

Mike Michaud for Governor—Emily Cain and Chellie Pingree for U.S. Congress

Candidates for the Environment

The stakes for the environment in the 2014 election are extremely high. Maine cannot afford another four years of Governor Paul LePage, with his administration's assault on the Maine environment. On the national level, we need to send elected representatives to Washington who are committed to taking action on climate change and stopping unwise and dangerous energy policies such as a tar sands pipeline.

We're fortunate in Maine to have candidates for governor and Congress who understand the urgency of reducing carbon emissions and the economic and ecological importance of protecting our Maine environment.

Governor: Mike Michaud



Candidate for governor Mike Michaud has a 92 percent lifetime environmental voting record.

Last November, Sierra Club Maine gave an early and enthusiastic endorsement to Democratic candidate Mike Michaud for governor. Michaud has a long commitment to environmental quality that began when, as a mill worker, he led the fight to stop the mill's pollution of the Penobscot River. He carried that fight into the state legislature, where he became a leader in helping the state protect over a thousand miles of waterways in the state.

His pro-environmental record continued during his years in the U.S. Congress. He has supported clean energy development, stronger fuel standards, water protection, mercury regulation, weatherization funding, and ending taxpayer subsidies for oil companies. Michaud has earned a 92 percent lifetime voting record by the League of Conservation Voters.

"Mike Michaud shares Mainers' conservation values and he understands that protecting our precious environment and public health is critical to Maine's economic vitality," said Sierra Club Maine



Second District congressional candidate Emily Cain earned a 90 percent environmental scorecard in her years in the Maine House and Senate.

political team chair Melissa Walsh Innes.

As governor, Michaud would support clean, renewable energy development, passenger and freight rail service, strengthening clean air and water standards, and adding public lands through the Land for Maine's Future Program. He opposes the proposed east/west highway, a tar sands pipeline through Maine, and oil and gas drilling off the coast of Maine.

And of prime importance, he is firmly committed to restoring integrity and vision to the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation.

Sierra Club director, Glen Brand, noted that Paul LePage did not respond to the Chapter's endorsement questionnaire. Third party candidate, Eliot Cutler did respond and was interviewed and seriously considered by the political committee. In the end however, Michaud's experience and strong environmental record made him the clear choice.

2nd Congressional District: Emily Cain

During her eight-year rise to the Democratic leadership in the Maine House of Representatives and her two years as a state senator, Emily Cain established an outstanding environmental record. That record earned her an early endorsement in

her run for Congress by the League of Conservation Voters. This summer Sierra Club Maine's political and executive committees gave her the Chapter's full support.

"Emily Cain will be a strong voice in Congress for action on climate change, promoting clean renewable energy, defending our nation's landmark environmental protection and conservation laws and stronger health standards for toxic chemicals and other pollutants," Melissa Walsh Innes said. Innes further noted that Cain opposes the Keystone XL and Northeast tar sands pipelines, offshore drilling, and the proposed east/west highway.

Cain's pro-environment stand is in sharp contrast to

her Republican opponent, Bruce Poliquin, who did not respond to Sierra Club Maine's endorsement questionnaire. His spokesman, Matt Hutson stated that the Sierra Club endorsement proved that Cain is going down "the path of extremists who put politics above the people, when it comes to the environment." He called the Sierra Club a "radical group of hard-core Democratic activists."

1st Congressional District: Chellie Pingree

Representative Chellie Pingree has one of the most impressive environmental scorecards in the United States Congress—a 96 percent rating in 2013 and a 94 percent environmental voting record for her political career. Prior to her election to Congress, she was a leading voice in the Maine legislature for environmental quality, public land, and human health.

"Chellie Pingree is known and admired as a champion of the environment," said Sierra Club Maine co-chair Becky Bartovics. "Her support for action on climate change, renewable energy, clean air, public lands, and sustainable food policies and her opposition to a tar sands pipeline, off-shore drilling, and the east/west highway reflect the priorities of Sierra Club and the values of all citizens concerned about our quality of life."



Congresswoman Chellie Pingree has a 94 percent lifetime environmental voting record.



Chapter Endorses Pro-Environment Legislative Candidates

Sierra Club Maine's Executive Committee has endorsed the following candidates based on the recommendations of the Chapter's political team. Many thanks to team leader Melissa Walsh Innes and committee members Paul Machlin, Michael Shaughnessy, Kris Clark, Becky Bartovics, and Joan Saxe.

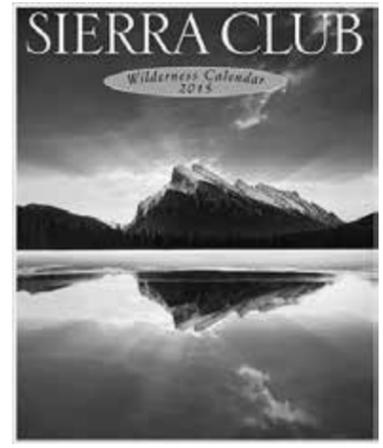
MAINE STATE SENATE

Anne Haskell, District 28, Portland
 Bill Diamond, District 26, Windham
 Cathy Breen, District 25, Falmouth
 Chris Johnson, District 13, Coopers Mills
 David Dutremble, District 32, Biddeford
 David Miramant, District 12, Camden
 Eloise Vitelli, District 19, Sagadahoc
 Geoff Gratwick, District 9, Bangor
 Guy DeJardins, District 22, Sabattus
 Jim Boyle, District 6, Gorham
 John Cleveland, District 20, Auburn
 John Tuttle, District 33, Sanford
 Justin Alfond, District 27, Portland
 Linda Valentino, District 31, Saco
 Ted Koffman, District 7, Bar Harbor

MAINE STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Adam Goode, District 127, Bangor
 Anne Graham, District 46, North Yarmouth
 Ben Chipman, District 40, Portland
 Bettyann Sheats, District 64, Auburn

Bob Duchesne, District 121, Hudson
 Brian Hubbell, District 135, Bar Harbor
 Callie Pecunies, District 117, Albany Township
 Charlotte Warren, District 84, Hallowell
 Dennise Whitley, District 71, Norway
 Dwight Ely, District 28, Scarborough
 Elizabeth Dickerson, District 93, Rockland
 Heidi Brooks, District 61, Lewiston
 Henry Beck, District 110, Waterville
 Janice Cooper, District 47, Yarmouth
 Jeff McCabe, District 85, Skowhegan
 Joan Welsh, District 94, Rockport
 John Schneck, District 126, Bangor
 Joseph Brooks, District 23, Winterport
 Kim Monaghan-Derrig, District 30, Cape Elizabeth
 Margaret Rotundo, District 59, Lewiston
 Mick Devin, District 90, Newcastle
 Paul Aranson, District 29, Scarborough
 Ralph Chapman, District 37, Brooksville
 Roberta Beavers, District 2, South Berwick
 Sara Gideon, District 106, Freeport
 Wayne Werts, District 63, Auburn
 Nate Libby, District 16, Lewiston



2015 Sierra Club Calendars Now Available

Sierra Club 2015 calendars are now available from the Chapter. These extremely popular calendars make great holiday gifts.

The Club's wall calendar has been a best-seller for over 30 years, with more than eight million purchased. This year's version is spiral-bound and includes full-color images of the grandeur of the North American wilderness.

The engagement calendar, the most popular nature calendar of its kind ever published, is also spiral-bound and includes 58 stunning photographs of flora and fauna.

This year's wall calendar costs \$13.95. The engagement calendar is \$14.95 (includes shipping).

To order send your check to Sierra Club Maine, 44 Oak Street—Suite 301, Portland, ME 04101.

Maine Sierrans Join Rally to Urge Regional Leaders to Keep Tar Sands Oil Out of New England

A chartered bus filled with Sierra Club members and other concerned Mainers traveled to Bretton Woods, NH in mid-July to urge the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers to keep dirty tar sands oil out of the region. The Maine bus was co-sponsored by Sierra Club Maine and 350.org.

The rally came just days after the South Portland City Council took a first step towards banning the flow of tar sands oil through that city.

In Bretton Woods, Mainers joined others from the Tar Sands Free Northeast Coalition in drawing attention to the dangers of tar sands oil. Approximately 100 people participated in the rally.

There is growing concern that tar sands oil could soon make up as much as 18 percent of the region's petroleum-based transportation and heating fuel supply. New England currently faces threats such as the proposed Portland-Montreal Pipeline reversal, the proposed Energy East pipeline, and other projects.

"We are calling on our elected leaders to implement a regional clean fuels standard to keep tar sands oil out of our energy mix," said Sierra Club Maine Director Glen Brand. "We are asking them to oppose projects that would move dirty tar sands oil through the region. State and regional leaders have not adequately addressed this threat."

Maine Governor Paul LePage did not attend the conference. Last spring, the governor stated his support for the Keystone Pipeline, which would transport tar sands oil from Canada through the United States. But he has not taken a clear position on a pipeline bringing tar sands oil through Maine.

LePage's opponents in the upcoming election, Democrat Mike Michaud and Independent Eliot Cutler, have both taken a position that no pipeline project in Maine should be undertaken without a new Presidential Permit, which would need to be preceded by an environmental impact statement. This is also the position of Maine Senator Angus King and Representative Chellie Pingree.

Let's Get Out the Vote!

Support Pro-Environment Candidates through GOTV
 For more information call 761-5616 or visit maine.sierraclub.org

Jeanine Bischoff

New Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator is Eager to Work With Sierra Club Maine Members



Jeanine Bischoff (left) with Chapter executive committee member Lyn Sudlow at the People's Climate March in New York City.

Jeanine Bischoff of Portland has joined the Sierra Club Maine staff as the outreach and volunteer coordinator. In that role she'll support the efforts of our many volunteers and also work at getting more members involved in the Chapter's efforts to protect the Maine environment.

Jeanine is originally from upstate New York. She moved to Maine with her husband, Kevin Brewster, in order to raise their two sons in a family-friendly place.

For the past 10 years Jeanine, Kevin, and their friend Holly Sheehan have operated Fun Camp—an environmental education day camp for kids. The camp has two sites on organic farms—Turkey Hill Farm in Cape Elizabeth and the Morris Farm in Wiscasset.

"We also added Farm Trek, a program for 10-13 year-olds, once our own kids outgrew the other camps," she explains.

Jeanine also worked as supervisor for Critical Insights, a political opinion and market research company.

In her first months on the job, Jeanine has been impressed by the dedication and passion of Chapter volunteers. "Sierra Club folks care deeply about the environment," she says.

Jeanine's primary goal will be getting more members involved in the Chapter's efforts and activities. "I want to match up members' interests and skills with our needs as a Chapter," she notes.

When Jeanine isn't working in the Sierra Club Maine office, she enjoys hiking, canoeing, and camping. "And I love the ocean," she says.

Any member interested in getting involved with the Maine Chapter's efforts should contact Jeanine at jeanine.bischoff@sierraclub.org (or call 761-5616). Help is needed on a wide range of Chapter teams (energy, transportation, legislative, political, fundraising, Maine Woods, and others).

Question #1 on the November ballot asks Mainers to ban baiting, hounding, and trapping.

What Kind of Bear Hunt Do We Need and Want? The Answer Isn't so Clear

Acting in the best interest of Maine's wildlands and wildlife is part of Sierra Club Maine's mission. With that in mind, the Chapter invited representatives from both sides of the contentious bear hunting referendum (Question #1 on the November ballot) to present their cases to the executive committee. Question #1 asks voters to ban the use of bait, traps, and dogs in hunting bears in Maine. Ten years ago a similar referendum was defeated with 53 percent of Mainers voting against.

In early June three biologists from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIF&W), which opposes the referendum, met with Chapter leaders. And in August, referendum proponent Katie Hansberry of Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting made her presentation to the executive committee.

The two sides interpret the scientific evidence available on bear hunting very differently and reaching a clear conclusion from their interpretations proved difficult. "In the end, the executive committee agreed that, without a chapter wildlife expert, we just didn't have the resources or expertise to take a responsible position as an organization on this difficult issue," says Chapter Co-Chair Becky Bartovics.

With no official Sierra Club position, the Chapter is encouraging all Sierra Club Maine members to become as informed as possible on the bear hunting issue before they cast their vote in November.

The issue involves wildlife management and economics and also evokes a strong emotional response from many Mainers. To help our members sort through the positions in advance of casting their votes, here are both sides' responses to some commonly asked questions:

What is a healthy bear population for Maine?

It's generally agreed that the bear population in Maine is currently about 30,000. The number of bears has increased in recent decades, due primarily to the spruce budworm outbreak that resulted in abundant, bear-friendly, new-growth forests.

State biologists believe the current bear population is slightly larger than ideal and should not be allowed to increase further. One concern about any increase is unwanted and potentially dangerous contact with humans. Currently, there are approximately 500 reported bear conflicts per year in Maine.

How would the restrictions on bear hunting affect the population?

It depends on which side you ask. State biologists estimate that an annual harvest of 3,500 to 4,500 bears is required to keep the population stable. They point out that 90 percent of bear hunting in Maine involves baiting or dogs. Baiting, by far the most popular method, has about a 25 percent success rate. Addressing Sierra Club Maine, state bear experts Jennifer Vashon and Randy Cross expressed concern that without baiting and hounding, that success rate would drop to an estimated 3 to 5 percent. They add that passage of the referendum would also eliminate the possibility of a spring bear harvest—a tool that might be needed to address any increase in bear population.

Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting and other referendum proponents argue that baiting and hounding are not effective at regulating Maine's bear population. In fact, they believe that baiting is contributing to the population increase (30 percent since 2004) by providing supplemental food to animals that would otherwise fend for themselves. Katie Hansberry told the chapter executive committee that female bears in Maine have been



reproducing at a younger age since baiting was introduced.

Both proponents and opponents agree that the bear population in Maine would eventually regulate itself if fewer animals were hunted. But state biologists contend that a self-regulation process would mean many more bears suffering from starvation or being killed on Maine roads.

Is the human food used in baiting a major problem?

Hansberry reports that some six million pounds of junk food are used annually in bear baiting. She believes that, in addition to habituating bears to human food, junk food can be toxic for other animals in Maine's forests.

State biologists question Hansberry's estimate of the amount of food used in baiting. But even if the number is that high, they note, it would not create a substantial problem, emphasizing that a bear requires 25,000 calories or more a day in the fall season. The amount of food used in baiting, they say, doesn't make a dent in that requirement.

What do other states do?

Of the 32 states with significant bear populations, 11 allow baiting, 16 allow the use of dogs, and seven allow both. However, since the 1990s, several states, including Oregon, Washington, and Colorado, have voted to ban those methods in their bear hunts.

Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting points out that those states that have banned baiting continue to have successful hunts.

"Bear populations in those states have stabilized, and the number of hunters has actually increased," Hansberry told Sierra Club Maine leaders.

Washington, for example, banned baiting and hounding in 1996. Yet its bear harvest has increased by 16 percent and its number of bear hunters has grown some 97 percent. Still-hunting methods have also met with success in Colorado and other states.

Proponents believe "fair hunt" methods would work in Maine. The Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting website states: "Instead of piles of bait and dogs wearing high-tech collars, Maine bear hunters will simply use more traditional scouting techniques, monitoring areas of natural food availability and stalk or stand hunting."

Referendum opponents don't dispute the fact that still-hunting has worked in other states, but they believe those results can't be applied to Maine. One reason, they say, is that in a heavily forested state like Maine, getting a clear shot at a bear can be difficult. In the more open terrain of Colorado, the

success rate for still-hunting bears is almost 10 percent. As previously noted, state biologists estimate it would be less than half that in Maine—between 3 and 5 percent.

The overall number of hunters is another important factor. Given their projected still-hunting success rates for Maine, the DIF&W estimates it would take 100,000 or more hunters to meet the state's bear harvest goals and prevent overpopulation. Traditionally, only about 11,000 people hunt bears in Maine each fall. Vashon and Cross believe that number would actually decrease without the baiting and hounding options.

Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting, however, think the idea of a "fair hunt" could

draw many more bear hunters, as it appears to have done in some other states.

What about the issues of sportsmanship and cruelty?

Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting contend that they are not opposed to a bear hunt, only to the current methods allowed, which they consider cruel, unsporting, unneeded, and unrepresentative of Maine values. They stress that there is nothing sportsmanlike in shooting a bear eating donuts or trapped in a tree.

Opponents of the referendum acknowledge that baiting, hounding, and trapping evoke strong emotions, but they ask people to consider the fact that many more bears are maimed or crippled in states that don't allow baiting than in those that do. They argue that baiting allows the hunter to have a clear shot at the bear, resulting in death within minutes. Without baiting, they say, hunters in the woods often don't have a clear shot at the bear, resulting in a wounded animal that may well suffer a long agonizing death. State biologists also believe that baiting and hounding allow hunters to be more selective in what bears they kill—avoiding lactating females, for example.

Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting, on the other hand, point to studies showing that the difference between lactating and non-lactating females is indiscernible to a hunter.

What Are the Economic Impacts?

A 2004 study estimated that bear hunting adds \$60 million a year to the Maine economy and supports about 900 jobs. Opponents to the baiting/hounding ban are concerned that without baiting, far fewer hunters will be drawn to the Maine bear hunt.

Referendum proponents say that seven times more people come to the state to watch wildlife than to shoot it. They claim that those wildlife watchers add \$141 million to the economy.

Proponents also believe that banning baiting, hounding, and trapping will draw more "fair chase" hunters to Maine, making up for the loss of baiting hunters.

For more information from both sides of the issue, Sierra Club members are encouraged to visit the websites of the DIF&W (<http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/species/mammals/2014BearReferendum.html>) and the Mainers for Fair Bear Hunting (fairbearhunt.com).

**Maine Partners
for Clean Energy**



**Promoting Efficiency &
Smart Energy Solutions**

Sierra Club Maine's John Berry Energy Efficiency Day is a huge success.

Learning About Energy Efficiency in Southern Maine

John Berry Energy Efficiency Day held in Porter, Maine on September 13 was a great success, attracting over 100 people coming from 15 different towns, four counties and two states. Attendees all wanted to find out how they could be warm and comfortable in the winter—just like Kezar Falls resident, John Berry, for whom the event was named. Everyone expressed great satisfaction in the amount and quality of information received.

John Berry Energy Efficiency Day was the result of a culmination of many efforts and events. Last February, Sierra Club Maine leaders Joan Saxe and Lyn Sudlow joined with SORHA (the Saco/Ossipee Rivers Heating Alliance) members and Nate Howe of Horizon Residential Energy in an energy audit of Berry's house—a small cape built without much concern for energy efficiency.

The audit revealed a number of problems that made the dwelling hard to heat. Those problems included single pane windows, too little insulation in the attic, and one exterior wall that was totally un-insulated.

"It was a perfect candidate to demonstrate to others what could be done to improve efficiency," Saxe noted.

A number of groups stepped forward to help, including Sacopec Valley High School (SVHS) students who made low-cost energy efficient storm windows using materials supplied by Sierra Club Maine. SORHA and Horizon worked together to insulate and seal the attic and weatherize it as much as possible.

Sierra Club Maine was the first to step forward with some of the funding for the work. Other contributions came from Bangor Savings Bank, the local Stanley Higgins Trust, and the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund.

John Berry Energy Efficiency Day brought together much useful energy information for distribution to the surrounding communities. Organizations and agencies that were represented at the event included the Sierra Club, SORHA, Efficiency Maine, Eco-Maine, York County Community Action, Community Concepts, Horizon Residential Energy, Johnson's Home Maintenance, Maine Energy Education Program, and the SVHS Recycling Program. Delicious, organic food was provided by the food wagon of Healthy Food Grocery of Porter.

This type of event had never been tried before in this part of Maine—basically a low-income and very rural area that includes northern York County and southern Oxford County. Everyone was pleased with the results. We're hopeful that more such events can take place in other parts of the region in the near future.

Participants now know how they, too, can save money on heating oil, while reducing fossil fuel emissions going into our atmosphere.

--By Lyn Sudlow



Above photos: Sacopec Valley High School students make low-cost energy-efficient storm windows using materials supplied by Sierra Club Maine.

WEATHERIZATION ENERGY DAY

SAVE THE DATE
November 1, 2014 10AM – 2PM

ACE Hardware Store
Oak Hill, Rte. One, Scarborough

Sponsored by
*Sierra Club Maine
Green Sneakers Project
and Project G.R.A.C.E.
Scarborough, Maine*

In partnership with
*ACE Hardware at Oak Hill
Scarborough Lions Club
and Efficiency Maine*

Featuring:
**Demonstrations on home
weatherization**

**Demonstrations on constructing
interior storm windows**

**Green Sneakers home volunteer
home energy audit training**

Energy efficiency information

Everyone is Welcome!

Transportation Team Update

Northern New England Rail Rally Moved to April 2015



The Sierra Club transportation team continues to provide support and advocacy services to passenger rail interests throughout the region. An event originally planned for October, "Northern New England Rail Rally: Taking the Train to Your Community," has been rescheduled for early April 2015. This is an Androscoggin-Oxford-Coos Counties Passenger Rail Coalition (AOCCC) event, sponsored in part by Sierra Club Maine, along with Chambers of Commerce from throughout the region.

The AOCCC is a coalition of towns in western Maine and New Hampshire organized specifically for the purpose of identifying, exploring, and implementing opportunities for regional collaboration in restoration of passenger rail for economic development. The Sierra Club is sponsoring the keynote speaker for the April rally, Christopher A. Coes, managing director of Smart Growth America. Coes is a national advocate for better transportation solutions and advocate for sustainable, more affordable communities for people who want to live and work in great neighborhoods.

The primary purpose of the postponement was to hold the rally while the 127th Legislature is in session and involve new members of the Maine State Legislature. The Sierra Club expects to be involved in a number of sustainable transportation initiatives in the upcoming session. Sierra Club members can look for updated information on this event at maine.sierraclub.org.

Ten buses make a one-day round-trip to New York City.

Mainers Take Part in Historic Climate March

It was a day to remember—the largest climate rally in history. On Sunday, September 21, an estimated 400,000 people (including some 25,000 Sierra Club members) gathered near Columbus Circle in New York City to take part in the People’s Climate March. The prime purpose of the march was to demand global action on climate change in advance of the United Nations climate summit held two days later on September 23.

The state of Maine was well represented at the historic event. Some 10 buses, departing from Portland, Waterville, Portsmouth, N.H., and other locations, transported about 600 concerned Mainers to the Big Apple. Six of those buses, carrying 326 people were sponsored and organized by the Sierra Club.

The buses departed in the early hours of the morning and didn’t arrive back until midnight (in Portland). It was a long, exhausting journey, but the high spirits evident on the return bus trip to Maine were a clear indication that it was well worth it.

“During the march and all the way back to Maine we were so energized,” said Sierra Club Director Glen Brand, who rode on one of the Sierra Club buses. “People were glowing—they were inspired and empowered by what had taken place in New York.”

Other Maine Sierrans making the bus trip were Chapter volunteer coordinator Jeanine Bischoff and executive committee members Joan Saxe and Lyn Syndow.

Brand says the march was not only inspiring—it was also vastly entertaining.

“There were imaginative floats, costumes, and all sorts of bands,” he says. “It was also exciting to see such a tremendous diversity of people marching—all ages and from a wide range of backgrounds. It was a friendly atmosphere. There was a real spirit of camaraderie.”

Marchers from all over America gathered at 8 a.m. and soon after set out on a route that brought them through Times Square, Rockefeller Center, Bryant Park, and ultimately to the Javits Convention Center. Participants included families, religious leaders, scientists, politicians, and students. Numerous notables were among the marchers, including Vice President Al Gore, actors Leonardo DiCaprio and Mark Ruffalo, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, Congressman Bernie Sanders, author and 350.org founder Bill McKibben, and Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.



Among the hundreds of Mainers who bused to New York City to participate in the People’s Climate March were (left to right) John Brautigam and his wife, Corey Hascall, with their son Max.

The New York City march was one of 2,600 events taking place in 162 countries to call for action on the climate crisis. The events sent a clear message to leaders around the globe that dramatic reductions in carbon emissions need to occur without delay.

United States President Barack Obama clearly heard the marchers’ message.

“Our citizens keep marching, we cannot pretend not to hear them,” he told the September 23rd U.N. gathering. “We have to answer the call.”

The President affirmed his commitment to setting ambitious emissions standards early next year and called upon the other major global economies to do the same.

In December 2015, the United Nations will hold a

major climate meeting in Paris. The goal for that meeting is for the nations of the world, including the biggest carbon emitters, to sign on to a binding climate agreement.

Special thanks to Jim Wellehan, Lamey-Wellehan Shoes; Adam Lee, Lee Automalls; Cathy Lee, Maine Climate Table; Phil Coupe, Revision Energy; Clifford Krolick, Back Country Excursions; Kim Simmons; Becky Bartovics; and other anonymous donors for their generous support of the bus trip to the People’s Climate March in New York City.

To join Sierra Club Maine’s Climate Action Team, contact Glen at glen.brand@sierraclub.org.

The health of our planet depends on our ability to make big changes in the global economy.

Why the Climate Movement Can’t Ignore Trade

By Ilana Solomon, Director, Responsible Trade Program, Sierra Club

On September 21, I joined more than 400,000 community members on the frontlines of climate disruption, environmentalists, workers, students, parents, and others to demand action on climate and to claim our collective rights to clean water, air, and land.

As someone who has spent many years in the halls of Congress and United Nations climate conventions calling for strong climate action, this diverse, public, outspoken, and in-the-streets action was a beautiful, incredible feat that signals a tipping point in the climate movement that policymakers will not be able to ignore.

But there is another tipping point that will affect the success of the climate movement: the free trade tipping point.

The health of our planet depends on our ability to make big changes in our economy. These changes include moving beyond fossil fuels and building local green economies. However, our current model of free trade, which is written into agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and free trade pacts like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), threatens nearly every aspect of

this much-needed economic transition. And yet, the U.S. is currently negotiating massive new free trade pacts, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) with 11 Pacific Rim nations and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the European Union. These deals would severely restrict the ability of governments to restructure our economy and address the climate crisis.

If these deals are beat back, we can open up space for governments to embrace a new model of trade that is compatible with—even supports—efforts to combat the climate crisis. If these agreements move forward, they lock in a new set of rules that will further hinder our ability to solve the climate crisis.

Let’s take a deeper look at just how our trade rules are getting in the way of climate progress.

CHALLENGES TO CLEAN ENERGY POLICIES:

In order to combat the climate crisis, we must move beyond fossil fuels and embrace clean energy. However, investment rules in free trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties threaten our ability to do so. The rules actually empower corporations to sue governments, in the secrecy of private trade tribunals, over laws and policies that corporations allege reduce their profits, including protections from dirty fossil fuels. Such rules have allowed

corporations including Chevron and ExxonMobil to launch nearly 600 challenges against almost 100 governments. Increasingly, corporations are using these perverse rules in free trade and investment agreements to challenge energy and climate policies, including a moratorium on fracking in Quebec, a nuclear energy phase-out and new coal-fired power plant standards in Germany, and requirement for a pollution clean-up in Peru. Nearly 60 percent of so-called investor-state cases are decided in favor of the investor (making taxpayers foot the bill to the corporation or investor) or settle (sometimes weakening the policy, as happened in Germany). When governments “win,” they just get to keep the policy in place and are often stuck with part of a legal tab averaging \$8 million per case.

UNFETTERED EXPORTS OF FOSSIL FUELS:

The vast majority of fossil fuel reserves must stay in the ground in order to avoid climate catastrophe. We have to move beyond fossil fuels here at home and stop exporting them to other countries. Current free trade rules once again stand in the way. The U.S., for example, is legally bound to automatically approve all exports of natural gas to countries with

-Continued on next page

Penobscot Bay Dredging Update

Perseverance in all grassroots efforts is essential—and it pays off.

Sierra Club Maine is collaborating with the Maine Bolstering Union, the Pemaquid Mussel Farm, and other individuals and small business owners to hold the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and Maine DOT accountable to follow their own regulations and requirements when evaluating a large *improvement* dredging operation. Our volunteer attorney Kim Ervin Tucker and a group of grassroots volunteers have supported our efforts. Together they have worked hard to expose the shoddy and poorly examined evidence that the Army Corps has presented in the effort to dredge Searsport Harbor and dump almost a million cubic yards of material into Penobscot Bay.

Our coalition of groups, businesses and individuals engaged Dr. Kevin Yeager, the federal court-appointed sediment expert in the HoltraChem trial. Through his examination of the results and protocol followed by ACOE, we have provided independent evidence that the sediment testing was poorly executed, outdated under even the Corps' own standards, and inadequate to determine the high levels of toxins, including the possible presence of HoltraChem legacy mercury.

The Army Corps let it be known in June that they were going to file an application for Water Quality Certification (WQC) with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection—the next milestone in the dredge application process. Meanwhile, Islesboro Island Trust engaged Dawson & Associates, one of the nation's foremost experts in water resource development, to assess and report on the proposed Searsport dredging proposal.

The Dawson Report concluded that 97 percent of the navigation and port improvement goals of the proposal could be achieved with little or no environmental impact and at a fraction of the cost. That could be accomplished if just maintenance dredging was done to restore the channel to the congressionally authorized depth of 35 feet and if the area at the piers at Mack Point were deepened to 45 feet. The Dawson Alternative would cost Maine taxpayers nothing and would save federal taxpayers a large portion of the proposed \$10 million price tag.

The release of the Yeager Report, detailing the facts in the sediment testing, coupled with the Dawson Report, seems to have significantly slowed down the



Attorney Kim Ervin Tucker speaking at the Sierra Club Annual Dinner in September. Kim was presented with the Chapter's Outstanding Volunteer Award for her excellent work on the Penobscot Bay dredging proposal.

process. As of early October, there was no Army Corps application for a Water Quality Certification submitted to the State. Sprague Energy has filed an application to do a maintenance dredge at the pier and place the fill on-site in wetlands on Mack Point. Prior to submission of the Sprague application, DEP required additional sediment testing be done that more closely reflected the process detailed in the Yeager Report. Its methodology and results have been submitted to Dr. Yeager for additional assessment. Our forthcoming comments on the proposal will be based on Dr. Yeager's soon-to-be released findings.

Many folks with diverse interests have worked tirelessly to assure that the Penobscot Bay area's environment is protected and its natural resource-based economy remains sustainable. We believe that this productive effort to question the ill-conceived and improperly analyzed dredging proposal highlights the importance of grassroots coalitions holding regulatory agencies accountable. Only through organizing such broad-based, diverse coalitions can we effectively protect our environment and way of life.

We'll continue to be actively involved in holding both the Army Corps of Engineers and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection as well as Maine DOT accountable to follow proper protocol. Sierra Club Maine is proud to participate in this process.

-By Becky Bartovics

Climate and Trade

Continued from the previous page

which it has a free trade pact. (If no free trade pact is in place, the Department of Energy must conduct a public analysis to determine whether exports are inconsistent with the public interest before granting a license.) And there is increased talk of a potential free-trade challenge to current U.S. restrictions on crude oil exports. In fact, the EU is pressuring the U.S. to lift its crude oil export restrictions in the context of its negotiations on TTIP, the U.S. EU trade pact. According to Oil Change International, lifting the crude oil export ban would lead to 9.9 billion barrels of additional crude between 2015 and 2050, which would release as much carbon dioxide as 42 coal-fired power plants.

LOCAL AND LOW-CARBON ECONOMIES:

Another part of solving the climate puzzle relates to production and consumption. We need to start producing and using products, from our food to our energy, closer to home. Sadly, the current trend is to produce goods wherever labor is cheapest and environmental protections are lowest and ship them across the world. (This trend, incidentally, was made possible—even encouraged—by free trade rules.) But think about the endless benefits, both for our climate and for the creation of new green jobs, of producing wind turbines and solar panels locally. In fact, strong domestic renewable energy industries may be one of the most powerful tools to combat climate disruption. The transition to a clean energy economy depends on local renewable energy industries that can challenge the power of the fossil fuel industry.

Governments across the world recognize the benefits of renewable energy programs that create green jobs. From Ontario, Canada, to India—in addition to a number of U.S. states—governments are increasingly using “local content rules” that require enterprises to purchase or use locally manufactured goods in renewable energy programs. But a long-standing tenant of trade law is that governments cannot “privilege” local goods or producers over foreign ones, so there have been a string of cases at the WTO challenging local content rules in renewable energy programs. Japan and the EU have used WTO challenges to strike Ontario, Canada's local content rule out of its clean energy program; the U.S. is challenging local content rules in India's national solar program; India has, in turn, threatened a number of U.S. state-based renewable energy programs; China is threatening local content rules in EU renewable energy programs, and the list goes on.

Unfortunately, the trade rules described above are a small sample of the myriad rules that make it difficult to bring about what the 400,000-plus people marching the streets of New York City want—strong action on climate.

But, all of this is not reason to despair—it's a reason to organize.

Bigger and worse threats from the fossil fuel industry have set a fire under the climate movement. New, dangerous trade deals such as the TPP and TTIP, which threaten health, environmental, and worker protections, have set ablaze another movement of trade justice advocates. If we can combine the force of these movements and continue to strengthen our work, the power of our movements will tip our governments to act on behalf of the people instead of on behalf of the polluters. The climate movement must stand up to the free trade rules and ideology that helped get us into this climate mess and that will thwart our ability to solve it and say, “enough is enough.”

TAKE ACTION

The only way the TPP and TTIP can get approved is if the executive branch secures “Fast Track” authority, allowing signed pacts to be rushed through Congress with a guaranteed vote in 90 days, under rules that circumvent ordinary review, amendment and debate. To find out how you can help make sure that doesn't happen, go to sierraclub.org/trade and drop us a note at responsibletrade@sierraclub.org.

Support Sierra Club Maine through payroll deduction

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MaineShare gives you an easy way to support more than 30 organizations working to make Maine a better place to live.

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

P.O. Box 2095, Augusta, ME 04338

Telephone: 207-622-1050

Email: giving@maineshare.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Penobscot Bay Film Series

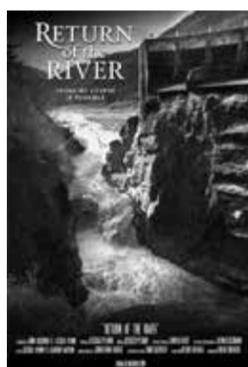


A Fierce Green Fire (Part 1)
6:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 29th
Abbott Room, Belfast Free Library
Free admission
An exploration of the environmental movement - grassroots and global activism spanning fifty years from conservation to climate change. Featuring Robert Redford, Meryl Streep, and Ashley Judd. There will be a talk following the film—speaker to be announced.

A Fierce Green Fire (Part 2)

6:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 10th
Abbott Room at the Belfast Free Library
Free admission

Kennebunk Film Series



Return of the River
Friday, October 24
First Parish UU Church, Kennebunk
Coffee reception—6:30 p.m.
Film showing—7 p.m.
Free admission
Post-film speaker—Landis Hudson, founding member of Mousam and Kennebunk Rivers Alliance

This film documents the history of the Elwha River, the decades-long efforts to remove the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams, and the restoration efforts to bring salmon runs back to the southern 70 miles of the river.

The Elwha River, a 45-mile salmon-producing river with several major salmon-producing tributaries that added up to a total of 77 miles of salmon habitat, was dammed by Elwha Dam 5 miles from its mouth in 1912 to provide electricity to the emerging city of Port Angeles.

Bull Feeney's Pub Nights

October 16—5:30 to 7:30
November 6—5:30 to 7:30
Bull Feeney's Pub, 375 Fore Street, Portland
Come join us for a social gathering with fellow Sierrans and friends.

Green Sneakers Weatherization Workshop

November 1—10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
ACE Hardware Store —Rte. One, Scarborough
Demonstrations on home weatherization and storm window construction as well as energy audit training.

Check our website (maine.sierraclub.org) for additional upcoming Sierra Club Maine outings and events.

Also:

If you're interested in organizing a film showing in your area, just contact Jeanine Bischoff at maine.chapter@sierraclub.org. We have an excellent library of films available and we'll provide you with the support you need to get started.

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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.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/sierra-club-maine-chapter/181279771922933>

Sierra Club Annual Dinner Held September 5 in Hallowell.

Annual Gathering Welcomes Mike Michaud; Honors Outstanding Environmental Service



Mike Michaud addresses the annual dinner on September 5.

Close to 100 Sierra Club members and friends gathered at the Maple Hill Farm Inn in Hallowell on a beautiful early September evening to celebrate another year of important work by the Chapter's volunteers and staff.

In his welcoming remarks, Chapter Director Glen Brand reviewed Sierra Club Maine's accomplishments for the year. Among the year's highlights were: organizing against the proposed tar sands pipeline; efforts to elect pro-environment candidates in the November 2014 election; advocating for pro-environmental legislation at the State House; working to clean up the coal-burning Schiller power plant on the Maine/New Hampshire border; mobilizing Mainers to take part in the People's Climate Rally; raising awareness on home energy efficiency; promoting passenger rail in Maine; and working to prevent the proposed Penobscot Bay dredging plan.

Brand also made note of Sierra Club Maine's year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The act, signed into law by President Johnson on September 3, 1964, created the

legal definition of wilderness and immediately protected 9.1 million acres of public land. Perhaps most importantly, the act fostered in a new era of public awareness of the importance of wilderness.

Following Brand's remarks and a Maple Hill Farm Inn dinner, the Chapter presented its annual awards. Accepting the two 2014 Business for the Environment Awards were Phil Coupe of Revision Energy and Lisa Burton and Chris Vincenty of Reel Pizza in Bar Harbor. ReVision Energy, the leading solar energy company in Maine, has worked closely with Sierra Club Maine in promoting solar options to reduce carbon emissions. And for years, Reel Pizza has generously offered its venue for a Sierra Club film series in Bar Harbor. The Excellence in Reporting Award was presented to Amy Browne for her outstanding work covering the Penobscot Bay dredging controversy and other environmental issues for community radio station WERU. Ilze Petersons was honored for her outstanding grassroots work at the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine. Ilze is the principal organizer of the annual HOPE Festival in Orono and has worked with Sierra Club Maine on numerous rallies and workshops. The Outstanding Volunteer Award was given to attorney Kim Ervin Tucker for her dedicated work exposing the flaws in the Army Corps of Engineers proposal to dredge Penobscot Bay (see page 5). The Public Service for the Environment Award recipient was not able to attend. The award was accepted by his wife, Laura.

In a surprise presentation, Sierra Club Maine co-chairs Jon Saxe and Becky Bartovics presented long-time executive committee member and treasurer David Mokler with the Chapter Chair Award.

Following the awards, Mike Michaud was introduced to a standing ovation. Michaud told attendees that if elected governor, he would set the goal of cutting Maine's reliance on oil for home heating (currently 70 percent) by half. He would also support development of clean renewable energy, especially solar energy and the University of Maine's off-shore wind project. He received cheers when he talked about restoring integrity and leadership to the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation. But the biggest cheers came when Michaud announced his opposition to piping tar sands oil into Maine and to the proposed east/west highway. Rather than a highway, Michaud wants to see an upgraded east/west rail line across the northern part of the state.

After enduring four year of the LePage administration, Michaud's message was enthusiastically received by Maine Sierrans and other annual dinner guests. He left the podium to a boisterous chant of "We Like Mike."

Special Thanks to Sierra Club Maine's Annual Dinner Sponsors

Hannah Pingree and Jason Mann
Tess and Jacob Gerritsen
Alison Smith
Tony Donovan and
the Maine Rail Transit Coalition
Claudia King
Becky Bartovics

Award Recipient Photographs

(upper to lower)

- Executive committee member Tara Hollander (left) presents the Excellence in Reporting Award to Amy Browne of WERU.
- Chapter Director Glen Brand (left) with Business for the Environment Award recipient Phil Coupe of ReVision Energy.
- Lisa Burton (left) of Reel Pizza accepts the Business for the Environment Award from Chapter Co-Chair Becky Bartovics.
- Executive committee member Jim Frick presents the Outstanding Grassroots Work Award to Ilze Petersons.
- Co-Chairs Joan Saxe (left) and Becky Bartovics presents the Chapter Chair Award to former Chapter treasurer David Mokler.

Also receiving awards were Kim Ervin Tucker, Outstanding Volunteer and Mick Devin, Public Service for the Environment Award (Mick had another engagement out of state).

Additional annual dinner photos are on display at maine.sierraclub.org.

Sierra Club Maine 2014 Honorees

