

Maine Legacy

Winter 2001

The Nature Conservancy

Conservation success at these and other sites within a handful of weeks illustrates the quickening pace of the Conservancy's work in Maine - as well as four different

Trout Mountain

ways to meet our land protection goals: through fee purchase at Trout Mountain, conservation easement at Jugtown Plains, donation at Alley Island, and assisting a partner organization at Kennebunk Plains.

Jugtown Plains



BILL SILLIKER, JR.

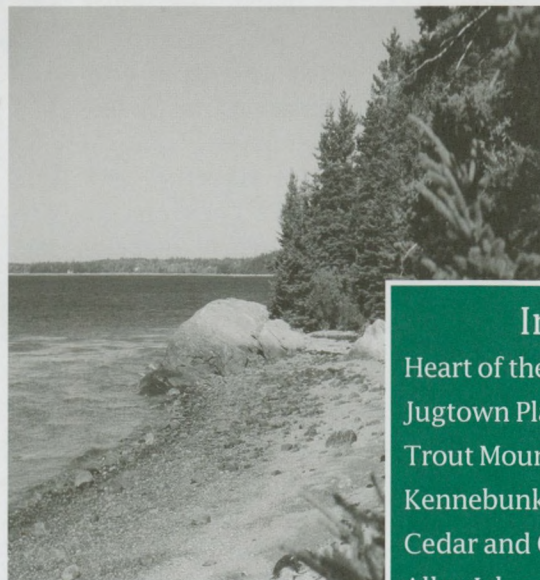
Kennebunk Plains



Storehouse



ROSS GEREDJEN



DOUG RADZIEWICZ

Alley Island

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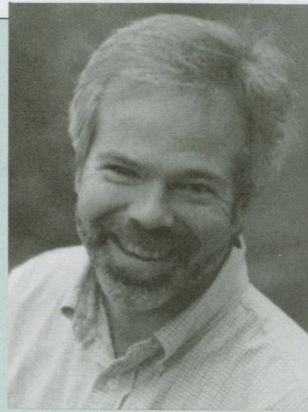
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\$50 Million
Goal Met - More
Challenges Ahead
- see page two

KYLE STOCKWELL

The Director's Column

by Kent W. Wommack



Yes We Did!

far. Over the past two years, you have read here about other successes - such as several purchases along the Saco River including Mount Tom in western Maine, continuous activity at Mount Agamenticus in southern Maine, and such acquisitions as Falls Island in Cobscook Bay and a string of key sites in Merrymeeting Bay and the Lower Kennebec River region.

In this newsletter, we introduce four more at Jugtown Plains, Trout Mountain, Kennebunk Plains and Alley Island. Even given the success of the *For Maine Forever* campaign to date, we will need additional funds.

In future issues, we will introduce you to other projects, some now coming to fruition and others still looking a lot like leaps of faith. But even for those, thanks to you, we are confident of solid landings.

In just two years, the Conservancy has raised over \$50 million in private cash and pledges for conservation projects across Maine.

Roger Milliken, chairman of the Maine Chapter Board of Trustees made that remarkable announcement at a news conference in mid-January. Over the course of those two years, everything changed.

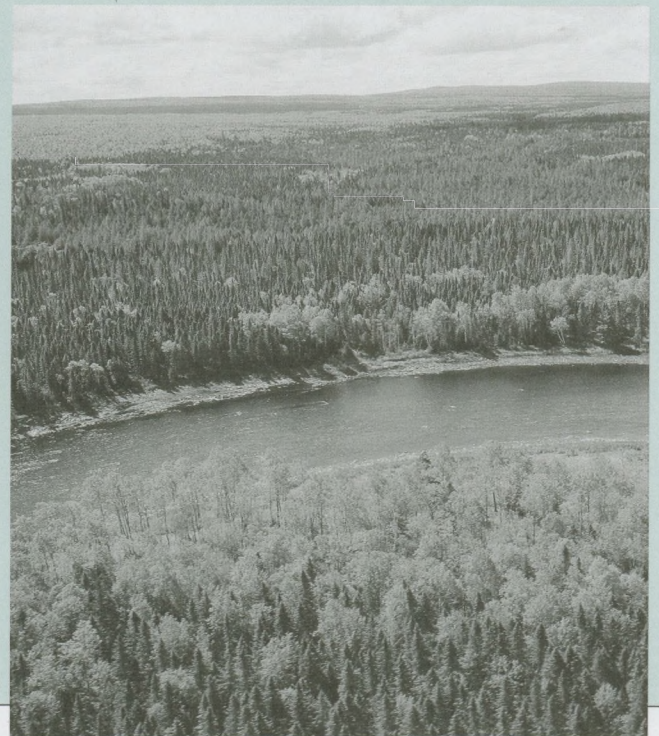
It was a leap of faith in 1998 when we purchased 286 square-miles of remote forest surrounding 40 miles of the Upper St. John River for \$35 million we did not have. Today, we can say that leap of faith was well-founded. We have landed on solid ground.

And we can say the faith we placed in our members and friends the following year - as we increased our fundraising challenge by \$15 million for key sites across the state - was well-founded as well. The \$50 million goal set just last February by the *For Maine Forever* campaign has been reached ahead of schedule, thanks to families, foundations and corporations willing to share our vision and secure conservation victories before

it is too late. How fitting that Roger made that announcement.

He and Campaign Cochair Carol Wishcamper have been intrepid leaders in an effort that has inspired conservationists far beyond our state borders. They have led by example a highly dedicated cadre of campaign volunteers, each of whom deserve the title of Leader. And we have heard repeatedly during the last 24 months from colleagues in and out of the Conservancy who have set their sights higher because the people of Maine have taken on these challenges.

Thanks to these efforts, we have been able to take conservation action when opportunities presented themselves - and we have been able to create opportunities when threats to vulnerable habitats have presented themselves. On the St. John River, we have continued to push upstream, consolidating our ownership interests along the initial 40-mile corridor and extending them nearly twice as



JOSH ROYTE

The Kresge Foundation's St. John River Challenge

One year ago, the Kresge Foundation offered the Conservancy \$1.5 million to cap off the \$35 million St. John River campaign - if we could

raise all the rest by December 31, 2000. It was the largest grant for an environmental cause ever offered by the 75-year old foundation. In the ensuing months, supporters continued to rally to the St. John project with astonishing enthusiasm and generosity. We

are proud to have achieved the goal and we thank the Foundation for this opportunity. To all who toiled so hard to achieve this result, and to each of you who have contributed to this cause, thank you for helping to protect a truly great river.

At The Heart of the Blessing

In mid-January Roger Milliken, Chairman of The Nature Conservancy's Maine Chapter Board, stepped before television cameras and radio mikes in a room crowded with reporters and supporters to announce a conservation success unprecedented in Maine history - the achievement of a private fundraising goal of \$50 million. This is an excerpt from his remarks.

Today we're gathered in support of an organization that is deliberately and boldly creating a legacy for all Mainers, acre by acre, dollar by dollar.

The Nature Conservancy has a simple mission: "to protect the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life in Maine by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive." Simple - and daunting.

We are gathered in support of this mission - but just as much - in support of the organization and its principles. We support the Conservancy because it embraces science as a field of inquiry to guide its wise implementation of its simple, and daunting, mission.

We are here because the Conservancy recognizes that humans are part of nature's diversity. That in order for human communities to thrive, natural communities must thrive and vice-versa. We are here because The Nature Conservancy recognizes the importance of people and organizations of good will working together: businesses and conservationists, urban dwellers and rural residents, those who make their living with natural resources and those who enjoy the solace of wild places. Working together to protect Maine's lands and ways of life.

We are here today to support an organization that dares to be bold. When protecting the St. John River came suddenly within reach, the Conservancy stepped forward to embrace the challenge, one that eventually went beyond the \$35 million that purchase required to include an additional \$15 million for sites statewide....

Today we are gathered to celebrate the overwhelming response to that call - without which the mission and principles would be just lofty words. Today we celebrate the generosity of families, foundations, businesses and individuals across Maine, who sent in their pledges and checks small and large. People like the member who wrote us in November: "When I read that the Conservancy needed an additional \$634,045 by December 31 to meet the Kresge Challenge, I felt that giving \$50 wouldn't make a difference. But then I thought how many great events are the result of many small acts which, taken together, can make a great difference. So here's my small, but I know, not insignificant check."

We are here today to celebrate her, and you and all who gave "not insignificant gifts." Thanks to your unprecedented collective generosity, we were able to raise, by December 31, not only the once-unthinkable amount of \$35 million to protect Maine's largest free-flowing river, but the entire \$50 million and more.

These "not insignificant" funds will allow us to protect sites in the urban core of York County and in the remote woods of Aroostook, from the headwaters of the Saco River in western Maine to Cobscook Bay downeast. Of course, time has not stood still since we announced this campaign, and we can see that our once distant goal of \$50 million is now a milestone. And as we look to the future, we embrace new goals.

But today we pause in reflection, in celebration, and in gratitude. Gratitude to you who responded to our call, who support us in our quest to conserve the lands and waters that are at the heart of the blessing we enjoy every day, the ability to live and work, entwined with and supported by Maine's communities, human and natural. We celebrate what we have accomplished together, and thank you for your support, which has enabled us to take huge steps toward meeting our simple, but daunting, mission.



PETER SCARPATI BLACK COW PHOTO



JOSH ROYTE

Jugtown Plains

Easement

The Crooked River earns its name, rising in Songo Pond just south of Bethel and wriggling its way to Sebago Lake seven towns to the south. The bends and loops become so convoluted as it passes through the last three, Otisfield, Casco and Naples, that one might imagine the river is reluctant to reach its destination.

These towns share another feature through which the Crooked River flows, a contiguous block of over 3,280 acres of forest managed by Hancock Land Company and known as the Jugtown Plains. In fact, it is the parcel which set the Hancock family on a course of acquiring some 20,000 acres in Oxford, Androscoggin and Cumberland Counties.

The Nature Conservancy has purchased a conservation easement on Jugtown Plains which will protect a variety of natural and recreational features. Although the easement was valued at \$600,000, Hancock Land Co. offered it to the Conservancy for \$320,000, making a \$280,000 contribution to the *For Maine Forever* campaign.



ROSS GEREDJEN

As Matt Hancock, who serves as chief executive officer of the family business, explained to the *Lewiston Sun Journal*: "It has sentimental and historical value for us to keep that property in a forested state." The *Sun Journal* noted that "the parcel had been in the Hancock family for 152 years, ever since Hancock's great-, great-, great-grandfather bought the land in 1848."

To fund the easement purchase, the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund awarded a grant for \$70,000 and The Nature Conservancy provided \$80,000 in cash and in-kind support. Additional funding from the Land for Maine's Future Board will be announced soon.

While the Conservancy has invested resources here primarily to protect an extremely rare pitch pine heath, and Hancock plans sustainable forestry, the land has many other values. In the winter, for example, it's not uncommon to see dogsledders whisk along tote roads or a family snowmobiling on trails maintained by the Crooked River and Muddy River SnoSeekers Snowmobile Clubs. The warmer seasons bring a greater diversity of recreational uses, from hunt-

ing and hiking to horseback riding, blueberry picking and birding and, of course, canoeing and fishing on the river (this private land encompasses the traditional take out for the popular 27-mile Crooked River canoe trip) that begins at Songo Lake.

But for the Conservancy the draw is a woodland rare in Maine and regionally. Pitch pine forests of all types, once nearly unbroken as they swept down the eastern coastline, are under siege everywhere from development.

Here, the forest's core is a highly unusual pitch pine heath considered not only the state's most important

example of this natural community, but an outstanding example in an ecoregion stretching from southern Maine to northern Maryland. The only other large pitch pine-heath barren of this type known in the Northeastern United States is in Clintonville, New York, over 300 miles away.

The Bureau of Parks and Lands will eventually hold the conservation easement which will prevent development, ensure continued public recreational access, protect and maintain the rare pitch pine-heath, and allow for continued sustainable management for timber products. To minimize stewardship costs to the Bureau, the Conservancy has agreed to monitor the easement and work with the owner on a plan to protect and maintain the pitch pine-heath, including the use of prescribed fire if needed.

Conservation Easements transfer or extend certain specified rights from the landowner to another party. These can, for example, restrict the right to build on the land or extend the right to enter the property. An extremely flexible tool, an easement can be written to fit particular ecological needs while reserving to the landowner other important rights.



ROSS GEREDJEN

Trout Mountain

Fee Purchase

TROUT Mountain is the centerpiece of a million dollar/3,564-acre purchase from Great Northern Paper. The mountain rises above nearly a dozen ponds, including Twin and Logan Ponds which provide some of the state's most intact native brook trout habitats.

Nestled against the southeastern edge of Baxter State Park, the property provides stunning views of Mount Katahdin seven miles to the north. In the tract's northeast corner, an unusual washboard of sand ridges and wetlands characterized by open sedge meadows and speckled alder swamps attract an array of wildlife including beaver and moose, otter and mink. These, along with old-growth forest remnants, pristine ponds, spruce-fir slopes, red pine shores, kettlehole bogs, cedar-lined lakes, steep hardwood slopes, cliffs and eskers only begin the list of features on this largely unroaded expanse.

On the fringe of Baxter State Park



KYLE STOCKWELL

and just north of Millinocket, the land comes with a history of recreational use. We look forward to working with sportsmen, snowmobilers and others in maintaining many traditional uses.



KYLE STOCKWELL

Kennebunk Plains

Assist

Conservation is on tap at Kennebunk Plains thanks to the work of the Kennebunk, Kennebunkport Wells Water District (KKWD). The Kennebunk Plains has long been recognized as the best remaining sandplain grassland community in New England, but it also protects the water supply for many southern Maine communities.

The same glacial deposits that cre-

ate the sand plain habitats the Conservancy works to preserve also serve as the aquifer recharge area for KKWD. This past year, in consultation with the Conservancy, KKWD has completed two land acquisition projects protecting over 720 acres. The acquisition of the land by the KKWD will help them continue to provide quality drinking water to area residents, as well as protecting critical buffer and habitat to the Kennebunk Plains.



ROSS GERDIEN

Acquisitions by the Kennebunk, Kennebunkport Wells Water District bring a total conservation lands at Kennebunk Plains to approximately 3,000 acres.

Keeping Conservation Afloat Burt's Canoes

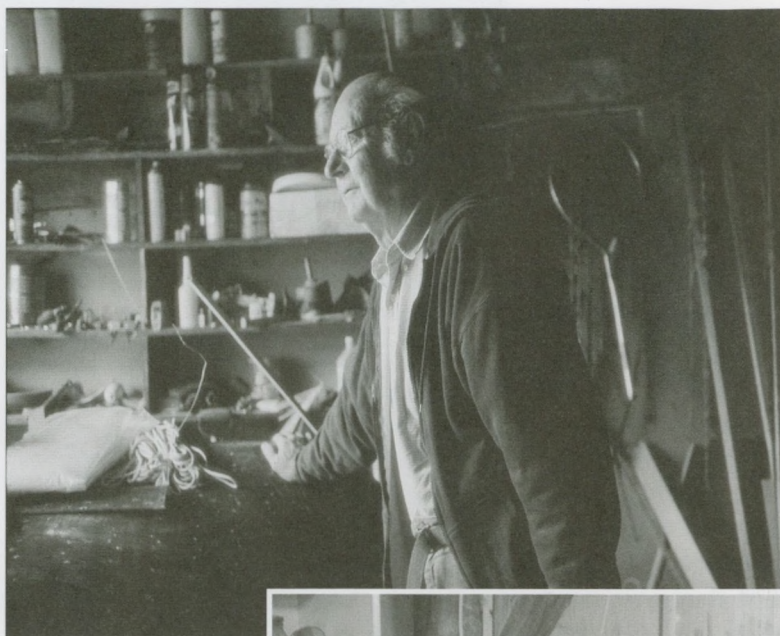
Follow Burt Libby's lanky frame up three steep flights of narrow wooden steps to the top of his barn in Litchfield. There you'll find several connecting workshops with half a dozen cedar and canvas canoes in various stages of construction.

The 18-foot canoe that fills most of the first room looks like it's been encased in a canvas sling fitted like a second skin over the cedar frame. To one side, another canoe, not that far along, sports hundreds of bright brass tacks holding cedar strips to the spruce core.

Pass through to the next room and you'll find where all this construction is leading. The canoe boasts five flawless coats of deep green marine enamel. Its ribbed interior is a rich honey-golden hue. And with gunnels varnished to a mirrored finish, the canoe's surfaces fairly compel an admiring caress. This is the culmination of three months of painstaking work. Burt says it requires the same amount of time whether he's building a classic 18-footer or a fully-detailed, five-foot collector's model.

"It's a pace consistent with an enjoyable hobby," says Burt, characteristically diverting attention from the hours of uncompromising craftsmanship evident in every detail.

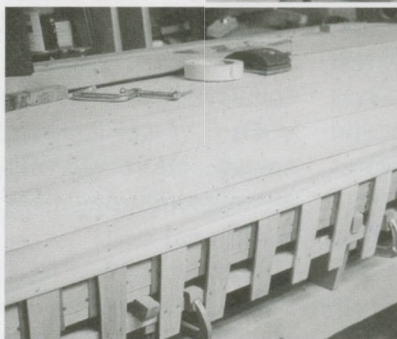
Burt and his late wife, Marnie, became members of The Nature Conservancy in 1989. They were regular but modest donors until 1999, when checks suddenly started coming from Burt in amounts of \$1,000, \$1,500, and \$2,000. Inspired by the Conservancy's purchase of 40 miles of the St. John River, Burt explains, he decided to endorse over to the Conservancy several of the checks he received from customers for his canoes.



BRUCE KIDMAN



BRUCE KIDMAN



Trained as a wildlife ecologist, Burt joined his wife in running sporting camps in Maine before heading to Alaska to work on various

wildlife projects. Returning to Maine, he became a real estate appraiser for the Maine Department of Transportation, a job he held until his retirement.

That's about the time Marnie, who had been canoeing all over the state of Maine since the mid-1940's, began thinking about a new canoe and Burt decided to build it for her. That was a fair number of canoes ago.

Burt Libby says he's never canoed the St. John and claims it's now "too adventurous" for him. But while Burt may not make the trip, his canoes certainly will - and his generosity will help assure that the longest free-flowing wilderness river east of the Mississippi will be available for future generations of paddlers.



BRUCE KIDMAN

As this newsletter went to press, we were honored to receive another check from Burt - this the substantial proceeds from the sale of real estate owned by his late wife, Marnie.

Alley Island

Donation

For the past 15 years, Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Homburger have kept a watchful eye upon their spruce-covered, 115-acre island just across the bay from their home in Trenton. And well they might: Alley Island is a treasure, was one of the last undeveloped (formally unprotected) islands in the Mount Desert Island archipelago.

This fall, as they prepared to return to live year-round in Brookline, Massachusetts, they determined to make their tradition of careful stewardship for Alley Island permanent. They donated the island, appraised at more than \$600,000, to The Nature Conservancy.

Off the northwest coast of Mount Desert, Alley Island will be managed as an addition to the Conservancy's nearby Indian Point-Blagden Preserve. Access to Alley Island is only by boat and, as with all Conservancy preserves in Maine, open only for low impact day-time use.

Alley Island is the seventh island in the Mount Desert Island archipelago protected by The Nature Conservancy and brings total Conservancy-protected island acreage in the area to more than 1,000 acres. Other Conservancy-protected islands in the archipelago include 500-acre Placentia Island; 245-acre Great Duck Island; 136-acre Turtle Island; 125-acre Long Porcupine Island; 2-acre Squid Island; and the 30-acre Ship, Trumpet and Barges group which is now part of the Petit Manaan National Wildlife Refuge.

Dr. Homburger has had a distin-



DOUG RADZIEWICZ

guished medical career at Yale, Harvard, the Sloan Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, and as director of the Tufts Cancer Research and Cancer Control Unit. He also served as Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Boston for 22 years. He was for several years associated with the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, where

he did experimental work during the summer months.

A large clamshell midden on the eastern side of the island suggests that, prior to the

arrival of European settlers, Alley Island supported a large number of Native Americans, probably during the summer months. According to Charles B. McLane, author of *Islands of the Mid-Maine Coast: Blue Hill and Penobscot Bays*, a William Hopkins was living on what was then known as Hopkins Island in 1785.

The island was renamed Alley Island after the Alley family acquired it, presumably early in the nineteenth century. An 1883 chart shows four buildings in a cluster near the south

central part of the island, with a road running north to the bar that connects Alley Island with the mainland at low tide.

In the late 19th century, Alley Island was the home of a Captain Ephraim Alley, once described as "a prominent sea captain who traveled all over the world." All that remains today of the former Alley homestead are a couple of cellar holes and a small family plot where Capt. Alley and two of his daughters are buried.

McLane speculates that "while the Alleys were predominantly farmers, the shoal water that surrounds most of the island presumably encouraged weir fishing around the turn of the century." The fields were subsequently used for blueberrying, and pulp wood was cut on the island as recently as the 1960s.

Today, the interior of Alley Island is predominantly wooded. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has identified the island, which has brackish pools near its perimeter and extensive marshy shoreline, as significant feeding and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl.

Land Donation A gift of real property with significant ecological value is a generous and thoughtful act that complements Conservancy goals and provides a gift for all future generations. Often, there are tax considerations which allow the donor to deduct all or a portion of the value, however the Conservancy believes these are matters the donor should always discuss with a qualified tax advisor.

Dear Hal

I have been asked to tell a lot of very sleepy people why I give so much of your inheritance to The Nature Conservancy! I guess now that you've learned I'm giving away **what someday could be yours**, you might be interested in hearing what I have to say. And I have a feeling your parents might be listening, too.

Well, my love affair with nature began when I was a boy, a bit older than you, but not much. I was captivated by the natural world, although in those days I just called it "the outdoors." It began with animals, and eventually I could name almost every species in North America. Then my love affair spread to fish and where they live — not only the rivers and the streams they call home but the valleys, the gorges, and the mountainsides these waters flow through and over. Some fifty years later, Hal, **I still find myself in awe** of streams and rivers, wondering what secrets lie beneath their broken surface, where they've been, and where they're headed after they leave me.

As you'll learn, ducks and geese got me too, taking such a strong hold on me that I spent hundreds of hours trying to recreate my favorites with wood and paint. I always fell way short of the way nature presents them to us, but I loved the bond carving and painting created between me and the birds I tried to portray.

And then, of course, there's been my long-standing love affair with the high peaks of the Adirondacks. Every time I first see those purple-blue mountains silently appear as we drive north from Pennsylvania, I relax and my throat crowds with joy. Every time, Hal, and I only hope **someday we can share the feeling together**.

So when I started volunteering for The Nature Conservancy, and giving them what might someday be yours, what I was doing was very selfish, for I wanted to **preserve all these treasures** for myself. But after a lot of thought, I now realize that when I make a donation to The Nature Conservancy, I'm not giving anything of yours away. On the contrary, I'm investing for you — saving for you — and all your generation and generations to come, so that, as William Wordsworth wrote, you will "come forth into the light of things, [and] let nature be your teacher," as it has been mine.

And I'm doing it so that I won't be accused of another poet's curse: The earth died screaming while I lay dreaming ... "

And, last, I'm doing it so that the words of John Sawhill, a great man and a great friend of mine — and all of ours — won't go unheeded. John said, "In the end, **our society will be defined not only by what we create but by what we refuse to destroy**." And I couldn't agree more.

So what I'm trying to tell you is that I'm working hard to save the Last Great Places because I think it may well be **the most loving thing I can do** for you. Thanks, Hal, for making things come so clear.

Harry Groome is Chairman of The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. He undertook this letter to his eight year-old grandson Hal after being asked to speak at the Conservancy's national annual meeting last fall.

FOR MAINE FOREVER

*We thank these lead donors and everyone
who made it possible to raise \$50 million for conservation
in Maine in just two years.*

Gifts of \$2,000,000 and Greater

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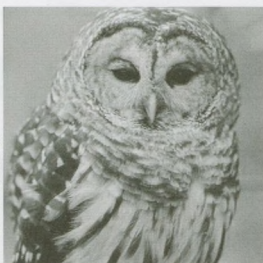
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Continued on page eleven

Nature gives us many gifts.

THOMAS H. ARTER



THOMAS H. ARTER

BILL SILIKER, JR.



THOMAS H. ARTER

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Help us give
something
in return.

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for Maine forever.

GIFTS OF CASH A gift of cash is the easiest way to help protect threatened habitats and wildlife. If you itemize, cash gifts are deductible up to 50% of your adjusted gross income.

GIFTS OF STOCK Provide critical support for conservation and save on capital gain taxes by making a gift of stocks or mutual funds.

GIFTS BY WILL Leave a legacy. Consider naming the Conservancy as a beneficiary of your estate plan. You will protect wildlife while qualifying for an estate tax deduction.

GIFTS THAT PROVIDE INCOME Life income gifts offer a variety of income and tax benefits to help you accomplish your financial goals. You may receive payments now - or defer them as part of your retirement plan. The minimum gift is \$5,000.

GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE Consider donating your home, farm or undeveloped lot. You can receive a charitable tax deduction for the property's fair market value. The minimum gift is \$50,000.

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Please Send Me Information On:

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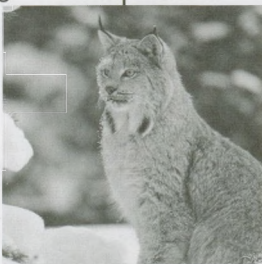
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For a personalized proposal on life income gifts, please provide birth dates for the income beneficiaries.

MO / DAY / YEAR, MO / DAY / YEAR

I am considering a gift of \$



BILL SILIKER, JR.



HOMES MILLER

Thanks Our sincere thanks to Burt Libby for donating a car to the Maine Chapter office in memory of his wife Marnie; Anne Hills for the donation of 4 life vests and assorted tools; Tom Paquette for use of his gouache painting of Mount Tom for special cards; Leonard Sorosiak for donation of assorted tools; Elise Straus-Bowers for donation of a marine compass; Dick Hammond for removing the float on Damariscove Island; Nancy Hawkes for scanning old management plans into the computer to bring us into the digital age; Dave and Kathy Barnhart, Angela Twit-chell and Scott Libby, and Roger and Paula Allen for donating furniture for our Daaquam House on the St. John River lands.

Please We are looking for help in finding the following items that may be gathering dust in your garage:
for ocean-going conservation: • fiberglass or aluminum hulled sea-worthy boat • nautical chart set (recent) for coastal Maine • sea-kayak **for general preserve maintenance:** • cordless drill • hedge clippers • extendable pruning saw, small office copy machine • 6' bed liner for '86 Nissan pickup, post hole digger • router, a belt-sander **for setting up shop along the St. John River:** • table lamps, floor lamps • end tables • bed-side tables • canoe, paddles and life preservers.

If you can donate one of these items please call 207-729-5181. Thanks.

FOR MAINE FOREVER

Continued from page nine

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Lend A Hand

Shore Cleanup at Great Wass Island

Saturday, March 31, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

As nearly everything on this stunning coastal preserve, this spring workday will be weather dependant. The annual clean-up at Great Wass Island Preserve (just over the bridge from Jonesport and across the causeway from Beals) will get you out on some of Maine's most diverse island shorelines. Please call Doug Radziewicz at 288-2095 for more details and sign-up.

Barred Island Preserve

Saturday, April 7, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

It's a midden of sorts - in this case a glass/trash midden that we

need to remove from this small but very attractive Deer Isle preserve. Please call Doug Radziewicz at 288-2095 for more details and sign-up.

Trail Maintenance at Morse Mountain

Saturday, April 28, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Join us in Phippsburg for a day of trail maintenance in the pitch pine dune woodland, beach cleanup and fence installation at the edge of the dune system (to keep foot traffic off of this fragile area). If the piping plovers are back, we may help install fencing around the plover nesting area on Seawall Beach. Please call Nancy Sferra for details (729-5181 x212).

Memorials

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Rutgers - Department
of Political Science
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Mr. and Mrs. Bradley A. Boytim
Christina Greenlaw
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Raymaker
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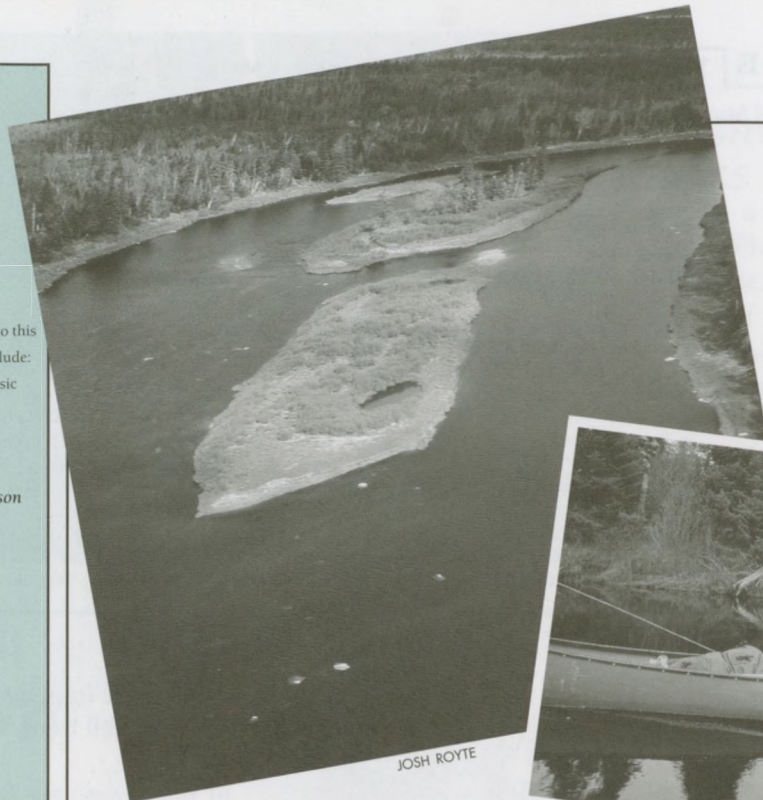
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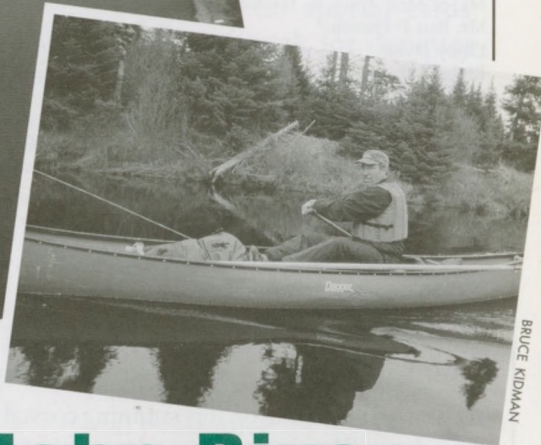
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JOSH ROYTE



BRUCE KIDMAN

The St. John River By Canoe

Canoe the St. John River with The Nature Conservancy! We have
several professionally guided trips scheduled for this spring.

Three-night, four-day trips from Baker Lake to Red Pine run 5/17-
5/20 and from Red Pine to Priestly 5/20-5/23 and 5/22-5/25. Cost is
\$650 including charter plane from Greenville - and back again.

One of these trips can be combined into a six-night, seven-day
trips from Baker Lake to Priestly running 5/17-5/23. Cost including
air is \$1,025.

Finally, we'll be running a seven-night, eight-day trip the full length
of the main river from Baker Lake to the Allagash from 5/26-6/2. Cost
including air is \$1,225.

To obtain more detailed information or to register, call the Maine
Chapter office at (207) 729-5181. Please note that reservations will
NOT be accepted before March 15.

Maine Chapter The Nature Conservancy

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