Election 2016: The Stakes Are High

There’s no way of exaggerating the importance of the 2016 election. The progress on mitigating climate change, advancing clean energy, and protecting public land made by the Obama Administration would all be gravely threatened by a Trump presidency.

On the other hand, Hillary Clinton promises to build on President Obama’s environmental legacy and lead us toward a clean energy economy. And we need to make the U.S. Congress functional again and elect representatives who are not beholden to Wall Street interests and the fossil fuel industry. Second-district residents can help by voting out of office one of the most anti-environment, pro-Wall Street congressmen in America, Bruce Poliquin.

The clock is running for strong action on climate change. Let’s keep America on the right track by electing Hillary Clinton for president, Emily Cain and Chellie Pingree to the U.S. Congress, and pro-environment legislators here in Maine.

The stakes couldn’t be higher. Encourage everyone you know to get out and vote on November 8!

For President: Hillary Clinton

Republican candidate Donald Trump has called climate change “a hoax.” He has threatened to dismantle the Environmental Protection Agency, rip up the Paris Climate Agreement, lift restrictions on coal, expand drilling operations, and stifle the growth of clean energy.

In sharp contrast to Donald Trump’s reckless positions on the environment, Hillary Clinton promises to be the strong environmental champion that is needed at this critical time. We can count on her because of her decades-long record as both a U.S. Senator and Secretary of State. That record has been consistently pro-environment and earned her the endorsement and support of the League of Conservation Voters.

And it has earned her the enthusiastic support of the Sierra Club.

“We are proud to endorse Hillary Clinton and her vision for America,” said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune. “Like so many Americans, we not only want to protect President Obama’s legacy—we want to expand it. That’s something we can accomplish with a Clinton White House, and it’s why the Sierra Club’s members and supporters will work tirelessly to make sure she’s elected this November.”

Clinton has crafted solid plans to safeguard our climate, air, water, and public lands, and to continue with the rapid expansion of our clean energy economy.

“Climate change is real—no matter what climate deniers say,” she stated during the campaign. “I’ve laid out bold national goals to address the threats it poses. As president, I’ll say no to drilling in the Arctic. I’ll stop the tax giveaways to big oil and gas companies. And I’ll make significant investments in clean energy…”

The gap on environmental issues between Secretary Clinton and Donald Trump is the largest in U.S. presidential political history.

“We have a historic opportunity to build a clean energy economy that puts millions of people to work, and there’s no turning back,” Brune said.

2nd Congressional District: Emily Cain

The disparity in the environmental records of Maine’s two 2nd District candidates is dramatic. Incumbent Republican Bruce Poliquin has earned a dismal nine percent environmental record in his first term—one of the worst records of any representative in New England. He has voted against virtually every significant piece of environmental legislation that has come before the Congress.

Poliquin’s challenger, Emily Cain, on the other hand, earned a 90 percent pro-environment record in her ten years in the Maine House and Senate.

A Clinton presidency would build on President Obama’s efforts to reduce America’s carbon footprint.

Katahdin Woods and Waters is open and ready for visitors.

Celebrating Our New National Monument

The dark, ominous clouds enveloping Mt. Katahdin in the distance had no effect on the joyful mood of the 150 folks gathered on the lawn of the New England Outdoor Center (NEOC) in Millinocket on August 28.

People came from far and wide to celebrate the realization of a long-time vision—federal protection for a very special section of the Maine Woods—and celebrate they did!

The Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument was designated by President Obama on August 24, just a day before the 100th anniversary of Acadia National Park and the establishment of the National Park Service.

The designation was the culmination of a decade-and-a-half long effort by Roxanne Quimby and her family, who donated the 87,500-acre parcel through their foundation, Elliotsville Plantation Inc. The original vision of making the Quimby land into a national park never received the needed support from Maine’s congressional delegation. So in the last year the effort shifted to a more viable alternative—establishing a national monument through an executive order of the President.

At the August 28 event, Quimby family members received congratulations and praise from dignitaries and monument advocates and supporters. Among the most prominent attendees was U.S. Interior Secretary, Sally Jewell.

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Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club

For details, see page 6

Sierra Club Maine Annual Dinner

Celebrate our new national monument!

Wolfe’s Neck Farm, Freeport

Saturday, October 22

(For details, see page 6)
Second District candidate Emily Cain has a 90 per-
**You Can Help**

Getting Corporate Influence Out of Politics

We all “big money” have an influence on your vote on November 8. Dark money is pervasive in our politics—super political action committees (PACs) and large corporations are influencing who gets elected, and the decisions they make after they’re elected. Its influence in the halls of legislatures nation-wide and in the U.S. Congress is constantly evident.

And all that big corporate money is having a detrimental influence on our environment. The very corporations responsible for polluting our air and water with toxic contamination are the same corporations responsible for polluting our democracy with hundreds of millions of dollars in toxic money.

Just look at the fossil fuel industry: for every $1 it spends on campaign contributions and lobbying in Washington D.C., it gets back $95 in subsidies. Our country’s most notorious polluters are rolling back environmental safeguards with every dollar they spend.

In Maine, our Sierra Club chapter has worked with other state organizations for Clean Elections reforms. Those reforms help ensure that in today’s climate all corporate influence on citizens will still have a strong voice at the ballot box.

And we’re not alone, Sierra Club chapters across the country are working to protect and expand voting rights and also fighting the power of political money to influence politics. In addition to voter rights and public financing they are looking at redistricting and other structural ways to strengthen our democracy.

The very corporations responsible for polluting our air and our water with toxic contamination are the same corporations responsible for polluting our democracy with hundreds of millions of dollars in toxic money.

We should all have an equal say over the decisions that affect our lives, but current laws allow corporate and polluter money to yell loudest, set the agenda, and rig the rules in their favor. The Supreme Court has handed down multiple decisions, most notably in Citizens United (the Supreme Court decision that opened the floodgates for corporate campaign cash). These decisions have weakened the first amendment and given more power to corporations and polluters than to everyday citizens.

One major step toward protecting our democracy is electing Hillary Clinton as president. She’s committed to fighting the power of money in politics in the first 100 days. Here are just a few actions she will take:

- Push for a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United (the Supreme Court decision that opened the floodgates for corporate campaign cash).
- Promote Securities and Exchange Commission rulemaking requiring publicly traded companies to disclose all political spending to their shareholders (this includes oil, gas and coal companies).
- Sign an executive order requiring federal government contractors to fully disclose all political spending.
- In the months following the election Sierra Club’s Democracy Program along with the diversity, equality, and inclusion project, will continue to educate and work with chapters on eliminating money in politics with public financing, voter ID laws, redistricting issues before 2020 and electing fair judges for our courts where applicable.
- Ballot Initiative #4—the initiative to raise the minimum wage. We believe that a fair wage is closely related to our fight to protect the environment. The families who are at risk due to an inadequate living wage are the same families most impacted by industrial pollution and climate change.

Additionally, Sierra Club understands it’s part of a much broader-based effort, an effort that fosters the health and safety of all Americans. Raising the minimum wage will enable more families, now struggling, to meet basic needs such as health care, food, housing, and transportation. As Executive Director Mike Brune has stated:

“Here’s what we’re saying to the Walmarts and the McDonalds: You have to change your business models so that we can live. We want living wages and a living planet! And for us to get there here’s what you need to do: You need to invest in people by paying your employees enough to live on. And you need to invest in communities by sourcing your products locally... It’s not a matter of convenience.

It’s literally a life and death issue, just like the fight for a living planet...And it’s the exact same fight! When fossil fuels disrupt our climate, causing killer heat waves, wildfires, and deadly floods, who suffers the most? It’s the people who can’t afford air-conditioning, the people who don’t have the means to flee from fires and floods, and the people who must raise their kids next door to coal plants, fracking sites, and oil refineries. Because no matter how hard those people work, they can’t earn enough money to save their own lives. That’s why they call it a living wage!"

Here in Maine, Ballot Initiative #4 will raise the wage to $9 by 2017 and to $12 by 2020. That’s not enough, but it’s a good start. Simply put, corporations large and small need to provide a fair wage for the workers because we all benefit when each of us does better.

When we support Mainers with a living wage that improves the local economy. Please vote “yes” on #4—Maine people deserve it.

Let’s Move Forward with Passenger Rail

It’s time to expand passenger train service in Maine. The Amtrak Downeaster connecting Brunswick to Boston demonstrates the demand for and benefits of this clean, efficient transportation choice in the Pine Tree State. However, we need an expanded train system that connects to more Maine communities, and eventually to Montreal.

The first step towards new Maine-to-Montreal train service and re-building our state’s passenger rail network is running commuter rail from Portland to Lewiston-Auburn on existing state-owned rail lines.

The good news is that in 2015 the State Legislature passed a bill directing the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) to create a plan for this route between Maine’s two largest metropolitan areas. Together, the cities of Lewiston and Auburn and the State of Maine have pledged $500,000 to conduct the plan, and the idea has garnered the support of a strong coalition that includes Republican and Democratic legislators, business community, and environmentalists.

Unfortunately, nearly two years later, MDOT has yet to get on the train plan. It’s imperative that the agency move forward now so that Mainers can take advantage of expanded transportation choices in the near future.

Mainers support passenger trains because they provide safe, reliable, and affordable transportation, reduce traffic congestion and pollution, and help to revitalize our town centers with new economic development opportunities. Trains attract commuters and visitors who want to be able to travel without the expense, dangers, and hassles of automobile dependence. Importantly, trains also address seniors’ needs, and they provide access to jobs, school, and entertainment for the many who don’t own cars. As has been proven elsewhere, when quality passenger service is available, people will use it.

Maine is fortunate to own and have the Portland-to-Auburn railroad tracks in place. This valuable piece of transportation infrastructure, purchased with public funds for the purpose of passenger rail, is ready and waiting for new investment.

Passenger trains should be seen as not just a smart transportation option but also a key economic development strategy. Connecting Maine’s two largest economic hubs would be a catalyst for expanding jobs, housing, health care and education. It would connect people to the entertainment and culture centers while providing affordable access for everyone.

From an environmental and energy-use perspective, passenger trains are the most efficient transportation choice. Considering that cars now account for the largest source of global warming pollution in Maine, passenger trains would be an important solution in mitigating climate disruption. In addition, the cost of maintaining our highways, roads and bridges is astronomical, and by reducing the number of cars on our road system, trains reduce road repair costs substantially.

Since the administration of Governor King, Maine has spent over $2 million dollars on passenger rail feasibility, infrastructure costs, equipment and economic impact studies. The studies are done. Now’s the time to move forward on a plan.

-By Tony Donovan

Maine Needs to Raise the Minimum Wage

Sierra Club Maine is endorsing a “yes” vote on Ballot Initiative #4—the initiative to raise the minimum wage. We believe that a fair wage is closely related to our fight to protect the environment. The families who are at risk due to an inadequate living wage are the same families most impacted by industrial pollution and climate change.

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College of the Atlantic Named “America’s Greenest College”

Two Maine schools are among the top five Green Colleges in the United States according to a rating by the Sierra Club. Achieving number one status (“by a landslide”) was the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor. It was noted that more than 75 percent of COA’s faculty are involved in sustainability research and more than 35 percent of the classes offered relate to the environment. The University of Maine has 100 percent of its electricity from renewable sources and the college has divested from all investments in fossil fuels.

Fourth on the Green College list was Colby. The Waterville school was applauded for being carbon neutral, using Eco-friendly materials, and for promoting student involvement in sustainability efforts. Congratulations to both COA and Colby for leading the way in mitigating climate change and protecting the planet.

Portland Moves Forward With CAT Initiated Solar Project

On September 7, the Portland City Council unanimously approved a major solar project to be sited on the closed Ocean Avenue landfill. This victory is the culmination of 18 months of organizing by Sierra Club Maine’s Portland Climate Action Team (PCAT) that initiated the idea, worked closely with city staff and officials, and garnered public support for the project.

The 660kw solar project will be Maine’s largest municipally-owned solar array—generating enough electricity to power City Hall and adjoining Merrill Auditorium. The city will recoup its upfront costs in just 10 years and will save taxpayers more than $12 million in energy expenditures over the lifetime of the project.

Before the vote, Mayor Ethan Strimling and Councilor Jon Hinck (who was wearing his Sierra Club button) recognized the organizing efforts and contribution of the Portland Climate Action Team and mentioned the core activists by name.

“This proposal is a meaningful step in Portland’s commitment to a clean energy future,” noted Hinck, who is chair of the council’s Energy and Sustainability Committee.

During the public comment period, 10 PCAT members spoke in favor of the project. No one spoke in opposition. Just before casting his vote, Councilor Spencer Thibodeau put on one of our stickers to demonstrate his enthusiasm for solar.

The PCAT victory also helped propel a similar solar landfill project across the bay in South Portland, which we anticipate will be announced this month. The South Portland project, which had been tabled because of cost, came about because Portland approached South Portland to negotiate with the solar developer ReVision Energy for a lower cost by combining the two projects.

The PCAT, which developed a 30kw community solar project last year in Wayne, is collaborating with the city on a potential community solar farm on the small closed landfill on Peaks Island. The city also supported an energy efficiency ordinance requiring mandatory energy benchmarking for large buildings on Portland. The city’s energy committee has recommended passage of that ordinance to the entire city council. It would be the first such ordinance in Maine.

A clear indication of the importance of clean energy policy in Portland is the PCAT’s standing monthly meetings with Mayor Strimling to discuss next steps for a more far-reaching citywide solar plan.


Climate Action Team meets its first-year goals to reduce the town’s carbon footprint.

More CAT Success in Cumberland

When the Cumberland Climate Action Team (CCAT) formed in response to Sierra Club Maine’s Grassroots Climate Action summit in Augusta last December, our vision was to facilitate a reduction of 50 percent in greenhouse gases in the Cumberland community by 2030. Over the past year, we established three goals: create baseline estimate of Cumberland’s greenhouse gas emissions for 2015, build a CCAT website, and partner with MSAD51 to build a climate action plan for the district and initiate one or more climate initiatives in the FY2017 budget.

I’m pleased to report that the Cumberland CAT has made significant progress toward achieving those goals.

First, using the University of New England campus carbon calculator, we estimated the carbon footprint of Cumberland at 68,000 metric tons CO2e. Over 80 percent of those emissions arise from the 2,700 individual households in the community, mostly from heating fuel and gasoline for car travel. For this estimate, we received technical help from the Greater Portland Council of Governments and Colby College.

Second, we now have an operational and expandable CCAT web site.

And toward our third goal, MSAD51 has been very receptive to working with us. A major piece of their strategic plan is environmental stewardship. Also, they are mindful of their sizable carbon footprint, which we estimate at 4,500 metric tons CO2e in 2015—the equivalent of 200 households. They have already taken action by converting over to natural gas for heating and implementing an efficiency program through Siemens. For FY2017, they are budgeting for sufficient renewable energy certificates (RECs) to make all their electricity use carbon free. They are also planning three level II charging stations to support use of electric vehicles.

The second largest component of the school district’s carbon footprint (behind heating) is the daily commute of 400 staff and 200 high school students.

Jeff Porter’s able leadership, they are integrating climate change understanding into both the curriculum and student activities.

MSAD51 has recently begun planning for a performing arts center. Because this project could result in a big increase in the carbon footprint of the campus, we are working with the Building Committee to consider designs that are carbon neutral.

The municipal government has a much smaller carbon footprint consisting primarily of the fuel expended by the police and public works departments. As more fuel-efficient vehicles become available, they are worked into the vehicle fleet. One major asset of the town is close to 1,000 acres of town forest in several locations. As the town is committed to managing this forest sustainably, it has a natural offset to its carbon emissions. We are working with a licensed forester to quantify this offset. Lastly, the town was moving forward to consider a solar farm on its five-acre capped landfill. This plan is now on hold due to the current lack of clarity in Maine’s solar policy.

Our ongoing challenge will be to find ways to motivate our 2,700 private households to reduce their carbon footprint. Unfortunately, there seems to be a general apathy to taking action by the general public. One step we are taking is to offer a short course on this subject in the fall 2016 adult education program. It will teach individuals how to calculate their own carbon footprint and to develop a plan to cut it by 80 percent in line with the Paris Accords. This turns out to be simpler and cheaper than most believe, thanks to emerging technologies such as air source heat pumps and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

By Dennis Gallaudet

Take Action in Your Community

If you would like to join or form a Climate Action Team, please contact maine.chapter@sierraclub.org or call 207-761-5616.

660kw project will be Maine’s largest municipally-owned solar array.
Let’s Get Energy Efficiency on an Equal Footing in the Clean Energy Plan

By Cassandra Kubes

Despite the fact that energy efficiency is generally the least-cost option for states looking to comply with the Clean Power Plan, it has yet to be fully considered as a strategy for the Clean Energy Incentive Program (CEIP). This could result in reduced investment in energy efficiency which would mean increased electric costs and less money in the hands of communities.

The reality is that it costs significantly less to reduce emissions through energy efficiency than through other means. These savings get passed down to customers, resulting in local job creation and economic development.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s latest proposal for the CEIP is an important opportunity to ensure that states can reward investments in energy efficiency while claiming credit for the pollution it avoids. The CEIP early-action program provides incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency serving low-income communities, but as currently drafted, it puts efficiency at an unfair disadvantage. Recently, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that seek to put energy efficiency on a level playing field.

The CEIP is expected to spur early investment in clean energy and provides benefits to low-income communities. In addition to rewarding early investments in energy efficiency and solar projects implemented in low-income communities, the CEIP offers an extra incentive to renewable energy. While we support many elements of EPA’s recent proposal, we are requesting that EPA expand this pool of credits available to renewable energy to also include energy efficiency.

EPA has extended its deadline for comment on the Clean Energy Incentives Plan to November 1. Let them know you support energy efficiency by emailing comments to a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov. You can also go to www.regulations.gov and follow the instructions for commenting on CEIP.

Cassandra Kubes is a senior research analyst for environmental policy at the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy.

EnergySmart Program for Bangor

In July the City of Bangor launched EnergySmart Bangor, a residential rebate program the city initiated with Efficiency Maine. The program helps Bangor residents save on energy expenses by reducing the cost of energy efficiency upgrades. The program is offered to all Bangor residents of owner-occupied properties that qualify for the Home Energy Savings Program (HESP) through Efficiency Maine. EnergySmart Bangor rebates can be used for upgrades including air sealing, insulation, supplemental heating systems, and more. The amount of EnergySmart Bangor rebates offered varies by project, but in many cases can nearly double the amount of rebates offered by Efficiency Maine.

More information about the EnergySmart Bangor program, along with rebate forms, can be found online at www.bangormaine.gov/energysmartbangor or by calling the city at (207) 992-4284.

New Climate Action Team Organizes in Bangor

More than 20 enthusiastic Greater Bangor residents turned out for a Climate Action Team (CAT) organizing meeting at the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine on September 26. The idea of forming a CAT for Bangor came about following talks between area resident Karen Marysdauhter and Sierra Club Maine leaders Joan Saxe and Becky Bartovics (both of whom attended the September meeting). Marysdauhter says she initiated the CAT idea because she thinks the Bangor area is poised to make some major moves in the direction of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

“The idea is a good one,” Marysdauhter said at the meeting. “I hope it happens.”

At the meeting, Joan Saxe gave an overview of how the Climate Action Team program got started and discussed what the 10 existing CATs have accomplished or are now working on. Marysdauhter then asked all attendees to write down ideas for climate action projects. The suggestions included low-income weatherization projects, solar installations, promoting walking, biking, bus transportation, and electric vehicles, water conservation, and developing community gardens.

The next Bangor CAT meeting is scheduled for October 24 at 6:30 pm at the Peace and Justice Center. If you are interested in joining the effort contact Karen Marysdauhter at karenm@myfairpoint.net or call her at 262-3700 (home)—930-5440 (cell).

Taking Energy Awareness on the Road

To help celebrate national Energy Action Month in October, Sierra Club Maine launched a state-wide outreach effort to promote home weatherization with state programs that can lower the costs of energy efficiency investments.

The Chapter’s local Climate Action Teams have organized a number of Home Weatherization Roadshows including ones in Bangor, Norway, and Bath—with additional locations possible. Homeowners attending these free, public events will learn about Efficiency Maine’s Home Energy Savings Program rebates and discounts, and will have the opportunity to speak with a local energy efficiency contractor.

“The Home Weatherization Roadshows are a great way for our Climate Action Teams to reach out to our neighbors about the economic and environmental benefits of tightening up our homes,” said Sierra Club volunteer leader Lyn Sudlow. “By taking advantage of Efficiency Maine discount programs this fall, Mainers can substantially lower their energy costs, stay warmer, and reduce their carbon footprint this winter and beyond.”

Through Efficiency Maine, homeowners can receive below-market-rate loans to pay for up to $5000 of insulation and weatherization work, and low-income residents are eligible for $1,000 energy upgrades for just $50. Discounts are also available on heat pumps, wood and pellet stoves, and other energy-efficient equipment. To learn more about these opportunities, go to efficiencymaine.com.

Sierra Club Maine’s Climate Action Teams also took the Home Weatherization Roadshow to the Common Ground Country Fair in September. Members from various Climate Action Teams gave presentations entitled “Going Local: Taking Community Action to Address Climate Disruption.”

October was named “Energy Action Month” by the Obama administration and the U.S. Department of Energy to encourage Americans to take practical, affordable steps to increase the energy efficiency of their homes and businesses and to invest in clean, affordable energy technologies such as solar power. More information about Energy Action Month can be found at http://energy.gov/eere/femp/energy-action-month.

Home Weatherization Roadshow Schedule:

Bangor
An exhibition, with information, will be on display at the Bangor Public Library from October 1st to October 13th. On October 13th at 6:00 pm the public is invited to a free, energy-efficiency forum.
Norway
An exhibition, with information, will be on display at the Norway Memorial Library from October 7st to October 22nd. On October 20th at 6:30 pm the public is invited to attend a free, energy-efficiency forum at the Center for Ecology Based Economy. Main Street Norway.
Bath
An exhibition, with information, will be on display at the Patten Free Library from October 4st to October 22nd. On October 18th at 6:00 PM the public is invited to attend an energy-efficiency forum (location to be announced).
Join Our Celebration!

Sierra Club Maine’s annual dinner on October 22, will feature great local food, engaging speakers, a bird-watching walk, and a celebration of our new national monument.

C
celbrate our new national monument and other environmental victories at Sierra Club Maine’s Annual Dinner at beautiful Wolfe’s Neck Farm’s Little River Tent in Freeport overlooking Casco Bay. We will be honoring the impressive grassroots efforts that achieved so many major state conservation and local climate solutions around the state this year.

Our featured speaker will be Lucas St. Clair, who led the successful effort that created the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about our new natural treasure from the person who knows it best.

Also speaking at the dinner will be Sierra Club Deputy National Program Director Michael Bosse who will talk about the importance of local action to address the climate crisis.

And as always, the gathering will include the presentation of the Chapter’s annual awards for efforts to protect the environment.

The event begins with a reception at 5:00 pm, but the fun starts earlier. We encourage you to arrive at 3:00 pm to participate in either a bird-watching walk along the Little River or a Hayride discussion on sustainable soil practices and climate change led by Dorn Cox.

Dinner includes Maine lobster roll, North Haven oysters, and other local foods. Vegan and gluten-free options will also be available. Tickets are $40. RSVP by visiting our website at sierraclub.org/maine. Call with any questions: (207) 761-5616

Thank You Annual Dinner Sponsors!

Sierra Club Maine sincerely thanks the following generous sponsors of our annual dinner and gathering on October 22. Sponsorships are at three levels: Oak—$2,500, Maple—$1,000, and Spruce—$500.

OAK
Becky Bartovics

MAPLE
Robert Stoddard

SPRUCE
Allen and Elissa Armstrong
Wyatt Garfield
ReVision Energy
Hannah Pingree and Jason Mann

Featured speaker Lucas St. Clair.

Support Sierra Club Maine through payroll deduction

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.maineshare.org or contact us directly.

P.O. BOX 2095, Augusta, ME 04338
Telephone: 207-422-1050
Email: giving@maineshare.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Book Clubs

Downeast Book Club
Sunday, October 16—1:30 p.m.
River Horse by William Least Heat-Moon
Sunday, November 20, 2016—1:30 p.m.
Founding Gardeners by Andrea Wulf
Contact Deb Loftus at loftusw@roadrunner.com for locations.

Sierra Club Maine Book Club
Saturday, Nov 12th — 6 p.m.
The Moon in the Nautilus Shell by Daniel Botkin
For location contact Martha Briggs at marthabriggs@gmail.com

Movies

Dover-Foxcroft

National Park Adventure
October 20—6 p.m. at the Center Theater
Narrated by Robert Redford, this beautiful film takes audiences on the ultimate off-trail adventure into the nation’s awe-inspiring great outdoors and untamed wilderness.

Global Banquet
November 15—7 p.m. at the Center Theatre
The Global Banquet exposes globalization’s profoundly damaging effect on our food.

Kennebunk Film Series

National Park Adventure
October 28—6:30 p.m.
First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church
114 Maine Street, Kennebunk
(See description above)

Outings

Shinrin Yoku Walks
Shinrin Yoku, or “forest bathing,” is contemplative walking—the practice of making contact with and taking in the atmosphere of the woods.

Walk in Acadia
Sunday, October 16—1 p.m.
Acadia National Park

For more information and to sign up contact Tara Hollander at tarahollander@gmail.com or call 323-5413.

Hike in the Camden Hills
Sunday, October 30—1 p.m.
Sign up by contacting Tara Hollander at tarahollander@gmail.com or call 323-5413.

Sears Island Hike
November 27, 2016 — 2 p.m.
Sign up by contacting Tara Hollander at tarahollander@gmail.com or call 323-5413.

Special Events

Sierra Club Maine Annual Dinner
Saturday, October 22
Wolfe’s Neck Farm, Freeport
See top left story on this page for details.

Sierra Club Maine
Home Weatherization Roadshows
Bangor Library
Exhibition—October 1-13
Energy Efficiency Forum, October 13—6 p.m.

Norway Memorial Library
Exhibition—October 7-22
Energy Efficiency Forum, October 20—6:30 p.m.

Patten Free Library in Bath
Exhibition—October 4-22
Forum, October 18—6 p.m.
(For more information see story on page 5)

To stay up-to-date check our events calendar at sierraclub.org/maine
Purchases at Closebuy Supports Sierra Club Maine

Sierra Club Maine is proud to be one of Closebuy’s partnering charities. Simply visit the website, enter our account number #14284, and 30 percent of your purchase will go directly to Sierra Club Maine! Closebuy’s website is full of great stuff, made by local artists and businesses who care about our environment and our communities. All items are made in the Northeast, and over 40 percent are made by Mainers. This fundraising campaign supports local business, and the Sierra Club, and your purchases arrive in time for the holidays. It’s a Win, Win!

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2017 Sierra Club Calendars Now Available

Sierra Club’s stunning 2017 wall and engagement calendars are now available. The wall calendar has been a bestseller in America for over 30 years, with spectacular photographs depicting the grandeur of the North America’s wilderness.

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Every calendar purchase aids Sierra Club Maine’s important efforts—sustaining our work statewide to promote clean energy; supporting our local Climate Action Teams; and protecting the Maine Woods.

Wall calendars are $13.95, engagement calendars are $14.95 (plus shipping and tax). To order please visit our website, sierraclub.org/maine or call Jeanine at 761-5616.

Volunteer Needed to Serve as Chapter Associate Treasurer

Sierra Club Maine is looking for an associate treasurer to support the chapter treasurer in tracking and keeping the chapter financial records. It would be helpful to be near the Portland office, but not mandatory. If you have some accounting background, your help would be appreciated. To find out more about the volunteer position, please contact the treasurer at treasurer@sierraclub.org.

Become a Sierra Club Maine Volunteer!
Contact Jeanine at maine.chapter@sierraclub.org
The previous day Jewell explored many areas of the new monument with St. Clair, including a paddle down the East Branch of the Penobscot. She said the experience made her “think of what’s been presented here, and how incredibly special it is.” Also speaking at the event was Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, a long-time supporter of the Quimby family’s national park / monument proposal. No other members of Maine’s congressional delegation attended the celebration, although Senator Angus King issued a statement of support following the monument designation.

The senator’s invitation to National Parks Director James Del Honey to hold public meetings in Otomo and Millinocket Maine last May gave significant momentum to the monument effort.

Among the Sierra Club representatives at the monument celebration were chapter chair Becky Barton and national board of directors’ vice president, Robin Mann.

“Sierra Club is pleased to have been a part of this effort—working in concert with other Maine environmental and national conservation organizations, as well as community groups, to support the Quimby family’s vision,” Mann said. “Protecting special places is a huge part of the Club’s legacy and ongoing work. And this is a special place that will inspire visitors, just as it inspired Thoreau, Theodore Roosevelt, artists, and Maine’s Native Americans.”

King acknowledged that Jarvis and others in the Obama administration had convinced him that “the benefits of the designation will far outweigh any detriment.” He added that the monument can coexist with the wood and paper industry and will help diversify the local economy of the Katahdin region.

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The monument was open for business the day after Obama’s designation. Right now visitors won’t find the amenities, signage, or accessibility that are available at long-established sites like Acadia National Park. But Ellsworth Plantation, Inc., with the help of the Maine Conservation Corps and the Student Conservation Association, have been hard at work developing trails (including trails to several mountain summits), clearing scenic outlooks, and creating new campsites. Boat launches are also available at various sites.

Visitors need to be prepared for the fact that the monument is still in its early stages of development. That means no services for water, food, or fuel are currently available within the monument boundary. While amenities may be lacking, natural beauty and recreational opportunities are plentiful. Hikers will enjoy stunning views of Mt. Katahdin, pristine ponds, rare plant species, and wildlife including: ruffed grouse, moose, black bear, white-tailed deer, snowshoe hare, American marten, bobcat, bald eagle, and Canada lynx. In addition, seventy-eight bird species are known to breed in the area, and many more bird species use it.

Of course, the prime feature of the new monument is the East Branch of the Penobscot River. With its thrilling rapids and many free-flowing tributaries it provides both exhilarating opportunities for paddlers and a quiet reflective haven for those seeking the restorative power of wilderness. Few people know the monument land as well as Lucas St. Clair. One of his favorite spots is Wassataquoik Stream and Orin Falls. “It’s such a special wild river,” St. Clair explained in a recent National Parks Conservation Association blog, “Totally unique to Maine. It’s undammed and has very little access to it, and just feels like a very wild and remote place. And there are great swimming holes.”

The benefits of the new monument go far beyond its recreational opportunities. It will bring much-needed economic diversity to the struggling Katahdin region. And it will provide visitors the opportunity to learn of the area’s rich history of the Wabanaki people and of the once-thriving logging industry.

In addition, the monument offers rare research opportunities for archeologists, geologists, and biologists in various fields.

Most importantly, Katahdin Woods and Waters preserves a vital ecosystem in the Maine Woods. It contains critical habitat for moose, bear, Canadian Lynx, and Atlantic salmon. As noted in an article by The Wilderness Society, these animals require large ranges to maintain viable populations. The monument will ensure a safe corridor for all wildlife moving between Baxter State Park and other lands owned by the state. This large protected corridor will now allow species to survive and thrive even in the face of climate change.

Sierra Club Maine extends its sincerest thanks to the Quimby family and to President Obama for presenting this ecologically and recreational-ly important gift to all Americans.