

# SPECIAL EDITION!

## SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2024

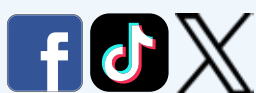
### INSIDE!



Kennebec River, Augusta, by ETheberge/NRCM

# MAINE Environment

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& READY FOR  
ACTION!



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## Reuniting the Kennebec

For more than 60 years, Mainers have led the movement to bring rivers back to life because clean water and healthy fish runs are so central to Maine's economy and way of life.

This legacy has proven that removal of obsolete dams to restore sea-run fish passage has been a win-win for wildlife, outdoor recreation, and local economies. NRCM has been leading these efforts, but success is the result of many people and groups working together.

### Maine's Legacy of Bringing Rivers Back to Life

In Maine, we know from experience that when we remove obsolete dams, native fish and wildlife return in record numbers, injecting new life into rivers that helps revive riverfront communities and supports commercial and recreational fisheries. Restoring healthy rivers also respects the original inhabitants of the place we call Maine. Wabanaki Nations have close connections to all of Maine's major waterways, and to the species these rivers support, especially endangered Atlantic salmon.

"As Wabanaki peoples, our own sustenance relies on the health of waterways and the fish that share them with us," said Odanak First Nation citizen Mali Obomsawin. "Our primary concern and responsibility is protecting aquatic life, not corporate profits."

The removal of the Edwards Dam in Augusta in 1999 has been one of Maine's biggest environmental success stories, with millions of river herring returning annually, along with shad, sturgeon, and other species. Communities along this section of the



Heleen Garrahan

"The Cobbosseecontee Stream sturgeon run of 2023 was a powerful reminder of the richness of the Kennebec fisheries and a glimpse of what the river could be if we continue to help it return to a more natural state." —Gardiner Mayor Patricia Hart

Story continued on page 2

## 2024 Report Card for Maine's Environment

After months of public hearings, negotiations, debates, and votes, the Legislature finally wrapped up its work for the year and adjourned on May 10. Although we are disappointed that several bills died due to lack of funding, we're pleased overall that lawmakers passed measures to invest in Maine trails, help communities respond to climate change, encourage reusable packaging, facilitate Maine-made sources of clean energy, and generally protect Maine's environment. As always, thank you for your support and engagement throughout the session. Your letters, emails, and testimony on priority bills were invaluable and helped deliver another successful year at the State House.

We are particularly excited that the Legislature passed the Maine Trails Bond, which will appear on the November ballot. If voters approve it, the bond will provide \$30 million over 4 years for the design, development, and maintenance of trails for walking, hiking, biking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, off-road vehicles, and more. This first-ever Trails Bond was supported by Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, and endorsed by a remarkably broad coalition of more than 520 organizations, businesses, and towns statewide.

A bill to allow businesses to sell products in reusable containers also received broad, bipartisan support. The new law will reduce waste by allowing businesses to safely provide reusable containers for food and non-food items and receive those

### Highlights from Our Legislative Work

| Goal                           | Outcome |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Invest in Maine Trails         | ++      |
| Promote Reusable Containers    | +       |
| Fund Climate Action            | +       |
| Recognize Wabanaki Sovereignty | +       |
| Support Offshore Wind Energy   | +       |
| Curb Natural Gas Expansion     | -       |
| Defeat Rollback Bills          | +       |

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## Kennebec - from Page 1

river have experienced tremendous benefits, including the City of Augusta, where a new riverfront park and river access have supported economic development.

In 2023, hundreds of visitors flocked to Gardiner to experience a truly spectacular natural event as scores of Atlantic sturgeon swam upstream from the Kennebec into Cobbosseecontee Stream. At times it seemed the stream was full of these prehistoric fish, a stunning display that was possible only because of the decades of progress that has been made thanks to the Clean Water Act and past dam removals.

“The Cobbosseecontee Stream sturgeon run of 2023 was a powerful reminder of the richness of the Kennebec fisheries and a glimpse of what the river could be if we continue to help it return to a more natural state,” says Gardiner Mayor Patricia Hart. “While much progress has been made, dams upstream from Gardiner continue to impact our native fisheries, restricting the river’s wildlife populations and limiting recreational and commercial fishing industries.”



Shawmut Dam on Kennebec in Fairfield, by JMonkman/NRCM

### Restoring the Kennebec Restores the Entire Gulf of Maine Ecosystem

The Kennebec was once the most productive river in Maine for sea-run fish, with Atlantic salmon runs in the hundreds of thousands. But now, Atlantic salmon are critically endangered and facing extinction unless decision-makers act to restore a healthy Kennebec.

Atlantic salmon and other sea-run fish species face a gauntlet of four dams that makes it impossible to reach the Sandy River, a tributary of the Kennebec that provides some of the best spawning and rearing habitat in the Northeast.

The harm these dams cause far outweighs the benefits from their small energy output. That’s why anglers, community leaders, and Mainers who care about the Kennebec and the Gulf of Maine have called for their removal.

The Natural Resources Council of Maine is working together with our partners in the Kennebec Coalition—Atlantic Salmon Federation, Maine Rivers, Trout Unlimited, and the Kennebec Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited—along with the Wabanaki Nations and Conservation Law Foundation to take advantage of a once-in-a-generation opportunity to provide future generations with a vibrant river, one that teems with fish and other wildlife that will support heritage industries and new recreational opportunities, and that will grow economic development in riverfront communities.

Restoring free-flowing access to the Sandy will give endangered Atlantic salmon a chance to survive and have a ripple effect across the Gulf of Maine, helping bring back millions more American shad, American eel, and river herring as well. Many of these fish species support Maine’s most iconic industries, including commercial fishing and lobstering.

“Rivers change and priorities change over time. We should start learning from things that haven’t worked in the past. These four dams provide very little power and do a lot of damage to an ecosystem that could be vibrant,” says Steve Brooke, lifelong fisherman, Farmingdale resident, and retired Senior Planner from the State Planning Office who is active in the Kennebec Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. “We’ve already lost fisheries on all the big rivers south of us including the Connecticut and Merrimack because of failed fish passage proposals. Our Kennebec deserves better.”

### Shaping the Future of the Kennebec and Species that Depend on It

Right now, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is conducting a dam licensing and relicensing process for the Kennebec dams that only occurs every 30-50 years. It will include an extensive environmental analysis of the impact that all four Kennebec dams have on Atlantic salmon and other sea-run fish species.

This moment is our best chance to shape the future of the Kennebec.

It is impossible to save Atlantic salmon—and to have any meaningful restoration of river herring, shad, and other sea-run fish in the Kennebec River above Waterville—if the four dams continue to operate.

“This moment is the opportunity for people of the Kennebec Valley to be a part

of a powerful international success story in the restoration of the Kennebec River as the preeminent biological hotspot for diadromous fish on earth,” says Waterville City Councilor Thomas Klepach.

Hundreds of Mainers have already begun to speak out for a new future for the Kennebec River. Join us today by visiting [nrcm.org](http://nrcm.org).

—Colin Durrant, NRCM Strategic Communications Director



Map courtesy of Atlantic Salmon Federation



Wolfden rally in Bangor, by Story Silo Media

## REJECTED:

### Katahdin Region Mine

When people stand up for Maine’s environment, it makes a difference! In February 2024, the dangerous zinc mine proposed for the Katahdin region was rejected after facing overwhelming statewide opposition. NRCM, along with opponents of the mine near and far, are breathing a sigh of relief for clean water, wildlife, forests, and Maine’s outdoor recreation economy after the Land Use Planning Commission officially voted to reject Wolfden Resources’ proposal to rezone the area around Pickett Mountain, stopping this disastrous project.

This victory is a testament to the power of community. More than a thousand Maine people stood up and spoke out against this threat, alongside NRCM, the Penobscot Nation, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Conservation Law Foundation, Maine Audubon, Earthjustice, and countless other local businesses and organizations. NRCM will always stand up to companies that would damage and pollute Maine’s environment for profit. Taking on Wolfden was an organizational effort that required technical expertise, extraordinary communications and outreach, and collaboration with many partners. This work has always been about working collectively to build the future Mainers want, a future with clean air, clean water, and healthy communities. Thank you for standing alongside us. —CD



## Spring 2024 Tribute Gifts

Among gifts received from November 1, 2023-April 30, 2024

### IN HONOR OF:

Nicholas Bennett from Oren Helbok  
 The Denoncourt family from Rachel Putnam  
 Sarah T. Farrand from David C. and Tyler H. Farrand  
 Duane Huff from John Klemek  
 Mike and Barbara Kasabian from James Kaplan and Suzanne Meeker  
 Bill McKibben from Mr. and Mrs. Roger Bowen  
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 Nancy Prince from John and M.L. Connor McCall  
 Claire Raffel's birthday from Claire Oppenheim  
 Victoria A. Simon from Sharon Polk-Sadownik  
 Cary Slocum and Glenn Montgomery from Elena Brandt  
 Cathleen A. Staehli from Maine Elder Law Attorneys, P.A.  
 The dedicated contributions of the NRCM Board from Ellen T. Asherman  
 My father who brought our family to Maine 40 years ago from Sara Soens

### IN MEMORY OF:

Robert J. Carson Jr. from Bob and Clare Carson  
 Lori Dombek from Anonymous  
 Florence Graham from Thomas Graham  
**Bart Hague from:**  
 Kathy Copson  
 Dr. William S. Holt and Mrs. Mary Jean Holt  
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 Larry Hardman from Carolyn Hardman  
 Lois Hinckley from Edward McCarthy  
 Dennis E. Kordish, Esq. from Victor A. Kordish  
 Susan Lynn Miller from Allison Miller  
 Diane J. Schroeder from David N. Kiefner  
 Carroll E. Taylor from William J. and Carolyn A. McGuckin  
 My parents who taught me to love and respect Maine's outdoors from Ann Hobart

**Would you like to honor or memorialize someone with your next gift? Include "In honor of" or "In memory of" alongside their name in the check memo line or online gift notes.**



## Now Accepting Nominations for NRCM's 18th Annual People's Choice Award

Help us honor an individual or group who has volunteered their time to protect Maine's environment. Someone who has gone above and beyond to protect a special place, or helped pass an environmental safeguard, or worked to stop polluting companies from contaminating our state. Someone who has devoted their time and effort to making sure future generations will be able to enjoy the kind of Maine we know and love today.

We're accepting nominations for our People's Choice Award through **Thursday, August 8**, so get your nomination in today! NRCM will compile the nominees and post finalists on our website, where, from **Monday, August 19** through noon on **Monday, September 9**, you, your friends, and your family can vote for the person you think most deserves this year's People's Choice Award. (**Please note:** This award honors volunteers, so we cannot consider someone who currently sits on a regulatory board, is in the Legislature, or if they are or were serving in a paid position while carrying out the work for which you feel they should be nominated.)

Please fill out this form or visit our website ([www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org)) to nominate someone today. The winner will be presented with the award at NRCM's Conservation Leadership Awards special event this fall. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Beth Comeau at [beth@nrcm.org](mailto:beth@nrcm.org) or (207) 430-0106.

Your name, phone number, & email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe why you believe this person deserves the 2024 People's Choice Award (include any of the nominee's organizational affiliations related to the work). Please be as specific as possible and use a separate sheet if needed. Mail to the attention of Beth Comeau, NRCM, 3 Wade St, Augusta, ME 04330. You can also email your nomination to [beth@nrcm.org](mailto:beth@nrcm.org) or nominate online at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org)

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David Small

## MY MAINE THIS WEEK

NRCM member **David Small of Old Town, Maine**, never disappoints with his beautiful Maine wildlife photos. He recently shared this photo of a Yellow Warbler enjoying the sunshine in the Essex Street Woods in Bangor.

**Do you have a photograph of Maine you'd like to share? Send your submissions to [beth@nrcm.org](mailto:beth@nrcm.org). Visit "My Maine This Week" online at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org) for guidelines and more photos.**





State House, Augusta NRCM file photo

## Report Card - from Page 1

containers back for cleaning and reuse. This is great news for local entrepreneurs who have been blocked from doing so by current state policy and agency guidance.

Lawmakers passed a supplemental budget that includes \$60 million in storm relief funding to help businesses impacted by the severe storms in December and January, and to upgrade infrastructure to be more resilient in the face of climate change. They also approved the Governor's request for an additional \$5 million for the Community Resilience Partnership program, which supports local climate projects identified by cities, towns, and tribal governments.

Decision-makers enacted a bill addressing creation of an offshore wind port, ensuring that an extensive permitting and environmental analysis process can start to evaluate potential port locations, including the Mills Administration's preferred site on Sears Island. The bill includes \$1 million for a new sand dune restoration and protection fund and will protect 10 additional acres on Sears Island (two-thirds of the island already is permanently protected).

The Legislature passed bills that will strengthen enforcement of shoreland zoning, create a new Office of Community Affairs, and establish a new electric vehicle pilot program for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.

Lawmakers again this year did a good job defeating bills that would have undermined existing safeguards for Maine's environment, including one that would have opened up Maine's coasts to industrial rockweed harvesting and another

designed to weaken Maine's net metering policy for renewable energy.

The bill that would have recognized the sovereignty rights of Wabanaki Nations was amended to a much more limited bill that addresses jurisdiction by the Nations over criminal justice matters and drinking water regulation. The Wabanaki Alliance supported this outcome and will continue seeking full recognition of tribal sovereignty. NRCM will continue to support that outcome through future legislation.

When the lawmakers adjourned, they did so without providing funding for 245 bills that were left to die on the "special appropriations table." NRCM supported a number of these bills, which passed the House and Senate but then failed to receive the funding needed to be enacted.

As in the past, NRCM worked closely this year with our colleagues in the Environmental Priorities Coalition, comprised of 34 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations, as well as many other conservation partners and allies. We're pleased to include a sampling of voices from our partners in the legislative summaries that follow.



Together, we helped protect the Maine we all love. Thank you.

—Pete Didisheim, Senior Director of Advocacy

## + Moving Forward with Offshore Wind



J.Shapiro/NRCM

Through passage of a bill (LD 2266) in both the House and Senate, and adoption of nearly identical language in the supplemental budget, the Legislature authorized the State to proceed with the permitting process for a port that will be necessary to launch an offshore wind power industry in Maine. Building a port for Maine workers to build floating offshore

wind turbines will be essential to realizing the climate and economic benefits of the vast clean energy resource in the Gulf of Maine. By supporting this bill, the Legislature is allowing the lengthy state and federal permitting processes to move forward, which will include evaluation of alternative sites for a port. Legislative action included creating a new Coastal Sand Dune Restoration and Protection Fund at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, with \$1 million in initial funding for sand dune conservation projects. NRCM is part of a strong and diverse coalition of labor and environmental organizations that support the development of offshore wind as a critical element of Maine's efforts to create new jobs, reduce climate-changing emissions, and transition away from fossil fuels. The coalition supported passage of LD 2266.

*"The importance of building an offshore wind port in Maine cannot be overstated. Offshore wind isn't just a source of clean energy, it's a once-in-a-century economic development opportunity for our state."*

—Sen. Stacy Brenner (D-Cumberland)

## + Recognizing Wabanaki Sovereignty



CBurrant/NRCM

Progress toward achieving State recognition of sovereignty for the Wabanaki Nations in Maine was realized with the signing of LD 2007, the first time the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act has been significantly amended. The new law reflects a negotiated agreement reached between the

Wabanaki Nations, House Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Office of the Attorney General, and Governor Mills. LD 2007 reflects many of the criminal justice recommendations from the 2019-2020 bipartisan Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act. It also allows the Penobscot Nation a greater role in the management of its drinking water. NRCM is an active member of the Wabanaki Alliance working toward full recognition of sovereignty for the Wabanaki people. Without the legally protected right to self-determination, the tribes have limited regulatory control over the natural resources that impact their communities and livelihoods. We will continue to work in partnership with the tribes to protect Maine's environment and move toward recognition of their inherent sovereignty.

*"Having this expanded jurisdiction helps our communities protect our people and enhance our peace, prosperity, and safety. The signing of this bill on Earth Day is a good reminder that robust and collaborative relationships between tribal and state governments is a proven and tested way to heal and serve our shared Mother, the Earth. We remain hopeful and we remain focused on this journey of restoration and change."* —Maulian Bryant, Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador



## + Green Light for Reusable Containers

Lawmakers took a simple yet important step toward reducing packaging waste by enacting a law that will allow businesses to provide food in reusable containers and be able to receive them back to sanitize and reuse them. Surprisingly, current state policy and guidance prevents businesses from adopting sensible reuse strategies. We learned about this legal hurdle from Kate Pilotte, owner of Farm & Fish, a Castine-based, locally sourced meal kit service. Her customers requested reusable packaging, but she was prohibited from providing it because of a restriction in Maine law. Kate's State Senator, Nicole Grohoski (D-Hancock), responded to this problem by introducing a bill (LD 2091) to allow businesses to move away from disposable packaging where possible. The bill received a unanimous vote out of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, then sailed through the House and Senate with unanimous support. It was signed into law by the Governor. This sensible new law will help reduce waste and create new business opportunities as we continue to tackle the waste problem through strategies that "reduce, reuse, and recycle."



*"This new law will open the door for companies around Maine to make decisions that are right for their business, safely meet customer demands, relieve burdens on local municipalities tasked with waste disposal, and explore new business models."*  
—Kate Pilotte, owner of Farm & Fish (Castine, ME)

## + Enforcement Boost for Lake Water Quality



Lawmakers enacted a new law to enable towns and the State's Land Use Planning Commission to respond to major shoreland zone violations where wealthy homeowners have used litigation as a tool to avoid complying with this critical lake water quality law. The bill was introduced by Sen. Tim Nangle (D-Cumberland)

in response to a wealthy landowner on Sebago Lake who violated Maine's shoreland zoning law and caused the Town of Raymond to incur thousands of dollars in legal fees as it attempted to enforce the law. The bill allows officials to hold such violators accountable by claiming a lien against a property and revoking permits issued for work in the shoreland zone. The bill will protect towns and lakes from homeowners who ignore the shoreland zoning law and attempt to use their wealth to get away with it.

*"This new law will give municipalities and the Land Use Planning Commission a tool they need to more effectively stop egregious shoreland zoning violations and protect our lake water quality and wildlife habitat."* —Sue Gallo, Executive Director, Maine Lakes

## + Industrial Rockweed Harvesting Bill Defeated

Early in the session, lawmakers on the Marine Resources Committee voted unanimously to defeat a bill (LD 2003) that would have opened Maine's coastlines to unrestricted harvesting



of rockweed—a key ecological resource used as habitat by more than 100 marine species. Stopping industrial rockweed harvesting has been an NRCM priority in recent years, so we were pleased that this bill was quickly dispensed with.

*"I oppose this bill because I fear turning rockweed into a large-scale commercial fishery is going to lead to the depletion of the natural population, which will definitely have a negative impact on our coastal ecosystems."* —Kelsey Fenwick, Lobsterboat Sternman (Port Lyde, ME)

## + + Big Win for Maine Trails



*"Bravo to the Maine Legislature for recognizing the breadth, diversity, and statewide distribution of this coalition of supporters of the Maine Trails Bond. We appreciate this opportunity to vote for the Trails Bond."* —Gabe Perkins, Co-Coordinator, Maine Trails Coalition and Executive Director, Inland Woods + Trails (Bethel, ME)

Although lawmakers were at odds on many issues this year, they found common ground on a proposed \$30 million Maine Trails Bond. Introduced by Rep. Jessica Fay (D-Raymond) and a bipartisan group of cosponsors, the Maine Trails Bond (LD 1156) received overwhelming support by the House (133-6) and Senate (29-3)—far surpassing the two-thirds vote needed to pass a bond out of the Legislature. Now, the measure will appear on the November ballot to be considered by Maine voters.

The Trails Bond was endorsed by one of the broadest coalitions supporting a bond measure in years, with 520 organizations, businesses, and towns supporting the bond and encouraging lawmakers to send it to the ballot. This level of legislative and statewide support demonstrates that Maine people value our existing trails and recognize the importance of investing in them for the future. With further investments, Maine could be one of the top-tier states in the nation that's recognized for outstanding trails that support all types of users. Although trails are an important part of Maine's \$3.3 billion outdoor recreation economy, the state currently invests essentially nothing in trail development and maintenance. Small amounts of federal and private funding help support some trail projects, but these sources are grossly insufficient to meet demand. ATV and snowmobile clubs receive funding from vehicle registrations and the gas tax, but these funds also fall far short of the need.

Maine voters have approved more than \$1.1 billion for highway bonds over the past 15 years but have never had the opportunity to vote for a trails bond. There's every reason to believe that the bond will receive strong support in November. If approved, it will provide \$7.5 million in funding per year for four years for trail projects that will make a big difference for Maine people, communities, visitors, and our economy generations to come.

## + New Climate Funding for Communities and Businesses

Climate change already is having significant, expensive impacts on Maine people, businesses, and our environment. We have no choice but to respond to these changes through investments that help Maine become more resilient and accelerate our transition away from fossil fuels. As part of the supplemental appropriations bill, lawmakers took two important steps that will help. First, they approved \$60 million for Maine businesses and communities responding to the storm damage that devastated working waterfronts along Maine's coastline and damaged infrastructure throughout inland Maine. This spending will help Mainers recover and rebuild to better protect against future storms. Lawmakers also provided an additional \$5 million for the popular Community Resilience Partnership program, which supports projects by cities, towns, and tribal governments to reduce climate impacts and make their communities more resilient. This program has already supported creative problem-solving in 175 cities, towns, and tribal governments. The new funding will allow another 100 communities to participate.



*"Expanding the capacity of the Community Resilience Partnership to include 100 new communities would not only benefit the current and future livelihoods of Maine residents, but increase our state's resilience to human-caused climate change and increased storms as a whole."*  
—Olivia Lenfestey, Island Institute Fellow (Islesboro, ME)





Beth Comeau

## + New Maine Office of Community Affairs Created

The Legislature approved the Governor's proposal to create a new Maine Office of Community Affairs, which will bring together planning and technical support staff from multiple agencies, including

the Municipal Planning Assistance Program, Maine Coastal Program, Community Resilience Partnership, and other entities. NRCM strongly supports this new office, which will help fill a planning and technical assistance role for Maine communities that has been lost since the State Planning Office was dismantled in 2012.

*"Communities across the state are dealing with major challenges, tighter budgets, and newly emerging and constantly developing issues such as climate resilience and housing. The State needs high-level coordination and a means to measure progress as we move forward on challenges such as these, and having one office tasked with that effort will be essential to success."*

—Amanda Bunker, President, Maine Association of Planners

## - Inaction on Natural Gas Expansion

At a time when Maine is seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, we should not be subsidizing the expansion of Maine's gas distribution pipelines—which have a 50-year average economic life.

That's why NRCM worked this session with the Office of the Public Advocate and other allies to support a bill (LD 2077) that, as introduced, would protect ratepayers by curbing open-ended expansions of natural gas and scrutinize the operations of gas utilities. The bill would have terminated existing subsidies for adding new customers to the gas system; prevented utilities from expanding into new municipalities; studied geothermal energy as a potential transition for the gas utility workforce and existing infrastructure; and studied the indoor air quality and health impacts of burning fossil fuels inside residences and commercial buildings. Not surprisingly, the bill faced stiff opposition from the fossil fuel sector, including from the American Petroleum Institute, American Gas Association, American Biogas Council, Summit Natural Gas, Bangor Natural Gas, and scores of others who reacted very strongly to any possible limitations on the build-out of natural gas infrastructure in Maine.

After extensive negotiations, the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee approved a scaled-back study bill, which NRCM supported, but the bill eventually died. On the final day of the session, lawmakers failed to adopt a minor amendment that would have clarified that the University of Maine Cooperative Extension had agreed to do the study within existing resources. The bill passed the House and Senate, required no State funding, but died for lack of final action.

*"This bill was introduced to support Maine's clean energy transition. It would have helped prevent an increase in methane emissions, the major component of natural gas, which has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide. The amended bill would have resulted in a valuable study of the full range of issues associated with natural gas. It's a shame that it wasn't enacted."* —Jack Shapiro, NRCM (Climate & Clean Energy Director)

## + Nuclear Power Public Relations Bill Defeated

The Legislature defeated a bill (LD 1549) introduced by Rep. Reagan Paul (R-Winterport) to promote the development of so-called "small modular nuclear reactors." The bill is part of a nationwide public relations campaign by the Nuclear Energy Institute to create the impression that states are interested in helping revive the nuclear power industry. Lawmakers did the right thing by defeating this bill.



*"The hard truth is that when a product isn't financially viable and there are more cost-effective alternatives available, market demand evaporates. Nuclear power has failed in the competitive market of electricity generation, where there are less complex, more affordable choices."* —Rep. Gerry Runte (D-York)

## + Promoting Medium- and Heavy-duty Electric Vehicles

The Legislature passed a bill (LD 122), introduced by Sen. Henry Ingwerson (D-York), to create a pilot program to encourage adoption of medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicles by Maine

businesses. The new law directs Efficiency Maine to discount the upfront cost of the vehicles through rebates, vouchers, or other financial incentives, and to gather data on the use and efficacy of those vehicles in commercial settings over the next two years. This information could create a basis for expansion of the program.

*"At Luke's Lobster, we have researched the options available for electric heavy-duty trucks and fast-charging infrastructure. We are ready to pilot this technology on a path to full adoption."*

—Ben Conniff, Co-founder and Chief Innovation Officer, Luke's Lobster



JCalderwell/NRCM

## Unfunded Bills

The following bills were among the 245 approved by the House and Senate that died on the "special appropriations table" because funding was not provided in the supplemental appropriations bill. Some funding requirements would cover agency staffing and other implementation expenses.

**Forest Advisory Board** LD 993 would have created an advisory board with diverse stakeholders to provide advice to the Maine Forest Service about the state's forest action plans. *Funding not provided: About \$5,000 in annual appropriations*

**Environmental Justice Funding** LD 1621 would have required the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to provide meaningful and equitable involvement of historically marginalized and underserved communities in DEP policy development, regulations, and decision-making. *Funding not provided: \$725,702 over the next two years*



courtesy Memorial Middle School

**Outdoor School for All Maine Students** LD 1817 would have created immersive outdoor education experiences for Maine students enrolled in grade 4 through grade 8. *Funding not provided: \$6.2 million annually*

**Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste** LD 1009 would have curbed food waste from large generators, starting in 2026 with entities that create more than 2 tons per week of food waste and are located within 30 miles of an organics recycler. Food waste

would be kept out of landfills and incinerators and directed toward agricultural applications, composting, or anaerobic digestion. *Funding not provided: About \$550,000 annually*

**Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks** LD 25 would have provided free admission for members of federally recognized Indian nations, tribes, or bands to State-owned parks, historic sites, beaches, and camping areas. *Funding not provided: About \$30,000 annually*

**Land for Maine's Future Funding** LD 1285 would have provided an additional \$20 million in funding for land conservation through the Land for Maine's Future program. *Funding not provided: \$20 million*

**Expand PFAS Testing to Private Wells** LD 1488 would have required residential landlords that have residential drinking water wells to test the wells for PFAS and other contaminants every five years and provide the test results to tenants. *Funding not provided: About \$100,000 annually*



# Explore MAINE 2024

  
Natural Resources  
Council of Maine

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

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- Explore Maine Trails—Staff Picks!
- Books by NRCM Members
- Summer Jumble
- Member Discounts & More



Moxie Bald Mountain in the 100 Mile Wilderness. by Chris Bennett

**E**ach year, we pull together *Explore Maine*, suggesting ways for you to do just that: explore our great state. This year, the focus is on Maine trails since the Legislature passed the Maine Trails Bond. Find staff picks and trail recommendations by local land trust staff and others—see inside! *Explore Maine* also features staff reviews of books by our supporters, NRCM gear, and discounts on Maine outdoor experiences. Enjoy this publication as a small thank you for all you do to help keep Maine special. See you outside!

—Allison Wells, Editor, Senior Director of Communications



One of the many trails Enock Glidden reviewed for Maine Trail Finder is this one at Stone Brook Farm on Mount Desert Island.

## Enock Glidden

### Expert and Advocate for Trails Access for All

Born with spina bifida, Enock Glidden is a Maine-based disabled athlete, adventurer, motivational speaker, and an advocate for others with disabilities. He works at Maine Adaptive Sports and Recreation. An accomplished rock climber, he has completed an ascent of the Zodiac route on El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, has a goal to summit Mt. Rainier, and is planning to explore the Grand Canyon in the coming years.

Closer to home, Enock has been a vocal advocate for improving the accessibility of Maine's trails. He partnered with the Natural Resources Council of Maine to get the Maine Trails Bond passed by the Legislature, with a strong focus on accessibility for all. "Everyone should have choices. That includes people with disabilities," says Glidden.

He is excited about the potential for the Trails Bond to encourage construction of new, much-needed accessible trails and also to improve those trails that already exist to make them more accessible. "I hope it goes a long way to opening up access for future generations," Enock says. "I want to give people what I didn't have. I want to make the world better than I found it. That's what I think this Trails Bond will do. Make Maine better than we found it."

Enock also serves as an Accessibility Ambassador for Maine Trail Finder where he has visited trails across the state to provide honest reviews on their accessibility for people in wheelchairs. Visit [mainetrailfinder.com](http://mainetrailfinder.com) to read his reviews and find an accessible trail near you. —Colin Durrant, NRCM Strategic Communications Director

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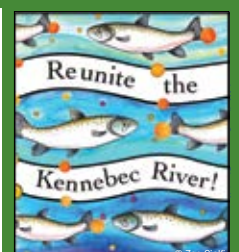
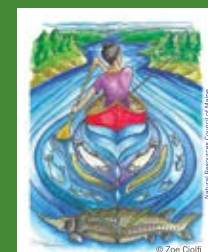


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## Explore and Celebrate Maine's Great Trails

This year marks passage of Maine's first-ever trails bond! More than 500 organizations, businesses, and communities came together with NRCM urging legislators to pass the measure. Now the Maine Trails Bond will appear on the November ballot. If approved by Maine voters, the bond will provide \$30 million over 4 years for the design, development, and maintenance of trails for walking, hiking, biking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, wildlife watching, horseback riding, and more. To help you decide which trails you might like to explore this summer, NRCM staff, members, and supporters offer their picks. Enjoy! —Allison Wells, Editor



### REVERSING FALLS, PEMBROKE, WASHINGTON COUNTY

Located in the quaint Downeast town of Pembroke, Maine, Reversing Falls is situated between Dennys Bay and Cobscook Bay. Reversing Falls is a wonderful place to visit for families and solo adventurers alike. It is also accessible to a wide range of skill levels and offers amazing views of the tidal falls. If you hike all the way out, you will find a nice little point to take in almost 360° views. Calm and generally quiet, it makes for a great place to unwind, reflect, and enjoy nature. —Stephanie Griffin, NRCM supporter



Sen. Rick Bennett

### JOCKEY CAP, FRYEBURG

Western Maine is blessed with scores of extraordinary trails through some amazing terrain, but one of my favorites—because it is accessible and gives immense value for little time and effort—is Jockey Cap in Fryeburg. A peculiar granitic outcrop in the Saco Valley, this small hill sits by itself among the White Mountain giants, and as such provides the temptations of adventure beyond and a picturesque view of Fryeburg village below. Less than a mile round trip—including exploring the boulder caves along the way—the trail is accessible from Route 302 at Mollykett Elementary School, Jockey Cap Restaurant, or a small parking area just east of the Dollar General. The winding trail eventually comes to a steep 0.1-mile climb to the summit, which is a wonderful place for a picnic lunch. At the top, a monument to local hero and Arctic explorer Adm. Robert E. Peary consists of a panoramic landscape compass, with every visible summit depicted to scale and aligned for ease of identification. Jockey Cap is the sort of unique attraction that can be enjoyed if you find yourself with an extra 20 minutes when driving through the area. It will get your blood flowing and put a smile on your face. —Senator Rick Bennett (R-Oxford)

Stephanie Griffin



Codi Riley-Havu

### VAUGHAN WOODS, HALLOWELL

This property, managed by the Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead, hosts a charming set of trails in downtown Hallowell. Once you leave the parking lot you quickly descend to Vaughan Brook and the first of two beautiful stone bridges over the brook known as the Driving Bridge. There is one primary loop, with several smaller loops you can take to add distance to your walk. This property provides a nice set of wide, fairly even trails in the Corniche Loop, and more rugged varied trails in the side trails that lead to the Stone Arch Bridge at the brook. The property is great in all seasons: spring gives you a raging brook with the spring melt, summer offers an opportunity to soak your feet and paws after the hike, fall is beautiful for the foliage, and winter provides ever-changing and potentially challenging terrain. This is a great local favorite for a quick hike in Central Maine.

—Codi Riley-Havu, Gifts, Records, & Stewardship Coordinator

### BRUNSWICK LANDING PERIMETER TRAIL

One month into the pandemic, in April, 2020, I started cycling after 30 years of not being on a bicycle. Since then, I have pedaled more than 2,000 miles, with the largest percentage of those miles happening on the Brunswick Landing Perimeter Trail and surrounding area. Cycling on the road is not something I am comfortable doing, unless I know the road well and there are bike lanes. Brunswick is a great place to cycle, as there are bike lanes on many roads. The perimeter trail is not yet complete, but I like to ride it from Flight Deck Brewing's parking lot, down Allagash Drive, onto the trail at the foot of the runway, and down to a solar array after passing through some forestlands owned by Bowdoin College. There are also some nice, quiet neighborhoods to ride through. For a longer ride, I pedal across Brunswick Landing onto Middle Bay Road and out to Simpson's Point. From Simpson's Point, coming back down Mere Point Road, with its nice bike lane, and through the Bowdoin College campus, back to the Perimeter Trail is one of my favorite rides on an early summer morning. Listening to the birds sing as I pedal along, usually with my mom (who will be 80 this year, and who often needs to let me catch up with her on our rides!) and a longtime friend, is the perfect way to spend an hour or two in Maine's outdoors. When I want to stay closer to home, I also love riding the Kennebec Rail Trail from Gardiner to Augusta. If you have other bike trails to recommend, please send them to me at [beth@nrcm.org](mailto:beth@nrcm.org). —Beth Comeau, Communications Manager



Betty Hartley



Mike Smith

### NESUNTABUNDT MOUNTAIN AND POLLYWOG GORGE

Maine's Katahdin region is known for many wonderful destinations, but few bring me as much delight as a trip out the Jo Mary Road, near the region's southern end. Out here, you can explore several trails and waterways, with adventures ranging from multi-day backpacking trips to casual summer picnics alongside waterfalls and lakeshores. In the heart of it all you'll find the Nahmakanta Public Reserved Land. A highlight here is to amble along the Appalachian Trail (AT), which follows the southwestern shore of Nahmakanta Lake. Hiking the AT north, you'll wind your way up Nesuntabundt Mountain. This otherwise overlooked peak in the 100 Mile Wilderness stands just over 1,500 feet tall, but delivers breathtaking views of the lake below and the mountains of Baxter State Park spreading out to the north. Descending from the summit northbound you will then pass into Pollywog Gorge. It would be easy to overlook this area on the AT. However, a blue-blazed alternate trail brings you deeper into the gorge, where, with some effort, you can experience a spectacular series of falls tumbling down Pollywog Stream. It's possible to enjoy the gorge and the mountain hiking either direction as a day hike, or as part of a multi-day trip. A late-summer trip to the area offers the chance to forage for berries, while an autumn adventure will reward hikers with a warm kaleidoscope of foliage. Just don't be surprised if, upon driving back out the Jo Mary Road, you find yourself already dreaming about the next trip in. —Mike Smith, Executive Director, Outdoor Sports Institute

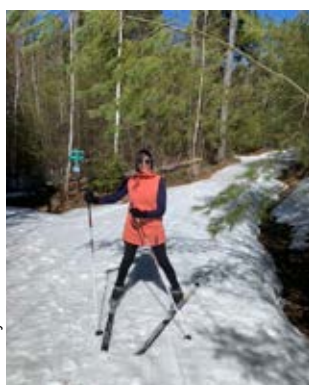




Pete Didisheim

## BEEHCROFT TRAIL LOOP, ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

It's hard to pick a favorite trail in Acadia National Park because there are so many great ones. But I am particularly fond of ascending the Beehcroft Trail up Champlain Mountain, where spectacular views can be had, then taking the Great Ridge Trail down to The Bowl for a swim, finishing at Sand Beach where an Island Explorer bus can take you back to the Visitor Center. Start the adventure by catching an Island Explorer Bus at the Visitor Center that will take you to the Sieur de Monts stop. A short walk through the woods gets you to the Beehcroft trail head, across Rt 3. The trail also is accessible from parking along Rt. 3 near The Tarn Pond. One of the wonderful features of this trail is the granite steps that ascend toward Huguenot Head—a veritable stairway to heaven. Continue onward to the top of Champlain Mountain for stunning views of Frenchman Bay, Bar Harbor, Schoodic Peninsula, the Porcupine Islands, and more. Continue onward down the Great Ridge Trail and you'll end up at The Bowl, a wonderful spot for a swim. Be sure to bring a suit and towel, then hang out on the rocks to dry off before hiking down to Sand Beach for a walk before catching an Island Explorer back to the Visitor Center. If you want to extend the hike, take the Gorham Mountain Trail instead of dropping down to Sand Beach. Be sure to take the short Cadillac Cliffs side trail, which goes through some cool boulders. With this option, you can hike back along the Ocean Path, taking in Thunder Hole, and grabbing an Island Explorer from that spot. All round, it's a wonderful hike with lots of highlights. A favorite, among many. —Pete Didisheim, Senior Director of Advocacy



Courtesy of Lee Dassler

## THE LUNCH TRAIL, NORWAY

Named in honor of Maine Beer Company's beloved IPA, the Lunch Trail was, prior to completion, called the Farm to Town Trail because that is what it is, a 1.5-mile groomed Nordic trail connecting Roberts Farm Preserve to Main Street in Norway, mimicking a classic Scandinavian skiable village. The trail undulates along the contours of a serious wooded hillside providing intimate conversations with mature resilient trees whose bark and roots tell the stories of storms, droughts, and attacks from native woodland beings eking out a living or a home. Stone walls and the occasional embedded barbed wire portray the patterns of Norway's agricultural past. Periodically the canopy or

terrain opens to provide unexpected views of nearby hills, Pennessewassee Stream, or Norway Lake. There are switchbacks and bridges—and one volunteer-managed mailbox with chocolates in it during ski season. Just east of the mailbox there's an unlikely resident along the edge of the trail: a northern hackberry. Skiing the Lunch Trail is a roller coaster of joy, a blend of ups and downs, curves and straights, always beneath high canopy cover. Heading east into town provides a cross-country skier with a slight alpine thrill as the sloped trail lands on the level trailhead parcel. In the opposite direction, heading out of town after a nearby breakfast or lunch, the uphill exit provides a great opportunity to make room for more. The Lunch Trail is just for skiers in the winter, so there is a parallel trail called Janet's Trail that is for snowshoers, snow runners, and dog walkers. In the summer, both trails are open for the walking and running world to enjoy. We like to take Janet to Lunch. —Lee Dassler, Development Director, Western Foothills Land Trust

## PRECIPICE, CHAMPLAIN SOUTH RIDGE, THE BEEHIVE, AND THE BOWL TRAIL LOOP: ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

By far one of my favorite hikes in Maine is the Precipice, Champlain South Ridge, and Beehive loop in Acadia National Park (ANP). Where else can you get ocean views while climbing up iron rungs and hugging the side of a mountain as you're perched precariously on a ledge? While this famous loop needs little publicity with its location inside ANP, that does not diminish the technical challenges the loop presents. In my mind, it is one of the most exhilarating hikes in Maine along with Knife's Edge in Baxter State Park. The length of the entire loop is 5.5 miles with 2,171 feet of elevation gain and priceless views. Be sure to wear appropriate footwear as this is not an easy loop to traverse, and hikers have been seriously injured or killed when attempting to tackle it in poor weather or with inadequate gear. Dogs are not allowed due to steep obstacles. The trail is closed from mid-April through mid-August to prevent disruption to the previously endangered Peregrine Falcons that nest along the cliff face. —Ben Wyman, Administrative & Operations Associate



Courtesy of Ben Wyman



Betty Olivolo

## BRAVE BOAT HEADWATERS PRESERVE

Kittery Land Trust's Brave Boat Headwaters Preserve, named after the nearby scenic harbor, is an important ecosystem on the coast of southern Maine. The biologically rich property is located next to Brave Boat Harbor in Kittery Point. The 100-acre preserve is one of the largest blocks of natural land remaining in Kittery. The property is home to rare and endangered species like the Blanding's turtle, as well as wildlife like otters, which travel between the freshwater of the forested uplands to salt marsh and the sea. Easy 1.5 miles of trails of modest elevation provide access to approximately 60 acres. The conserved land spans from Brave Boat Harbor Road (Route 103) to Bartlett Road, connecting the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge to Kittery Land Trust's Norton Preserve. This easy wooded loop offers a look at the freshwater stream that feeds into the sea. The preserve is a popular trail for birding, cross-country skiing, and hiking, but you can still enjoy some solitude during quieter times of day. Dogs are permitted under voice control. This is a place where visitors can take a quiet walk or an invigorating cross-country ski, listen to birds, and lift their spirits; a place where kids and their families can encounter history in stone-wall-dotted woods, and where students and teachers can study Kittery's unique coastal ecology. —Dot Avery, Deputy Director, Kittery Land Trust



Allison Wells

## EAST POINT SANCTUARY TRAILS, BIDDEFORD POOL

When my husband and I were grad students conducting research in southern Maine during summers decades ago, Maine Audubon's East Point Sanctuary became one of our go-to spots for birding. The parking is limited, but once parked, the idyllic rocky Maine coast lies before you. The trail into the 27-acre sanctuary leads along a golf course, but the path itself provides plenty of canopy and understory for birds. On a spring or fall morning, a walk along the longer loop might yield a dozen warbler species, including Yellow-rumped, Magnolia, Blackpoll, Blackburnian, and others. The trail opens up to more rocky coast, and at the tip of East Point, a pebbly shore abutted by sea-strewn boulders awaits. The shoreline, which consists of coarse sand and colorful pebbles, is a great place to explore with kids, we found when we had our son—he loved sifting through the sand and rocks for "buried treasure." Views of the open ocean reveal flocks of eiders, including the occasional King Eider; Northern Gannets wheeling through the distant sky; Black Guillemots bobbing on the surf, and other sea birds. The trails are well traveled yet never crowded, with benches along the way for resting and taking in the seascape, including Wood Island Lighthouse just across the channel. This ocean outcrop, combined with thick vegetation interior to the trails, make the place a magnet for migrating birds, and many a rarity has been found here over the years. These include Yellow-breasted Chat, Surfbird, Western Kingbird, and Hooded Warbler. All of these special qualities make the trails at East Point Sanctuary among our favorites. —AW



Courtesy of Josh Caldwell

## GOOSE EYE MOUNTAIN TRAIL, WESTERN MAINE

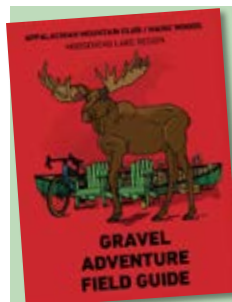
Goose Eye Mountain is a hidden gem in the wild Mahoosuc Range, nestled along the New Hampshire border just north of Sunday River. Access to the exposed summit is most readily granted via the Wright Trail, which can be accessed just beyond the parking area for Frenchman's Hole, an iconic swimming destination featuring a waterfall flowing over smooth rock into a deep basin. The Wright Trail follows the Bull Branch of the Sunday River past several other phenomenal swimming holes before crossing the stream to a tight, steep ascent up the northern face of Goose Eye Mountain. The trail tunnels through alpine forest until it spits hikers out onto a glorious ridge featuring Sunday River to the south, the Presidential Range to the west, and the 100-mile wilderness to the north. The sudden emergence onto open ridge and unimpeded views makes the steep climb all the more fulfilling. A short trot later, you'll find yourself intersecting with the Appalachian Trail (AT) for the last segment to the peak. While tight in places and in need of signage and maintenance following this past winter's storms, the Wright Trail is a delightful gateway to the AT, with many diverse features. Fair warning: the storms last winter did significant damage to the access road, so your hike may be longer than anticipated until the road to the parking area is fully repaired. —Josh Caldwell, Climate & Clean Energy Policy Advocate and Outreach Manager



Courtesy of Ellerie Ezekiel

## DAY RIDGES PRESERVE, GOULDSBORO, HANCOCK COUNTY

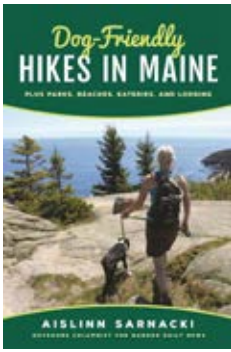
Although I love an all-day hiking adventure—and Maine boasts many!—a majority of the time I spend in nature is on my favorite local trails. I'm fortunate to live within easy driving distance to numerous land trusts, and Day Ridges Preserve in Gouldsboro is a trail I hike with my family, friends, and adventure pup all year round. The trailhead is located just off Route 1, but it only takes a few minutes of hiking for the sound of traffic to dissipate, replaced by bird songs and the ambient rustling of leaves in the breeze. While there is an option to take the tote road all the way to West Bay Pond, I like to branch off onto the forested loop. Here, extensive bog-bridging provides the opportunity to explore a cedar swamp and wind around impressive glacial erratics. One of my favorite parts of revisiting this trail time and time again is watching how the environment changes both through the seasons and in response to an industrious beaver family that has made a home along the trail. One unique section of bog-bridging has had to be raised on multiple occasions as the beavers' hard work morphs and shifts the wetlands. Frenchman Bay Conservancy cares for this preserve, and each time I hike this trail I'm struck by the careful balance between providing outdoor access while also allowing space for natural ecosystems to flourish. —Ellerie Ezekiel, Frenchman Bay Conservancy



## AMC GRAVEL ADVENTURE FIELD GUIDE

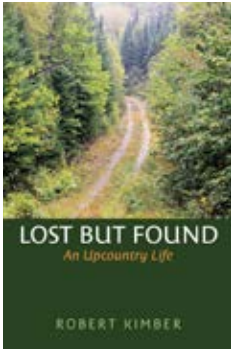
Gravel bikes are one of the hot new trends in bicycling, involving wider tires that work well on gravel and logging roads. Maine has great gravel bike opportunities, as this attractive new guidebook from the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) demonstrates. This pocket-size field guide includes a dozen rides in the Moosehead Lake region, ranging from 2 miles to 111 miles. Each ride starts, ends, and/or passes by one or more of the AMC lodges in the region: Medawisla, Little Lyford, and Gorman Chairback. Order online at: [GravelAdventureFieldGuide.com](http://GravelAdventureFieldGuide.com)





**Dog-Friendly Hikes in Maine, by Aislinn Sarnacki (Down East Books, 2019)** Right off, I appreciate how Aislinn starts the book with trail etiquette for dogs, dog safety, and suggested gear. I think these pieces are so important, but often overlooked. Now that our dog is older—she turned 14 in April—our hiking with her has dropped significantly. She still loves to walk and can keep up with us on easy trails, but our days of taking her on whatever difficult hike we can find are over. This book is a great resource of several new trails that I normally wouldn't consider for our dog, and it has a great representation of hikes that are a mix of easy/moderate to difficult. The difficulty description is helpful in determining what trails may be good for our aging pup, and the nearby dog-friendly businesses is a great addition because who doesn't love a post-hike treat! Overall, I think this is a great hiking resource for both humans and our dogs. Happy hiking!

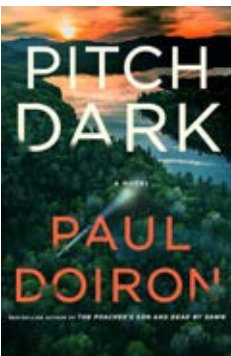
—Codi Riley-Havu, Gifts, Records, & Stewardship Coordinator



**Lost But Found, by Robert Kimber (Down East Books, 2023)** Through a collection of essays, Robert Kimber captures the joys, challenges, and simple pleasures of life in rural western Maine. He does so with the craft of a great storyteller, bringing the reader along with him as an intimate guest as he tries to keep stubborn sheep off his porch, cuts firewood, and tries to outsmart a rather large gray squirrel at his bird feeder, among many other adventures—and misadventures—in northern Franklin County. Through these, we get to know Robert's neighbors, his family, Maine Guides, game wardens, and other

authentic characters he has encountered in his more than 50 years living in the rural town of Temple. Some of these folks I know from my almost 20 years living in the nearby town of Strong; others, I've known, as we all have, but know them by other names from other places. If you have ever dreamed of or aspired to live close to the land in rural Maine, or have lived such a life, this book is a must read. The former will be inspired; the latter will certainly read this with reverence and familiarity. Although Kimber writes of *his* life and experiences, there is a universality to his prose that puts us right there with him, rather than watching from a safe distance.

—Marc Edwards, Regional Outreach Coordinator



**Pitch Dark, by Paul Doiron (Minotaur Books, 2024)** Not only does nearly the entire novel take place in the pitch dark of one night near the Maine and Quebec border (map 47 in my old *DeLorme Maine Atlas and Gazetteer*), but I felt in the pitch dark as to who the bad guys really were until the last few pages of *Pitch Dark*! This latest book about Mike Bowditch, Maine game warden investigator, was hard to put down because of the suspense. There was a new twist at every turn. The story started with a phone call from a rookie game warden to Mike about a missing person in the Rockwood area. Most readers will know

that there is no cell phone reception in the Maine woods near the Canadian border so Mike needs to contact Josie Jonson, a helicopter pilot, who is having a cabin built there, to see what she knows about the missing person. His father-in-law, Charley Stevens, says it would be best if Charley contacts her because she is very protective of the father and daughter who are building her cabin. Mike drives to Jackman to investigate. Charley goes along, too. Josie then flies them to the site where her new log cabin is being built. From this point on, I could not put the book down! Each book in the Mike Bowditch series becomes more thrilling than the last.

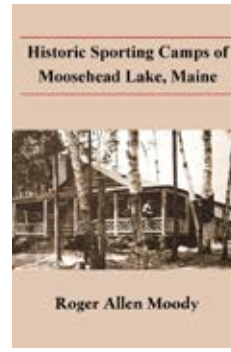
—Betty Hartley, NRCM member



**Zen and the Art of Moose Photography, by Gerry Monteux (Self-published, 2023)** I first "met" Gerry several years ago, when he sent photos to our My Maine This Week web feature, where we showcase incredible photos of Maine landscapes and wildlife. Gerry's photos of night skies, harbor seals, snowshoe hares, and more have always amazed me. But, his *moose* photos are ones that always cause me to pause to ask, "How in the *world* did he get that shot?" I have peppered him with questions about locations, camera equipment, and his level of patience to wait to capture these photos. I feel like he wrote this book for me because he answers those questions and

more, while sharing his stunning moose photos. Some of his stories made me laugh out loud. It was an incredibly entertaining book. But, it also shares helpful tips and honest information about what he does to capture these shots. Spoiler alert: One tip is to acknowledge that sometimes you just got lucky to be in the right place at the right time. I have read a lot of "how-to" photo books and taken some classes, and they are usually incredibly dry and somewhat tedious. Gerry's book is anything but that. I encourage anyone who loves photography, moose, and a healthy dose of sarcasm and humor to read this book. Thanks, Gerry, for the tips and the laughs!

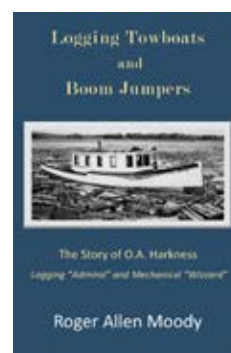
—Beth Comeau, Communications Manager



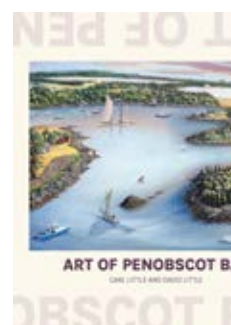
**Historic Sporting Camps of Moosehead Lake, Maine, by Roger Allen Moody (North Country Press, 2023)** Mr. Moody's book was a delightful read that took the reader on a journey with a bird's eye view of the beginnings, development, changes, and people involved in the use of sporting camps in the Moosehead region of Maine. Moody's passion for nature, history, and stories of the people and places he espouses in his book are infectious and leave the reader with the strong desire to learn more and if possible, see the remaining camps for themselves. Moody not only showcases his passion for the Moosehead region in his exquisite book but brings a breadth of experience and knowledge of Maine's culture and people. His training at the University of Maine, and later at Syracuse University, provides a polished account that is greatly appreciated by a fellow history graduate from the University of Maine. *Historic Sporting Camps of Moosehead Lake, Maine*, is sure to wet the whistle for whatever type of history buff you are as Moody includes not only the cultural and environmental changes of the sporting camps of Moosehead Lake, but also delves into the intersectionality of political, economic, travel, and equity changes throughout their history. The reader can almost smell the wood smoke of the campfires, taste the bacon sizzling on a stove camp, and experience the exhilaration of catching a legendary "brookie," or field dressing one of those monster bucks that now live only in the legendary past of this beautiful state that both Moody and I call home.

—Ben Wyman, Administrative & Operations Associate

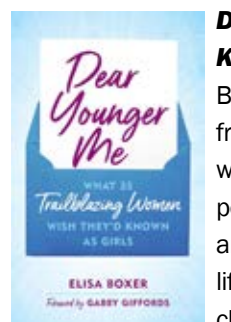
**Also by Roger Allen Moody...**



**Logging Towboats and Boom Jumpers: The Story of O.A. Harkness, (North Country Press, 2018)** I join other reviewers of this book to say that O.A. Harkness is surely one of New England's most innovative problem solvers when it comes to finding ways to harvest and move logs harvested in Maine's great 20<sup>th</sup> century forests. Harkness invented the tools and equipment needed to get timber out the woods and down to the mills that in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century lined the Penobscot River. History and engineering buffs alike will be amazed by Harkness's genius. Roger Allen Moody shares Harkness's ingenuity in a straightforward, no-frills kind of way—very likely the way Harkness himself would have provided his own history. If you've heard about old Maine logging equipment like "log boom tow boats" and "boom jumpers" and have wanted to learn more, this book is for you. —Allison Wells, Editor

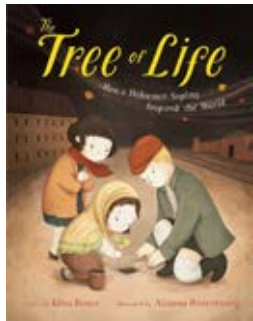


**Art of Penobscot Bay, by Carl Little & David Little (Islandport Press, 2024)** When you think of Maine, you might picture Penobscot Bay, especially if you're not from around here. It is a place that captures the essence of the area. With its working waterfronts, many islands, and expanse of coastline, the bay has a rich history that draws many in. The *Art of Penobscot Bay*, by Carl Little and David Little, is an exploration of the Penobscot Bay region of Maine through an exploration of fine art of the area. The book includes works by more than 120 artists across generations who have portrayed the people and places that make the bay special. The curated collection of imagery captures the essence of Maine and life of Penobscot Bay from the 19th century to present day, and celebrates the many artists who have connections to this region of Maine where art is such an important part of the culture. The book highlights a range of styles that portray landscapes, life, communities, and the unique character of the bay. It showcases a place of exceptional beauty and the life of the people of Maine through the eyes of artists. This celebration of place and culture makes me want to visit galleries of Maine artists next time I'm out exploring. —Sierra Toomey, Digital Content Producer

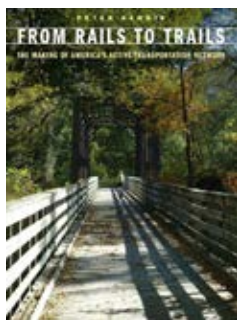


**Dear Younger Me: What 35 Trailblazing Women Wish They'd Known As Girls, by Elisa Boxer (Rowman & Littlefield, 2024)** Elisa Boxer's latest book offers a collection of inspirational stories drawn from her interviews with fascinating, accomplished women. These women include racial justice, health, and environmental activists, political leaders, scientists, educators, authors, musicians, athletes, and entrepreneurs. We learn in the introduction that, while spurred to life by the pandemic, the seed of this book originated in the author's childhood curiosity. As a collection of stories, each segment stands on its own. I encourage readers to skip around as I did. This is a book that encourages us to slow down and sit with our emotions. It is also a book to return to for inspiration as life brings us hard times. As suggested in the title, each of the featured women is quoted at the end of their story with a message to their younger self. These are gems! Themes include hard work, grit, and determination, trusting your gut, and appreciating the gifts each of us brings to the world. The afterword is just as wonderful. It offers lessons on how to say a gracious no to stay focused and protect our energy. While in the category of young adult fiction, there's something valuable here for all girls and women. I hope you'll enjoy it as much as I did. Elisa Boxer is an Emmy Award-winning journalist, columnist, and children's book author.—Toby Kilgore, Grants Manager

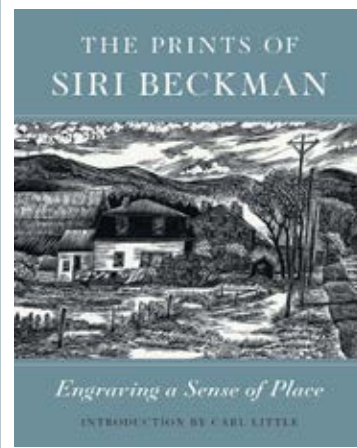




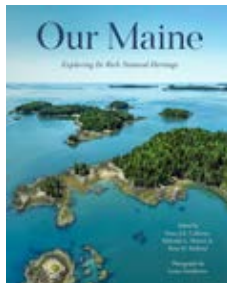
**The Tree of Life: How a Holocaust Sapling Inspired the World, by Elisa Boxer (Rocky Pond Books, 2024)** I have read hundreds of children's books over the years, as I started my career as a preschool teacher. Even when I worked with high school youth, I often read children's picture books as a starting point for group discussions. If I was still doing that work, I would absolutely include *The Tree of Life* at the top of the list. I did not know this true story of a maple tree, smuggled into a concentration camp during World War II, that was planted and cared for by Jewish children and their teacher who were imprisoned at Terezin. This story is hard to read for those of us who have learned some of the history of the Holocaust, imagining all that these children had to endure. But the overall message I got reading *The Tree of Life* was that they didn't let the unimaginable situation they were in change their strength and compassion. It also didn't keep these children from sharing what little they had to ensure that this tiny sapling grew into a strong, sturdy tree, one whose descendants continue to grow and flourish all around the globe today. *The Tree of Life* is wonderful for classrooms, families, and anyone who wants to learn more about this powerful story of hope and strength. —BC



**From Rails to Trails – The Making of America's Active Transportation Network, by Peter Harnik (University of Nebraska Press, 2021)** In his book *From Rails to Trails*, NRCM member Peter Harnik traces the history of railroad line construction in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the explosion in bicycle sales in the 1970s, and the movement to convert abandoned rail corridors to bicycle and walking paths from the 1970s to the present day. That rail-trail movement continues to build momentum, including here in Maine, from active transportation enthusiasts seeking to create vehicle-free commuting options. As passenger and freight lines faltered in recent decades, the idea of converting rail corridors to trail corridors picked up steam. In 1986 alone, according to Harnik, there were at least 20 new rail-trail ribbon cutting events at projects located in 14 states, with another 125 projects at various stages of development. Advocates for rail-trails have often faced significant opposition, including from adjacent property owners. Railroad companies also have opposed rail-with-trail projects on safety grounds. Projects have been stymied by legal and funding challenges—obstacles that Harnik describes well. The book provides fascinating details of specific projects and of the critical roles played by advocates and groups such as the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. Projects in Maine don't receive much attention in the book, although the concept of rail-trails is highly relevant. Multiple abandoned rail corridors in Maine are being eyed by communities and advocacy groups across Maine as potential candidates for active transportation corridors that would involve rail-trails. For anyone interested in developing a deeper understanding of the tremendous progress that's been made with rail-trails nationwide, and the potential for further development of such trails, this book will be a fun read. It was for me. —Pete Didisheim, Senior Director of Advocacy



**The Prints of Siri Beckman: Engraving a Sense of Place, (Down East Books, 2024)** Siri Beckman has been practicing the art of wood engraving for more than 40 years. Her current book features more than 100 of her images—a celebration of her life's work and legacy. In the book, Beckman discusses the process of wood engraving and her passion for printmaking and book arts. Maine art book author Carl Little provides the introduction and ties her work to place and establishes its place in the canon of Maine art. —AW



**Our Maine: Exploring Its Rich Natural Heritage, by Aram Calhoun, Malcolm Hunter, & Kent Redford (Down East Books, 2023)** *Our Maine: Exploring Its Rich Natural Heritage* is a vibrant collection of essays and photographs focused on the wilds of Maine and the many ways that humans have shaped that wilderness. From snapping turtles to sphagnum moss and tourmaline to the ten-banded Neptune welk, this collection will open your eyes to the wonders of the world around you. While engaging as a front-to-back read, this book would also function well as a point of reference. A perfect gift and a worthy addition to your collection.

—Colleen Donohoe, Events Manager



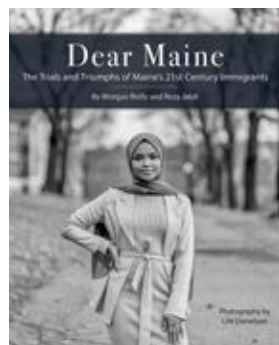
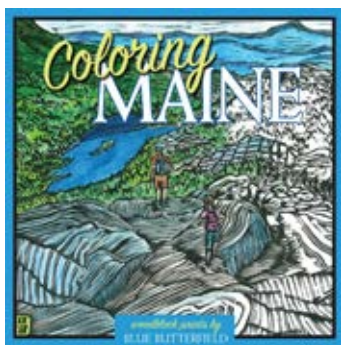
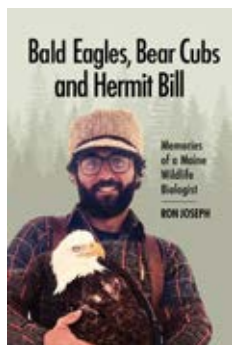
**Category Five: Superstorms and the Warming of Oceans that Feed Them, by Porter Fox (Little, Brown and Company, 2024)** Porter Fox brings a flare to climate science writing that can only be captured by a person willing to chase scientists, researchers, and storms to every corner of the earth. In his newest book, Fox interweaves personal narratives with expeditionary journalism and hard science to bring us the story of the earth's increasing superstorms and their causes. You may not be surprised to learn that climate change is a major factor here, but the author goes far deeper into the history of our oceans and the mechanisms that contribute to storm formation. He paints vivid pictures of future superstorms based on climate projections, some of which are gut-wrenching to read, but nonetheless motivate the climate action and preparation that is needed now to avoid the destruction of New York City and other coastal hubs. His interviews with climate researchers and travels to the open ocean and climate conferences alike are captivating, and I strongly recommend this book to anyone looking for a deeper understanding of climate-induced storms and the solutions at hand to avoid them. Fox was raised in Maine and is back here often for personal and professional visits. Keep your eyes peeled for an opportunity to meet him during an upcoming visit!

—Josh Caldwell, Climate & Clean Energy Policy Advocate and Outreach Manager



**Demon Spirit, Devil Sea, by Charlene D'Avanzo (Maine Author's Publishing, 2017)** Over the years, we have shared with you three other books in this series featuring Mara Tusconi, an oceanographer and sea kayaker concerned with our changing climate. Each of those books took place in Maine, but the difference in *Demon Spirit, Devil Sea* is that the United Nations has asked Mara to head to an island off British Columbia, in the cold north Pacific Ocean. Right from the start, you know something dangerous is on the horizon as Mara's kayak rudder "stuck" and almost swept her out to sea.

Mysterious happenings kept me on the edge of my seat, wondering what will happen to Mara so far from home and in such a different environment. The author is an avid sea kayaker, so her descriptions and imagery are steeped in her knowledge of the sea and the sport, adding authenticity to this series. I also learned a lot about rainforests and the threats they face from climate change. I came away from reading this book learning about an environment I have not experienced while also enjoying the fast-paced mystery of *Demon Spirit, Devil Sea*, which received an IPPY award from the Independent Book Publishers. — BC

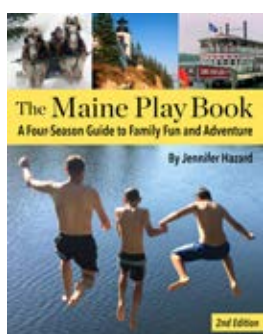


## NRCM Member Discount at Islandport Press

If you love Maine books, you know Islandport Press, the leading publisher of Maine-based books! Islandport books cover a wide range of Maine topics, including many that have been reviewed here in *Explore Maine*.

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**Sporting Camps, Guide Services, & Recreation Businesses** are a great way to enjoy a unique outdoor experience—at a discount price for NRCM members! Create memories—paddling a pristine lake, fishing with a trained professional, rowing on Penobscot Bay—that will become a tradition. Contact us at (207) 430-0106 or email Beth Comeau at [beth@nrcm.org](mailto:beth@nrcm.org) to get your discount voucher, then make your reservation today.

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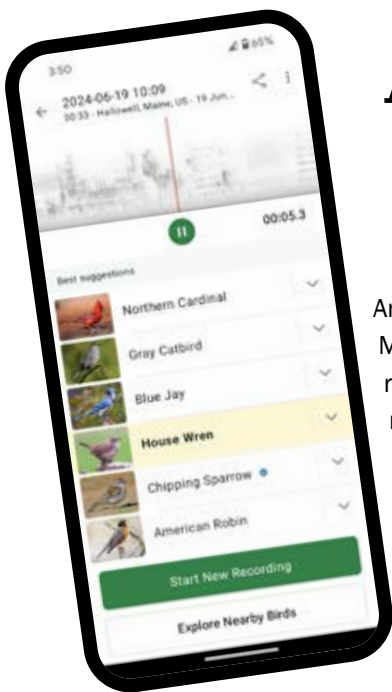
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### App in the Spotlight:

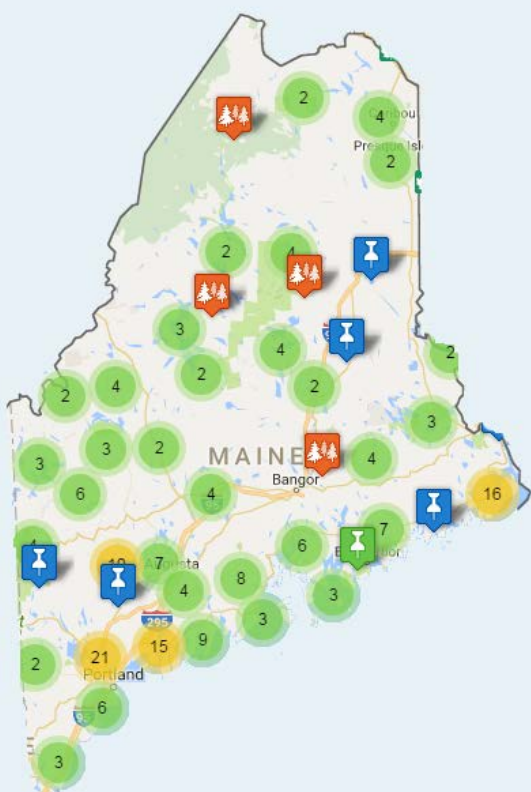


Answers to three simple questions—that's all Merlin needs to generate a list of possibilities regarding your mystery bird. The sound ID makes real-time suggestions for the species in question, and the photo ID pulls from your camera or uses the image you've just snapped to generate a short set of suspects. A favorite nature app among NRCM staffers!



### Find Your New Favorite Place

Our online Explore Maine map will help you discover new places and rediscover old favorites. Features more than 100 Land for Maine's Future locations, dozens of Public Reserved Lands, and trails galore! Read staff and member picks, and find trails that are accessible to all. Maine awaits you!



## SUMMER JUMBLE

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"Lose yourself without getting lost."

Your answer:

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**Answers on page 3.** Mail or email your answers to us to be entered into a drawing for an NRCM tote!



**HAVE YOU NOMINATED YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL HERO?**

Learn more on page 3 or visit [nrcm.org](http://nrcm.org). Deadline for nominations August 8, 2024

