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# Maine Sierran

Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club

Spring 2017

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## Let's Show Washington That We Won't Stop Fighting For Climate Action

*Maine Sierrans will be among the thousands of concerned citizens to gather in the nation's capitol for the April 29th People's Climate March.*



The latest scientific reports clearly show that our planet continues to undergo record temperature increases—increases that are already causing widespread extreme weather events around the globe.

But Donald Trump and his pro-fossil-fuel appointees have chosen to ignore the science. In his first weeks in office he advanced the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines, deleted all White House website references to climate change, proposed severe cuts to the EPA and other agencies' climate programs, advocated for dirty coal production, and selected climate change skeptics and deniers for top posts.

In addition to his attack on environmental progress, the president is also trying to move us backwards in areas such as healthcare coverage, immigration policy, and reproductive rights.

Equally disturbing is the fact that the Republican-controlled Congress seems ready to fall in line with the Trump agenda. This was clearly evident in the approval of unqualified, pro-fossil-fuel industry nominees to top administration positions.

In response to the widespread outrage against Trump's anti-climate, anti-social-justice agenda, the Sierra Club and more than 100 other People's Climate Movement (PCM) partners are mobilizing for a massive People's Climate March on Washington on April 29th.

"On April 29, it's going to be much clearer to Donald Trump that he won't drag America, or the world, backwards on climate without the fight of his life," said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune. "Our planet is in crisis, and voices from around the nation must and will be heard."

Author and 350.org founder, Bill McKibben agrees—noting that the purpose of the march is to



show that the "election didn't cancel physics."

"Politicians need to be reminded, even as they do the bidding of the industry, that the rest of us are watching," McKibben said.

The April 29th march, which organizers hope will be the largest climate gathering of all time, will build on the highly successful Women's March in January and on the historic 2014 Climate March, which drew more than 400,000 people to New York City. That event clearly demonstrated to our leaders in Washington the depth and breadth of concern about the

### Join Us!

Sign up for the Sierra Club bus trip to the Washington Peoples' Climate March at:  
[sierraclub.org/maine](http://sierraclub.org/maine)

climate crisis and provided momentum for advances such as Obama's Clean Power Plan and the historic Paris Climate Agreement. It also spurred widespread local climate efforts, including Sierra Club Maine's highly successful Climate Action Teams.

Participants will be coming to Washington from around the nation to participate. Here in Maine our Sierra Club chapter is organizing at least two busloads of members, friends, and students for the trip to the nation's capitol. Maine Sierrans traveling to the march will include the Chapter's director, Glen Brand, and several executive committee members.

"Mainers are outraged by what Trump has been doing and are eager to have their voices heard," said Brand. "We'll have at least two buses, and hopefully, if demand calls for it, several more."

Brand added that there will be a simultaneous march in Augusta (and potentially in other locations) for Mainers who can't make the trip to Washington. To stay updated on what is taking place in the state, visit the Sierra Club Maine website at [sierraclub.org/maine](http://sierraclub.org/maine).

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Thank You,  
Senators, For  
Standing Up  
For the EPA!



In February the Republican-controlled Senate approved the nomination of Scott Pruitt, a climate change denier with close ties to fossil fuel, to head the Environmental Protection Agency.

Despite the disappointment of Pruitt's confirmation, we can be proud that our two Maine Senators stood tall and voted against this disturbing Trump appointment.

Now that Pruitt has been confirmed we need our senators' bipartisan leadership more than ever to stop EPA cuts and protect the Maine environment.



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## Legislative Update

## Water, Mining, Rail, and Solar Highlight Legislative Agenda

A number of bills in the current session of the Maine Legislature could have a major impact on the quality of our land and water, as well as the future of clean energy and clean transportation. Sierra Club Maine's legislative team has recommended Chapter support for many of the bills relating to the following issues:

**PASSENGER RAIL:**

In 2015 the 127th Legislature allocated \$500,000 to the Department of Transportation to study and plan implementation of passenger rail service between Portland and Lewiston/Auburn.

Building on that past legislative action, rail supporters are proposing a \$50 million bond bill (LD 316) which if passed would go to statewide referendum in November, 2018.

According to Sierra Club Maine Transportation Team Leader Tony Donovan, if passed, matching funding for the \$50 million bond is expected to become available from the federal government. The funds would be used primarily to build and repair the state's rail infrastructure.

"This bond bill is the key to bringing rail service to communities all over Maine and eventually even service from Maine to Montreal," Donovan explains. "It will be a stand-alone, up or down vote. If you support rail, vote yes. If you don't support it, vote no—simple as that. Rebuilding rail service (both freight and passenger) has tremendous benefits for the economy and the environment. But we need a clear commitment to move ahead."

There are five other related bills supporting investments in rail in Maine.

LD 315, sponsored by Senator Nate Libby, would authorize researching and identifying matching federal funding for rail development in Maine.

LD 1849, sponsored by Senator David Miramant, is an act to allow municipalities to form transportation corridor districts and attract private investment to the corridor municipalities. The corridors would

provide mechanisms for coordinating passenger trains, buses, pedestrian and bike routes.

LD 116, sponsored by Representative Jared Golden, would boost funding for the rail multi-modal account by increasing the tax rate on rental cars to five



Chapter Legislative Team leader, Tony Donovan (left) at a March 3 press conference with State Senators David Miramant (center) and Nate Libby. Both Miramant and Libby have sponsored legislation in support of passenger rail in Maine.

*Take action! Let your legislator know you support protecting Maine's water supply and developing our clean energy and clean transportation potential.*

percent. Multi-modal is moving goods or passengers under one contract using two or more means of transport.

LD 2052, sponsored by Rachel Talbot-Ross, calls for using new tax revenue from marijuana sales to support rail transportation in Maine.

Finally, a second bill sponsored by Nate Libby, LD 724, would amend and expand the laws governing the state's rail authority, allowing for more public involvement in transportation planning.

**MINING:**

There are numerous mining protection bills on the legislative agenda. Mining operations can cause serious and lasting damage to Maine groundwater. Heavy metals from mining operations in groundwater are extremely difficult and expensive to remove, costing taxpayers millions of dollars.

Sierra Club Maine is supporting the passage of a bill by Senator Brownie Carson geared to protecting Maine's groundwater from mining pollution. The legislation would:

1. Ban mining in, on, or around floodplains, public lands, rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.
2. Place reasonable limits on groundwater pollution by limiting the definition of the term "mining area" and requiring mining companies to limit pollution whenever possible.
3. Protect Maine taxpayers from remediation and environmental cleanup costs by requiring mining companies to pay into a trust.
4. Require the Department of Environmental Protection to develop new regulations that would include all the requirements in the Carson bill.

**WATER:**

Our chapter also strongly supports LD 422, an act that would go a long way to protecting Maine's water supply. The bill calls for establishing the Maine Water Trust, making the state's water supply a public trust. It would:

1. Determine the level and quantity of drinking water necessary to supply all Mainers.
2. Determine the quantity of drinkable water which may be accessed by private entities for commercial use.
3. Permit and regulate the use of groundwater for commercial purposes and settle any issues concerning those permits.
4. Inventory water infrastructure including sewers and water pipes used to transfer said water by the state's water districts.

**SOLAR:**

There are a number of solar bills being considered in this legislative session. The primary focus is on Representative Seth Berry's bill, An Act to Protect and Expand Access to Solar Power in Maine. The Berry bill would protect net metering, reinstate the solar rebate program, and support community solar projects.

This bill is critically needed because the Public Utilities Commission has voted to roll back retail-rate net metering and has adopted a buy-all, sell-all arrangement to begin in 2018. As explained on the Green Tech Media website, "Customers who install solar starting in 2018 will see the credit they receive on the transmission and distribution portion of their electric bill decrease by 10 percent each year over 10 years." It goes on to note that the change could reduce the value proposition of rooftop solar from a credit of 14 cents per kilowatt-hour today, to a credit of six cents per kilowatt-hour at the end of the decade.

Although the solar industry in Maine continues to grow, the state is far behind the rest of New England (and the country) in state policies that support its growth. The PUC's action puts us further behind.

The legislature has the opportunity to correct the PUC's misguided decision by passing Representative Berry's bill and restoring the needed (and fair) incentives for solar expansion in Maine.

Please take the time to write or talk with your senator and representative and let them know you support protecting Maine's water and developing our clean energy and transportation potential.

## Record Number Turn Out For Lobby Day

The "Trump Effect" was in full evidence in Augusta on March 3rd for Sierra Club Maine's Lobby Day. Over 36 volunteers showed up at the State House to engage their representatives regarding important bills to address energy and the environment. Unofficially, that's more than twice the number of attendees at previous Lobby Days.

"Nationwide, the election of Trump has brought out millions of people," noted the chapter's Lobby Day spokesperson, Tony Donovan. "The spin-off is that more and more people are reaching out to organizations like ours."

The purpose of Lobby Day is to familiarize concerned Mainers with the workings of the capitol building and show them how easy and effective it is to speak with their state senators and representatives. It's also an opportunity to educate participants on many of the important energy and environmental bills on the legislative agenda (see story at top of page).

"The idea is not to be shy about speaking with your legislators," Donovan said. "Thirty-six people learned that they can come to the state house

and talk with their representatives and senators almost anytime they want."

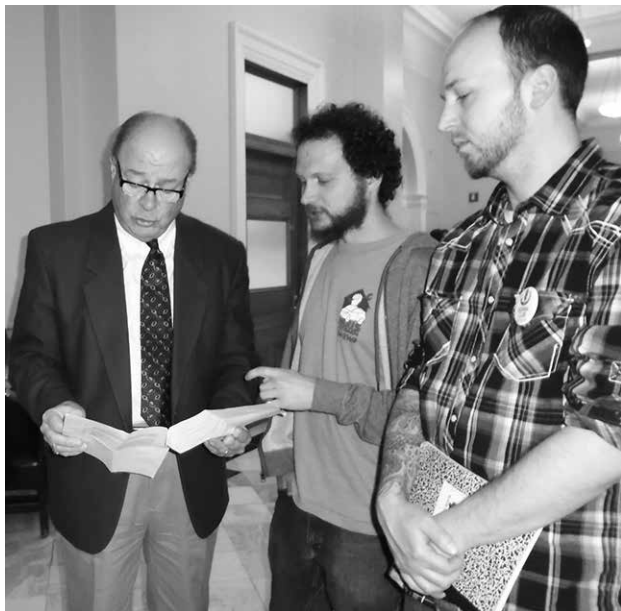
Shri Verrill, a Falmouth resident and a wetland scientist, was among the first-time participants in Lobby Day. She was motivated by what she sees as ever growing threats to the environment.

"I've decided to step it up a notch because of our current governor and president and their attacks on the EPA and environmental regulations in Maine," Verrill explained. "I'm at a place in my career where I have the time and expertise to talk specifically about how the environment is affected by industry and pollution." At the orientation Verrill made use of her substantial expertise in explaining to attendees the impact of a pending bill.

Following lunch, many Lobby

Day participants stayed for a press conference covered by several Maine media outlets in which State Senators Miramant and Libby discussed their passenger rail legislation.

*-Edited from a Chapter blog by Rebecca Goldfine*



Lobby Day participants Tony Giambro (center) and Travis Ritchie (right) talk with Rep. Lloyd Herrick.



## Gaining Knowledge and Understanding of Indigenous Peoples

*Maine-Wabanaki Reach workshop helps Sierra Club Maine volunteers learn how environmentalists can build respectful and beneficial relations with our state's native people.*

Some 25 Sierra Club Maine leaders and volunteers gathered at the Winthrop Center Friends Church on January 26 to take part in a Maine-Wabanaki Reach workshop designed to bring knowledge and understanding of Maine's native people.

The workshop was designed for non-native Mainers and was presented with these three intersecting goals:

1. Learning more about the shared history of native and non-native communities.
2. Developing our understanding of privilege.
3. Understanding our role as allies of native people and what that means to the work of the Sierra Club.

Following introductions, workshop leaders Susan Howe and Mary Therese Duffy discussed the mission and work of Maine-Wabanaki Reach. Attendees were shown "The Canary Effect," a powerful film about America's treatment of native people throughout our history. It was an emotional experience, even for those familiar with Native American history. Many attendees left the film room with tears in their eyes.

After lunch, workshop leaders presented the group with information on understanding privilege and the responsibilities of non-natives in developing working relationships with native people. Attendees discussed their thoughts and experiences in both large and smaller groups. A second film, "First Light," focused on Maine's native peoples.

"It was eye-opening," said Sierra Club Maine leader Tony Donovan. "People like me, white males, go through our lives and don't recognize that we are privileged. What's there for me, access to education, jobs, bank loans, safety, whatever, may be closed off



Maine-Wabanaki Reach workshop leaders Susan Howe and Mary Therese Duffy.



Workshop attendees (L. to R.) Marty Fox, Joan Saxe, and Claudia King.

### How We Can Be Allies to Indigenous Peoples

- Care for the Earth.
- Live with gratitude.
- Demand that America honor treaty commitments.
- Reach out to your indigenous neighbors.
- Slow down and listen more than you talk.
- Read and promote the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Support native authors, craftspeople, businesses, and events.
- Take time to learn about the people indigenous to the area where you live or visit.
- Treat all living things with respect—as your relatives, not your resources.
- Celebrate Indigenous People's Day on October 12.

or difficult for others because of skin color, gender, ethnicity, sexual preference, etc."

Donovan also noted that he hopes the workshop will help Sierra Club Maine become an even stronger ally to Maine's native peoples.

"When it comes to caring for the earth, the Sierra Club and the Wabanaki have many of the same goals and values," he said. "Their culture is one of sustainability—in agriculture, fishing, everything. We can learn a great deal from them."



Looking down the East Branch of the Penobscot in Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

## Support For New Monument Moves Forward Despite Governor LePage's Continued Opposition

While just about everyone in Maine has come to embrace or at least accept the benefits of our new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (KW&W), Governor Paul LePage continues his opposition to the federal government's protection of this natural treasure. In February, LePage sent off a letter to President Trump asking him to rescind the designation of the monument.

Fortunately, LePage is becoming a lonely voice in his fight to do away with the KW&W. Although 2nd District Congressman Poliquin has remained silent about LePage's letter, Congresswoman Pingree and Senators King and Collins have all declared support for moving forward with making the monument an important part of revitalizing Northern Maine. And there has been little support for LePage's letter from the Katahdin region. In fact all indications are that the monument is bringing business and visitors to the area—1,215 vehicle visits in the three months after Obama's executive order establishing KW&W.

Although his staff is reviewing Obama's national monument designations, it's uncertain that Trump would try to rescind the order establishing KW&W. In addition, there is no provision in the Antiquities Act for such a rescission and no previous president has attempted to do it. If Trump did try to rescind the order, he would face a strong legal challenge.

Meanwhile, in February, there was more positive news for the national monument. A support group, Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters, has been formed with Lucas St. Clair as its president. St. Clair explained that, initially, the friends group will focus on building volunteer opportunities, education programs, and advocacy for the monument. "Eventually, the nonprofit group will provide financial support for specific projects in the monument and surrounding communities," he said. The private funds would supplement, not replace, federal appropriations.

## Trump Looks to Roll Back Obama's Vehicle Fuel Standards

*Sierra Club will fight to keep fuel efficiency requirements in place.*

On March 15, President Trump announced that he wants to rework the new federal fuel economy standards put in place by the Obama administration. Those requirements call for automakers to increase vehicle efficiency to 54.5 mpg by 2025.

Trump's move comes after the Environmental Protection Agency finalized its decision, in January, to maintain the model year 2022-2025 standards set in 2012. Numerous reviews and studies have determined that these standards could be met on time and with known technologies, and would save money for consumers at the pump.

The current standards would also reduce climate pollution by five billion metric tons over the lifetimes of the vehicles sold in model years 2012-2025.

Trump is arguing that the strong Obama fuel standards hurt the economy and cost jobs. But the auto industry has added jobs and seen record sales increases since the new fuel standards were adopted.

"The historic vehicle efficiency standards set by the Obama administration are a proven success with widespread public support. They are improving the fuel efficiency of vehicles, spurring innovation of electric vehicles, cutting oil use, reducing emissions, and saving drivers money in fueling costs," said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.

"Trump's executive order is reckless and puts the health and safety of American families in jeopardy. As we fight back against any efforts to scrap these life-saving emissions reductions, we will be on strong legal footing."



*Community-based approaches to a clean energy future will be explored at September 16 Lewiston event.*

## 2017 Maine Grassroots Climate Action Conference Will Feature Activist, Educator, Author George Lakey

**B**uilding on the momentum of its first two Climate Action Conferences as well as the recent success of several Climate Action Teams (CATs), Sierra Club Maine is organizing a third Climate Action Conference. The event will take place on September 16 at the University of Southern Maine's Lewiston campus. The theme of the 2017 conference is Community Approaches to a Clean Energy Future and Climate Change Solutions. It will be dedicated to the memory of Wabanaki artist, canoe-maker, and activist, David Moses Bridges (see article below).

The goal of the conference will be to inspire local CATs toward further action in their communities. The longer-term goal is to have teams in every community in Maine working on clean energy and weatherization. To that end, the conference will host several workshops, including ones on Maine's Energy Future and Developing a Sustainability Policy for Maine.

The keynote speaker for the September 16 event will be author/activist George Lakey. The title of his talk is Building a Movement: A Big Picture Vision for the Climate.

Lakey, a veteran activist, is part of Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) in Pennsylvania. A retired Swarthmore College educator, he is the author of nine books—all about change and how we achieve it. His latest book is *Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians got it right and how we can too*. Lakey is the founder of Training for Change and has led over 1500 workshops in five continents. He is a recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Award and the National Giraffe Award for Sticking his Neck out for the Common Good.

We talked briefly with Lakey about his work with EQAT, how we can spur social and environmental change, and what we can learn from the experiences of Nordic countries.

**Maine Sierran: Your group, the Earth Quaker Action Team, recently accomplished something pretty amazing. Please tell us about that.**

**George Lakey:** Back in 2010 we asked PNC Bank, a historically Quaker bank, to withdraw funding from corporations who engage in mountaintop removal coal mining. PNC was one of the leading financiers of this devastating practice, which has destroyed 500 mountains, thousands of miles of river and stream beds, and cost many lives in Appalachia. We led a march across Pennsylvania. We organized bank branch actions in 13 states. And we directly confronted PNC board members and executives. After five years of effort, in 2015, PNC changed their investment policy.

**What can we learn and apply from your successful campaign?**

It's important to discern the points of weakness of those who control what we're trying to change. "To shine light on the practices that our corporate target wants to keep in the shadows." That means confronting corporate leaders directly, in person—the people in control. And it means building relationships with the



George Lakey

people directly affected. For example, we brought in folks from Appalachia and had them speak out at PNC meetings. Finally it means an all-out commitment—the willingness to face arrest (twenty-nine people were arrested in the PNC campaign).

**It sounds like a very pro-active strategy.** One thing we know for sure is that the only way you make progress is when you stay on the offensive. You never make progress when you are on the defensive. This is something military generals know and also something that Gandhi knew and practiced.

**You also advocate starting locally, right?**

My message is always to start locally and that, of course, is what the Sierra Club is all about. At the Climate Action Conference we'll focus on the nitty-gritty of a local project or campaign—mobilizing, organizing, points of confrontation, etc.

**Your newest book, *Viking Economics*, explores how countries like Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden have achieved economic success while advancing a progressive social and environmental agenda. What can we in America learn from that?**

The big lesson is that we can't make progress until the economic elite are no longer dominant. That's what we have in America today. Congress doesn't work for us as long as it is controlled by corporate interests. Changing that means losing our naiveté and grasping what power is all about. When that happens we are in a position to have a real democracy. The Nordic countries went through this and changed through the efforts of popular movements. Not that long ago, Denmark was headed for a future of nuclear power generation. Popular movements changed that direction and now Denmark is on its way to carbon neutrality. It already produces more wind power than it uses and sells the surplus to Germany.

**Are you encouraged by the groundswell of activism since the November election?**

Absolutely. I haven't seen anything like this since the 1960s and '70s. A lot of things changed during that period of activism. But then the progressive movement went to sleep under Reagan—we got in a defensive mode, which as I noted, never works. Trump woke us up.

### Remembering David Moses Bridges

**N**ationally-recognized canoe-maker, activist, and Passamaquoddy traditional artist David Moses Bridges died on January 20 at his home at Pleasant Point following a battle with cancer. He was 54.

In addition to his remarkable work as a craftsman and artist, David spent a good deal of his life working to preserve Wabanaki culture and fighting for the environmental integrity of Maine's native water and land. He is fondly remembered by activists of Save Passamaquoddy Bay 3-Nation Alliance for his leadership in keeping liquid natural gas terminals out of the bay. That effort spanned 12 years.

David grew up in South Portland. He earned a forestry degree at Unity College, after which he traveled widely, eventually settling in California. Years later he returned to Maine to follow in his great-grandfather's footsteps as a canoe-maker. David became a master of that craft and his canoes are now on display in museums around the country.

He later became an award-winning basket-maker, receiving first prize for traditional basket-making at the Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair and Market in Arizona in 2015.

For all his achievements he was named a Traditional Arts Fellow by the Maine Arts Commission. In 2006 he also earned the First Peoples Fund Community Spirit Award for his accomplishments as both an activist and an artist.

This passage from David's obituary captured the essence of this extraordinary man:

"David was a fierce and effective environmentalist. Throughout his life, he walked bravely and directly into many battles for protection of the earth's air, water, land and creatures. He understood in his heart his deep connection to the living world around him. He was an eloquent speaker and was admired even by his adversaries. He spoke with humor, clarity, and honesty. In the native tradition they would say that he had the great ability to make the truth sweet."



Photo courtesy of the Mount Desert Islander

### Natural Gas Extraction Rules Being Threatened

**I**t's true that natural gas burns cleaner than other fuels. But during natural gas extraction, there can be significant leaking of methane, which counters much of the benefit of natural gas use (a third of U.S. methane emissions come from oil and gas operations). Methane is a significant contributor to the planet's warming and is many times more potent at trapping heat than CO<sub>2</sub>.

As explained in a March 11 *Bangor Daily News* editorial, at the end of the Obama administration, rules were put in place that restrict methane leakage on federal or tribal lands during natural gas production (limiting the amount that can be vented or flared). The aim was to have more methane captured and added to the natural gas supply. Drilling operations would save millions of dollars. And less methane leakage means fewer greenhouse gases disrupting our climate. It seemed like a win-win situation.

However, the Republican-led House of Representatives voted in February to overturn the new regulations through the rarely used Congressional Review Act. Sadly, Maine 2nd District Congressman Bruce Poliquin voted with the Republican majority.

Fortunately, the three other members of the Maine congressional delegation are opposed to overturning the natural gas regulations. Susan Collins has even introduced legislation to facilitate new environmentally-friendly production technologies and policies.

The House Republicans' efforts don't make sense—for the economy or the health of the planet. Let's hope the U.S. Senate agrees.



## Portland Looks To Expand Solar and Become a 100 Percent Clean Energy City

Building on its big solar victory—getting the City of Portland to undertake the largest municipally-owned solar project in Maine—the Portland Climate Action Team (CAT) is now working to develop a solar farm on the closed landfill on Peaks Island. The vision is a community solar farm to generate clean energy, up to 138,000 annual kilowatt hours, to Peak's Island homeowners on land leased by the city.

Portland has also taken steps toward becoming a completely clean energy city. In his "state of the city" address Mayor Ethan Strimling set a goal of achieving 100 percent clean energy by 2040.

Mayor Strimling also recognized the Portland CAT as the driving force in the success of the Ocean Avenue municipal solar project.

### Other Climate Action Team News

The Buxton and Bath Climate Action Teams are both collaborating with the Maine Window Dressers to help residents reduce heating costs, fossil fuel consumption, and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by minimizing heat loss through windows. Inserts offer an inexpensive alternative to window replacement. Buxton CAT member Miriam Rubin spent two days training to measure and assemble the windows later this fall for local homeowners.

Kennebunk folks have regrouped since the new administration's inaugural to form the Kennebunk Environmental Action Team. Meeting every two weeks at the Unitarian Universalist Church, the group is considering a no-idling campaign and has plans to Celebrate Earth Day/Science Day on April 22 with a parade and community activities.



Left to right: Bangor CAT member Christina Diebold, Bangor Mayor Joseph Baldacci, Bangor CAT member Karen Marysdaughter, Belfast Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge, and Belfast Assistant Planner Sadie Lloyd.

## Exploring Solar Options for Bangor

Bangor Climate Action Team (CAT) members met with Bangor Mayor Joseph Baldacci in February to explore possible community or municipal solar options for the city. Contributing to the discussion were representatives of several municipalities that have implemented successful solar projects. Belfast Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge and Assistant Planner Sadie Lloyd attended the meeting. Joining the discussion via video conferencing were Portland Councilor Jon Hinck and Bar Harbor Town Council vice-chair Gary Friedman.

Bangor is also moving forward on other environmental fronts. In late February the city's infrastructure committee voted to send an ordinance which would ban Styrofoam packing from use for all retail vendors to the full city council. Styrofoam is extremely difficult to recycle. "This is a small step in making the environment around Bangor a better place," noted public works director Dana Wardell.

The Bangor City Council will also be considering an ordinance that would ban plastic bags and put a five-cent fee on paper bags.

### Rebates are available through Efficiency Maine

## Heat Pumps: Reduce Your Carbon Footprint and Save on Fuel Costs

There's a good reason why more than 20,000 heat pumps have been installed in Maine in the past few years—they are an efficient and relatively low-cost way to provide home-owners with significant savings on heating bills. Along with the savings, they have the increasingly important benefit of reducing carbon emissions.

"Heat pumps are the most efficient way to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions—particularly in Maine where our electricity production doesn't create a high level of carbon," said Adam Barker-Hoyt, CEO of MAC Heat Pumps in Bangor.

Barker-Hoyt explains that heat pump sales in Maine have taken off since 2008, when new advancements made it a cost-effective option in cold climates. There are now dozens of heat pump dealers scattered around the state.

"It was a combination of a new refrigerant which works at cold temperatures and new variable-speed technology that lowered the cost of the heat the units provide," he said.

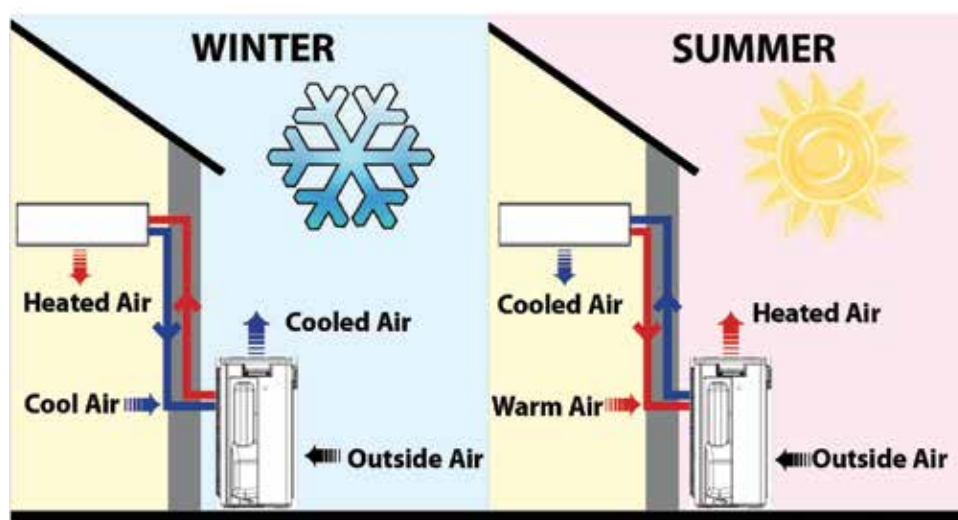
While heat pumps now work very well in cold climates, they do lose efficiency during periods of extreme cold weather. During those times a back-up heat source may be needed.

The cost of a heat pump with installation is about \$3,500. According to Barker-Hoyt, a typical payback with current low fuel prices is somewhere between five and six years. It could be considerably less if fuel prices rise.

Efficiency Maine is currently offering rebates of \$500 for heat pumps. Additional rebates may be offered in some Maine communities.

Heat Pumps are most effective in reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for homes heating with oil. That's an important fact here in Maine where oil is used to heat 70 percent of the state's homes. When a heat pump is installed in a home heated by oil, it can mean a 58 percent reduction in carbon emissions. That's five tons of carbon per house per year—one ton of CO<sub>2</sub>

principle that heats your home in the winter can cool and dehumidify it in the summer. The heat pump cycle is completely reversible—in fact heat pumps are twice as efficient as typical air conditioners, which is why they are gaining popularity in regions with warmer climates. And with new advances in controls, heat pumps can maintain very constant



Graphic courtesy of Heat Pump Guys, Nova Scotia

***"Heat pumps are the most efficient way to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions—particularly in Maine where our electricity production doesn't create a high level of carbon."***

per year per \$700 of investment.

For homes using natural gas, the CO<sub>2</sub> savings from installing a heat pump is less, but still very significant—35 percent.

There are other benefits to heat pumps. The same

temperatures—filtering the air as they heat or cool. Finally, because heat pumps are electrically powered, there is no risk of combustion fuel leaks.

So how does an air-source heat pump work? Much like a refrigerator, actually. It is, in the most simple terms, a device that uses a small amount of energy to move heat from one location to another. The technology transfers heat by circulating a refrigerant through a cycle of evaporation and condensation. A compressor pumps the refrigerant between two heat exchanger coils. In one coil the refrigerant is evaporated at low pressure and absorbs heat from its surroundings (the air al-

ways contains heat, even at very low temperatures). The refrigerant is then compressed en route to the other coil, where it condenses at high pressure. It then releases the heat it absorbed earlier in the cycle.

An alternative to the air-source model is a ground-source heat pump. While the air-source pump absorbs heat from the outdoor air, a ground-source (geothermal) heat pump draws heat from the ground (or ground water).

To find out more about heat pumps, available rebates, and how you can locate an installer in your area, visit the Efficiency Maine website at [efficiency-maine.com](http://efficiency-maine.com).



*Over 120 Sierrans and friends attend*

## Chapter Celebrates Contributions to the Maine Environment at October Annual Dinner

A steady rain and cool temperatures didn't dampen the spirits of the 120-plus Maine Sierrans and friends who traveled to Wolf Neck Farm in Freeport to celebrate the establishment of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and recognize the outstanding contributions of Sierra Club volunteers.

The Chapter's annual gathering got underway with a delightful reception and dinner that featured all Maine products—from wines and beer to delicious local seafood and produce.

Following dinner, the Chapter handed out its annual awards for outstanding contributions to the Maine environment.

The 2016 Business Leader for the Environment Award was presented to Tony Giambro and Adam Baril of Paris Autobarn for their outstanding investment in, commitment to, and advocacy for green business practices. The two owners use solar power, heat pumps, LED lighting, and other green technologies in their auto service in South Paris.

The Portland Climate Team (PCAT) earned the 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award. The PCAT developed Maine's first solar farm and was the driving force behind Portland's 660-kw municipal solar project. In addition, the group has diligently advocated for solar power to both the Public Utilities Commission and the Legislature. Team members include Allen and Elissa Armstrong, Maggie Wolfe, Tica Douglas, Robert Stoddard, and Luke Truman.

The 2016 Chapter Chair Award went to the Sierra Club Maine Political Team. Led by Claudia King, the team did a diligent job of examining the records and responses for candidates in the 2016 election. Their efforts helped Chapter members become better informed voters. In addition to Claudia, the team included John Brautigam, Ben Dawson, Whit Jones, Kris Clark, Paul Machlin, Mike Williams, and Olin Jenner.

Save Passamaquoddy Bay 3 Nation Alliance was presented with the 2016 Leadership from a Local Grassroots Group Award for its outstanding 12-year effort to protect the bay.

### *And Thanks Again to Our 2016 Annual Dinner Sponsors*

Becky Bartovics, Robert and Elizabeth Stoddard, Allen and Elissa Armstrong, Wyatt Garfield, ReVision Energy, Hannah Pingree and Jason Mann, Goggin Energy, Becky Halbrook, Claudia King, Robin Mann, Dambrie Garon Real Estate, Paris Autobarn, Tony Donovan, Jim and Kathy Wellehan, Beth and Dr. Tony Owens, Lisa Buck and Michael DeCandia, Missy and Michael Asen, Lee International, Alison Smith



**Lucas St. Clair (right) is congratulated by Maine Woods Team co-leader Jim Frick after receiving the Governor Percival Baxter Award.**

In a special, surprise presentation, executive committee member Tony Donovan presented outgoing Chapter Chair Becky Bartovics with the Chapter Leadership Award. Becky finished 10 years of service on the Sierra Club Maine executive committee. During her outstanding years as co-chair and chair, the Chapter moved forward in almost every regard—from media visibility, to fundraising, to increased participation in grassroots action throughout the state. Becky will continue as an active volunteer leader.

The highlight of the evening was an inspiring talk by Lucas St. Clair, the man who spearheaded the successful campaign to turn his family's natural treasure in the Maine Woods into Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. Everyone in attendance rose to their feet to show their appreciation for his successful effort and his family's gift to the people of Maine and the nation.

Following his talk, Maine Woods Team co-leaders Ken Cline and Jim Frick presented Lucas with the 2016 Governor Percival Baxter Award. This award is presented for outstanding contributions to preserving and protecting Maine's woods and wilderness.

Superb Maine food and beverages, inspiring talks and presentations, the companionship of fellow Sierrans—the 2016 annual dinner was by every measure a huge success.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Book Clubs

*Sierra Club Book Club*

**Saturday April 22nd—12 pm**

*Aftershock: The Next Economy & America's Future* by Robert B. Reich

Contact the Chapter office (761-5616) for location.

*Downeast Book Club*

**Sunday, April 9—1:30 p.m.**

*Praise Be to You*, by Pope Francis

**Sunday, May 21—1:30 p.m.**

*Cooked*, by Michael Pollan

Contact: Deb Loftus at [loftusdw@roadrunner.com](mailto:loftusdw@roadrunner.com)

### Movies

*Dover-Foxcroft*

This film series is co-sponsored by the Sierra Club and the Center Theatre, 20 E. Main St, Dover-Foxcroft.

**Inhabit**

**Thursday, April 27—7:00 p.m.**

Center Theatre

This is a feature-length documentary introducing permaculture: a design method that offers an ecological lens for solving issues related to agriculture, economics, governance, and more.

**Disruption**

**Thursday, May 25—7:00 p.m.**

Center Theatre

This film takes an unflinching look at the devastating consequences of our inaction on Climate Change.

**Merchants of Doubt**

**Thursday, June 29—7:00 p.m.**

Center Theatre

The troubling story of how a cadre of influential scientists have clouded public understanding of scientific facts to advance a political and economic agenda.

### Outings

There will be a number of Chapter outings over the late spring and summer. Check the events page at [sierraclub.org/maine](http://sierraclub.org/maine) for times, locations, etc.

### Special Events

**23rd Annual HOPE Festival**

**Saturday, April 8—11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Student Recreational and Fitness Center  
University of Maine, Orono

**Sierra Club House Party**

**Thursday April 13—5-7**

At the home of Beverly and Robert Roxby  
9 Sea Breeze Lane, Belfast  
Please email: [beverlyteach@gmail.com](mailto:beverlyteach@gmail.com)

**Bangor Earth Day Celebration**

**Saturday, April 22—12 to 2 p.m.**

Pickering Square

A fun family festival featuring seed-planting, story-reading, face-painting, zumba dancing, plenty of delicious food from local businesses, and special activities and performances.

**People's Climate March**

**Saturday, April 29**

Washington D.C. (and Augusta)

(Visit [sierraclub.org/maine](http://sierraclub.org/maine) to find out about buses from Maine)

*Support Sierra Club Maine through payroll deduction*

# MaineShare

MaineShare gives you an easy way to support more than 40 organizations working to make Maine a better place to live.

Enroll your workplace for the current campaign online at [www.mainshare.org](http://www.mainshare.org) or contact us directly.

P.O. BOX 2095, Augusta, ME 04338  
Telephone: 207-622-1050  
Email: [giving@mainshare.org](mailto:giving@mainshare.org)

*To Stay updated on all Sierra Club Maine events, visit [sierraclub.org/maine](http://sierraclub.org/maine)*



## Donated Cars Benefit Sierra Club's Important Work

Now more than ever, we need your help protecting our wildlands and wildlife, keeping our air and water free from pollution, and promoting a clean energy future.

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

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

## March For Science Highlights Earth Day Activities

On Earth Day, April 22, Earth Day Network and the March for Science are co-organizing a rally and teach-in on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The day's program will include speeches, trainings with scientists and civic organizers, musical performances, and a march through the streets of Washington, D.C. Participants will gather at 8:00 a.m. and the teach-in will begin at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of the march is to defend the vital public service role science plays in our communities and our world.

Simultaneous Earth Day marches are being scheduled in communities around the country including here in Maine.

In Orono, the University of Maine will be the site for a rally that will begin at noon to be followed by a march. If the weather is good, the rally will be held on the university's mall in front of the Fogler Library. According to organizers, it will be "a day to celebrate the achievements of science and to bring together scientists and science supporters from across the state to affirm the value of science."

Other marches are scheduled at the University of Maine Machias and in Portland. Details on those marches were not available at the time the *Maine Sierran* went to press.

## Now's The Time to Become a Sierra Club Maine Volunteer!

Since the November election, our Chapter has seen a surge of interest in helping protect our gains on clean energy and energy efficiency, protection of public lands, and clean water and air.

That has been inspiring! But in response to national and state push-backs on the environment, Sierra Club Maine is stepping up its work in almost all areas.

That means we need your help more than ever. Please consider becoming a Sierra Club Maine volunteer. The work is rewarding and inspiring—you'll be working with people who all share the common goal of protecting the planet. To volunteer contact Claudia at [seekingking@gmail.com](mailto:seekingking@gmail.com).

If you can't give of your time, consider making a gift to the chapter to support the hard and important work our volunteers do (donations can be made at [sierraclub.org/maine](http://sierraclub.org/maine)).

# Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club

Telephone: 207-761-5616

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Michael (Mick) Devin	Newcastle
Tony Donovan	Portland
Tara Hollander	Stockton Springs
Olin Jenner	Rockport
Claudia King	Falmouth
Ken Cline	Bar Harbor
David Mokler	Biddeford
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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."

Being a Sierra Club volunteer is fun and rewarding! Just contact Jeanine at [maine.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:maine.chapter@sierraclub.org)

## 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>





Public domain photo, via Wikimedia Commons

Donald Trump introduces his Supreme Court nominee, Neil Gorsuch.

## Join the Trump Resistance Team!

Current efforts to center around opposing Supreme Court nominee, Neil Gorsuch



If you're among the growing number of Mainers feeling overwhelmed by the environmentally destructive agenda of Donald Trump, Sierra Club Maine is offering a way to turn your outrage into action. By joining our Trump Resistance Team you'll receive action alerts and learn how you can undertake resistance activities in your community. Even before Trump took office our chapter was organizing phone banks and demonstrations against his unqualified, pro-corporate nominees. Joining with 350 Maine, we held phone banks in Portland and Bangor, asking

Sierra Club members to contact Senator Susan Collins and urge her to oppose the nomination of Scott Pruitt to head the Environmental Protection Agency. We also organized and supported demonstrations at Collins offices in various locations in the state. Pruitt was ultimately confirmed by the Senate. But as a result of efforts by our chapter and many other groups, Collins did the right thing in voting against this anti-EPA, climate change denying nominee.

Now we are turning our resistance efforts toward Trump's nominee for the Supreme Court as well as the new president's attempts to drastically cut the EPA budget—something that would have a significant detrimental impact on Maine's environment and economy.

According to Sierra Club Environmental Law Director Pat Gallagher, Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Neil Gorsuch, has on three separate occasions denied access by environmental NGOs to federal courts, relying on cramped views of what it takes to gain access to the federal courts. He noted that Gorsuch has written about his disdain for litigation that seeks to influence public policy—public-interest litigation. "This is a rigid view of our environmental laws that have safeguarded this country's air, water, and wilderness from devastating harms like Love Canal. Congress put citizen enforcement in every one of these laws for a reason. They knew that state governments, corporations, and hostile executive branches would not be sufficient guardians of our environment," Gallagher explained.

"As a Supreme Court Justice, Gorsuch could undermine countless safeguards, including those that protect the civil rights, workers' rights, women's rights, and the health and safety of our environment, said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune "We strongly urge Senators, who are elected to represent and protect the American people, to stand up for families across the nation, oppose this nomination, and use every tool in the shed to block this extremist nominee."

Help our Maine Chapter convince Senators King and Collins that Neil Gorsuch is not suitable for the highest court and that Donald Trump's drastic EPA cuts are detrimental for Maine. Sign up for the Resistance Team at [sierraclub.org/maine](http://sierraclub.org/maine).

## Climate March

Continued from page 1

While climate is the central theme of the march, partners in the Peoples' Climate Movement emphasize that they are pushing back against the Trump agenda on many other related issues.

"It's clearer than ever that we cannot just fight to stop climate change, we must speak out against injustice anywhere we see it," explains the People's Climate Movement website. "The same government and corporate interests which threaten the safety and well-being of Muslims, people of color, women, and the LGBTQ community simultaneously back the fossil fuel projects that destroy our planet....We cannot have a healthy planet when our communities are robbed of their basic human rights....We will march for our air, our water, and our land. We will march for clean energy jobs and climate justice. We will march for our communities and the people we love."

The 2016 election made it very clear that now is the time to bring the environmental and progressive social movements together.

*"It's clearer than ever that we cannot just fight to stop climate change, we must speak out against injustice anywhere we see it."*

"We're joining together to build something that is bigger than any single issue," Michael Brune explains. "A movement united behind principles of equity, justice, and human rights."

In encouraging fellow Sierrans to become engaged in the fight against Trump Administration policies, Brune explained his own motivations.

"I never want to look back and realize that I failed to do everything I could to stop this man. And speaking for the Sierra Club we are totally committed to showing up in support of those who are threatened by Donald Trump."

It's a daunting challenge, and the only way it will be successful is if it's driven from the bottom up. We need all Maine Sierrans to get involved. If you can't get to Washington, consider taking part in a the April 29th Augusta rally. Join a Trump Resistance Team (see story this page) or start a Climate Action Team in your community.

As the 2014 Climate March motto proclaimed: "To change everything, we need everyone."

## Maine Sierrans Explore Our New National Monument on Skis

On January 22, 10 people joined Sierra Club expedition leader Laura Pilgrim for a day of skiing along the Penobscot River's eastern branch in the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. The group included: Bill and Martha Briggs, Jessica Leach, Larry Litchfield, Mary Osborne, Margot Stevens, Julie Lokken, Michele Benoit, Gabriel Crooker, and Jesse Pilgrim

Some of the skiers' motivation to travel north was to find more skiable snow. But mostly they were eager to view the monument for the first time.

"I think people were curious to see the new monument and check out the area," Pilgrim said. It was her first time to the 87,563-acre monument, which President Barack Obama designated in late August.

The park has many miles of groomed trails. Pilgrim described the tracks she skied on as "wide, easy, and gorgeous."

Mark and Susan Adams, who maintain the monument's trails, welcomed the Sierra Club group on Sunday, and recommended they head out on the five-mile Old River Road loop.

Pilgrim said it was glorious "skiing along the river and seeing views of the mountains, which were snow-covered and beautiful." The night before she and a few others stayed at the Mt. Chase Lodge in Patten. Other group members joined them for breakfast on Sunday. Other nearby lodging includes Bowlin Camps Lodge and Matagamon Wilderness Campground and Cabins.

While more visitors are starting to make the journey to Katahdin Woods and Waters, Susan Adams warns that the national monument is still a work in progress — and that visitors should bring a four wheel-drive car in the winter.

Pilgrim plans to return to the park this summer to lead another trip. To stay up to date on future Sierra Club expeditions in Maine, check out our calendar on page 7 or go to [sierraclub.org/maine](http://sierraclub.org/maine).



Longtime volunteer Bill Briggs looks across the East Branch of the Penobscot.