lewiston)
 District # 76: Henry E. M. Beck (D-Waterville)
 District # 79: Sharon Anglin Treat (D-Hallowell)
 District # 93: Sheryl J. Briggs (D-Mexico)
 District # 107: Janice E. Cooper (D-Yarmouth)

District # 109: Anne P. Graham (D-North Yarmouth)
 District # 112: Mary Pennell Nelson (D-Falmouth)
 District # 119: Benjamin M. Chipman (I-Portland)
 District # 121: Kimberly J. Monaghan-Derrig (D-Cape Elizabeth)
 District # 127: Paul Aranson (D-Scarborough)
 District # 128: Jean-Marie Caterina (D-Scarborough)
 District # 141: Edward Parker Legg (D-Kennebunk)
 District # 148: Roberta B. Beavers (D-South Berwick)
 District # 149: Paul D. McGowan (D-York)

Maine State Senate

District # 3: John L. Tuttle (D-Sanford)
 District # 4: David E. Dutremble (D-Biddeford)
 District # 6: James A. Boyle (D-Gorham)
 District # 8: Justin L. Alfond (D-Portland)
 District # 9: Anne M. Haskell (D-Portland)
 District # 12: Martin S. Shuer (I-Windham)
 District # 13: Dennise Dullea Whitley (D-Norway)
 District # 15: John J. Cleveland (D-Auburn)
 District # 16: Margaret M. Craven (D-Lewiston)
 District # 17: Colleen J. Quint (D-Minot)
 District # 19: Seth A. Goodall (D-Richmond)
 District # 20: Christopher K. Johnson (D-Coopers Mills)
 District # 22: Edward J. Mazurek (D-Rockland)
 District # 28: David A. White (D-Bar Harbor)
 District # 30: Emily Ann Cain (D-Orono)
 District # 32: Geoffrey Gratwick (D-Bangor)

Sending a clear message to Northeast governors

Maine Sierrans Travel to Burlington to Protest Tar Sands Oil

On July 29, 52 intrepid members and activists hopped on the Sierra Club Maine-sponsored charter bus to attend a large anti-tar sands oil rally in Burlington, Vermont. They were among the more than 500 people from various groups including 350.Org, the Canadian Stud net Group, the Vermont Workers Center, and Veterans for Peace. World-renowned environmentalist Bill McKibben also made an appearance.

The purpose of the rally was to send a clear and strong message to Northeast Governors and five Canadian Premiers attending a regional summit in Burlington—New Englanders do not want dirty tar sands oil pumped across their region.

Governor Paul LePage did not attend the conference.

The Canadian gas and oil giant Enbridge Corporation is proposing to pump dirty tar sands oil from Canada through Maine to Casco Bay in South Portland harbor using an existing conventional oil pipeline.

Sierra Club Maine co-chair Becky Bartovics and summer intern Chloe Maxim were among the speakers at the rally.

"If this pipeline is built, New England and eastern Canada could be next for a tar sands catastrophe," Bartovics said.

Demonstrators marched downtown, accompanied by a small brass band, to the conference site. They then moved on to Burlington's Battery Park,



Above: Participants at the July 29 tar sands rally march toward Burlington's Battery Park. Below: Sierra Club Maine co-chair Becky Bartovics was among the rally speakers.



where hundreds of people wearing black joined together to form "human oil spill."

Rally participants emphasized that the risks of tar sands oil spills into the Androscoggin, Sebago Lake, and Casco Bay are not acceptable.

The July 29th event also coincided with the two-year anniversary of the catastrophic tar sands oil pipeline spill (more than 1 million gallons) into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. That disaster has cost more than \$750 million to clean up (so far) and endangered the health and livelihoods of people living along the river.

In order to educate the public about this issue, Sierra Club Maine is organizing public forums along the path of the

pipeline route. So far we had well-attended public forums in Bethel and Falmouth, and we are planning another on Peaks Island on October 1, and in South Portland on October 10. We have also met with Maine Representatives Chellie Pingree and Mike Michaud and Maine Senate candidates Angus King and Cynthia Dill to share our concerns and to ask them to publicly oppose the project.

If you're interested in joining our campaign to make Maine and New England Tar Sands Free, please email maine.chapter@sierraclub.org.



Let us know what you'd like to receive

Managing Your Membership

Membership numbers are very important to all local chapters of the Sierra Club. Each member of the Sierra Club is also a member of the local chapter. Sierra Club Maine has many more activists and recipients of our news than we have members. Membership supports your local chapter by increasing our share of national Sierra Club support as well as increasing our impact in our advocacy work. If you aren't a member and would like to join, please go to our website maine.sierraclub.org and push the join button, or join by mail. We would be happy to send you membership information.

Recently we have been hearing from some members and activists that they are not receiving emails about particular interests of theirs, or are not receiving our new E-News. Sierra Club Maine and the Sierra Club in general is very careful not to send information that members have not chosen to receive. To receive particular information about our work in Maine, go to this address to choose options: https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/SPageNavigator/CHP_Maine_Signup.

If you would like to change the information you receive from Sierra Club please email membership.services@sierraclub.org. We welcome new members and would love to include you in our numbers as we move into this exciting fall 2012 season.

Let's demand adequate environmental analysis for the proposed Searsport LPG Tank

Islesboro Island Trust and Thanks but No Tank (a coalition of Maine Residents and Small Business Owners working to save Main Street) have hired Richard A. Clarke of Good Harbor Techmark to conduct a Risk Assessment and Risk Management analysis of the proposed liquefied propane tank on Mack Point in Searsport. The move was in response to the lack of adequate analysis on the part of DCP (Duke ConocoPhillips) Midstream. A legal team with support from nationally renowned law firms has constructed a legal challenge to the Department of Environmental Protection permits, and are preparing federal litigation to overturn the Army Corps' grossly deficient Environmental Assessment.

Sierra Club Maine strongly supports the effort to require adequate environmental analysis, risk analysis, and determination of need. The chapter believes that, if thorough analysis has been provided following the permit application, the project would have been eliminated based on risk and environmental impact.

The proposed Searsport tank would be the largest on the East Coast, and one of the largest cryogenic Liquefied Propane Gas (LPG) bulk storage terminals in the world. The 160 foot, 22 million gallon tank would be the tallest single structure on Penobscot Bay. Its superstructure would be lit at night as would the grounds around the tank. Twenty two acres of coastal wetland and streams would be filled.

Liquefied propane must be kept at 40 degrees below zero (Fahrenheit)—so the tank will be provided with flaring capability to allow pressure within the tank to be relieved. Liquefied propane is highly flammable—according to the Coast Guard it presents risk to all communities along the bay. Federally required "separation distances" would disqualify Mack Point as an LNG (liquefied natural gas) terminal site because private homes, restaurants, and hotels are just a few hundred feet away—within the hazard zones for thermal radiation, pool fire, or explosion. So why wouldn't it also disqualify the location from LPG tank permitting?

The volume of liquefied propane in the proposed tank exceeds total current residential use of propane across the state of Maine. DCP plans to deliver the propane in 40 to 144 tank trucks per day throughout the state on heavily travelled roads. Their application depends upon mutual aid agreements between neighboring towns to respond to any spills or fires that result from the discharge of propane along the routes or at the tank farm.

Hazards exist for all of Penobscot Bay and a moving "exclusion zone" around the tankers will prohibit other vessels, including ferries serving island communities, all manner of fishing and recreational boats, and other commercial vessels, from use of these waters in the vicinity of the tankers. In addition, the Coast Guard review referred to "zones of concern" along this route where disruption and fatalities could occur.

Propane is a fossil fuel that is derived from the process of cracking crude oil. It's not a clean fuel compared to natural gas, which is methane, but a mixture of gases. There is little likelihood that this fuel would be used by Maine residents who switch from oil to gas. That's because it would require a large investment in infrastructure and the current cost per unit of heat of propane is greater than the current unit cost for fuel oil. LPG is considered more hazardous than LNG.

The Planning Board of Searsport has the onerous task of determining whether this application complies with town ordinances, and will determine if the surrounding towns, that would be required to participate in the event of an accident, have standing.

Sierra Club Maine strongly supports efforts of Islesboro Island Trust and Thanks But No Tank and encourages our members to participate in this project. Local environments are best protected when local citizenry participate in the process.

—By Becky Bartovics

Maine Partners
for Clean Energy



Promoting Efficiency &
Smart Energy Solutions

Rockport Teens Organize Green Sneakers Run-to-the-Future

By Matt Clark, *Green Sneakers Teen*

The Green Sneakers Teen group Run-to-the-Future road race on Saturday, August 18 was a big success, with winners including...

- Female Overall – Marybeth Moreno, of New Jersey;
- Male Overall – Jared Todd, of Rockport;
- Male Age Group 30 – 39 – Alex Carter, of Camden;
- Male Age Group 40 – 49 – Steve Frampton of Warren; 2nd place - Hodding Carter, of Camden
- Female age group 50 -59 - Ellen Spring, of Thomaston.

The five-kilometer course started and ended at Graffam Bros. Seafood Market in Rockport. Road race volunteers set up in the parking lot of the Seafood Market, and directed runners towards parking in another adjacent business.

Long before the race, however, much preparation needed to be done. Group members—including Tori Arau, Anabel Carter, Eliza Carter, Helen Carter, Matt Clark, Kiera Haining, Ann Hoffman, Willow Parker, and Ryan Pierce—first identified the need to raise funds to support Green Sneakers' community efforts to bring smart energy solutions to local neighborhoods. The Run-to-the-Future race was their inspiration. They filed the needed town applications, and secured permit signatures (in addition to getting businesses permission for the race). They also thoroughly researched and fulfilled the conditions for hosting a foot race in the towns of Camden



Winner in the male overall category, Jared Todd (far left), of Rockport takes a lead over fellow runners at the Green Sneakers Run-to-the-Future.

and Rockport.

This is not the first community event organized by the Green Sneakers Teens. Last summer, the group, with assistance from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Sierra Club, conducted a community carbon challenge. Green Sneakers members have learned about energy efficiency and the house as a system, in order to educate others about energy-saving opportunities. The primary goal of the group is to implement environmentally-friendly strategies in the community, so as to reduce carbon emissions and our impact on global warming.

Green Sneakers Teen Ryan Pierce said that he joined the teen group because he liked the information and wanted to make a difference.

"Energy efficiency decreases global warming and saves money, too," Ryan said.

Fellow teen group member Matt Clark agreed. "Green Sneakers Project is a marvelous way to become involved with efforts to reduce environmentally-destructive habits and institute solutions that

remedy our current situation," he said.

The purpose of the road race was to inform the public about the Green Sneakers Project in hopes that more citizens in the community—whether from here or away—will support the group. Local homeowners are encouraged to call the group advisor, Nancy Glassman, about any desired home retrofits.

Green Sneakers is the signature project of Maine Partners for Cool Communities, a collaboration of the Maine Council of Churches, Physicians for Responsibility-Maine, and Sierra Club Maine.

The Green Sneakers Project would like to thank all who came to support the cause by running or walking. Thanks also extend to the numerous volunteers—both at the race and behind the scenes—who assisted in the road race preparations, with special thanks to Helen Bonzi, race coordinator; Wendy Buretta, timer; and Geoffrey C. Parker, photographer and poster designer.

They extend special thanks to the environmentally-green business sponsors, including Graffam Bros. Seafood Shack for hosting the race and Efficiency Maine, Lamey Wellehan, Reny's, Sunrise Guide, and RoadID.com, for donating prizes.

Finally, thanks go to the Camden Public Library for hosting the Green Sneakers Teens for two consecutive summers and to Becky Bartovics, of Cider Hill Farm, North Haven, for her generous raffle donation of organic hand dyed and spun wool.

For more information about the Green Sneakers Project please contact Nancy Glassman at 207-322-9147, email greensneakersmc@gmail.com, visit Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Green-Sneakers-Project/>, or go to their website at <http://coolmaine.org/>.

112 coal plants will retire nationwide—Maine and New Hampshire Sierran work together to clean up Portsmouth's Schiller plant.

America is Moving Beyond Coal

A year after the announcement of the partnership between the Sierra Club and Bloomberg Philanthropies, great strides have been made in the effort to retire old and outdated coal-fired plants and replace them with clean energy. To date, the partnership is making progress in reaching the stated goal of retiring a third of the 500 coal-fired power plants in the U.S. by 2020.

"We are clearly witnessing the end of our dependency on coal and the move toward a cleaner energy future," said Michael Bloomberg, whose Bloomberg Philanthropies contributed \$50 million to the Beyond Coal Campaign. "Coal-fired power plants and the pollution they produce—including mercury—are the number one threat to our public health and the environment. This is an issue of the American people's public health versus a narrow special interest."

According to the Clean Air Task Force, getting rid of the pollution from 112 coal-fired power plants will translate into the prevention of 2,166 deaths, 3,426 heart attacks, and 35,210 asthma attacks every year. Further, the U.S. is now on track to meet and even exceed the goal that President Obama set in the Copenhagen Accord, to decrease carbon pollution by 17% below 2005 levels by 2020. Accord-



Sierra Club volunteers (left to right) John Demos, Kimberly Richards, with New Hampshire and Maine Chapter Directors Catherine Corkery and Glen Brand in front of the Schiller dirty coal burning plant in Portsmouth.

ing to a recent report from the International Energy Agency, the U.S. has already seen the largest reduction in carbon pollution of any country, with CO₂ emissions falling by 7.7%, largely due to a decrease in coal use.

"The past year has seen record highs for clean energy development and record lows for dirty coal use," said Michael Brune, Executive Director of the

Sierra Club. "Communities around the country are showing that there is vast demand for clean energy and the jobs that clean energy will provide. Thanks to the efforts of millions of people who are involved in this campaign, we are slashing toxic pollution like mercury that threatens our health, and the U.S. is now leading the world in reducing the carbon pollution that jeopardizes our climate."

In the past year, the campaign has engaged over half a million new activists, submitted a record number of comments to the Environmental Protection Agency, and expanded local campaigns to 40 states. That includes Maine, where York County activists are working with the Maine and New Hampshire Sierra Club chapters to clean up the dirty Schiller Coal Plant.

"It's (Schiller) having a negative impact on human health and has been for polluting our air far too long," notes Sierra Club Maine Director Glen Brand. One of Schiller's three boilers burns biomass while the other two burn coal. The coal boilers release pollution that causes smog and can cause respiratory illness and heart disease.

Maine Woods Team Springs Into Action Against the Proposed East-West Highway

From the moment that Cianbro CEO Paul Vigue began promoting his east-west highway proposal last winter, it became a high priority for our Chapter and its Maine Woods Team. Early last spring the team began a series of meetings to plan strategy against the highway—including a two-day retreat in July in Greenville.

As a result, Sierra Club Maine has published several op-ed pieces as well as letters to the editor. Chapter leaders and activists have appeared on numerous television and radio broadcasts and have been quoted in a number of news stories.

Additionally, the Maine Woods Team recently held the first in a what it hopes will be series of forums on the proposal. The event was held at the Black Bear Inn in Orono on September 19. A highlight of the Orono meeting was the team's new PowerPoint presentation which was produced by Sierra Club Activist and Maine Woods Team consultant, Paul Weiss.

Already 700-plus Mainers have signed the Chapter's petition against the highway. You can join them by visiting maine.sierraclub.org.

All of this has put Sierra Club Maine at the forefront of the east-west highway debate. We are well suited and prepared for that role and we plan to put considerable resources into countering arguments by corporate interests and providing the public with comprehensive and accurate information about this potential threat to our quality of life in Maine.



Members of the Chapter's Maine Woods Team gathered for a retreat at West Branch Pond Camps near Greenville to discuss strategy to stop the proposed east-west highway. Left to right are Jayne Lello, Heather Rorer, Carole Haas, Karen Woodsum, and Jim Frick. At far right is Eric Sterling, who with his wife Mildred, owns the camps. Eric and Mildred are also Sierra Club supporters. Not appearing in photo are team members Ken Cline and Deb Loftus.



Why Aren't We Investing More in Rail Transportation?

As concerned citizens raise questions about the need and logic of a proposed east-west highway, many, including the Sierra Club, are pushing hard to have government and industry increase investment in rail as a more efficient and economical alternative—in Maine and nationwide. Here are just three compelling reasons noted in a 2009 *Washington Monthly* article by Phillip Longman, senior fellow at the New America Institute:

- Today, a single train can move as many containers as 280 trucks while using one-third as much energy—and that's before any improvements to rail infrastructure. In fact, the more you load up a train, the more efficient it becomes compared to a fleet of trucks carrying the same cargo.
- The National Academy of Engineering, the Millennium Institute calculated the likely benefits of an expenditure of \$250 billion to \$500 billion on improved rail infrastructure. It found that such an investment would get 83 percent of all long-haul trucks off the nation's highways by 2030, while also delivering ample capacity for high-speed passenger rail. If high-traffic rail lines were also electrified and powered in part by renewable energy sources, that investment would reduce the nation's carbon emission by 39 percent and oil consumption by 15 percent. It could also leave the nation's economy 10 percent larger by 2030 than it would otherwise be.
- The Environmental Protection Agency calculates that for distances of more than 1,000 miles, a system in which trucks haul containers only as far as the nearest railhead and then transfer them to a train produces a 65 percent reduction in both fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Bangor Daily News east-west highway op-ed from Sierra Club Maine

More Questions than Answers

The momentum for the proposed east-west highway diminished a bit recently with the news that at least one former advocate is backing away from his support and that Governor LePage will now slow down the state-funded \$300,000 financial feasibility study for the project. That's a good idea, because, so far, proponents of the privately-funded highway that would connect New Brunswick and Quebec have been less than forthcoming about their plans.

There's a long list of questions that need answering, not the least of which is why there's a need for so much secrecy regarding the actual route of the highway. We believe that if public money is being spent for a financial feasibility study, then the exact route of the road needs to be made public.

Here are some others questions we'd like answered:

- Why are the private highway proponents discounting upgrading and enhancing Maine's existing east-west rail corridor? Studies clearly document that moving goods by rail is more cost efficient, safer, and cleaner than by truck. Rail transport is particularly good for moving fuel containers, which is a primary goal identified by highway proponents. And upgrading the east-west rail corridor would be a quarter of the cost the proposed \$2 billion highway.
- How can it be that eminent domain will not be used along the corridor, as highway promoters maintain, when the majority of the land along an east-west route is privately owned?
- How will a 220-mile four-lane, high-speed highway that bisects pristine areas of the Maine Woods impact nature-based tourism, recreational activities, and other economic activities that depend on Maine's "wilderness" brand? Does it pose potential threats to snowmobile trail infrastructure, wilderness camps, and the Appalachian Trail?
- What will the "byway impact" be on local communities if new fuel stops and convenience stores draw traffic away from downtowns?
- How would the new highway impact towns such as Newport and Skowhegan that currently draw business from the traditional east-west traffic using Routes 2 and 9?
- Will the proposed "Canadian Connector" threaten Maine's lumber industry by providing a faster, less-costly transport of Canadian wood products to Boston?

These questions don't even begin to address the environmental and quality of life impacts of the proposed highway. How would a road bisecting the Maine Woods (and possibly wider than the Maine Turnpike) affect wildlife migration, rivers and streams, and air quality? What would this major highway look like and what kind of visual and noise pollution would it bring to inhabitants along the route?

Sierra Club Maine is committed to finding out the answers to these and many other questions in the coming months. We are dedicating significant resources to independent assessments of the proposed highway on Maine's environment, people, and economy. But our efforts are seriously inhibited by all the secrecy surrounding the project. Without detailed information on the route location, interchange locations, and environmental mitigation plans, there is no possibility of a thorough, credible, and factual analysis of the real impacts of the project. We urge advocates of the east-west highway to let the people of Maine know what is being planned. Equipped with the facts, we can all decide if this project is worth the cost or whether we should pursue less expensive, more environmentally-friendly alternatives to boost the Maine economy.

By Sierra Club Maine Woods Committee members Ken Cline, Jim Frick, Deb Loftus, Jayne Lello

Helping organizations that help Maine

Sierrans Participate with other State Groups in MaineShare's Virtual Hike and Bike



Nonprofit members and supporters from all over Maine took to the outdoors this summer to participate in MaineShare's virtual Hike and Bike.

What's a "virtual" hike and bike? Well, participants can plan a hike or bike anywhere at a time of their convenience. Through pledges,

participants raise funds for MaineShare

It gives folks the opportunity to join in from your own background or on your favorite trail or bike route. It's the fifth year that MaineShare has sponsored the smaller footprint Hike and Bike, which saves time, paper, fuel, and offers maximum flexibility for participants.

Sierra Club Maine executive committee member Ruth Bettinger was one of the many Hike and Bike participants. She and fellow Sierran Andy Burt re-



Left: Andy Burt takes a break on the way up Bradbury Mountain with fellow Sierran Ruth Bettinger on August 12. The hike helped raise money as part of MaineShare's Hike and Bike.

port helps MaineShare to raise funds for 43 groups working for clean air, safe food and water, and equal rights for all Mainers. These groups are committed to finding and implementing solution to the environmental and human problems facing the state.

MaineShare is efficient, maintaining just two employees. Member groups contribute to the running of Maine-

Share with volunteers. And MaineShare respects donors, who make all decisions about where their funds are designated. For more information visit their website at maineshare.org.

cieved pledges and trekked up Bradbury Mountain on August 12.

And why raise money for MaineShare? The sup-

Films Available for Loan From the Sierra Club Maine Office

Showing a film is a great way for getting like-minded friends and neighbors together and for becoming better informed. Below is a list of films available for loan from the Maine Chapter office.

We also have a step-by-step plan you can follow, including templates for press releases and flyers as well as a list of potential speakers. Just get in touch with us by emailing maine.chaper@sierraclub.org or call 207-761-5616.

Available Films:

- * *American Values, American Wilderness*
- * *Arctic Refuge Sutra: Teachings from an Endangered Landscape*
- * *Bag It*
- * *Being Caribou*
- * *Building a Resilient Coast: Maine Confronts Climate Change*
- * *Carbon Nation*
- * *Coal Country*
- * *A Community Guide to Environmental Health*
- * *Conserving our Ocean Legacy: A National Priority*
- * *A Crude Awakening: The Oil Crash*
- * *Earth to America*
- * *Efficiency Maine's The Green Team Report*
- * *The 11th Hour*

- * *The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream*
- * *Everything's Cool*
- * *Fighting Goliath: Texas Coal Wars*
- * *Flow*
- * *Frogs: The Thin Green Line*
- * *Frozen Planet*
- * *Gasland*
- * *Green fire*
- * *Home*
- * *Hot Coffee*
- * *An Inconvenient Truth*
- * *The Incredible Journey of the Butterflies*
- * *Independent America: The Two-Lane Search for Mom & Pop*
- * *Irreplaceable: Wildlife in a Warming World*
- * *Katahdin*
- * *Kilowatt Ours*
- * *The Last Mountain*
- * *Maquilapolis*
- * *Monumental: David Brower's Fight for Wild America*
- * *Mother Nature's Child*
- * *Mother: Caring for 7 Billion*
- * *The Next Industrial Revolution: William McDonough, Michael Braungart and the Birth of the Sustainable Economy*
- * *Nicotine Bees*

- * *Nobelity*
- * *Northrunner*
- * *Oil on Ice*
- * *Our Children At Risk*
- * *Out of Balance*
- * *The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*
- * *Power Struggle*
- * *Revenge of the Electric Car*
- * *Sam Suds and the Case of PVC, the Poison Plastic*
- * *A Sea of Change*
- * *A Sense of Wonder*
- * *Sierra Club Chronicles: 9-11 Forgotten Heroes*
- * *Sierra Club Chronicles: Season One*
- * *Sierra Club TV Appearances 2007*
- * *Sierra Summit 2005*
- * *Sprawling from Grace*
- * *The Story of Stuff*
- * *Thirst*
- * *Toast*
- * *Too Hot Not to Handle*
- * *Transforming Energy*
- * *Trashed*
- * *True Cost of Food*
- * *Vanishing of the Bees*
- * *Who Killed the Electric Car?*
- * *Wild Versus Wall*

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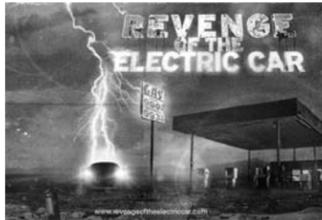
Attention Sierra Club Members

The Sierra Club Maine 2012 executive committee ballot is available online at: maine.sierraclub.org

Please take a few moments to vote!

Thank you!

Upcoming Events



September 28
"Revenge of the Electric Car"
 Kennebunk UU Church, 114 Main St,
 Kennebunk, 207-985-3700
 6:30 pm Coffee and Dessert, 7:00 pm Film
 and Discussion

About the film: In "Revenge of the Electric Car," director Chris Paine takes his film crew behind the closed doors of Nissan, GM, and the Silicon Valley start-up Tesla Motors to chronicle the story of the global resurgence of electric cars.

The post film discussion will be led by Marc Lausier, owner of a Nissan Leaf and a member of Plug In America. A Nissan Leaf will be available for viewing before the film.

October 14
"A Thirsty World"
 Reel Pizza, Kenneback Place, Bar Harbor
 2 p.m.

About the film: Today, against a backdrop of sharply increasing demand, growth in the world population and the growing impact of an unsettled climate, water has become one of the most precious natural resources of our planet. "A Thirsty World" attempts to bring together Yann Arthus-Bertrand's trademark aerial view of the world with the harsh, everyday reality of all those people who are deprived of water and may even die for lack of it, the people engaged in the daily struggle to find water, purify it or bring it to those who need it.

We will be celebrating 2 Maine environmental heroes- Edmund Muskie and the Clean Water Act, passed with his efforts in 1972 and Rachel Carson and the 50th anniversary of Silent Spring.

Following the film, Glen Brand, Executive Director Maine Sierra Club and Ken Cline, Environmental law professor at COA will speak!

October 21
Downeast Book Club
 75 State St. Ellsworth.
 2 p.m.
 Our first book is *Becoming Animal, a New Earthly Cosmology* by David Abram. Contact Deb Loftus, 207-288-8111, loftusdw@roadrunner.com

October 26
"Betting the Farm"
 Kennebunk UU Church, 114 Main St, Kennebunk, 207-985-3700
 6:30 pm Coffee and Dessert, 7:00 pm Film and Discussion



About the film: After being dropped by their main dairy processor, a group of nine Maine organic dairy farmers tries to launch a new milk company, Maine's Own Organic Milk. But in MOO Milk's first year, each of the farmers is facing mounting debts and losing money every week. Can the new company succeed, and fast enough to save them?

There will be a question and answer period with the filmmakers, Cecily Pingree and Jason Mann, following the film.

November 16
Chapter Annual Dinner and Gathering
 Inn at Brunswick Station, 4 Noble St, Brunswick, Maine.
 5:30 p.m.

Come join us for dinner served in a warm inn setting. Share an opportunity to learn what the Maine Chapter has been working on right here in Maine and enjoy a dynamic presentation by Stacy Bare the new Director of Sierra Club's Mission Outdoors and decorated Iraq War combat veteran.

As usual we will have the silent auction (a great place to pick up holiday presents). Contact the Maine Chapter office, 207-761-5616, maine.chapter@sierraclub.org

November 30
"Wilderness and Spirit, A Mountain Called Katahdin"
 Kennebunk UU Church, 114 Main St, Kennebunk, 207-985-3700
 6:30 pm Coffee and Dessert, 7:00 pm Film and Discussion
 About the film: "Wilderness and Spirit, A Mountain Called Katahdin" captures the spirit of Katahdin and the people who have been drawn to Maine's "Great Mountain."The film explores ways of thinking about the wilderness and how people from many walks of life, past to the present, have found spiritual solace and strength in this mountain called Katahdin.

Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club

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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."

**THANK YOU
 SIERRA CLUB MAINE VOLUNTEERS!**

Being a Sierra Club volunteer is fun and rewarding! Just contact Heather at maine.chapter@sierraclub.org

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A great way to keep up with Maine environmental issues and Sierra Club activities.

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War and the Healing Powers of Nature

Sierra Club Mission Outdoors Director and Iraq War combat veteran Stacy Bare to speak at the Chapter's annual dinner on November 16.



Growing up in a military family in eastern South Dakota, the Sierra Club's new director of Mission Outdoors Stacy Bare never imagined being anything but a soldier. And he did just that, eventually rising to the rank of Army captain and serving in both Bosnia and Iraq.

After receiving the Bronze Star in Baghdad during the Iraq War, Stacy returned to the United States and completed his masters degree in city planning and urban design at the University of Pennsylvania.

It was then that he first began his struggle with symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These included depression, addiction, and even suicidal thoughts. To mitigate the affliction, Stacy turned to the outdoors—specifically rock-climbing and mountaineering.

"Life experience has left me believing in the healing power of nature," he now says. "Climbing gives me insight that has transistioned back into my life. I'd be dead or in prison if it weren't for the 'vertical world.'"

In the outdoors, Stacy found that he could truly live in the moment and not be overwhelmed or distracted by the constant stream of information and frustration coming at you when you're "in town."

"Whether it's a walk up to Mt. Sanitas on the Front Range of Colorado or climbing Mt. Rainer, every climb is different," he says. "The conditions, the people, and the route will always make each climb a temporal piece of art that exists only in that moment. I never come away without having learned something and accessing a very deep part of myself."

With the help of his outdoor experiences, Stacy was able to rebuild his life. One thing he wanted to do was to help other veterans experience the healing benefits of outdoor activities. He co-founded and was the executive director of Veterans Expeditions in Boulder, Colorado. That led to his first Sierra Club position as Military Families and Veterans Initiative Coordinator.

Stacy says he has witnessed "incredible results"



Stacy Bare on his way up of Mt. Rainier this last July. His group successfully summited the Camp Shurman side of the mountain.

from his work with outdoor programs for veterans.

"Where a handful of pills have failed, the outdoors has worked," he says. "Getting veterans outdoors saves lives. It creates a sense of mission and camaraderie. In short, the outdoors can provide the closest thing to the positive aspects of the military experience."

And Stacy believes the same positive aspects of the outdoors can benefit all kinds of people.

That's his vision for Mission Outdoors.

"I want the Sierra Club to be the organization America looks for getting into the outdoors," he explains. "And I want our volunteer leaders and programs to look like America—meaning strong

participation and leadership from Latinos, black Americans, white Americans, Asian Americans, recent immigrants, and veterans. I also want youth to be able to find a place at the Sierra Club table and be trained as stewards of the lands we love. By 2020, I'd like to see one million user days or more attributed to Sierra Club outdoor programs."

He adds that he wants to build on the strong, one-hundred year foundation of Sierra Club volunteer leadership and "prepare us for the next few hundred years."

"Americans don't know how amazing our outdoor programs are and we need to tell them!"

Sierra Club's Stacy Bare co-leads fellow vets on Glacier National Park excursion

America the Beautiful: While You Were at War

Sierra Club Mission Outdoors, in partnership with Extreme Ice Survey (EIS), introduced eight United States military veterans to climate change exploration through a seven-day excursion in Glacier National Park in Montana. The climate reconnaissance team was led by Iraq War veteran and Sierra Club Mission Outdoors Director Stacy Bare, EIS Director and filmmaker James Balog and world class mountaineer and The North Face athlete Conrad Anker.

The expedition took place August 11–18, 2012 and was filmed for a documentary to be released next year. Military veterans have a unique perspective on what it means to protect, preserve and defend the nation. Participants were selected by the Sierra Club based on combat and service experiences in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other U.S. conflicts. A hands-on outdoor experience, the group set out to explore whether or not climate change is taking place by taking ice measurements and core samples, and mapping fast-disappearing glaciers. However, due to an unexpected excess volume of snow, they instead focused on comparing their observations to data collected in 2006.

The group also climbed a major peak along the Continental Divide.

"As service members, we fought for our land, our waterways, and our environment, as much as we fought for anything else," said Bare. "This mission solidifies the relationship between serving our country in uniform and protecting the land."

"It was a privilege and an eye-opening experience to guide a team of veterans through Glacier National Park," said Conrad Anker, The North Face athlete. "Climbing involves a heavy dose of trust and team work, and it was a cathartic experience for everyone on the mountain. The vets clearly enjoyed being part of a small team in a challenging, non-combat situation. Hopefully more vets will get outdoors and find solace in the land they fought to defend."

Don't miss Stacy Bare at our
annual dinner and
gathering

Friday, November 16

The Inn at
Brunswick Station

Also:
Cocktail Reception
Great Dinner
Silent Auction
& Chapter Awards

It all starts at 5:30 p.m.
Make your reservations
(after October 1) by visiting
maine.sierraclub.org or by calling
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