



Maine Sierran

Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club

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Eliot residents ask EPA to investigate emissions from Schiller Station in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Of Democracy and Clean Air

For decades, the residents of Eliot, Maine have suspected that they were taking the brunt of the pollution from Schiller Station, a power plant just across the river in Portsmouth. In early June, the town sent a clear message that it would no longer put up with the unhealthy air—voting overwhelmingly in favor of filing a petition with the Environmental Protection Agency to investigate emissions coming from Schiller. In late August, Eliot officially filed its petition with the EPA in Washington. The agency is now required to rule on the petition by the end of October. Prior to making its decision, it will hold a public hearing on the issue.

“The residents of Eliot have sent a clear message that they want the Schiller dirty coal-burning power plant cleaned up,” said Glen Brand, Sierra Club Maine director. “We look forward to the EPA’s findings and hope that it won’t be long before Eliot and towns around it can breathe easier. The plant poses a health threat not only to Eliot, but to towns throughout York County.”

It was Sierra Club Maine that brought the Good



At an event announcing the release of the Sierra Club study of Schiller Station (in the background) sulfur dioxide emissions are (left to right): South Berwick resident John Demos, New Hampshire Sierra Club director Catherine Corkery, Eliot resident Kimberly Richards, and Sierra Club Maine director Glen Brand.

Neighbor petition option to the attention of Eliot residents. The Chapter commissioned a study modeled after EPA protocols showing that Schiller is threatening the health of Maine residents. Exposure to sulfur dioxide for even five minutes can trigger asthma attacks and respiratory distress—a serious problem for the more than 3,500 kids in York County. One Eliot resident who responded to the study was Kimberly Richards of the Citizens for Clean Air. With Sierra Club Maine guidance and encouragement she and a handful of other town residents began a successful campaign to raise awareness of the issue.

“The air modeling, the study, shows clearly that Eliot takes the brunt of that pollution,” Richards said. “Now we’re going to ask the EPA to come and

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Growing Number of Maine Small Businesses Oppose an East/West Highway



Patrick McGowan

The proposed east/west highway across the state of Maine would not only be devastating to the Maine Woods environment, it could be devastating for hundreds of small Maine businesses along routes 1, 2, and 201.

That message was brought to the Maine Legislature Transportation Committee this past spring by Maine Businesses Against the East-West Highway. A representative of that group, Chuck Peabody, owner of a whitewater rafting company in the Forks, presented the legislature with a list of 125 businesses that had signed up against the highway proposal. Since that time the list has grown to almost 200.

“When you talk with these people and hear what they have to say, they’re universally against it,” Peabody stated at a news conference held by Sierra Club Maine. He added that he thought the highway would have a major negative impact on his own company that has run the Forks for 31 years. Maine Businesses Against the East-West Highway joined environmental groups and private citizens in speaking out against the highway at the Transportation Com-

mittee hearing. At the end of the day, the committee voted to kill a previously approved \$300,000 feasibility study for the highway.

The proposal includes plans for a privately-owned 220-mile four-lane toll road from Calais to Coburn

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Public hearing held on Maine DEP plan to opt out of ozone agreement.

Are We Really Considering Lowering Air Quality?

A plan by the LePage administration to exempt Maine from a multi-state anti-smog agreement has spurred a debate between environmentalists and some Maine business interests and state officials.

That debate heated up at a Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) public hearing on September 10 in Augusta.

The DEP plan would ask for an exemption from the Ozone Transport Region agreement—an agreement that includes eastern states from Maryland to Maine. Under the agreement, new or retrofitted plants are required to meet the most stringent standards. It also requires plants to purchase offset credits for emissions.

The states collaborated on the attempt to reduce emissions because ozone doesn’t recognize borders and can travel to affect people far from its source. Ozone is closely linked to a number of respiratory problems, including asthma.

At the public hearing, environmentalists, including Sierra Club Maine director Glen Brand, argued that backing out of the anti-ozone agreement would be a threat to Maine’s health—especially for children and the elderly.

“Maine’s air is not as healthy as it should or could be,” said Ed Miller, senior vice president for public policy at the American Lung Association.

“In some cases ozone levels are as high as possible without triggering the EPA’s nonattainment status. We do not believe Maine people want to

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Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club
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live in the unhealthiest environment allowed by law." Miller explained that ozone layers should not exceed 60-70 parts per billion. That's not the current federal standard, but if it were, Maine would not be in compliance or what is termed nonattainment. Indeed the Obama Administration is considering new air quality rules which could knock Maine out of compliance.

"Rather than looking for ways to weaken air quality standards, the Maine DEP should be preparing now to meet the forthcoming stronger federal ozone 8-hour standard, likely to be set between 60 and 70 ppb," Brand said in his testimony.

"According to 2010 to 2012 EPA data, two monitoring sites in Maine exceeded 70 ppb, which may put Hancock and York counties into nonattainment."

Mark Cone, director of the Bureau of Air Quality argued that since 2008 Maine has fallen under the federal attainment limits for ozone. And representatives of the pulp and paper industry stressed that the DEP proposal was needed to spur growth in the industry. They also stressed that purchasing expensive offsets for emissions can "wipe out any potential return on investment."

In addition to health concerns, the LePage plan could jeopardize the whole Ozone Transport Agreement.

"If we (Maine) backs out of the agreement, it would send the wrong signal on making progress toward air quality," said Joan Saxe, co-chair of Sierra Club Maine. "It would be a step backward. And we could be opening the door for other states to make similar requests."

If other states sought and were granted exemptions to the OTR, Brand added, it would be much more difficult for Maine to meet the anticipated, stronger ozone health standards.

"Maine is geographically located in what is commonly called the tailpipe of the United States," Brand explained. "Environmental pollutants carried by the Gulf Stream and air patterns lead to high levels of airborne particulate, smog, smoke, and soot."

The EPA, which has given preliminary approval to the state of Maine request, will make a final determination later in the fall. The deadline for public comment is October 3.

200 gather for Sebago Lake rally

Summer Heat: Saying no to a Tar Sands Oil Pipeline

On July 19, Sierra Club co-sponsored with 350 Maine a fun summer event to protect Sebago Lake from dirty tar sands oil. Some 200 activists gathered on the shore of the lake for music, a picnic lunch, and a kayak and inner tube flotilla to send the strong message that Mainers do not want tar sands oil pumped through the state and just a few hundred feet from Sebago Lake, the clean drinking water source for Greater Portland.

The event also marked the third anniversary of a tar sands spill at the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. That spill was caused by a pipeline failure.

Climate change pioneer Bill McKibben was among those who addressed the gathering. He told the activists that their efforts are working.

"Two years ago when they started building the pipeline, everybody said it was a done deal," McKibben said. "They haven't built it yet...I think we are stopping a lot of this insanity."

Speakers also called upon the Maine congressional delegation to seek full environmental review of any pipeline proposal in Maine. The message to political leaders is that tar sands oil is much more corrosive than conventional crude and poses a greater risk for a spill. And tar sands oil is dirty—burning more of this oil taken from western Canada will pump increased levels of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, accelerating climate change.

On November 5th, South Portland citizens have a great opportunity to pass a local anti-tar sands ordinance. We encourage you to help the Protect South Portland Campaign by volunteering to canvass, phone bank, and help get out the vote. Big Oil is gearing up their misinformation campaign, so no matter where you live please help in this David versus Goliath effort to keep tar sands oil from flowing through Maine.

(Photo courtesy of 350.org)

2013 Legislative Update

The Good and the Bad from Augusta



The 2013 Maine Legislative Session brought good and not-so-good news for protecting Maine's environment and public health. Thanks go out to Sierra Club supporters like you who emailed, called and met with their state representatives about legislation impacting our environ-

ment. Thanks!

The good news:

- A bill for taxpayer funding for a financial feasibility study for the proposed East-West highway and energy corridor was rescinded.
- A resolve that state agencies must have a full opportunity to evaluate "the potential impacts to the State's environment, small communities, and existing economies along any proposed route" for an East-West highway, regardless of whether or not it is a private project.
- A bill to restore the passage of alewives (river herring) to the St. Croix River.
- An increase in energy efficiency program funding that de-politicizes energy efficiency funding decisions.
- Creation of a new recycling program for unused household paint.
- A bill to phase out the use of toxic bisphenol-A (BPA) in baby formula packaging and infant food packaging.
- Reduction of the carbon pollution cap for power plants under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) by 45% and directing the majority of RGGI funds to be used for energy efficiency programs.
- A bill to label food with genetically modified organisms (but the law only applies when at least five contiguous states including Maine pass similar labeling requirements).
- A bill to re-establish the position of director for the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program that was eliminated by the LePage Administration two

years ago.

- Expanding an existing restriction on the use of lead sinkers and jigs by anglers to protect loons from lead poisoning.
- Directing the Maine Department of Transportation to pursue funding sources for engineering the passenger rail service between Portland and Auburn.

Also on the good news side were the number of anti-environmental bills defeated, including attempts

to: allow billboards in Maine; reduce protections for vernal pools, wading bird habitat, and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway; give taxpayer dollars to developers for obeying environmental and land use laws (so called "takings" bills); repeal the state's energy efficiency building code; and allow loopholes in Maine's shoreland zoning law.

The not-so-good news:

- The bill strengthening Maine's mineral mining law to protect water quality was defeated by one vote in the Senate, after passing the House by a 42-vote margin.
- The Omnibus Energy Bill could lead to greater use and dependence on natural gas in Maine.
- Governor LePage vetoed a bill to restart a state climate adaptation planning process (which was stopped by the LePage administration two years ago).
- The Governor vetoed a bill requiring major food manufacturers to disclose their use of BPA in the linings of cans and jars.
- The Governor vetoed a bill that would have required the DEP to study the environmental and public health and safety risks associated with pumping and transporting dirty tar sands oil through Maine.
- The Governor vetoed the restoration of the Land and Water Resources Council, which helps to facilitate coordination among Maine's natural resource agencies.
- A bill to reinstate a uniform state energy and building code was defeated by one vote.
- The merger of the Department of Agriculture with the Department of Conservation will move forward.



Building support for South Portland tar sands vote.

On September 21 a group of concerned Maine citizens gathered on Casco Bay Bridge in South Portland as part of a nationwide rally against transporting dirty tar sands oil through the America.

All across the country people turned out to "Draw the Line" on Keystone XL, in more than 200 rallies coast-to-coast.

The South Portland rally urged President Obama to deny a permit for Keystone XL Pipeline, and expressed support for the anti-tar sands ordinance on the November 5 ballot in South Portland.

"To protect our climate from further disruption and chaos, and to protect pipeline communities like South Portland, tar sands oil needs to stay in the ground in Canada," said Glen Brand, director of Sierra Club's Maine.

Tar sands oil is more corrosive and produces three to four times more greenhouse gases as conventional oil.

An existing pipeline from Montreal to Portland Harbor could be modified to bring tar sands oil into South Portland.

“I Will Act on Climate”

Rallies in Bangor and Portland bring out support for President Obama’s new carbon reduction plans.

Policy makers, politicians, and business people stood with environmental activists in Bangor and Portland in early August in support of President Obama’s proposed climate change policies.

The rallies were part of a 46-state tour of the “I Will Take Action on Climate” bus, which made stops in the two Maine cities.

Among the speakers in Bangor were representatives of Maine’s solar industry, an organic farmer, a researcher from UMaine’s Climate Change Institute, and a medical doctor. Also addressing the rally were state senators Emily Cain and Geoff Gratwick. The Portland event was highlighted by talks from Maine’s two U.S. Representatives, Chellie Pingree and Mike Michaud. Sierra Club Maine director, Glen Brand also addressed the approximately 100 people at the rally.

The speakers emphasized the threat climate change poses to Maine and the great potential economic and environmental benefits of investment in clean energy.

A major part of “acting” on climate is rallying support for President Obama’s climate proposals.

They call for greater limits on carbon pollution, infrastructure improvements to deal with the effects of climate change, and major new investments in clean energy solutions. Please take time to contact Senator Collins and Senator King’s offices to let them know you support action on climate change.



Left: Among the speakers who addressed the climate rally at the Bangor Riverfront in early August were Maine Senators Emily Cain and Geoff Gratwick. The stops in Maine were part of a 46-state bus tour to build support for President Obama’s climate proposals.

Below: Sierra Club Maine director Glen Brand (far right) addresses the “I Will Act on Climate” rally in Portland. Behind Glen is Vanessa Pike of the Greater Portland Convention & Visitors Bureau. To his right are Congressman Mike Michaud, Portland Mayor Michael Brennan, and Congresswoman Chellie Pingree.



White House Climate Action Plan

EPA Proposes New Carbon Pollution Standards for Future Power Plants

In mid-September, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed Clean Air Act standards to cut carbon pollution from new power plants in order to combat climate change and improve public health. In addition, the EPA has initiated broad-based outreach and direct engagement with state, tribal, and local governments, industry and labor leaders, non-profits, and others to establish carbon pollution standards for existing power plants and build on state efforts to move toward a cleaner power sector.

The power plant proposals are the first major step of President Obama’s Climate Action Plan.

The proposed standards will ensure that new power plants are built with available clean technology to limit carbon pollution, a requirement that is in line with investments in clean energy technologies that are already being made in the power industry. Additionally, these standards provide flexibility by allowing sources to phase in the use of some of these technologies, and they ensure that the power plants of the future use cleaner energy technologies.

Sierra Club Maine joined a number of other Maine environmental groups in praising the EPA action.

“We applaud the President for setting this historic health and clean air standard, and encourage the administration to move forward with strong carbon pollution rules for existing power plants too,” said Glen Brand, Sierra Club Maine Director.

The standards announced today are the first federal standards ever to limit carbon pollution from power plants that are built in the future. Power plants are the largest source of carbon pollution in the nation.

EPA administrator Gona McCarthy also expressed confidence that the new standards will spur greater clean energy development.

President Obama’s proposals need our support.

White House Steps up on Climate



In late June President Barack Obama announced his administration’s next steps for building a legacy of action to fight the climate crisis. The plan includes new energy efficiency standards for federal buildings and appliances, scales up responsible clean energy production on public lands with an ambitious new commitment to power 6 million homes by 2020, and uses the full authority of the Clean Air Act to cut carbon pollution from power plants.

Sierra Club Maine enthusiastically supports the President’s Climate Action Plan. By confronting climate change and the threat of carbon pollution, President Obama is taking the lead on the most serious environmental crisis humanity has ever

faced. As residents of Maine at the “end of the tailpipe” we know all too well the serious health issues that result from air pollution, as seen in Maine’s asthma rate and other indicators. By empowering the EPA to close the loop on carbon pollution, there will be a dramatic improvement in air quality.

The President’s plan is what the Sierra Club and our coalition partners have been working to achieve—and we applaud him for taking action on this issue which is destabilizing our climate and threatening our economy.

“This is the change Americans and Sierra Club Maine members have been waiting for on climate,” said Becky Bartovics, Maine Chapter Co-Chair. “We look forward to a day in the future when the administration sees fracked gas for what it is - a fossil fuel of the past and a threat to public health. Nevertheless, the President’s plan gives us hope that he will cement his climate legacy and protect future generations by ending destructive oil drilling in the Arctic, rejecting dangerous nukes, halting mountaintop removal, abandoning dirty fossil fuels in favor of clean energy—and by making the critically important decision to reject the dirty and dangerous Keystone XL pipeline.”

Reducing our state’s dependence on fossil fuel by promoting efficiency, efficient appliance standards, and renewable power will create more “green” jobs, will increase comfort of homeowners, will create healthier communities and will improve our economy. Investing our dollars locally to promote efficiency and alternatives keeps those dollars in state. Fossil fuel dependence only robs our already thin coffers every day. The President is creating a legacy that his daughters and our children can be proud of. It’s a legacy we have been working for in our Cool Communities programs around the state, encouraging municipalities to invest in efficiency, and homeowners to do the same. It has been proven that efficiency work out-performs the stock market hands down. Our recent support of the Town of Eliot to investigate the air quality problems associated with a coal-fired power plant in New Hampshire will be supported by the President’s action. Putting hope into action is the way Forward on Climate!

Please visit our website at maine.sierraclub.org to send President Obama a message of support.

Maine Partners
for Clean Energy



Promoting Efficiency &
Smart Energy Solutions

Program Challenges Girls to Apply Science and Technology to Real World Problems

Sierra Club sponsors efficiency project

This summer a group of high school girls from Portland and Windham had a special learning opportunity at the Regional Education Alternative Learning School (REAL School) in Falmouth. Americorps teachers worked with the students as part of a Girls Summer STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Experience.

The three-week program combined the learning of basic scientific principles with a practical project inspired by a challenge from a community partner.

"The challenge required teams to come up with a creative new idea, product, or system that would solve a real world problem," explained Americorps teacher Christie Van Kanegan.

One community partner was Sierra Club Maine and its Green Sneakers Program which challenged a team of students from Casco Bay High School, Deering High School, and Portland High School to develop a project to help local homes increase their energy efficiency and lower their carbon footprint. Chapter co-chair, Joan Saxe joined Guy Marsden from Woolwich and Richard Burbank and Jesse Davis of Evergreen Home Performance in helping students learn about residential energy efficiency.

Team members decided to build interior storm windows to help improve efficiency in low-income homes. For many of the students, it was their first experience with drills and hammers. A CAPSTONE



An Americorps teacher works with Girls Summer Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Experience students on a community challenge project at the REAL School in Falmouth. at Sierra Club Maine was a participating group, challenging a team of students to help increase energy efficiency in local homes.

event held at UNUM in South Portland showcased the students' final products. Sierra Club Maine co-chairs, Joan Saxe and Becky Bartovics attended the event.

"Using these projects to respond to real-world

solutions really engaged the students," noted Joan Saxe. "Hats off to the entire STEM program for the excellent work they're doing to expand science education for girls."

Introducing Green Sneakers Mid-coast coordinator Amy Peterson



The Green Sneakers Mid-coast project welcomes Amy Peterson as the new community outreach coordinator for the area. Currently a member of the North Haven Community, Amy hit the ground running in late spring when she organized students for the Future Homeowners or Green Teen effort. Amy is originally from Freeport but now

makes her home on North Haven. She has a masters degree in teaching from Hobart and William Smith Colleges and comes to the Green Sneakers program from the University of New England where she was an adjunct professor. At UNE she also assisted college seniors in transitioning into post-college life.

Sharing ideas on residential energy efficiency

The Omnibus Energy Bill recently signed into law creates opportunities for new programs that will dramatically reduce residential heating costs and also create new jobs.

Three stakeholder meetings in Augusta, with Cablevision to Portland and Orono, allowed auditors, contractors, renewable energy providers, and the public to weigh in on the implementation of the

expanded access to financing measures soon to be available through Efficiency Maine. This includes the allocation of 35 percent of the RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative) funds to be dedicated to reducing residential heating demand. Sierra Club Maine and the Cool Communities Program signed on to a letter of recommendation that many auditors and contractors helped to establish.

Among the recommendations were that energy audits be conducted by a BPI-qualified company or advisor. Incentive programs should be performance based, expand access to financing measures, simplify paperwork, and have a robust quality assurance and oversight program with third party verification.

Unlocking American Efficiency: Economic and commercial power of investing in energy efficient buildings

In May, United Technologies released an important report regarding the benefits of energy efficiency. Brian Robinson, mid-coast Green Sneakers advisor and vice president of Evergreen Home Performance made the following comment on the report:

"This is a summary of the tremendous opportunity that exists right now should we choose to take advantage of it. I especially like that it provides a convincing rationale for why we should make these investments right now, regardless of the environmental benefits. In this way it may serve to educate and motivate even those that may not be influenced by the impacts of climate change."

You can read the report by visiting: <http://assets.fiercemarkets.com/public/sites/energy/reports/>

No Idling Activist

Martha Crockett opened the Smarties Child Care Center in Windham last February. Dedicated to providing a clean environment for kids, she contacted Sierra Club Maine's Joan Saxe to get information and resources on SC's no-idling program. She posted the no-idling sign (above) and provided handout sheets for parents.

"I understand parents wanting to keep their car running so it's warm for the kids," she says. "However exhaust comes through the doors and can aggravate kids with breathing issues."



On The Maine Woods

By Sierra Club member Susan van Alsenoy

*The Maine woods, as many know,
Belong not to Maine, or imaginary lines,
But are delineated by lots of used-to-be pines –
White man's surveying being for show.*

*Mr. Thoreau, who loved wilderness, found the woods
Of Concord, even Walden, too tame,
Having been trampled before by others who came
Leaving houses and roads where wildflowers once stood.*

*So he sailed the steamer from Boston to Bangor,
Hiring a first-nation guide in Old Town,
And paddled with others, up rivers and down,
To see what ways less trodden might have in store.*

*But while there were stretches of forested lands,
It never took long to find the sad signs
Of man's rape of pristine stands of white pine,
Scarring rivers and lakes with stumps and stonedams.*

*While some love the trees
For the money they bring,
Others prefer the music they sing,
The rich crave profit, others cry pleas.*

*Henry made lists of all he crossed
So now we are able to measure
What remains of this sylvan treasure
When it's our turn to tally up profit and loss.*

Senator King Sounds Warning about Inaction on Climate Change.



In a major speech on climate change to the U.S. Senate, Maine Senator Angus King emphasized that the time for procrastination is over.

King presented convincing data showing that carbon levels are reaching historical levels.

The Senator expressed particular concern about the future of the Maine lobster industry in the face of warming water temperatures in the Gulf of Maine.

“The lobster makes up about 70 percent to 80 percent of our fisheries’ value, and what’s happening in Maine is that as the water gets warmer, the lobsters go north,” said King,

“The lobster makes up about 70 percent to 80 percent of our fisheries’ value, and what’s happening in Maine is that as the water gets warmer, the lobsters go north,” said King,

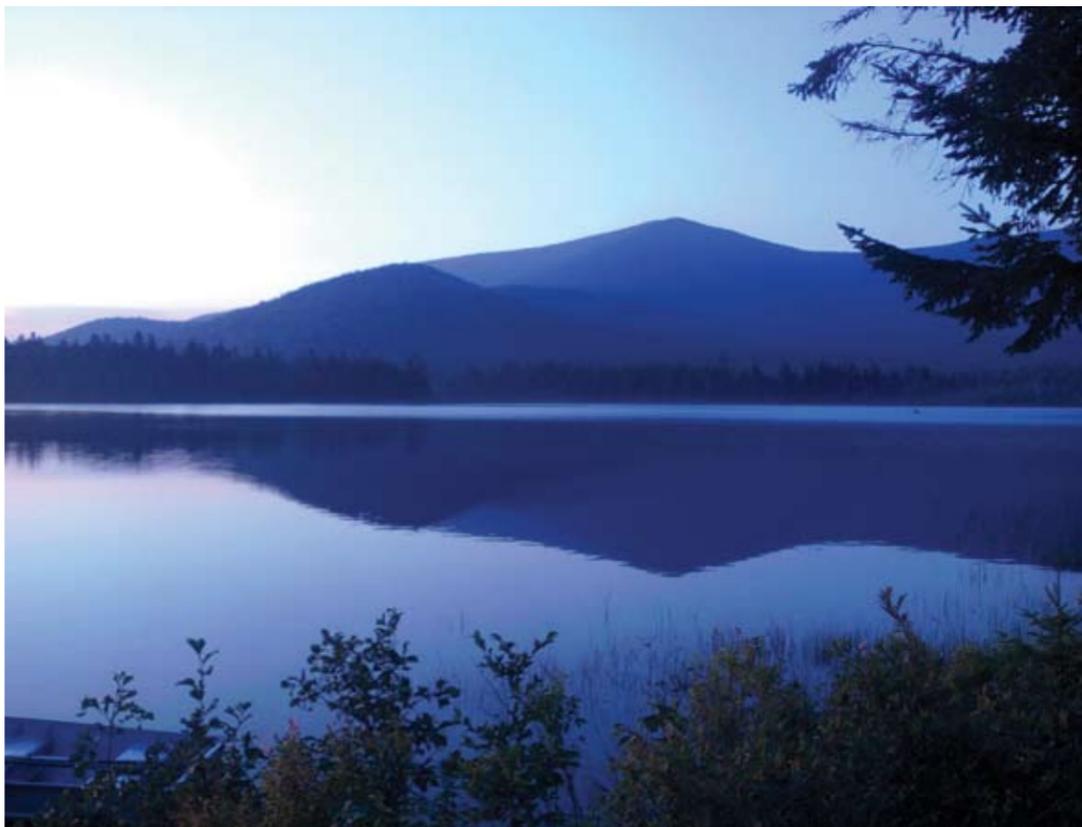
He pointed to what has happened to the industry in states like Rhode Island and Connecticut because of warming water temperatures.

King warned that inaction on climate change could lead to a catastrophic collapse of the lobster industry, not in the far distant future, but within decades.

“They were doing great in Rhode Island and Connecticut until the temperature started to kill them off,” said King. “We certainly hope it won’t happen [in Maine], but there’s a danger of a collapse and that’s what’s happened to our south. The lobster fishery in southern New England has essentially collapsed.”

Speaking on behalf of Sierra Club Maine, Chapter Director Glen Brand praised King’s speech, particularly because it laid out the climate change argument so clearly.

“Senator King is right that it’s urgent to set aside partisan bickering and delay, and begin reducing carbon pollution through energy efficiency and carbon standards for power plans, as President Obama’s climate plan has put forth,” said Brand in a prepared release.



A view of White Cap Mountain from across West Branch Pond. Photograph by Karen Woodsum.

Maine Woods Campaign News

Exciting New Land Protection in the 100-mile Wilderness

While meeting at West Branch Pond Camps in late August, in view of the beautiful White Cap Mountain range, The Maine Woods program team of volunteers and staff learned of an exciting new development for the 100-mile Wilderness. To cap off the significance of the momentum created by the 100-Mile vision set by Sierra Club Maine, the Forest Society of Maine has announced a purchase and sale agreement for the Gulf Hugas/White Cap Mountain Project in the heart of the 100-Mile Wilderness. It is 14,000 acres of priority forestlands, river frontage and mountain peaks to be permanently protected. With this purchase, over 600,000 acres of conservation has been completed along this special section of the trail.

The lands proposed for protection include buffering to 11 miles of the Appalachian Trail, and also buffer Gulf Hugas and the Hermitage Preserve (exemplary old growth stand), each of which are designated as National Natural Landmarks. A segment of the West Branch of the Pleasant River runs through the property—rated by Trout Unlimited as one of the highest quality native brook trout habitats in Maine. Five miles of river frontage are included. The land will be conserved through a combination of fee (purchase) focused on areas of high ecological and recreational importance (about 5,400 acres) and easement on lands suited for sustainable forestry and recreation to be held by the Maine’s Division of Parks and Public Lands (7200 acres).

The proposal has been submitted to Maine’s Forest Legacy Program for approval and a total of \$2,200,000 must be raised for the acquisition - through private, state and federal sources.

The team also previewed the new power point on the 100-Mile Wilderness conservation initiative that Sierra Club kicked off in 2002. Produced by summer intern Peter Nauftts, “Sierra Club’s Vision for the 100-Mile Wilderness” chronicles the amazing origins of the vision and subsequent decade of key “wilderness” conservation accomplishments with the State of Maine and land trust partners along the final northern stretch of the Appalachian Trail.

East/West Highway, continued from page 1.

Gore, with the goal of moving cargo from New Brunswick to Quebec. Although no precise map of the highway has been made available, the road would likely cut a massive swath across some pristine and ecologically important areas.

“It would be the single largest destruction of fisheries and wildlife in the history of the state by a private entity,” said former Maine Conservation Commissioner Patrick McGowan.

As a one-time Route 2 business owner, McGowan is also keenly concerned about the economic impact of an east/west highway. In that regard, he has been traveling around the state, signing up small businesses against the project.

“These folks understand that they will have their businesses bypassed, that they will have their entire communities bypassed,” he explained.

One of McGowan’s mantras is that Maine already has an east/west highway in Route 2.

Cianbro Corporation CEO, Peter Vigue, the major proponent of the highway, has argued that the proposed road is important to Maine’s future and would boost rural economies.

But highway opponents, including Sierra Club

Maine, are skeptical of Vigue’s claim—believing

Canada and major corporate interests would be the primary beneficiaries of the project.

Since the vote against the highway in the Legislature, and the publicity that generated, east/west highway proponents have chosen to stay out of the public arena on the issue. One example of this was the cancellation of the debate on the issue with Sierra Club Maine last spring.

The action by the legislature and the low-profile being taken by highway proponents has led many

Maine citizens to believe the highway plan is dead. But Karen Woodsum, director of the Maine Woods Campaign, says that would be a mistake.

“We had a great victory,” she says. “But we have no clear indication from the highway advocates that they aren’t moving forward with their plan.”

Woodsum explains that there’s a lot of secrecy surrounding the entire east/west highway proposal.

“It’s such a potentially destructive project, that we can’t ease up until we are sure the plan is dead,” she said. “The stakes are just too high.”

Rewarding Sierra Club Maine event will become an annual event.

Enjoying Acadia and Working to Leave it a Better Place

By *Linda Murray*



Outing leader Linda Murray (left) with Joan Saxe. Both Linda and Joan serve on Sierra Club Maine's executive

On June 19, I met four other women at the Seawall Campground in Acadia National Park to have dinner prior to the start of our service project. After setting up our tents, we cooked our dinners over an open fire then shared a few stories and hit the hay early in anticipation of the hard work to come in the morning.

Being an early bird (and the trip leader), I had a fire going each morning with hot water available for tea or coffee and enjoying peacefulness before the start of the work sessions. On Thursday morning, we had fried eggs and toast with some fruit for breakfast. Once we were all cleaned up (leave no trace in a national park) and dressed, we met our project leader from The Friends of Acadia. He arrived with a truck filled with tools and large logs. We greeted him with smiles and asked about our project; secretly, we were all thinking "surely those logs are not for us!" We were told our project involved carrying those large logs up close to the top of Beech Mountain (an 839-foot mountain) and building water bars to deflect the water runoff. Well, we rose to the challenge and got three of those logs up the mountain and into place. To accomplish this we had to carry the logs up there and then go back down and climb again with shovels and pick axes! It was very hard work but incredibly satisfying when it was accomplished.

That night, the rest of the crew arrived so that we now totaled eight. We had a communal supper this night consisting of spaghetti with marinara and sausage, Italian bread and salad! We lingered around the fire this night having great conversation. One of our participants, Jaye, is a Maine Guide and she shared many wonderful stories about her experiences.

Another participant, Barbara, shared experiences she had had while on several national Sierra Club service projects. We had two young women with us,

Britteny and Katy, who are currently attending college. They also had fun stories to tell about outdoor experiences they had had with their families. It was a great night!

On Friday morning, Joan, delighted us with blueberry pancakes and bacon. What a delightful way to start a day! Well fed, we were ready for the next project. That day, we went to the other side of Beech Mountain to clean and repair the drainage systems on the trail. We traveled along the trail with assorted rakes and shovels and cleared the ditches as needed.

With our full force of eight women on the job, we finished early. That was good, though, because this was the day of the summer solstice when we were scheduled to climb Cadillac Mountain and celebrate Sierra Club Maine's 20th anniversary as a chapter in Maine. Before the climb, we had a leisurely lunch and free time to explore the Park as we wanted. Then, at 5:00 on June 21, 2013, we began our ascent up Cadillac Mountain; we were told it might take two hours.

Britteny set the pace, a pretty fast pace, but the photographers in the group made sure we had plenty of rest stops; the view was breathtaking.



Linda relaxes at the Seawall Campground.



Two college students Britteny and Katy work on the Acadia outing service project.

There were several points along the way that tricked us into thinking we were just about there when we were still had quite some distance to go. But we made it to the top in one hour and fifteen minutes!

We were so exhilarated when we reached the summit. After a bit of jubilation and patting each other on the back, we

had a delightful potluck supper as we watched the "super moon" rise and the sun set on the longest day of the year.

On Saturday morning we met with the volunteer coordinator of Acadia National Park who gave us a brief history of the park. We were then brought to one of the first trails to be created in the park. We were told that work is under way to restore some of the areas to their original appearance using more natural materials and restoring the gardens. We worked on a trail leading to the Wild Gardens of Acadia and the Sieur de Monts Spring. We had a delightful surprise as we traversed the boardwalk through the wetlands; a doe, startled by our presence, began leaping through the water with the grace that only a deer could display under such conditions.

The trip was very rewarding for all who participated and plans have already been made to make this an annual event. Please consider joining us for the summer solstice next year!

For updated information on future Sierra Club Maine outings, as well as films, forums, and other events, visit maine.sierraclub.org.

Join us in getting outdoors and experiencing Maine's natural treasures.

Eliot vote, continued from page 1.

and investigate whether Schiller is polluting our air." Richards was singled out for praise by both Brand and Mary Anne Hitt, director of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign.

"The efforts of one person in particular made this victory possible," Hitt noted. "Kimberly Richards worked with her community, the company that owns Schiller (Public Service of New Hampshire—PSNH), and even the state of Maine to try and stop the pollution. But it wasn't the state of Maine and it certainly wasn't Schiller's owners who took up the fight for clean air in Eliot. Rather it was people power—Kimberly's neighbors and friends who, together, voted to protect their air."

The vote for clean air in Eliot wasn't close, despite the strong efforts of PSNH to turn out a "no" vote and to promote the idea that the Sierra Club was misleading residents.

"They launched a rather spirited campaign of their own," Richards said in a recent interview, "sending out mailings and whatnot. They had Internet ads trying to dissuade people."

In the end, the PSNH efforts seemed to have little impact on Eliot voters.

PSNH officials say they are confident that the EPA findings will show it is in complete compliance with the laws and regulations. They argue that they have been shifting to biofuels and only burn coal at times of high demand.

However, if the EPA finds that Schiller is in violation of safe air standards, it will take action to force the owners to bring the plant up to standards without cost to the town of Eliot.

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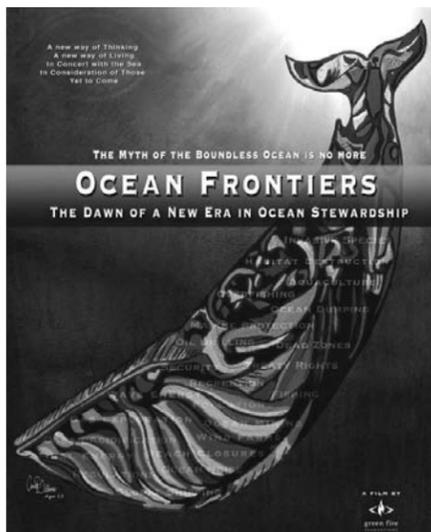
Upcoming Events

Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, October 5
South Portland

20th Anniversary Celebration from 3:00 - 5:30 pm in South Portland at the South Portland Community Center, 21 Nelson, Rd. Come Celebrate 20 years of environmental activism! Enjoy seasonal refreshments and an afternoon learning about the tars sands threat to South Portland. The Chapter will be giving out environmental awards. Come celebrate with friends and neighbors!

Films



Ocean Frontiers:

The Dawn of a New Era in Ocean Stewardship
Friday, October 25
Kennebunk UU Church
114 Main Street, Kennebunk,
6:30 p.m.

Ocean Frontiers: The Dawn of a New Era in Ocean Stewardship takes us on an inspiring voyage to seaports and watersheds across the country—from the busy shipping lanes of Boston Harbor to a small fishing community in the Pacific Northwest; from America's coral reefs in the Florida Keys to

the nation's premier seafood nursery in the Mississippi Delta. Here we meet an intermingling of unlikely allies, of industrial shippers and whale biologists, pig farmers and wetland ecologists, sport fishers and reef snorkelers and many more, all of them embarking on a new course of cooperation, to sustain the sea and our ocean economies.

The guest speaker will be Jennifer Felt, manager of Ocean Planning Outreach, Conservation Law Foundation.

American Meat

Friday, November 22

American Meat is a solutions-oriented documentary chronicling the current state of the U.S. meat industry. Featuring Joel Salatin, Chuck Wirtz, Fred Kirschenmann, Steve Ells, Paul Willis, and farmers across America, it takes an even-handed look at animal husbandry. First explaining how America arrived at our current industrial system, the story shifts to the present day, showing the feedlots and confinement houses, not through hidden cameras but through the eyes of farmers who live and work there. The documentary introduces the revolution taking root in animal husbandry, led by the charismatic and passionate Joel Salatin.

Ocean Frontiers: The Dawn of a New Era in Ocean Stewardship takes us on an inspiring voyage to seaports and watersheds across the country—from the busy shipping lanes of Boston Harbor to a small fishing community in the Pacific Northwest; from America's coral reefs in the Florida Keys to the nation's premier seafood nursery in the Mississippi Delta. Here we meet an intermingling of unlikely allies, of industrial shippers and whale biologists, pig farmers and wetland ecologists, sport fishers and reef snorkelers

Damariscotta Area Members

Sierra Club Maine executive committee member Linda Murray has initiated an environmental film series at the Midcoast Meeting of Friends, 7 Belvedere Road in Damariscotta. On October 1, the highly acclaimed film Ocean Frontiers (see write-up under Kennebunk film series, above) will be shown. There is a reception at 5:30 and the film will start at 6:30. The film will be followed by a discussion led by State Representative Mick Devin of the Darling Marine Research Center. Contact Linda Murray at 205-4467 for more information.

Visit maine.sierraclub.org for a complete list of upcoming events.

Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club

44 Oak Street, Suite 301 • Portland, ME 04101
Telephone: 207-761-5616 FAX: 207-773-6690
web: maine.sierraclub.org
email: maine.chapter@sierraclub.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Becky Bartovics	North Haven
Jim Frick	Orono
Claudia King	Falmouth
David Mokler	Biddeford
Linda Murray	South Bristol
Bill Pearce	Rockland
Joan Saxe	Freeport
Lyn Sudlow	Parsonfield

CHAPTER DIRECTOR

Glen Brand glen.brand@sierraclub.org

PARTNERS FOR CLEAN ENERGY

Joan Saxe joansaxe@gmail.com

MAINE WOODS CAMPAIGN

Karen Woodsum karen.woodsum@sierraclub.org
Heather Rorer heather.rorer@sierraclub.org

NEWSLETTER

Jim Frick jim.frick@umit.maine.edu

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Molly Quaid maine.chapter@sierraclub.org

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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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Fun-filled Rockland event draws 60 members and friends.

Celebrating 20 years of Protecting Maine's Environment

Some 60 mid-coast Maine members and friends gathered at the Somewhere on Winter Street art gallery in Rockland on September 14 for a Sierra Club Maine 20th anniversary celebration. Guests were treated to an array of hors d'oeuvres (including oysters) and beverages. There were also door prizes, including two Inn/meal packages and a Sierra Club bicycle.

The featured speaker at the event was Dr. Diane Cowan, who addressed the impact on lobsters of the potential dredging of Penobscot Bay. In addition, the group Thanks but no Tanks received a special award for its very effective work against the proposed LNG tank in Searsport.

"It was a great evening," said Chapter co-chair, Becky Bartovics. "We have outstanding support from the midcoast region and tonight's event highlights that fact. It was a good turnout and there was a real spirit and enthusiasm for the Chapter moving forward to address climate change and protect our natural treasures."

The Rockland event was part of a year-long recognition of Sierra Club Maine's two decades of successful work. That work includes: establishing the 100-mile Wilderness; Developing the Cool Communities and GreenSneakers programs to reduce carbon emissions and promote clean energy; working to protect Sears Island; and working to stop the east/west highway proposal.

The anniversary celebration will continue on October 5 with a Greater Portland gathering of members and friends (for more information, see write-up on the bottom of this page).

Special thanks go out to *(volunteers who worked on the event)* And very special thanks to Orlando Johnson, owner of the Somewhere on Winter Street for use of his wonderful gallery.



Mick Devin a Boothbay legislator and Darling Center marine scientist with Linda Murray.



Diane Cowan of The Lobster Conservancy (right) has one of her lobsters choose the door prize winners, while executive committee member Linda Murray holds the basket.



MiMi McGee of Camden, rides the new Sierra Club bicycle that she won as a door prize.

Summer Events in Southwest Harbor and North Haven Highlight Protection of the Maine Woods



Hannah Pingree.

The national Sierra Club and the Maine Chapter hosted two gatherings over the summer to celebrate the Maine Woods and discuss efforts to prevent further fragmentation of this natural treasure.

On Thursday, August 22, Sierra Club Maine co-chair Becky Bartovics hosted 36 people at her home on her sheep farm on North Haven.

Guests mingled and enjoyed local cheese, bread, and beverages. This was followed by brief talks by Becky, former Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives Hannah Pingree, former Maine Conservation Commissioner Patrick McGowan, Maine Woods Program Director Karen Woodsum, and Chapter Director Glen Brand.

Hannah Pingree discussed the work the Sierra Club is doing on climate change and also noted that it is the only environmental group in Maine working on local ocean issues.

Karen Woodum and Patrick McGowan informed guests about Maine Woods preservation and asked for their help in stopping the east/west highway

proposal.

Becky Bartovics focussed on the issue of dredging in Penobscot Bay and the importance of the Chapter's work through the GreenSneakers program to increase residential energy efficiency and promote clean energy and transportation. Glen Brand outlined efforts on tar sands, advocating for the President's climate plan, its work to clean-up the Shiller plant, and the Chapter's commitment to inspiring more Mainers to connect with the outdoors.



Robin Mann

And on a lovely August 25 afternoon in Southwest Harbor, member Sally Hopkins graciously opened her home to some 20 Sierra Club members and friends. While enjoying the beautiful view of Somes Sound, guests were treated to hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

Speaking at the event were national Sierra Club board member, Robin Mann, Patrick McGowan, and Sierra Club Activist and College of the Atlantic professor of environmental law and policy, Ken Cline. The talks were followed by a lively question and answer session.

Greater Portland Celebration

Join Sierra Club members, friends, and neighbors at a 20th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 5 from 3 pm to 6 pm at the South Portland Community Center at 21 Nelson Road.

You'll enjoy seasonal refreshments and help us celebrate 20 years of successful environmental activism. We'll also be presenting special environmental awards and providing important information on the tar sands threat to South.