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# Maine Sierran

Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club

Fall 2011

Volume IX, No. 3

*Sierra Club executive director will highlight the Maine Chapter annual dinner on Friday, November 4.*

## Freeport Gathering to Feature Michael Brune

Michael Brune is a New Jersey native, but he took his very first steps as a toddler in the state of Maine during a family camping trip. This November, the Sierra Club Executive Director will return to the Pine Tree State to meet with Club members and to address the Sierra Club Maine annual dinner and gathering at the Harraseeket Inn in Freeport on November 4.

Brune's presentation will highlight an engaging evening that will include a cocktail reception starting at 5:30 p.m. During the reception, attendees can peruse and bid on an array of great silent auction items. The reception will be followed by a wonderful Harraseeket dinner and the presentation of the Chapter's annual awards.

Following dinner, Brune will address the gathering on the pressing need for society to get off its dependency on coal and oil and the bright promise of green energy alternatives.

Brune earned his college degree in economics and finance. But after a post-graduation trip to many of America's great parks and wildlands, he changed his focus and decided to go to work for Greenpeace.



Sierra Club Executive Director, Michael Brune

He had found his calling. After four years of grassroots organizing with Greenpeace, Brune moved on

to the Rainforest Action Network (RAN).

"Soon after I started as a campaigner with RAN, I was taken on a tour of a rainforest in British Columbia, and we visited a beautiful, intact valley, lush with trees and slated to be clearcut," Brune remembers. "None of us could bear to see that happen."

The logging company that was set to do the clearcutting was a supplier for Home Depot. As the leader of the campaign to protect British Columbia's forests, Brune had RAN take out ads in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* targeting Home Depot's executives. The group urged school children to write letters, it strung banners from company buildings and launched nation-wide protests. At one point Brune, then 26, commandeered the PA system at an Atlanta Home Depot and announced: "Attention shoppers, on Aisle 13 you'll find wood ripped from the heart of the rainforest."

The campaign was successful. Home Depot changed its policies and more than 5 million acres of rainforest in British Columbia was protected. Time magazine called it the most important environmen-

*Continued on page 2*

## Coal Plants Adversely Affecting Mainers' Health

*State is at the end of the tailpipe for the nation's air pollution.*

Although the state of Maine burns a relatively small amount of coal, it finds itself at the end of the tailpipe for air pollution from the nation's coal plants. And that unfortunate fact has real consequences in terms of Mainers' health.

A report released by the Clean Air Task Force determined that in Maine, coal-fired plant emissions cause an estimated 43 premature deaths, 35 hospitalizations, and 80 additional heart attacks per year.

The report concluded that a reduction in coal pollution would have a significant positive impact on the health of Maine people.

On a national scale, it is estimated that emissions from power plants—primarily coal-fired plants—contribute to more than 23,000 deaths and 3.1 million lost work days per year.

In 2009, a study by Physicians for Social Responsibility concluded that pollution from coal plants contributes to all four of the major causes of mortality in the United States—heart disease, cancer, stroke and respiratory ailments. In addition it's responsible for increasing the incidence of other major diseases already afflicting large portions of the population.

The burning of coal produces a long list of hazardous substances including nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and mercury.

Earlier in the year, the Environmental Protection Agency announced new clean air standards that target air pollution across state lines. Unfortunately, President Obama took a step back on air pollution on September 2 by delaying smog regulations that would have protected Americans (see Page 3).

## U.S. Interior Secretary Salazar Holds Forum in Millinocket on National Park Issue

RoxanneQuimby's proposal for a Maine Woods National Park has stirred a heated controversy in Millinocket and surrounding areas.

Quimby wants to give 70,000 acres just east of Baxter State Park to the federal government to establish a national park.

In August, U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar traveled to Maine to hear all the national park issues firsthand at a public forum at Millinocket's Stearns High School. He was accompanied by National Park Service director Jon Jarvis. More than 300 people attended.

At the start of the forum, Salazar stressed that he was there to listen and that, as of now, the Obama administration had no position on a national park or any other federal protection for the Maine Woods. And he emphasized that he wanted to hear from all sides of the issue.

"I invited myself here," he said. "It was my decision to come here because I want to listen to the people of this area."

Early in the session Salazar got a taste of just



Interior Secretary Ken Salazar speaking in Millinocket.

*Continued on page 6*



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## Annual Gathering Continued from Page 1

tal story of 1999.

"To its credit, Home Depot has kept its commitment to phase out sales of wood from endangered forests," Brune notes.

Under Brune's leadership, Rainforest Action Network went on to win more than a dozen other key commitments from some of America's largest corporations including Citi, Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, Kinko's, Boise, and Lowe's. And despite some strong-arm tactics, Brune's approach left most adversaries feeling they had been treated with respect.

"We had a mantra at RAN," Brune notes, "to be hard on the issues but soft on the people involved. That's really just another way of saying that when you take on a company about corporate responsibility, it's possible to be confrontational and collaborative at the same time."

Brune took over as Sierra Club Executive Director in March 2010—a time when the Club was thoroughly immersed in addressing climate change, including a highly successful campaign to stop new coal plants and shut down old ones.

Brune is well qualified for the Club's climate change work. His 2008 book *Coming Clean: Breaking America's Addiction to Oil and Coal*, addresses global warming issues and lays out an ambitious plan for moving America to a clean-energy economy that will create good jobs and a healthier planet.

He sees his position as Sierra Club leader as a natural fit with the sort of far-reaching, solutions-oriented vision spelled out in *Coming Clean*.

"The Sierra Club's motto is explore, enjoy, and protect the planet," Brune says. "It's not just about problems. This is an organization that's equally determined to protect the planet's last, best places and have a great time exploring and enjoying those places. A love of nature helps inspire us to do what we must to save it."

You can help!

## Protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling!

We've waited over fifty years for this moment: to permanently protect the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness. We need every American to get behind protecting America's most iconic wilderness.

The Arctic Refuge is about its unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values, not its development potential. Oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Refuge would harm the unique wildlife and wilderness even as the region faces global warming. Once this wilderness is destroyed, it's gone forever.

But even now, Big Oil wants to drill in the coastal plain and change this magical place forever. Take this historic opportunity to protect the wildlife and wilderness of the Arctic Refuge.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) just released a draft revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Arctic Refuge. It is an important milestone in that USFWS is formally considering a Wilderness designation for the Refuge's Coastal Plain—the biological heart of our nation's wilderness icon. Write your comment to USFWS urging it to recommend a wilderness designation for the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain to protect it from oil and gas development.

## For the Brunes the good life is found in the great outdoors

Michael Brune likes to joke that he measures how good a year has been by how many nights his family has spent in a tent.

"We spend a lot of time camping and hiking, especially in the redwoods, Yosemite, and the Sierras," says Brune who now lives in Alameda with his wife Mary, and their two children Olivia and Sebastian.

Brune's love of camping and hiking, and his subsequent concern for the environment, dates back to his childhood.

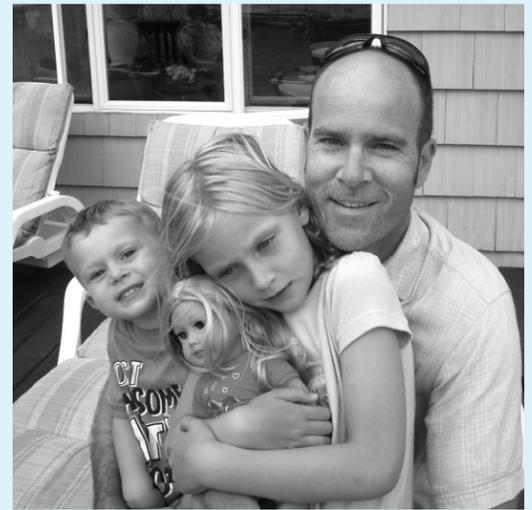
"My parents took us camping up and down the eastern seaboard," he says. "I even learned to walk at a campground in Maine."

Now, as parents, Michael and Mary Brune are instilling a love and appreciation of the outdoors in their two children.

When he thinks about the future, Brune is hopeful that an increasing number of young people will be drawn to passionately support environmental solutions, and that his children will look back on what has happened to their planet as a happy story.

"I grew up listening to my parents and grandparents talking about how things used to be," Brune says. "We'd be driving past a shopping mall and they'd say, 'There used to be a beautiful woods there—we used to fish in this river.'"

"What we're working for is a time when Olivia and Sebastian can say to their kids, 'check out this forest we protected. Look at all those buildings covered with solar panels. They never used to be there. Things are much better than when I was your age.'"



Michael Brune enjoys time with his two children, Olivia and Sebastian.

## Don't miss a great Sierra Club evening

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, silent auction, annual awards, and a fabulous Harraseeket dinner

Friday, November 4 (Cocktail reception begins at 5:30)  
Harraseeket Inn, Freeport  
\$45 per person

For reservations call Heather at 207-561-7616



Arctic wolves

Submit your comment:  
By email to [ArcticRefugeCCP@fws.gov](mailto:ArcticRefugeCCP@fws.gov)  
By mail to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Arctic NWR - Sharon Seim  
101 12th Ave., Rm 236  
Fairbanks AK 99701  
By fax to 907-456-0428

## Vote Yes on Question #1

As a member of the Protect Maine Votes Coalition, the Sierra Club Maine was part of a successful effort that collected enough signatures to put the referendum on the ballot for this November. Restoring the 40-year, same day voter registration that has made our voter turnout one of the highest in the nation is an issue that supports good democracy, and that is good for the environment. Consider these points:

- Maine has had Election Day Voter Registration for almost 40 years and there have never been any significant problems.
- Election Day Voter Registration makes it possible for many Maine workers who work two or even three jobs to register and vote on Election Day.
- Because of Election Day Voter Registration, Maine has one of the highest voter-participation rates in the country.

Good democracy is good for the environment!

**Please vote yes on Question #1**

# Bloomberg Philanthropies commits \$50 million to Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign

*Grant called a 'game changer' that will effectively retire one-third of the nation's aging coal fleet by 2020*

In July the Sierra Club announced a partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies that will effectively retire one-third of the nation's aging coal fleet by 2020, replacing it with clean energy. The partnership includes a \$50 million commitment over four years to the Beyond Coal Campaign that will fuel the Sierra Club's effort to clean the air, end the coal era, and accelerate the transition to cleaner, cost-effective energy sources.

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune was joined for the announcement by Michael R. Bloomberg. They appeared outside a coal-fired plant in Alexandria, Virginia. In the U.S., coal is the leading cause of greenhouse-gas emissions, and coal's pollution contributes to four out of the five leading causes of mortality—heart disease, cancer, stroke, and respiratory illness. Coal emits almost half of all U.S. mercury pollution, which causes developmental problems in babies and young children, as well as being a major contributor to asthma attacks. Coal pollution causes \$100 billion in health costs annually.

"If we are going to get serious about reducing our carbon footprint in the United States, we have to get serious about coal. Ending coal power production is the right thing to do, because, while it may seem to be an inexpensive energy source, the impact on our environment and the impact on public health is significant," said Bloomberg. "Coal is a self-inflicted public health risk, polluting the air we breathe, adding mercury to our water, and the leading cause of climate disruption."

Bloomberg noted that the Beyond Coal Campaign "has had great success in stopping more than 150 new coal-fired power plants over the past few years and is empowering local communities to lead from the front while Congress continues to watch from the back. That is why I'm pleased to support the Sierra Club and its allies, and I encourage others to do the same."

The \$50 million grant will fill a significant portion of the campaign's projected \$150 million four-year budget and will have a significant impact in advancing the efforts of the Beyond Coal campaign.

The partnership will play a key role in helping the Sierra Club achieve their impact goals of:

- Cutting 30% of coal production by 2020
  - Reducing mercury pollution from coal by 90% by 2020
  - Replacing a majority of coal with clean energy
- From an organizational perspective it will:
- Increase the number of Sierra Club campaign states from 15 to 45
  - Increase the active member and supporter base from 1.4 million to 2.4 million people
  - Double the size of full-time Sierra Club staff working on the campaign from 100 to 200

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune thanked Bloomberg for the grant, calling it a "game changer" in the fight against coal. He also praised Bloomberg's farsighted vision and understanding of how protecting public health, developing innovative energy sources, and addressing climate change are all inextricably linked. He also welcomed his business savvy and track record for success to the campaign.

"This partnership will help the Sierra Club to work with communities nationwide as they tell



Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune (left) shakes hands with New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg during a July press conference.

one coal plant after another that inflicting asthma and other diseases on their children is unacceptable and that they will not accept coal pollution in their neighborhoods.

"Coal relentlessly dirties our water, air, and lungs and fixing the problem cannot be left to Washington," said Brune. "Nor can coal's contributions to climate disruption be left to international bodies. Mike Bloomberg's strong clean air agenda as Mayor of New York, and his Chairmanship of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, shows that he understands that actions are being taken, and that the most significant ongoing successes will be won city by city, by dedicated people across America."

Beyond Coal campaign successes to date include:

- The campaign has stopped 153 new coal-fired power plants from being built, preserving market space for clean energy.
- Nearly 10% of the current coal fleet is now slated for retirement.
- New mountaintop removal mining permits have slowed to a trickle.
- Victories at 16 colleges and universities, where Sierra Student Coalition members have won fights to shut down coal plants on their campuses.
- Hundreds of thousands of people mobilized in support of strong clean air and water protections

## Obama backtracks on air quality

### Sierra Club Criticizes Smog Protection Delays

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune strongly criticized President Obama's decision to delay smog protection. On September 2, the President requested that the EPA withdraw the draft Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards that would have protected Americans from pollution.

Here are some excerpts from Brune's statement:

"The Sierra Club condemns the Obama Administration's decision to delay critical, long-overdue protections from smog, an acidic air pollutant that when inhaled is like getting a sunburn on your lungs. By putting the interest of coal and oil polluters first, the White House seems to be saying that 'clean air will have to wait.'

"A healthy economy requires clean air and

- The biggest clean air agreement in the history of the Southeast with the TVA settlement.

Studies show that replacing coal's pollution with clean energy is possible and as coal prices are going up, wind and solar are coming down. Iowa already gets more than 15% of its energy from wind power, and San Antonio recently decided to shut down one of its dirty coal plants and install over 400 MW of solar power, what will be one of the largest solar installations in the world. Meanwhile, the green job sector is growing—the wind industry already provides more jobs in the U.S. than the coal industry.

The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign started as a three-person campaign in 2002 and has quickly grown into a powerhouse effort that is changing the way America produces energy. In 2001, the Administration at the time met with coal industry representatives as part of a closed-door energy task force, to craft plans for a new "coal rush"—the construction of 150 new coal-fired power plants. Had the industry prevailed in building these plants, the nation would have been

locked into the use of 19th-century dirty fuels for the foreseeable future. The potential for entrepreneurs to develop wind, solar and other clean technologies would have been crippled. Working with local people in neighborhoods across the country, Sierra Club organizers began fighting Big Coal's efforts to push through these plants. Together, they achieved one victory after another.

Mary Anne Hitt, Director of the Beyond Coal Campaign, called coal "an outdated fuel that is making our kids sick and has no place in a modern energy economy."

"We're already winning in cities across the country. Community by community, people are standing up and saying no to coal, saying that they are ready for the clean energy economy. Now we're ready to take this campaign to a whole new level."

This is the second major climate initiative by Bloomberg Philanthropies following the recent involvement and investment in the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. Bloomberg Philanthropies is focused on climate action, taking a realistic view that progress will come not from national governments and international bodies, but instead by driving action at the city and local level.

healthy people, and these protections from smog would have improved our communities and saved billions of dollars in health costs. Half of U.S. families live in places where it is literally unsafe to breathe the air, and kicking the inhaler down the road will do nothing to protect our children.

"We thank the scientists and public health professionals at the EPA for their commitment to science, and we look forward to the day when strong clean air protections will prevent thousands of premature deaths and tens of thousands of asthma attacks. The Sierra Club and the millions of Americans who have suffered through orange and red-alert air quality days this record-breaking summer will continue to push the Obama Administration to improve this protection in order to save lives and clean up our air."

# SMART ENERGY SOLUTIONS

## Carbon Challenge Teams Face Off in MidCoast



People have started to pick their teams and sign up for the student-led, Green Sneakers/Future Homeowners Community Carbon Challenge. At the launching event, high school student interns, Keira Haining and Kristina Alex, both of Rockport, announced prize incentives and demonstrated how the My Energy Plan website guides users through a selection of actions that would bring down their energy use and thereby reduce their carbon footprint. The three-month competition is sponsored by the Green Sneakers Project, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the Camden Public Library and the University of New Hampshire's My Energy Plan website.

Over the summer high school students of the Green Sneakers Future Homeowners group and Green Sneakers Midcoast coordinator Nancy Glassman met at the Camden Library to make their plans, and approached community leaders about getting involved in the Carbon Challenge.

There was immediate support for their enthusiastic efforts. Dan Bookham, executive director of the Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce, is pledging to reduce his carbon footprint, as head of the Mt. Battie team. Stuart Smith, and The Lord Camden Inn, are leading the Bald Rock team with their efforts.

Everyone is invited to sign up for either team, make a pledge, and join the fun.

Student interns approached businesses, who rallied to provide valuable prizes for participants.

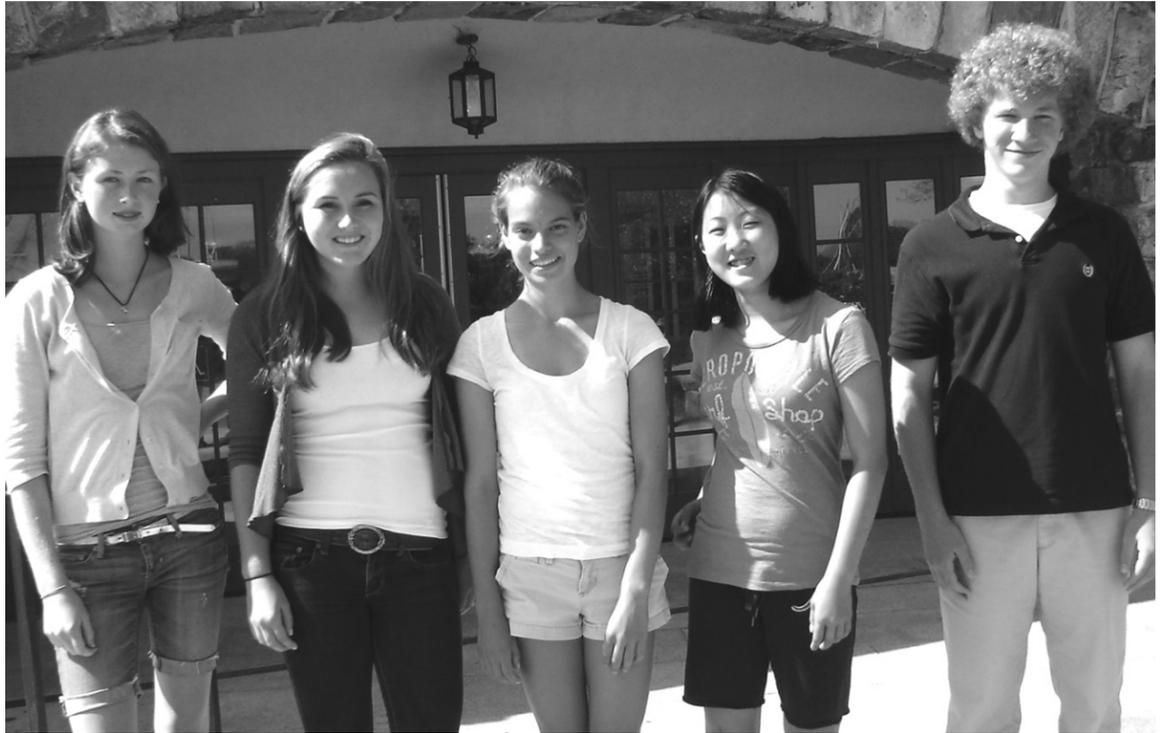
Evergreen Home Performance, of Rockland, will give a 6-pack of 13-watt CFLs and a free one-hour, home energy consultation to all participants.

And Sunrise Guide and Evergreen as co-sponsors are giving the Sunrise Guide coupon book, a \$20 value, to all who complete the challenge. The Sunrise Guide contains a coupon from Evergreen for \$250 off a project that will save 250 gallons of oil, or the equivalent.

The first 25 people who sign up and register their pledge on the site will have their names entered into a raffle for more prizes. Penobscot Home Performance, of Belfast, is donating a 2 hour, home energy audit, with a blower door test, infra-red camera inspection, and walk thru, worth \$400. Revision Energy, of Liberty, Me, is giving a TED 1000 Series, (home energy detective ) complete with installation, for a value of \$360. This unit shows how much and where the kilowatt hours (kWh) in a house are being used.

And Efficiency Maine is offering LED nightlights for the first 30 people who sign up.

"We are so impressed with the way the students have pulled this plan together and so grateful for the community response," said Glassman. "The Future Homeowners group really got behind the idea for establishing the challenge and it was their inspiration to set it up this way. It's exciting to see how ev-



Among the students working on the Green Sneakers/Future Homeowners Community Carbon Challenge are left to right, Keira Haining, Kristina Alex, Brittany Bowman, Ann Hoffman, and Matt Clark.



Ann Hoffman with the poster she made for the Carbon Challenge.

eryone is putting in their part. And of course, saving energy saves money, and puts more back into the local economy, while improving our global impact."

It's the hope of the group that the actions taken during these three months will be lasting. They encourage participants to stack their teams with everyone they can get to join.

To sign up for the challenge, go to: <http://myenergyplan.net>

1. click on Personal Energy Planner
2. Fill in that you live in Maine and scroll down to select your town.
3. After telling a couple of details about your household, scroll down the list of challenges and select Green Sneakers Future Homeowners as your Challenge group.
4. Then select your community, It's most important that you then scroll down and pick your team. Continue to fill out the required fields, then click next. The site will prompt you through the steps, and will show you how much those steps would lead to carbon reductions and money savings.

5. On several of the pages, you can choose to click on More for additional opportunities to reduce.

6. It is also crucial for us that you register with your email address on the web. That is how the web sites will track the teams. Your personal information will not go to anyone. You will receive an email reminder to complete the challenge.

The Future Homeowners group also has been training students in building science and helping their families learn how to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Green Sneakers is a successful neighbor-to-neighbor home energy project created by Maine Part-

ners for Cool Communities, which is a collaboration of the Sierra Club-Maine Chapter, Maine Council of Churches, and Physicians for Social Responsibility-Maine. The partnership works with communities and their citizens throughout Maine to implement municipal and neighborhood strategies to solve global warming and improve air quality. Green Sneakers has been partially funded for one year through a generous grant from the Better Tomorrow Fund. Green Sneakers Midcoast has established a desk at the Island Institute's offices on Main Street in Rockland.

The students were at the Common Ground Fair to present more information about the challenge.

To learn more about Green Sneakers, and how to join a team, please call Nancy Glassman, at 322-9147, or email [green-sneakersmc@gmail.com](mailto:green-sneakersmc@gmail.com).

## Green Sneakers Project Gets Rolling in York County

*Former Maine Physicians for Social Responsibility staff member Melissa Boyd leads a grassroots effort.*

The Maine Partners for Cool Communities' Green Sneakers Project is moving full steam ahead to improve energy efficiency in Maine's KEYS area (Kittery, Eliot, York, and South Berwick). The KEYS is the fastest growing region in the state.

The person doing much of the grassroots work for the Green Sneakers effort in Southern Maine is Melissa Boyd. Melissa is very familiar with Cool Communities work—she was actually involved in founding of the group while on the staff of Maine Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

"It's really exciting now to be working right in communities—doing grassroots organizing for the group that I helped get started."

In the KEYS area there are two programs which are boosting the potential for residential energy efficiency—PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) and the Seacoast Energy Initiative (SEI). SEI has \$500,000 in funding from Efficiency Maine that is available for low interest loans to homeowners who

wish to make their homes more energy efficient. The program covers the towns of Eliot, Kittery, North Berwick, South Berwick, Ogunquit, and York.

PACE, which is a statewide program, offers up to \$15,000 to homeowners for energy efficiency improvements. The loans are repaid via a special assessment on the property tax over a period of years. The Green Sneakers Project is organizing a number of public forums to explain the PACE program.

Melissa notes that her work has expanded beyond the original

KEYS towns and now includes Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Ogunquit, and North Berwick.

"Kennebunk has been particularly active," she says. There is a PACE forum on October 6 which features a local homeowner who received PACE loan. And the forum will be broad-



Melissa Boyd

cast on public access TV."

Kennebunk also agreed to include information about the PACE program in their tax bill package.

Much of Melissa's work in the KEYS will involve organizing a canvas in all the KEYS area towns on October 22.

The Green Sneakers canvas involves recruiting volunteers to go door-to-door in their communities, talking with their neighbors about the benefits of energy efficiency and offering a reusable shopping bag full of valuable information and a free CFL bulb.

"We are working hard to inspire people to get out and do canvassing, but we also want to keep the momentum going after the canvas," Melissa says. "Ultimately we want to get the message across about the importance of energy efficiency in helping with climate change."

As part of her efforts, Melissa is working with high school green and energy clubs.

"We are getting kids excited and hopefully, inspiring them to get out and take part in the canvas."

Special signs with the Green Sneakers website will be posted in every town. There will also be letters to the editor and op-ed pieces in local papers.

Melissa hopes that all the work in the KEYS area will lead to citizen teams that will continue the work

### *Green Sneakers Canvassers are Needed!*

If you live in Kittery, Eliot, York, South Berwick, North Berwick, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, or Ogunquit and would like to be part of helping raise awareness about energy efficiency in your town, call Melissa at.

**It's fun and rewarding!**

## \$1.9 Million to go to Northern Maine Commission for Renewable Energy Jobs

The Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) will receive almost \$2 million to establish a Renewable Energy Industry Cluster. The funds will be used to replace oil furnaces with wood biomass units. The funds could create up to 400 jobs in Washington and Aroostook counties.

According to a story in the *Bangor Daily News*, "the project's objective is to transition 9,000 residential units and 20 commercial facilities to primary or supplemental wood biomass fuel in four years."

NMDC Executive Director Bob Clark explained that the project is based on the assets and strengths of the regions that are within its control.

"We hope to generate a renewable energy economy for Aroostook and Washington counties by utilizing alternative energy resources, applying innovation and retaining money that normally flows out of the region."

This is one of 20 projects funded nationwide through the Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge, a multi-agency competition.

"This cluster initiative will bring together a diverse and experienced group of partners to focus on the common goal of moving this region forward," said Maine Congressman Michael Michaud. "It also has the added benefit of promoting the adoption of affordable renewable energy, which will save Mainers money in the long run and benefit homeowners and businesses alike."

The federal partners for the Maine project include the Economic Development Administration, the Small Business Administration, and the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.



### DiMillo's Restaurant Goes Green

This summer DiMillo's Restaurant in Portland took a step toward a greener future by installing a Windspire Vertical Turbine. The turbine, which is 30 feet high, will create 300-400 kilowatts of energy.

Vertical turbines are quieter than windmills and, importantly, don't require wind that is smooth and unobstructed like conventional windmills. This means it can be closer to the ground and more conducive to urban settings.

For their efforts to utilize green energy alternatives, Sierra Club Maine will present DiMillo's with its 2011 Business for the Environment Award.

Star of the award-winning film, "A Sea Change" highlights weekend.

## First Ever Chapter Retreat Held at the Darling Center

The first ever Sierra Club Maine Chapter retreat was held at the beautiful setting of the Darling Center in Walpole on the Damariscotta River on September 17-19. The Chapter Executive Committee hosted a "friend raiser" on Friday evening. Dinner, which included local sea food, preceded an overview of the film, "A Sea Change" produced by Barbara Ettinger and starring her husband Sven Huseby and grandson, Elias. Sven spoke to a small group of Club members and scientists that are working or have an interest in marine life.

"A Sea Change" follows Sven's journey on his quest to discover what is happening to the world's oceans. After reading Elizabeth Kolbert's "The Darkening Sea," in *The New Yorker*, Sven becomes obsessed with the rising acidity of the oceans and what this "sea change" bodes for mankind. His quest takes him to Alaska, California, Washington, and Norway as he uncovers a worldwide crisis that most people are unaware of. Speaking with oceanographers, marine biologists, climatologists, and artists, Sven discovers that global warming is only half the story of the potential environmental catastrophe that awaits us.

The following day brought the executive committee, staff, and volunteer activists from around the state together to more clearly define chapter direction and interconnectedness of issues and to build and develop executive committee issues, workplans, and strategies.

Additionally, the group worked on goals and implementation plans of the chapter's two major campaigns as we move forward in our efforts to protect the Maine Woods and to have our society move beyond fossil fuels.



Sven Huseby walks the beach with his grandson Elias in a scene from "A Sea Change."

Nancy Markowitz of Portland, with the non-profit Volunteers of America, skillfully facilitated the group. No easy task since organizing Sierra volunteers is often considered an effort at "herding cats".

Following a day and half of hard work, with time out for a short hike and sharing ideas, several UMaine marine studies students on campus joined us in a showing of the entire "A Sea Change" video. Before heading home, the group was treated to a tour of the facility's laboratories.

### Attention Sierra Club Maine Members

2011 Executive Committee elections will be held online from December 1 to December 14.

Any Sierra Club member wishing to vote can visit [maine.sierraclub.org](http://maine.sierraclub.org) and follow the simple voting instructions.

### Turn Your Concern Into Action

Sierra Club Maine needs volunteers for work in the office, on our annual auction, for phone banks, letter writing, grass-roots organizing, etc.

The vast majority of our Chapter work is done by volunteers. As a volunteer you'll be helping us to protect the Maine environment.

## Salazar, continued from Page 1

how strong feelings run on the issue when Millinocket town councilor David Cyr told the Interior Secretary that he would like to have the federal government leave the area.

"Millinocket has been under attack by the threat of a national park," Cyr said.

Several people opposed to the national park raised concern about the proposal expanding beyond the proposed 70,000 acres. Others were worried about losing forest area for commercial logging and hunting.

Salazar noted that many of America's national parks feature a mixture of uses, including hunting, snowmobiling, logging, and ATV use. He added that local residents would have a major say in shaping the uses allowed in the park.

Salazar asked attendees to be open to the idea of getting more information about the best option for the Maine Woods. He outlined two types of studies that could provide that information. One would be a feasibility study which would take a few years to complete and require congressional approval. The other option, known as a reconnaissance study, would provide some basic information on a proposed park and would only cost \$25,000. A reconnaissance study could be ordered by the Interior Secretary without congressional approval.

Former Baxter Park director Buzz Caverly asked why people would not want to proceed with the study.

"What are you afraid of?" Caverly asked. "To ask a question, to get an answer about whether it will be feasible or not?" He stressed to the attendees that Quimby was offering a priceless gift to an area of the state that needs an economic boost.

Sierra Club Maine's Executive Committee re-

cently voted to support a reconnaissance study by the park service. The Chapter urges its members to write to the Interior Secretary in support of a study.

Just hours after the Millinocket forum, Roxanne Quimby attended a town meeting in nearby Medway.

At the Medway meeting, residents voted 46-6 to support a feasibility study for a national park. Medway's Board of Selectman, School Committee were already on board in support of a study.

The Millinocket Town Council and the Maine State Legislature have opposed the idea of a national park in the north woods.

Maine's two U.S. senators have expressed skepticism about federal ownership of large tracts of land in the Maine Woods. Congresswoman Chellie Pingree supports a national park study—Congressman Mike Michaud is keeping an open mind on the proposal.

**Let Secretary Salazar know  
that you support a Maine  
Woods National Park study.**

Write to:  
Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC  
20240



Home Grown

Former Saco Mayor Mark Johnston proudly shows off his organic garden that helps supply vegetables and herbs for his Vic and Whit's Sandwich Shoppe.

Several years ago, Sierra Club Maine honored Johnson for his outstanding work promoting energy efficiency as Mayor of Saco.

## Maine Woods Campaign Committee Sets Priorities for Coming Year

At a July retreat at the beautiful West Branch Ponds Camp (owned by Sierra Club supporters Eric and Mildred Stirling), the Sierra Club's Maine Woods Campaign Committee discussed the new challenges and opportunities for the Maine Woods and set its priorities for the coming year.

Although ample time was reserved for hiking, canoeing, moose watching, and enjoying the camp's delicious meals, the committee spent long hours discussing many pressing issues.

At the top of the agenda was the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) hearings currently taking place. The committee discussed the importance of holding the LePage Administration accountable for a fully open and public process. It also developed a plan for turning out members and other activists to hearings as well as getting volunteers to contact their own legislators to urge them not to weaken LURC.

Keeping LURC strong is vital in order to prevent regulatory mayhem in the unorganized territories.

Another major topic for discussion was Roxanne Quimby's proposal to donate 70,000 acres adjacent to Baxter State Park for the establishment of a Maine Woods National Park. The committee agreed that more information was needed on the impact of national park in the area and it strongly urged the Sierra Club Maine executive committee to endorse a reconnaissance study, which can be mandated by the Interior Department without congressional approval (see page 1 story).

The chapters executive committee accepted the Maine Woods Campaign Committee recommendation and voted unanimously to support a reconnaissance study.



Maine Woods Campaign Committee volunteers, left to right: Heather Rorer, Jim Frick, Carol Haas, and Ken Cline.

## Legislation Would Protect 13 Maine Islands

In late September Representative Mike Michaud introduced the "Maine Coastal Islands Wilderness Act of 2011," which designates 13 islands of the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Representative Chellie Pingree is an original cosponsor of the bill, which is supported by numerous Maine conservation organizations and local businesses.

"This designation will help to further elevate the profile of these unique coastal islands and boost tourism in Maine," said Michaud. "In addition, it will benefit the current efforts to restore and preserve this critical wildlife habitat utilized by a variety of seabirds for future generations to enjoy."

The Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge supports a wide array of biological communities ranging from coastal islands to salt marshes. Its 48 islands and four mainland units provide habitat for many species of migratory seabirds and waterfowl as well as host a diversity of plants and other wildlife. As a result of the refuge's comprehensive conservation planning process, which included public comment, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended that 13 of the refuge's islands should be designated as national wilderness due to their wild character and ecological features.

Wilderness lands are open to the public for activities such as wildlife viewing, hiking, camping, boating, photography, hunting, fishing, research and non-motorized recreation. During the refuge planning process, several issues came up regarding how wilderness designation would impact public safety, private landowner access, and adjacent activities, such as aquaculture and commercial fishing. These issues were dealt with in the refuge's comprehensive conservation plan and are specifically addressed in the wilderness designation under Michaud's bill.

"Wildlife watching and ecotourism bring millions of dollars into Maine's economy every year. Not only for the guides and boats that bring people to these beautiful places, but for hotels, restaurants, and stores that also serve them. This classification will be an incredible asset to promoting the world-

class resources we have here in Maine and building on this sustainable piece of our economy. With a new Seabird Islands Visitors Center in Rockland, it couldn't come at a better time either. I am proud to help bring this local, Maine-driven idea to DC," said Pingree.

"Representatives Michaud and Pingree are showing real leadership with this legislation," said Michael Thompson, a local business owner and chairman of the Friends of Maine Seabird Islands. "These islands are gems. There was overwhelming public support for protecting them during comments on the management plan. This legislation ensures that the islands will pass, unspoiled, to future generations of Maine citizens and tourists for hiking, photography, picnicking, camping, and boating."

Congress enacted the Wilderness Act in 1964, which created the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS), and reserved to Congress the authority to designate wilderness areas. The NWPS

designation protects federally managed land areas for preservation in their natural condition. There are currently two wilderness designations in Maine. In 1973, two wilderness areas were designated in Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge. In 1990, the Maine Wilderness Act designated Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness area in the Maine section of the White Mountain National Forest.

The following is a list of the 13 islands and the towns they are near.

- Outer Heron Island and Outer White Island: Boothbay
- Little Marshal Island and John's Island: Town of Swan's Island
- Bois Bubert Island: Milbridge
- Inner Sand Island: Addison
- Halifax Island: Jonesport
- Cross Island Complex (six islands in a geographic cluster), which includes Old Man, Mink, Outer Double Head Shot, Inner Double Head Shot, Scotch, and Cross Islands: Cutler

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## Kennebunk Film Series

October 21  
 First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church  
 Main Street, Kennebunk  
 6:30 - dessert & coffee  
 7 - program

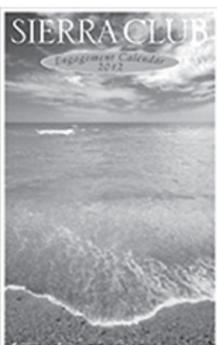
“Green Fire” explores conservationist Aldo Leopold’s personal journey of observation and understanding and reveals how his ideas resonate today with people across the American landscape.



### Keep up With Maine Environmental Issues and Sierra Club Activities on Facebook

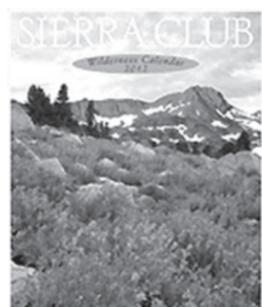
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## MAINE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

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Andy Burt	Edgecomb
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Deb Loftus	Bar Harbor
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### Statement of Purpose of the Sierra Club

“To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the Earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth’s ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.”

## THANK YOU SIERRA CLUB MAINE VOLUNTEERS!

Carol Haas	Bill Briggs
Jaremy Lynch	Pam Blake
Leanne Krudner	Biz Starnegg
Deb Loftus	Joan Saxe
Nate Priest	Micelle Zelkowitz
Elizabeth Starnegg	David Mokler
Andy Burt	Heather Rorer
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