



# Maine Sierran

Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club

Spring 2012

Volume X, No. 1

## A Precious Gift to the People of Maine

*Huber Resources Corporation donates an iconic, 143-acre parcel surrounding Katahdin Lake to Baxter State Park.*

A treasured 143-acre parcel of land surrounding Katahdin Lake was donated to Baxter State Park in January by Huber Resources. The parcel is located on the southeastern tip of the lake and includes an outlet stream, acres of mature forest, and a sand beach offering spectacular views of Mount Katahdin. The beach is known locally as “Church Beach” in recognition of landscape painter Frederick Church who visited and painted the area many times.

The parcel was one of only two remaining privately owned tracts of land along Katahdin Lake’s shores. In 2006, a 4,000 acre parcel around the lake was added to Baxter from money raised from land conservation groups with the help of the state.

“All of us who treasure the special wild places of Maine, such as spectacular Katahdin Lake, should thank the Hubers, and all private land owners who generously give precious gifts of protected public land for all Mainers to enjoy,” said the Sierra Club’s Maine Woods Campaign Director, Karen Woodsum.

Baxter State Park Director Jensen Bissell noted that the land donation was the first by a corporation in the long history of the park.



A recently donated 143-acre parcel surrounding Katahdin Lake has 4,000 feet of water frontage with spectacular views of Mount Katahdin. The land was donated by Huber Resources Corp. (Photograph courtesy of the Huber Corp.)

*Glen Brand begins work as the Sierra Club Maine’s first-ever chapter director.*

## An Exciting Step Forward



Glen Brand

For its 20 year history, Sierra Club Maine has done impressive work in protecting the Maine environment—entirely with volunteer leadership. Through the years those leaders have often pondered how much more could be done with a paid director.

The goal of having a chapter director became a reality this past January with the hiring of long-time environmentalist Glen Brand.

“We are truly fortunate to have someone of Glen’s stature and experience lead our team,” said executive committee co-chair Becky Bartovics. “Not only does he have a broad range of environmental and energy experience, he brings an in-depth knowledge of the Sierra Club and the state of Maine.”

Glen worked for the national Sierra Club for 12 years, and was the co-founder and director of the Club’s Cool Cities program. Through a grass-roots effort, that program successfully raised awareness about the need for cities and towns to reduce their carbon footprints by adopting clean energy solutions. He’s also worked for other national and state environmental groups, including Greenpeace and Maine Conservation Voters.

He’s been quoted on a wide range of environmental issue in national media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, and the Discovery Channel. Glen has also been a featured speaker in venues around the country as well as in Denmark and Brazil.

—Continued on page 2

## Make Plans now to Attend this Movie Premier!



**Revenge of the Electric Car**  
May 22—7 pm  
Portland

Sierra Club Maine and Greater Portland Council of Governments are sponsoring the Maine premiere of the new documentary “Revenge of the Electric Car”

on Tuesday, May 22 at One Longfellow Square, 181 State St. in Portland.

Before the 7 pm showing, some of the electric vehicles featured in the film will be on display in front of the theatre.

Picking up the story from his popular documentary “Who Killed the Electric Car,” director Chris Paine takes his film crew behind the closed doors of Nissan, GM, and Tesla Motors to chronicle the story of the U.S. and global resurgence of electric cars. The film is narrated by actor Tim Robbins.

For more information about the film, go to [revengeoftheelectriccar.com](http://revengeoftheelectriccar.com). Seating for the premiere is limited. To reserve tickets (\$5 each) contact [glen.brand@sierraclub.org](mailto:glen.brand@sierraclub.org).

**More upcoming Chapter events  
on page 7**



Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club  
44 Oak Street, Suite 301  
Portland, ME 04101

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Ellsworth, ME  
Permit No. 82

## An East-West Highway Doesn't Make any Sense

Let's put our money into reviving our existing rail system.

This winter, proponents of an east-west highway across Maine, from Calais to Gubern Gore, made their case in the legislature for a highway feasibility study which would cost \$300,000. Interestingly, on the day of the hearing it was revealed that the funds for the study would come from "found" money from the Maine Department of Transportation's planning budget—money that was not going to be used for the Wiscasset bypass (that project has been cancelled).

Do we want our taxpayer money to go toward building a private, for profit highway?

And do we really need or want to place a road through these pristine areas of Maine?

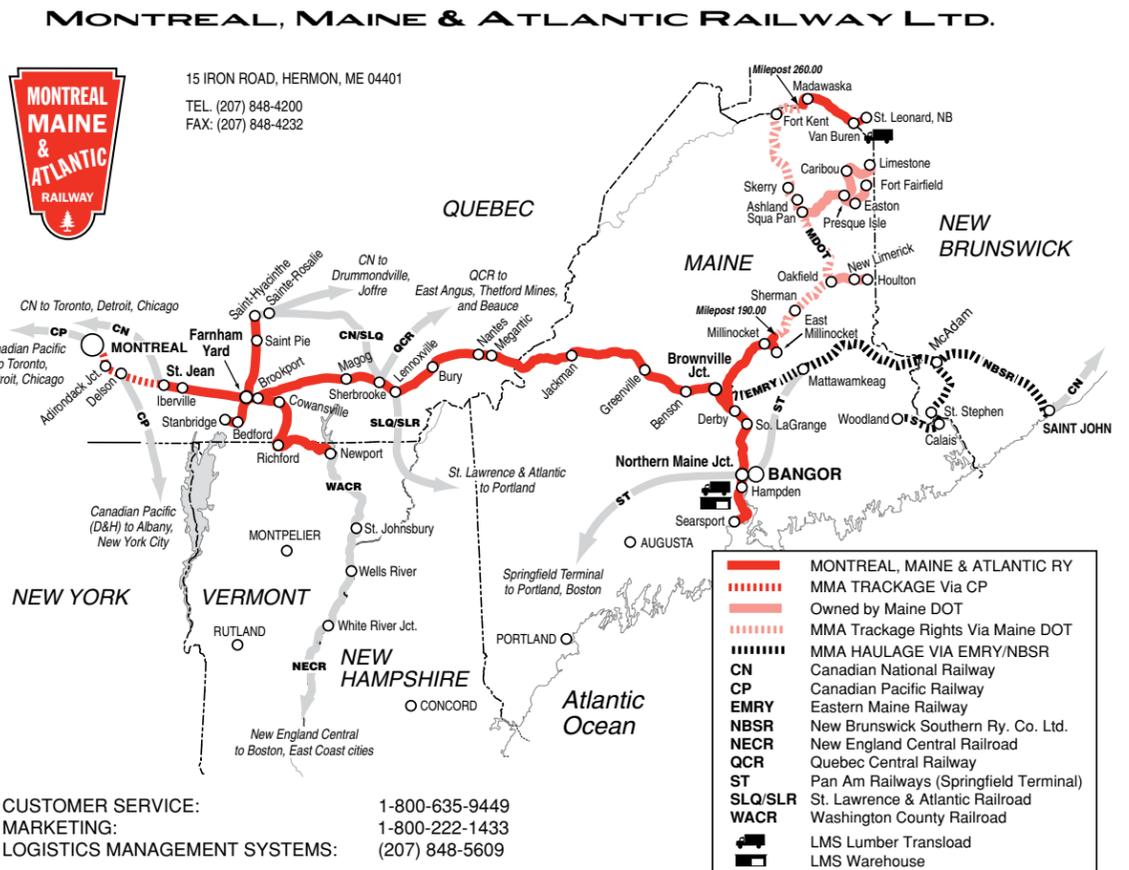
When introducing the bill, Representative Thomas of Ripley said, "This is a necessary first step to making this project we've talked about for decades a reality. We've studied this idea before, but before it was always going to be a public project. This time the project would be a private toll road, in many ways similar to the Maine Turnpike, which is a concept this committee deals with all the time."

Cinbro's Peter Vigue presented a slide show for the committee and asked, "What is missing?" showing Maine's road systems that illustrate the north south routes minus any roads east to west in Maine.

He conveniently left out the map of the east-west railroad routes (shown at right), already existing in Maine, when mentioning that the road would fill "Maine's hollow middle."

The proposed 230 mile, privately owned, toll road would connect east and west boundaries of Canada and would be owned by investors—investors that the feasibility study would apparently identify. This 230 mile highway, utilizing Canadian weight limits, would avoid communities and be built on existing rights of way, including logging roads.

Some highway proponents made the point that the project would not be, "knocking down the North Maine Woods." However, access egresses to Dover



### An east-west transportation system that does make sense

An east-west rail corridor already exists in Maine. Rail transport is more economical than transport by truck—and much better for the environment! (Graphic courtesy of Montreal, Maine, & Atlantic Railway LTD.)

Foxcroft and other communities would have to be built, with resulting environmental impacts.

In 1999 the Maine Department of Transportation published an east-west highway analysis study and concluded that the alternative highway corridors studied would provide only modest economic benefits to the Maine economy. They further concluded that costs of new four-lane highways do not appear to be economically justified. And having studied the highway corridors in New Hampshire and Vermont, it found that neither highway had dramatically altered the underlying economic structure of the corridor communities. In fact, the study concluded that Maine's east-west highway would face similar challenges in terms of stimulating investment and that "incremental gain following the construction would be modest."

Sierra Club Maine feels that any discussion regarding Maine's east-west corridor development should have rail at the head of the list. It's important to recognize that by reducing our vehicle miles traveled, and redirecting our public transportation investments toward passenger and commuter rail,

we will improve our air quality, reduce greenhouse gases, and provide opportunities for business growth via an improved freight transport system. And as fossil fuel prices continue to increase and supplies diminish, rail will make increasing economic sense.

In fact, transporting goods by rail is already proven to be three to four times more cost effective than by truck! Because rail has proven to be a low-carbon, fast, efficient, and economical way to move people and goods, the federal government is preparing a six-year comprehensive rail funding plan for the nation. It can be shown that rail and paved road cost about the same per mile (2-lane road - 1-way rail) but the road will need to be completely rebuilt in 10 years while the rail can last 50-plus years without major rebuilding. We can't end our dependence on oil until we emphasize convenient transportation choices that reduce our need to drive, such as passenger and freight rail and public transit. We should focus on maintaining the roads and bridges we have—not building roads or bridges we don't need, even if privately funded. On every level, an east-west highway makes no sense.

## Maine Chapter Director

Continued from page 1

"I'm proud to be the first director of Sierra Club Maine, and I'm excited about working with our thousands of Sierra Club Maine members to build on the success of programs such as Maine Partners for Clean Energy and the Maine Woods program. The Maine Woods is the environmental and cultural jewel of our state, and also one the country's most valuable resources. And the Sierra Club is directly involved in the array of current challenges and opportunities for protecting it."

Glen's other plans for the chapter include expanding the political and outings programs, as well as focusing new energy on the issues affecting Greater Portland and southern coastal areas.

"My major goal is to make it easier for more Maine citizens to get involved and take meaningful action to defend and extend our hard-won environmental protections," he said.

A substantial part of the new director's time will be devoted to working in conjunction with the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign.

"By defeating and closing down dozens of dirty coal plants across the country, the national Beyond



First-ever chapter director, Glen Brand with Sierra Club Maine Executive committee co-chairs Becky Bartovics (left), and Joan Saxe (right).

Coal Campaign has transformed the debate about our energy future," Glen noted.

He explained that although there is relatively little coal burning in northern New England, Maine families and Maine waters are affected by the toxic air and mercury pollution spewing from coal plants

son Julian is currently a college student. Glen is a graduate of the University of Florida and also holds a graduate degree from the University of Houston.

An avid gardener, canoeist, camper, and amateur jazz musician, he also enjoys spending time at his family's cabin on Moosehead Lake.

in the Midwest and flowing into the state.

"What's less known is there is an aging coal-fired plant in Portsmouth," Glen added. "Most of the emissions from that plant are flowing right into southern Maine. I'm excited about working with Club members in both Maine and New Hampshire to get that plant to clean up its act."

Glen moved to Maine in 2004 and resides in Falmouth with his wife, University of Southern Maine professor and poet, Annie Finch, and 13-year-old daughter Althea. His

*The Sierra Club joins the campaign to stop dirty tar sands oil from coming through Maine.*

## An Oil Disaster that we can Prevent

The Sierra Club has launched a campaign to stop dirty tar sands oil from coming through Maine. The Canadian oil and gas giant Enbridge is positioning itself to pump tar sands oil through an existing pipeline from Quebec to South Portland where it would be shipped by tanker to the Gulf of Mexico. The pipeline passes along the side of Sebago Lake, the drinking water supply for more than 15 percent of Maine people (including much of Southern Maine). It could also endanger Casco Bay and our vital fishing industries.

On February 9, the Chapter co-sponsored a public forum on the environmental and safety risks of the potential pipeline project at the University of Southern Maine's Portland campus. National tar sands experts from the Sierra Club, National Wildlife Federation and Natural Resources Defense Council presented the facts and led a discussion about preventing this risky project.

More than 200 concerned citizens were in attendance for the event which was recorded and broadcast on Maine Public Radio.

Earlier this year, President Obama denied a permit to allow the Keystone XL Pipeline to pump Canadian tar sands oil through the U.S. where it posed a serious threat to a giant aquifer in Nebraska and Kansas.

Enbridge has filed an application to reverse the flow of a section of the pipeline in Canada, allowing tar sands oil to flow from Alberta to Montreal, which connects to the pipeline to Portland. Environmentalists are concerned that by breaking the larger project into separate parts, the company is trying to get around the full environmental review required of the larger project.

"This proposal is another way of pumping tar sands oil from Western Canada," Sierra Club Maine director, Glen Brand told the *Portland Phoenix*. "The larger issue here is an attempt to get around the opposition to Keystone."

Right now there are two pipelines from Portland to Montreal (carrying overseas oil from South Portland northward).

But according to Brand, to get the thick tar sands oil through a pipeline it must be diluted with a mix of toxic chemicals and pumped at a higher pressure than that of conventional oil, and the high pumping pressure increases the risk of spills and pipeline rupture.

A representative from Portland Pipeline Corporation told the *Portland Phoenix* that the company did make a pipeline proposal several years ago, but that it's been on hold for economic reasons.

### Senate Rejects Attempt to Advance Keystone XL Pipeline!

In a big victory for the environment, the U.S. Senate on March 8 defeated a Republican effort to move the Keystone XL oil pipeline project forward.

President Obama had urged the Senate to vote no on the Republican proposal. The president had denied the pipeline permit in January.

At the same time the Senate rejected a proposal to expand off-shore oil drilling.

### Bloomberg News Reports that Keystone would Raise Gas Prices

In early March, the *Bloomberg News* reported that the Keystone oil pipeline would likely increase gas prices in the Midwest by as much as 20 cents per gallon.

In addition, it reported that the proposed pipeline would increase the price of heavy Canadian crude oil.



### White House Demonstration

Sierra Club Executive Director, Michael Brune (center in white shirt) joined thousands of activists, including several bus loads from Maine in the November Tar Sands demonstration near the White House. Among those Mainers were Sierra Club Maine leaders Becky Bartovics, Ken Cline, and Andy Burt. Andy was one of over 1200 demonstrators (including author and 350.org co-founder Bill McKibben) who were arrested during 14-days of sit-ins. In January, President Obama moved to deny the Keystone XL Pipeline permit to bring Tar Sands oil out of Canada. But another potential plan to pump the Tar Sands oil through Maine now needs to be stopped.



Oil sands mining operation in Canada. Photo by David Dodge, Courtesy of the Pambina Institute.

### What is Tar Sands oil and why is it such a threat?

Tar Sands, or oil sands, are a combination of clay, sand, water, and a heavy, viscous oil (bitumen). The oil can't be pumped from the ground—it needs to be mined and then refined into usable oil. The extraction process generally incorporates strip mining, open pit mining, or a pumping technique that requires underground heating. Tar Sands oil also requires a good deal of additional processing before it can be transported by pipeline or refined.

#### A Few Reasons Why Canadian Tar Sands Oil is an Environmental Threat

- It accelerates destruction of the North American boreal forest by clear-cutting thousands of trees, digging up millions of tons of earth, and converting clean water into toxic lakes.
- It would contribute to climate change because Tar Sands oil produces three times more global warming pollution than conventional oil. The Keystone pipeline project would emit as much CO<sub>2</sub> as 12 coal-fired plants.
- A potential oil spill from a Tar Sands oil pipeline would be a threat to American water supplies.
- It's poisonous to the American people. Tar Sands is laden with heavy metals, sulfur, carcinogens, and neurotoxins that are all harmful to human health.
- It would take America backwards—increasing our dependence on dirty, nonrenewable fossil fuels.

Maine Partners  
for Clean Energy



Promoting Efficiency &  
Smart Energy Solutions

## A Very Successful First Year for Green Sneakers

*Plans for 2012 include a strong community organizing effort in York County.*

The Green Sneakers Project in the Midcoast recently completed its first year of operation, exceeding many of its original goals. As a pilot project, Green Sneakers created activities that have successfully engaged local homeowners in saving energy and money with weatherization upgrades to their residences.

One of the proudest accomplishments was the model Future Homeowners project for high school students which provided more than 25 students in two schools with information and opportunities to learn about home energy efficiency and to bring that knowledge home to their parents and neighbors.

Other highlights from 2011 included:

- Recruited and trained community volunteers of all ages for our smart energy projects.
- Held a dozen PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) home energy loan forums in partnership with Efficiency Maine and local government, business, and nonprofit groups. The initial forum in Rockland resulted in a local homeowner becoming the state's first PACE loan recipient. Efficiency Maine reported that PACE loan inquiries and applications were substantially increased in communities where forums were held.
- Provided information to neighboring towns interested in adopting the PACE program.
- Performed 60 free home energy efficiency consultations for homeowners, renters and landlords (including distribution of information packets).
- Organized or presented more than a dozen other public events, including co-sponsoring a Strand Theatre screening of the film "Carbon Nation" with the Watershed School.
- Held four house parties where local homeowners and their certified energy contractors demonstrated completed energy and weatherization improvements to neighbors and friends. One other house party on North Haven was postponed until 2012.
- Led two Future Homeowners high school student programs, with two student interns paid through Maine Department of Environmental Protection working with their peers on energy efficiency projects including a Community Carbon Challenge.
- Organized an Earth Week event in three Midcoast towns with more than 30 homeowners displaying lawn signs to showcase homes that have completed energy upgrades.
- Spread the word about the local volunteer Window Dressers' service of providing interior thermal storm windows to both paying customers and low-income/elderly homeowners for free. Window Dressers's winter 2012 goal: 1000 windows.
- Provided education to our volunteers and homeowners about energy efficiency bills pending in the state legislature.
- Established a Green Sneakers Project in York County, beginning with a door-to-door canvass in October that reached over 2000 homeowners with



### Meeting with their Senator

Green Sneakers' Future Homeowners Project members met with Senator Susan Collins, who arrived in the room carrying a Green Sneakers canvass bag (she told the group she carries it everywhere). Left to right are Matt Clark, Keira Haining, Anabel Carter, Senator Collins, Eliza Carter, and Kristina Alex. Also meeting with the senator were Chapter Director Glen Brand and Green Sneakers Midcoast staffers Nancy Glassman and Andy Burt. The students (all from Camden Regional High) talked with the senator about the importance of upgrading the energy efficiency of Maine homes. They also told her about their own Green Sneakers activities and their commitment to help their families and neighbors in Midcoast communities save energy and money, and also reduce their carbon footprints.



**Brian Robinson, a member of the Midcoast Green Sneakers Advisory Team and vice president of Evergreen Home Performance, discussed the vapor barrier laid down in Rockport Representative Joan Welsh's home at a recent energy house party hosted by Representative Welsh and the Green Sneakers team. Twenty invited guests toured the home and learned about the energy retrofit Evergreen performed on Welsh's home.**

information about saving energy. A Maine Conservation Corps volunteer will lead the York County program for 2012, replicating many of the successful projects begun in the Midcoast.

### Project Moves into York County

Last fall, our Green Sneakers Project team began work in York County, with Katie Poole as our community organizer. Following a successful volunteer door-to-door canvass in October that reached more than 2000 homeowners in the communities of Kittery, Eliot, York, South Berwick, Ogunquit, Kennebunk and Kennebunkport, the Green Sneakers Project is beginning to recruit and train volunteers to complete free home visits and walk-throughs with interested homeowners. Katie and a volunteer Green Sneakers Energy Team are working with local certified energy contractors to identify homeowners who have had energy upgrades to host informational house parties where the homeowners and their contractors can describe the retrofit process and results with invited guests. Katie is also exploring opportunities to develop a Future Homeowners Project at an area high school, similar to the successful project in the Midcoast. The project has set a goal to get York County communities signed up with the PACE home energy loan program.

It's anticipated that the Green Sneakers Project in York County will closely partner with the national Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign. The Beyond Coal effort will be focused initially in the very southern part of the state, raising awareness of the adverse health effects caused by emissions flowing into the state from the Schiller Coal Plant in Portsmouth. The ultimate goal is to develop grassroots support for getting the Schiller Plant to clean up its act.

**To learn more about the Green Sneakers Project and how to join our team, email [greensneakersmc@gmail.com](mailto:greensneakersmc@gmail.com) -and in York County [greensneakersyc@gmail.com](mailto:greensneakersyc@gmail.com).**

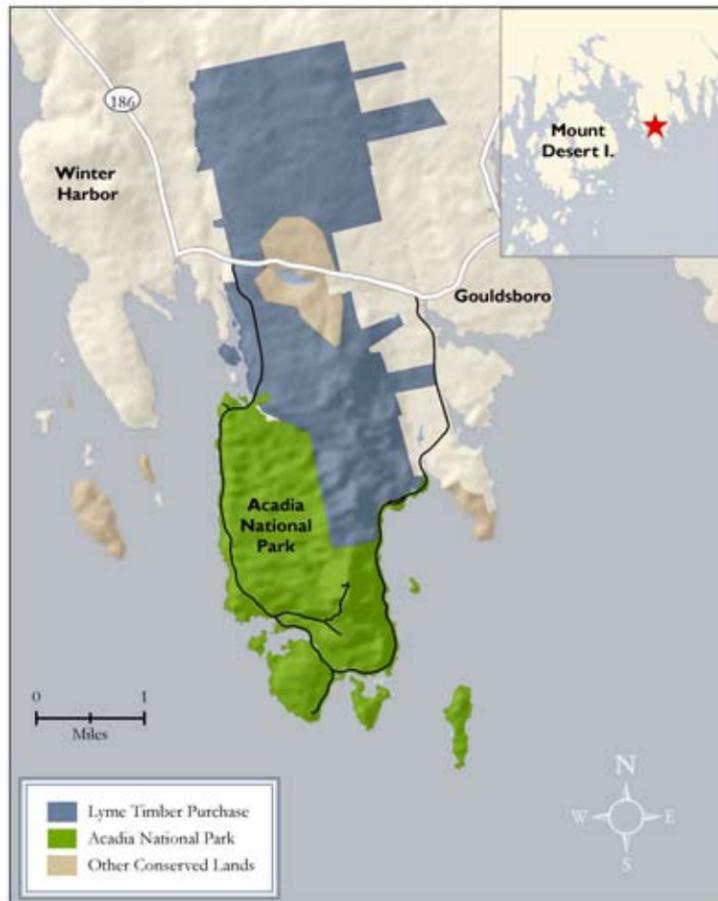
# Great News for Schoodic Peninsula and Acadia

*Plans for development of a luxury resort are cancelled with land purchase by Lyme Timer Company.*

This past December, Acadia National Park and the entire nation received a welcome Christmas present when The Lyme Timber Company purchased approximately 3,200 acres of land on the Schoodic Peninsula adjacent to Acadia National Park from a group of Italian developers who had proposed to develop the area. Ever since the proposed development was announced, Sierra Club Maine has worked with a group of "conservation partners" to ensure that the luxury resort was not built as proposed, and Maine's premiere natural area was not negatively affected by inappropriate development. This is a major victory for the environment and the communities of Downeast Maine.

In 2008, Italian developers, the Modena family of Milan, proposed a so-called "eco-resort community" on approximately 3,200 acres in Winter Harbor and Gouldsboro adjacent to the Schoodic part of Acadia. The resort proposal included the building two major hotels and hundreds of villas, a golf course, employee housing, and an extensive network of roads close to Acadia. Visitors entering and leaving the park would have driven directly through the Modena's development. The proposal included developing pristine Sergeant Island and putting one of the major hotels directly on Frazer Creek at the entrance to the Park's land.

Acadia National Park saw this development as the single biggest threat to Acadia National Park in decades. It also raised deep concerns among local residents and conservation organizations because of its threat to the unique character and traditions of the communities of eastern Hancock County. Although Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Friends of Acadia led the effort to oppose the development, Sierra Club used its national presence to make this a national issue and to publicize the threats to the ecological integrity of the area and the potentially



**The property acquired by Lyme Timber abuts the Schoodic Peninsula section of Acadia National Park.**

devastating impact to park visitors. Sierra Club volunteer Deb Loftus took members and concerned citizens on tours of the area and held informational sessions for local members. As part of the "conservation partners" group, Sierra Club worked closely with Friends of Acadia, Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT), and Frenchman Bay Conservancy to find alternatives to the proposed development.

"This is fantastic news," said Maine Chapter volunteer Ken Cline, "we couldn't have hoped for a better result." Although not familiar to most citizens, Lyme Timber Company has a solid conservation reputation. Cline remarked, "I received numerous phone calls from members worried about a timber company buying the land, but Lyme Timber is not an ordinary timber company. It is a private investment organization with a great record of acquiring and protecting important ecological properties in Maine and elsewhere."

Following its purchase, Lyme Timber entered into an option agreement with MCHT, giving the conservation organization the opportunity to acquire a conservation easement on the most significant part of property. They are also working with other conservation interests on protecting the property.

Cline noted that some parcels of the property near the town of Winter Harbor could be developed in a way that is consistent with the park while helping the local economy.

"The Sierra Club will continue to follow the developments on this property with a hope that most of the land will eventually be transferred to Acadia National Park for the enjoyment of future generations," he said. Congratulations and thanks to all the Conservation Partners, Sierra Club volunteers, committed Acadia National Park staff, and private conservation buyers!

## Salazar Says No Maine Woods Park Study This Year

*Mainers need to let the Interior Secretary and Senator Collins know that they support a reconnaissance study.*



**U.S. Interior Secretary Salazar speaking in Millinocket.**

In a very disappointing statement to a U.S. Senate appropriation subcommittee in February, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar let it be known that there were no plans to move forward on a reconnaissance study for a national park in the Maine Woods. The national park idea was spurred by landowner Roxanne Quimby's offer to donate some 70,000 acres just east of Baxter State Park to

the National Park Service.

Hopes had been raised for a reconnaissance study in August when Salazar and National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis visited Millinocket to talk with local residents about national protection options for the Maine Woods. At that meeting he acknowledged the strong local opposition to a national park feasibility study, but made a strong case for a reconnaissance study as a low-cost option for gathering information.

A feasibility study would require support from at least some of the state's congressional delegation and ultimately congressional approval (three of the four members of Maine's delegation have come out in opposition to a feasibility study). Such a study would also be fairly expensive and time-consuming—cost-

ing about \$250,000 and taking more than a year. A reconnaissance study is less comprehensive—costing just \$25,000 and taking a matter of months. It would not require congressional approval. The interior secretary could initiate such a study on his own.

Quimby and several Maine environmental groups have pushed for a feasibility study, despite the seeming insurmountable obstacles.

*"A reconnaissance study would provide valuable information about whether Roxanne Quimby's land is a good candidate for federal protection..."*



**Sierra Club volunteer Paul Weiss took this photo of his wife, Lucia Reardon, as the couple walked a logging road during a visit they made last fall to the property being proposed for a Maine Woods National Park.**

Sierra Club Maine has come out in strong support of a reconnaissance study. The chapter hasn't taken a position in support or opposition to a national park.

"We want to see more of the Maine Woods protected and the economy of Northern Maine become sustainable," said Maine Woods Campaign Committee member, Jim Frick. "A reconnaissance study would provide valuable information about whether Roxanne Quimby's land is a good candidate for federal protection or whether we should be looking at other options. It was really the only realistic possibility for moving this issue forward and it's sad that Secretary Salazar has taken this latest position."

News reports have indicated that Maine Senator Susan Collins pushed hard for Salazar to assure no national park studies for Maine were forthcoming.

In her comments, she indicated that a national park is strongly opposed in Maine.

However, polls have consistently shown that a majority of Mainers clearly favor a national park for the Maine Woods.

As Sierra Club members, we need to ask Secretary Salazar to change his position and initiate a reconnaissance study for the proposed park. Please write him at:

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar,  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
20240

*Legislative Update***2012 Session Mostly a Defensive Effort for Environmental Groups**

Sierra Club Maine has been busy tracking, lobbying and submitting testimony on numerous bills in the 2012 legislative session.

Unfortunately, we have been mostly playing defense, trying to stop a range of anti-environmental proposals. Two of the more harmful legislative bills are:

- ‘Takings’ Legislation (LD 1810), which would require Maine taxpayers to pay people and corporations to obey state environmental and land use law. If payments aren’t provided, then Maine laws would

be waived. Chapter Director Glen Brand testified against this bill in Augusta.

- Rolling Back Protections for Maine’s North Woods (LD 1798), which would reduce oversight over LURC commissioners and allow counties to drop out of LURC, and roll back some key existing protections. Sierra Club members testified against this bill.

We have also taken positions against bills that would weaken Maine’s successful Clean Elections program (LD 1774) (see articles below); fund a \$300,000 feasibility study to build an East-West Highway across Maine from Calais to Gubern Gore (see story on page 2); and authorize a bond (LD 420) to build a Sears Island Cargo Port.

We anticipate opposing the Governor’s energy bill because it would allow big hydro (more than

100mw) electricity projects in Canada to count as a renewable resource under Maine’s renewable portfolio standard. This change would cripple the budding market for wind and solar in Maine.

On the positive side, we are strongly supporting a bond to fund the popular, bi-partisan Land for Maine’s Future (LMF) program. A new LMF bond is a wise investment in preserving and protecting Maine’s valuable natural resources that are at the very heart of our economy and our quality of life. In addition, we supported LD 851 to authorize a bond to invest in passenger and freight rail service in Maine. The Appropriations Committee voted to move LD 851 forward as part of the Legislature’s overall bond discussion.

-Glen Brand

**Good Democracy is Good for the Environment**

*An address given by John Brautigam to the Environmental Priorities Coalition. John is a former legislator from Freeport and a former director of Efficiency Maine. He currently works at Southern Maine Community College*

The promise of Clean Elections is to ensure that democracy is about the voice of the people, not the voice of big money special interests. Clean Elections ensures that all of us are heard in our democratic system. This is vital for our democracy, and also crucial for the environmental priorities we are here to discuss today.

Today Clean Elections is under attack by some. We join with the other organizations here today to ask our elected representatives to stay true to the spirit of the law enacted by the people of Maine fifteen years ago. This means keeping a viable public funding option for candidates for state office, including the governor.

The legislature is now poised to amend the Clean Election act by removing matching funds to comply with a court decision issued last year.

The nonpartisan and nonpolitical Ethics Commission has drafted legislation to address that court decision, and we support that legislation. This proposal—known as the “re-qualifying option”—will potentially save money in these tough budget times, while also allowing Clean Election candidates to run a competitive race.

And not just incumbents, but new candidates as

well.

We call on the legislature to enact the Ethics Commission’s “re-qualifying” option to replace the matching funds provision.

Supporting this legislation will protect the democratic process dealing with key issues, such as mercury in our air and water; toxics in consumer products; threats to wildlife and fisheries; issues relating to clean energy and efficiency. These are absolutely vital issues for all of Maine, urban and rural, Democratic and Republican and independent.

A robust Clean Election system will ensure that everyone who cares about Maine’s water, land and wildlife will be heard in the State House, and that their voices will not be drowned out by wealthy special interests who don’t share our commitment to the long term future of our beautiful state and its extraordinary environmental heritage.

The environmental priorities discussed here today – renewable energy, wildlife protections, a sensible planning and regulatory system, access to wildlands -- are the people’s priorities. But they will only carry the day if the voice of the people can be heard. And the Clean Election system is Maine’s way to ensure that the voice of the people is never silenced by wealthy special interests.

Thank you for this opportunity, and we appreciate your support for the Maine Clean Election Act, for the “re-qualifying option,” and for all the environmental priorities discussed here today.

**March Senate/House Votes Weaken Clean Elections**

On March 8, the Maine Senate narrowly passed LD 1774, weakening the playing field for Clean Election candidates. Two amendments which would have strengthened Clean Elections were defeated.

On a positive note, many senators spoke strongly in favor of Clean Elections.

Later in March, the House approved LD 1774, also in a close vote along party lines.

The legislation removes all references of matching funds from Clean Elections law. Clean Elections candidates can now receive only limited upfront public money.

**Searsport Project Needs a Full Environmental Review**

Sierra Club Maine submitted comments to the Army Corps of Engineers on the application of DCP Midstream Partners, an subsidiary of Conoco Phillips to obtain permits to fill more than two acres of forested wetlands and streams on a 22 acre parcel that drains into Long Cove. A single 16 story tank and supporting infrastructure would be built to house the Liquefied Propane Gas (LPG) that requires constant temperature of minus 40 degrees F. and would be lit around the clock. Flaring of propane gas will be required to maintain constant pressure in the tank some 500 hours per year.

Sierra Club Maine requested a full environmental impact statement be required prior to any issuing of permits. The project would require clear cutting of the entire 22 acres of woodlands and filling wetlands as well as streams. Adjacent Long Cove tidal flats are a recently restored harvestable clamming source. The company’s offer of \$300,000 in lieu fee payments presumes to pay for the cost of wetland loss. There are significant safety and environmental issues associated with this project, not least of which is the zone of impact should there be an explosion (25 miles). At capacity local surface roads will be expected to carry an estimated 60 to 100 propane tank trucks per day.

Economic impacts to the tourist based economy of the town and entire area have not been evaluated. Air and water quality issues are also at stake. Searsport townspeople have proposed a moratorium on the proposal to be voted upon at their March 10<sup>th</sup> Town meeting. The island towns of Islesboro and North Haven along with many local business owners and local environmental activists (including the group “Thanks but no Tanks”), are working together to require a full environmental review.

**Support Sierra Club Maine through payroll deduction**

# MaineShare

**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](http://www.maineshare.org) or contact us directly.**

**P.O. Box 2095, Augusta, ME 04338**

**Telephone: 207-622-1050**

**Email: [giving@maineshare.org](mailto:giving@maineshare.org)**

## Upcoming Events

Mar 23—6:30 pm  
Kennebunk Film Series (with dessert and coffee)  
**"The Last Mountain"**  
First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church  
114 Main Street, Kennebunk

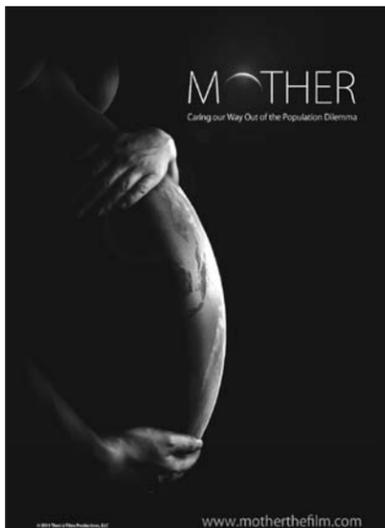
April 15—2 pm  
Downeast Book Club  
**The Control of Nature** by John McPhee  
75 State Street, Ellsworth

April 20—6:30 pm  
Kennebunk Film Series (with dessert and coffee)  
**"Mother"**  
First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church  
114 Main Street, Kennebunk

April 21—11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
HOPE Festival  
University of Maine, Orono  
Featuring Bill McKibben  
(Be sure to stop by the Sierra Club Maine table)

May 22—7 p.m.  
**"Revenge of the Electric Car,"** Portland  
One Longfellow Square,  
181 State Street, Portland

For more information on these or other Sierra Club Maine events go to: [maine.sierraclub.org](http://maine.sierraclub.org)



### Breaking the Taboo

#### Mother

An important film that constructively sheds light on an issue that fuels global problems—overpopulation

April 20—6:30 pm  
First Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
Kennebunk

Population was once at the top of the environmental agenda, dominating the first Earth Day and the subject of best-selling books like *The Population Bomb*. Since that time, the world population has nearly doubled, adding more than three billion people. At the same time, talking about population has become politically incorrect. But it's an issue we cannot afford to ignore.

"Mother: Caring for 7 Billion," illustrates both the overconsumption and the inequity side of the population issue by following Beth, a mother and a child-rights activist, as she comes to discover, along with the audience, the thorny complexities of the population issue.

Grounded in the theories of social scientist Riane Eiler, the film strives not to blame but to enlighten, to highlight a different path for humanity. "Mother" demonstrates that we need to change our conquering domination system with a nurturing one—the first step being raising the status of women.

"Mother" features world renowned experts, including iconic biologist Paul Ehrlich, author of *The Population Bomb*, and economist, Mathis Wackernagel, the creator of the ground-breaking Footprint Network.

Prior to all showings at the Kennebunk Film Series, there is a 6:30 social gathering with coffee and dessert.

## 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](http://maine.sierraclub.org)  
email: [maine.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:maine.chapter@sierraclub.org)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Becky Bartovics	North Haven
Ruth Bettinger	Sanford
Bill Briggs	Windham
Richard Burbank	Rockland
Jim Frick	Orono
Claudia King	Falmouth
David Mokler	Biddeford
Bill Pearce	Rockland
Joan Saxe	Freeport
Bob Wuerthner	Kennebunk

### CHAPTER DIRECTOR

Glen Brand [glen.brand@sierraclub.org](mailto:glen.brand@sierraclub.org)

### PARTNERS FOR CLEAN ENERGY

Joan Saxe [joansaxe@gmail.com](mailto:joansaxe@gmail.com)

### MAINE WOODS CAMPAIGN

Karen Woodsum [karen.woodsum@sierraclub.org](mailto:karen.woodsum@sierraclub.org)

### NEWSLETTER

Jim Frick [jim.frick@umit.maine.edu](mailto:jim.frick@umit.maine.edu)

### VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Heather Rorer [maine.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:maine.chapter@sierraclub.org)

*MAINE SIERRAN* is published twice per year (March and September) by the Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club. Articles may be reprinted with credit to *MAINE SIERRAN*. We welcome your input. Please email Jim Frick at [jim.frick@umit.maine.edu](mailto:jim.frick@umit.maine.edu) if you have suggestions or comments or if you are interested in contributing articles or photographs.

### 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](mailto:maine.chapter@sierraclub.org)

### Be Sure to Visit us on Facebook



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

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

# Celebrating Sierra Club Maine

*More than 100 members and friends came to the Harraseeket Inn in November to enjoy dinner, annual chapter awards, a silent auction, and an engaging talk by Sierra Club leader Michael Brune.*



**Michael Brune**

Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune was the honored guest at the Maine Chapter's annual dinner, held at Freeport's Harraseeket Inn in November. More than 100 members and friends were treated to Michael's interactive and engaging presentation, focusing on his past experiences in helping to protect rainforest and on his current Sierra Club leadership role to shut down or convert America's dirtiest coal plants.

Michael noted that the Club has already been instrumental in shutting dozens of coal plants, and that with the infusion of a recent major matching gift, more success could be expected. He left attendees with the very clear and positive message that the needed clean energy technology already exists to replace fossil fuel. What is needed, he

stressed, is public demand and political will.

Michael's talk was recorded and later aired on Maine Public Radio's "Speaking in Maine" program. The speech can be heard on the MPBN website.

Prior to Michael's presentation, co-chairs Becky Bartovics and Joan Saxe presented the chapter's annual awards. Receiving the Business for the Environment Award was DiMillo's Restaurant in Portland. The restaurant recently installed a cutting edge vertical axis wind turbine, called the Windspire. The turbine is 3-stories high and has received positive feedback for its attractive, some say artistic, appearance.

Representative Ben Chipman of Portland was presented with the chapter's Public Servant for the Environment Award. Ben is a progressive independent legislator who helped write transportation bills, which Sierra Club Maine supported, in the last legislative session.

Volunteer Annette Naegel received the Chapter Chair's Award. Annette has been involved in every aspect of the Midcoast Green Sneakers program. She has done door-to-door canvassing, home visits and walk-throughs, donated food and time to Green Sneakers house parties, and she serves on the Green Sneakers Board.

"Annette Naegel is the volunteer that every nonprofit group dreams about having," said Green Sneakers coordinator Andy Burt. "She sees a need and she meets it."

The Outstanding Volunteer Award was given to Leanne Kruder. Leanne is a former Sierra Club Maine staff member who has remained a dedicated volunteer. She serves on the chapter's fundraising committee and coordinated this year's very successful silent auction.

"Leanne put a great deal of time, thought, and energy into the auction," said co-chair Becky Bartovics. "She was the major reason the event happened and was so successful."

And of course the event would not have happened without the generosity of our many silent auction donors. A list of auction donors appears below. Thanks also to generous donations made to the event by the Harraseeket Inn, Becky Bartovics, and Barbara Winterson.



Executive committee member Bill Briggs checks out some of the great silent auction items with his wife, Martha.



Jim and Cathy Wellehan with former Sierra Club executive committee member Sandy Amborn (center). Jim is owner of Lamey-Wellehan Shoes, and a leader of promoting clean energy for Maine business.

## Thank You, Silent Auction Donors!

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens • David Wilson • Becky Bartovics • Bill Briggs

Tidewater Inn • Freeport Wild Bird Supply • Barbara Winterson • Lyons Coffee

Ramblers Way • Nebo Lodge • David Mokler

Deb Loftus • Patagonia • DiMillos • West Branch Pond Camps

Island Falls Canoe • Maine Photography • Nomads • Shift • Wheeler's Camps

Raven's Crossing • Hugos • David's • Pepper Club • Silly's • Fore Street Restaurant

Chaya Eco Jewelery • Paul Wiess • Laura Serano

Center for Studying Mindfulness & Living Well • Heart at Work • Friends of Casco Bay

Hannaford • Nate Priest • Primrose Framers • Back Country Excursions •

Rosemont Bakery • Angela Adams