



CHRIS AVRES

# A Storehouse Balance Emerges in the Northern Forest



BILL SILLIKER JR.

What had long been an elusive vision for conservation in the Northern Forest has become a trend.

The 31 million-acre forest encompasses vast areas of the Maritimes, Maine, Quebec, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York. For decades tensions between economic, ecological and recreational interests seemed to stalemate the permanent protection of key sites. Now, in the wake of The Nature Conservancy's 1998 purchase of 185,000 acres along the St. John River, a series of innovative projects have balanced the needs of forest managers, conservation planners and outdoors recreationists.

The Conservancy's purchase along the St. John River in Maine, and establishment of some 45,000 acres as nature reserves, set in place a model for embedding nature reserves within a landscape of working forest. Since

*The Appalachian Trail Conference donated 4,033 acres atop Mount Abrams to the State of Maine, adding to the mix of lands set aside for either reserves or sustainably managed working forest. The Conservancy holds an easement assuring that this land will be managed as an ecological reserve.*

then, the scale and nature of conservation projects has changed in Maine and across the Northeast.

Within the past few months, projects in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine (see page three) have captured headlines: each established core areas of unmanipulated forest and larger areas in which sustainable forestry could be conducted. In each case, local communities, state government, conservation advocates, sporting and timber interests - among others - worked out balances between traditional uses and essential conservation.

The Northern Forest is a vast region, harboring thousands of lakes and thousands of miles of rivers and streams. The region's waters cascade down from rugged mountain peaks over rolling hillsides

of sugar maple, birch and beech and seep from deep forests of spruce and fir. These are forests rich in wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

Since the early 1800's, they have provided the economic resources on which the people of the northeastern states and their Canadian neighbors have depended. Today, despite its network of roads and its far flung villages, the Northern Forest is relatively unfragmented when compared to much of the East.

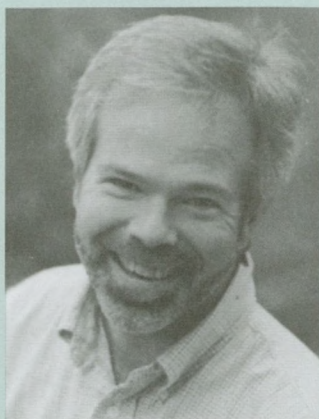
Many of its defining natural quali-  
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# The Director's Column

by Kent W. Wonnack



Our lead story describes a trend that has emerged across the 31 million-acre Northern Forest. Through thoughtful dialogue between a variety of stakeholders, a balance is being struck that recognizes the many ways in which those of us living in and near this great American landmark value the forest.

The Nature Conservancy has been an active advocate for taking a broad view of this resource, scientifically and societally. Our approach begins with bedrock science - literally bedrock.

As we consider what makes the Northern Forest a single ecological unit, we start from its common geologic origin and the characteristic soils, forest cover and climatic conditions before we even con-

sider the wide ranging wildlife that inhabit these forests. We take, in short, the proverbial eagle's eye view. We find that in total disregard to the political borders we've drawn on maps over the past 400

years, Nature has drawn its own boundaries for the Northern Forest.

Of course the Northern Forest is not entirely homogenous. While we see across its four state and two province expanse a remarkable profusion of ponds and great rivers along with broad flats of spruce and fir and rolling hills covered in hardwoods, we also see some distinct areas unusual not only in these forests but anywhere. In Maine, for example, wetlands known as patterned

fens are particularly noteworthy, and so in our work we consider both the needs of the entire forest and the requirements of special places within it.

We take a similar view of the social context. The Northern Forest has long been characterized by its economic resources, but it also offers the many recreational attributes which make life in places like the North Woods of Maine or the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, so rich.

In recognizing this triad of conservation, commerce and culture, we see both the region's diversity and its unity. More than that, we pursue our conservation vision in a way that honors values held by our neighbors. I believe the trend now emerging across the Northern Forest does that.

And that reassures me that in this vast landscape with its tremendous resources, there remains great promise.

## Northern Forest Trend

*continued from page one*

— its diversity of plant and animal life, sense of remoteness, unbroken forests and cultural life — can still be preserved.

The establishment of ecological reserves — ranging in size up to 50,000 acres or more — can preserve virtually all the natural communities of the region, while keeping the landscape open to traditional recreational use. Hiking, nature study, cross-country skiing, hunting, fishing and particularly research will be among compatible uses, while harvesting and mining would not.

Surrounding these reserves will be sustainably managed forests from which so many economic benefits flow. The reserve areas will serve as refugia for wildlife which can replenish the working



DARYL BURNETT

*East Inlet, part of the 25,000-acre ecological reserve The Nature Conservancy purchased at the headwaters of the Connecticut River in New Hampshire. The Trust for Public Land, which originally purchased a total of 171,000 acres, has sold the remaining acres as sustainably managed working forest.*

forest; the managed forests will serve to buffer the reserves from disturbance and provide habitat for wide-ranging animals. In this way, each will contribute to the health of the other.

The pace of this trend has quickened

in recent months with the completion of two projects in Maine — the West Branch and Mount Abrams initiatives — and in other states.

Led by the Forest Society of Maine and the Department of Conservation, the



# Corporate Council Honors Governor

I'll take it," said Governor Angus King, as he stepped forward to accept an award for conservation achievement from the Conservancy's Corporate Conservation Council of Maine.

And well he should, given some 85,000 acres placed in state-designated ecological reserves, protection of 60 miles of Moosehead Lake and the string of major projects completed or underway by conservation groups throughout Maine.

"Governor King has presided over the most remarkable era of land conservation in Maine History," said Peter Triandafilou, J.M. Huber's Woodlands Manager, as he and Council Steering Committee Chair Dan Riley of Berstein Shur presented the governor with a five-foot handmade wooden canoe on behalf of the Council. Triandafilou credited the Governor with setting the stage for proactive relationships between government, business and the conservation communities.

Precedent-setting conservation projects have marked King's eight-year tenure as Governor, from private efforts like the Pingree Ease-

ment and the Conservancy's St. John River acquisition to state-led efforts to preserve Moosehead Lake shoreline and establish an ecological reserve system.

Perhaps most telling has been King's long-standing support for the Land for Maine's Future Program. The state overwhelmingly passed a Land for Maine's Future \$50 million bond in 1999 – thereby encouraging communities across the state to take stock of their open space needs.

The Corporate Conservation Council of Maine is composed of dozens of businesses from across the state working with the Conservancy to protect Maine's best ecological and recreational lands.

"Protecting Maine means taking action to conserve our resources before they are

lost," said Wendy Newmeyer, Council member and owner of Maine Balsam Fir Products in West Paris. "That's why we are willing to put a portion of our profits to work on behalf of future generations."



THOMAS ABELLO

## Balancing Acts

*Since 1998, ecological reserves, distinct from but placed within the context of sustainably managed forests, have emerged as a conservation trend across the Northern Forest. Here are examples from the past five years in which the Conservancy has played a leading or supporting role.*

### Maine

- St. John River 45,000 acres
- Big Spencer Mountain 4,700 acres
- Mount Abrams 4,000 acres
- West Branch 5,000 acres

### New Hampshire

- Bunnell Tract 10,600 acres
- Connecticut Lakes Headwaters 25,000 acres

### Vermont

- West Mountain 12,500 acres

### New York

- Tug Hill 13,000 acres
- Adirondacks 26,000-acre

West Branch Project seeks to protect several 5,000-acre ecological reserves – around Big Spencer Mountain on Moosehead Lake and the headwater ponds of the St. John River. And at Mount Abrams, the Appalachian Trail Conference joined with the Department of Conservation and the Conservancy in establishing a 4,000 acre ecological reserve (on which the Conservancy holds an easement) along the Appalachian Trail. Again, these reserves are embedded within privately owned working forests.

But this trend encompasses more than Maine. Its been instrumental in shaping projects across the Northern

Forest, providing traditional public access, safeguarding wildlife habitat and sustaining the working forest culture on which the region depends. In places like the Adirondacks and Tug Hill regions of western New York, the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont and the North Country of New Hampshire dialogue among disparate groups has resolved conflicts and created new relationships.

In many ways, the State of Maine is at the leading edge of this trend, particularly through the establishment in 1999 of an ecological reserve system on State-owned land. While not every threat to wildlife habitat can be addressed through ecological reserves - airborne pollutants for example - the model emerging across the Northern Forest is a vote for shared values and common sense.



# Pitting Against Alien Alien

*Alien is a name used to describe plants and animals transported from foreign environments, too often to wreak havoc on native wildlife.*

Crouching low among sedges, grasses and calf-high poison ivy, Nancy Sferra pushes the small white stem and green leaves of a six-inch Purple loosestrife plant to the side. The plant is several weeks away from displaying its fuchsia-colored petals.

But Sferra, Director of Science and Stewardship for the Conservancy in Maine, isn't looking for the flowers of this invasive alien. She's looking for another alien that feeds on the aggressive plant, a tiny beetle taking on a big job.

The present story begins when loosestrife at the Phippsburg preserve swelled from an advance patrol of a dozen plants in 1993 to a full-fledge invasion enveloping some 10 acres by 1999. That's when the Conservancy sought permission from the Maine Department of Agriculture to release the beetles, 5,000 strong, in an effort to combat the loosestrife population.



TOM RUMPF

Or perhaps it would be better to go back to the real beginning: In the early 1800s, Purple loosestrife was brought to the United States from Europe as a fast

growing ornamental for flower gardens around houses, barns and businesses. The plant has enormous reproductive capacity, propagating by root or stem segments.

## River To Bay

We owe a great deal to the property owners." Those are Ed Friedman's words in talking about the latest acquisition by a coalition of conservation partners working along the Kennebec Estuary. As chairman of Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, one of the Conservancy's partners in the coalition,

Ed was expressing appreciation for a key element of many conservation deals, the willingness of landowners to consider conservation as an option, in this case the time taken by Jake and Paul Bishop.

The Conservancy and Friends of Merrymeeting Bay worked with the Bishops to protect nearly a mile of frontage on the Kennebec and Abagadasset rivers. Because it connects to another conservation property, the recent purchase creates a contiguous block of nearly 500 acres.

Located in Bowdoinham, the parcel features a hemlock, spruce, and fir dominated forest and vernal pools as well as substantial intertidal habitat. These

woodlands and water frontage, which will be open to the public for a variety of recreational uses including, hunting, hiking, fishing, and bird watching, provide exceptional habitat for a variety of waterfowl and wading bird species, such as Canada geese, black duck, great blue heron, and bald eagles, and offer fertile ground for wide-ranging animals such as fisher, moose, otter and wild turkey.

"If we want to see populations of wide-ranging mammals such as fisher, bobcats and otter remain here into the future, protection of large upland blocks adjoining the Bay is essential," says Will Brune, the Conservancy's Kennebec Estuary Project Director.





THOMAS ABELLO

Each can produce millions of tiny seeds spread by water or wind. Like so many other introductions of alien plants, this one was far too successful.

In the United States, loosestrife lacks a natural predator, allowing it to multiply unabated. Finding a variety of eradication methods inadequate, scientists have turned reluctantly to this small tan beetle. A member of the Galerucella family, the beetle feeds on the leaves, buds and stems of the loosestrife, curbing its ability to multiply.

Native to Europe, these insects have undergone extensive testing to determine their safety and effectiveness. A decade

ago, the United States Department of Agriculture approved the use of beetles in the fight against purple loosestrife. Since then, these insects have been released in at least 27 states and all Canadian provinces with some success.

Back at the marshes of Morse Mountain - and casting a wary eye on the nearby poison ivy - Nancy Sferra concludes that three years after their re-

lease the beetles appear to be weakening the invasive weed.

"We're encouraged because the purple loosestrife has not spread beyond this stand," says Sferra, on the first of several summer monitoring visits to Morse Mountain. "We can see evidence of the beetles feeding on the leaves. That's a good sign."

Ann Gibbs, a horticulturist with Maine Department of Agriculture agrees. The beetle serves as another tool to limit the spread of the plant.

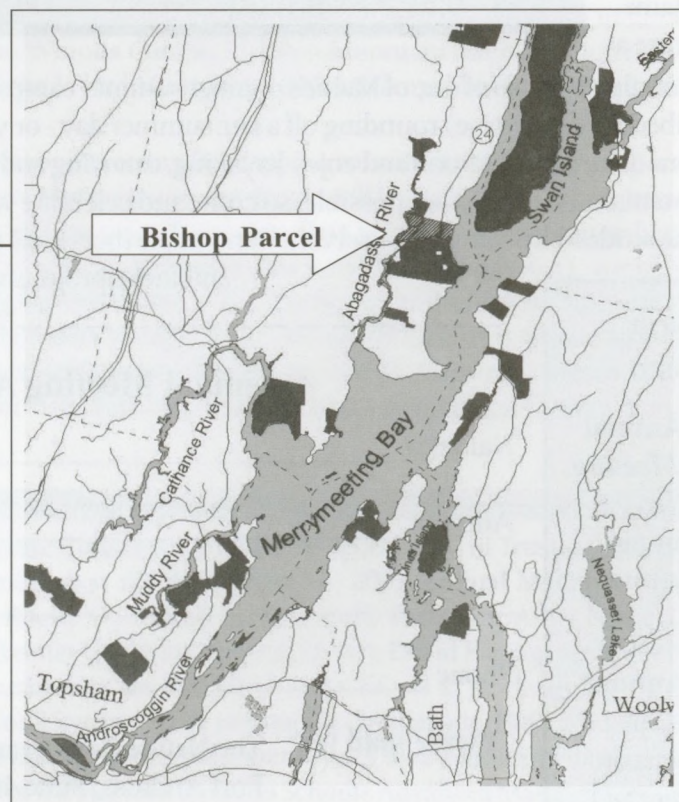
"It's not going to end the problem," says Gibbs. "It's just another option."

No one approach has been totally successful. Others like hand pulling, cutting the heads and herbicides have failed to eliminate large, established populations. There are already too many stories of attempts to bring one alien species in to control another, only to find a whole new set of problems.

"The danger is the beetles could feed on other plants," said Gibbs. "It's a real worry, but I think we have to take some risks if we want to achieve success."

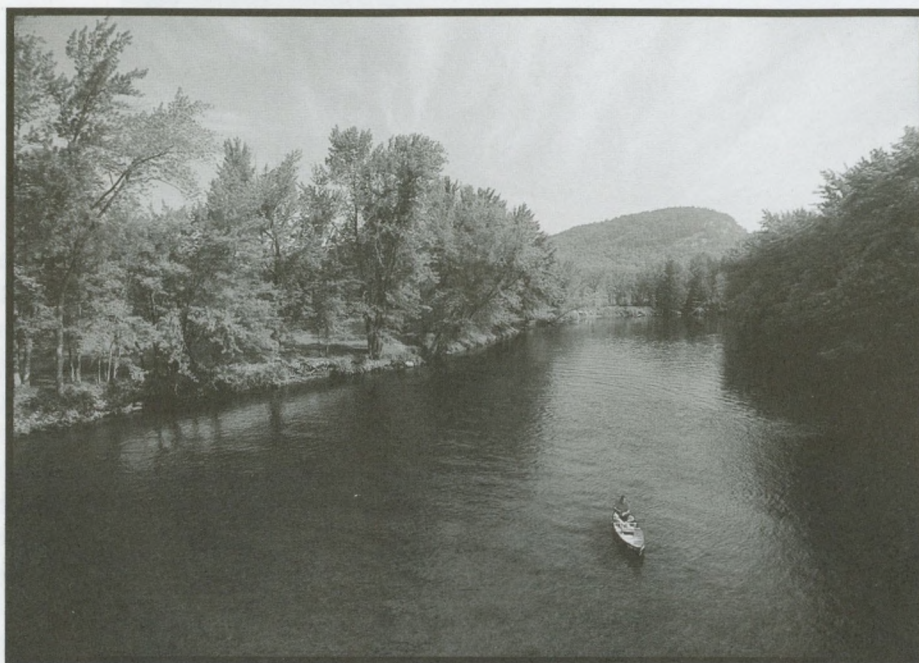
Significantly, the property also has existing agricultural fields that will continue to be leased to local farmers. A surprisingly large percentage of farm fields in Maine don't actually belong to the farmer tilling them; the ability to support farming along with wildlife conservation makes this project all the more important.

But it would not have happened were not the landowners ready to consider conservation. In the face of a good deal of pressure to sell off the family property for development, the Bishops decided to ensure the property remains as it has for generations to come.





JOIN US  
ALONG THE  
**Saco River**  
FOR THE  
Maine Chapter  
Annual Meeting



*Our Annual Meeting* for 2002 takes on a new format, but promises the same opportunities to share in the excitement of another year of outstanding conservation success here in Maine. This year we'll feature a

buffet lunch on the grounds of one of Maine's premier summer camps - with canoe trips and hikes (described on the reverse) rounding off a late summer day - or you may choose to remain at Camp Winona Saturday afternoon and enjoy kayaking, canoeing and swimming on scenic Moose Pond. You make our successes possible, so come and celebrate with staff and trustees. Learn about the strides The Nature Conservancy and its partners have made in Maine, and the very ambitious projects waiting just over the horizon.

How Registration  
Works This Year

**To register for the Annual Meeting Business Meeting and Luncheon Buffet,** please fill out this form and enclose a check. *Clip and mail right away!*

**To register for the Annual Meeting Field Trips,** just sign up at Camp Winona on the morning of the event and pay your field trip fee then.

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**Annual Meeting Along The Saco River**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail to:** The Nature Conservancy  
Fort Andross, Suite 401  
14 Maine Street  
Brunswick, Maine 04011

\$12 per person (children  
under ten free)



## Times and Events

### Sign Up on the Day of the Event for these Opportunities to Canoe and Hike in the Saco River Watershed

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Registration     | 9:00 am  |
| Business Meeting | 10:00 am |
| Buffet Lunch     | 11:30 am |
| Field trips      | 1:00 pm  |

1. **Saco River** (Swan's Falls to Canal Bridge) – easy – This short four-mile trip is a great chance to introduce casual paddlers to the beautiful Saco River, one of New England's most popular canoeing rivers and intact freshwater ecosystems. \*
2. **Saco River** (Canal Bridge to Walker's Bridge) – easy/moderate – This seven-mile trip is ideal for casual paddlers who are looking for a longer trip on the Saco and a chance to enjoy more of this scenic river with its floodplain forest and sandy river beaches. \*
3. **Saco River** (Hemlock Bridge "The Old Course" to Walker's Bridge) – moderate – This six-mile trip allows canoeists with past experience a chance to enjoy abundant wildlife - turtles are especially common during the season as well as wood ducks and pileated woodpeckers. \*
4. **Northern Moose Pond** (Winona to Newt's Isle and return) – easy/moderate – This five-mile hike leaves from the shores of Winona and travels to the north end of Moose Pond with beautiful views of Pleasant Mountain and a chance to find the Lost City. \*
5. **Mt. Tom** – easy/moderate – Located in Fryeburg, this Nature Conservancy Preserve offers a spectacular chance to view the upper Saco River Watershed and its floodplain forest as well as the Presidential range just across the New Hampshire border.
6. **Pleasant Mountain** (Fire warden's Trail to summit and return via The Ledges Trail) – moderate/difficult – Located just across Moose Pond from Winona Camps, Pleasant Mountain offers a wonderful hike for experienced hikers with stunning views of the White Mountains of New Hampshire and the Saco River Watershed.

HAROLD MALDE

**How To Get To Camp Winona:** From Portland, take Route 302 about 40 miles to Bridgton. Note monument at top of hill and continue 2 more miles. Turn left on Hio Ridge Road; then 1.8 miles to turn on Winona Road and continue past the Farmhouse to lakeside.

\* canoes provided

• All trips leave from Camp Winona. • Annual meeting field trip registration costs are \$8 per person or \$16 per family. • The field trips will take place rain or shine. More specific trip details will be available at the registration table on the day of the trip. • All field trip registrations will be on a first come first serve basis on **September 14<sup>th</sup>**, during registration hours only. • Please come prepared with good hiking shoes (which may get wet), water, snacks, sunscreen and insect repellent. **Note:** Other local hiking trip information (i.e. The Boston Hills, Jockey Cap, Sabattus Mountain) will also be available on Saturday afternoon for members to enjoy local outings on their own or plan to make a weekend of it. For more information on the Bridgton Lakes Region, we suggest you call the Greater Bridgton Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce at (207) 647-3472 or you can visit them on the web at [www.mainelakeschamber.com](http://www.mainelakeschamber.com).

The Nominating Committee of The Nature Conservancy Maine Chapter Board of Trustees proposes the following slate of officers and new trustees for consideration at the September 14, 2002 Annual Meeting. *Officers* - President: Roger Milliken, Jr., Vice Chairs: Ed Kfoury, Bucky Owen and Lissa Widoff; Treasurer: Anna Marie Thron; Secretary Sherry Huber. *Renominations* - Madge Baker, Reinier Beeuwkes, George Denny, David Flanagan, Sherry Huber, Joe Wishcamper; *New Nominee* - Christopher J. McCormick is the President and CEO of L. L. Bean, Inc., a major supporter of The Nature Conservancy's Maine Chapter for 25 years. Since joining the company in 1983, Mr. McCormick has developed L. L. Bean's industry leadership in brand management, customer loyalty and marketing database systems. A graduate of Fairfield University in Connecticut and of the Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program. Mr. McCormick also chairs the Retail Division of the United Way of Greater Portland. He is an avid outdoorsman.



# Turtle

## Why Did The ~~Chicken~~ Cross The Road?

Each spring, after a long winter's nap, turtles begin their search for food, a mate and a place to breed. Often, this means crossing roadways on their way from wetland to wetland – and trying to avoid cars and trucks along the way. This is particularly true near Mount Agamenticus in York County.

At Mount Agamenticus, a haven for turtles because of its abundant wetlands and vernal pools, the Conservancy has joined with local conservation groups, state agencies and volunteers to ensure safe passage for the region's turtles. This past spring, volunteers adopted stretches of road around the mountain to monitor turtle use and ensure safe crossings.

"Long before dinosaurs, and long after dinosaurs, turtles have been survivors," Phillip deMaynadier told the *Portsmouth Herald* recently. Phillip is an endangered species biologist with the Maine De-

partment of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and he added "but they're having some problems now."

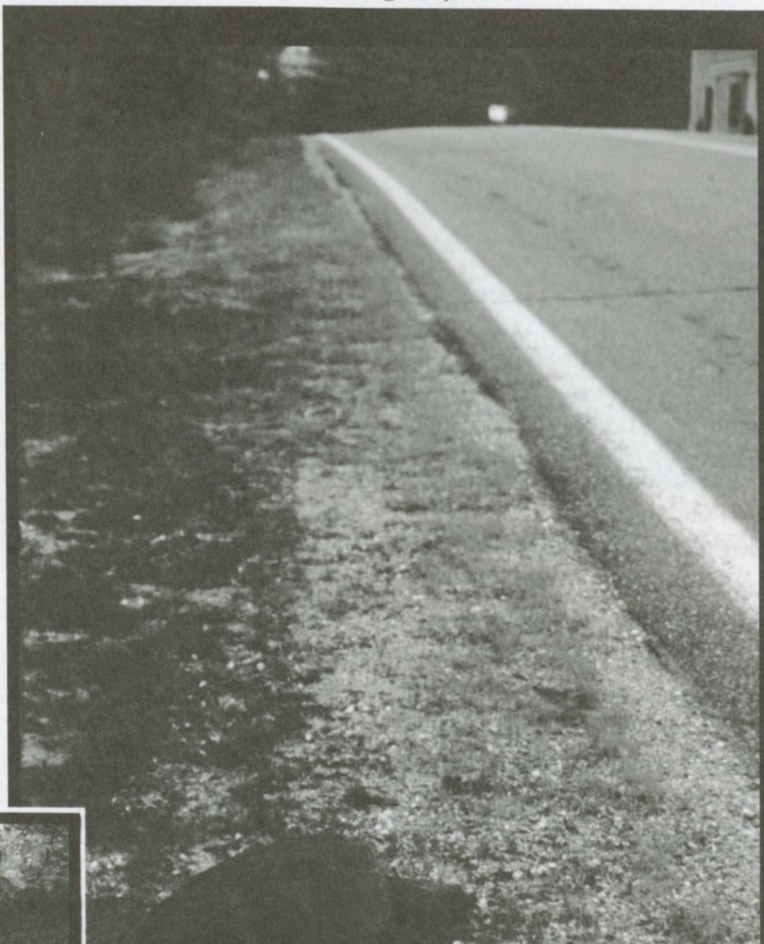
For one thing, they seldom confronted dinosaurs galloping along at 70 miles an hour over long flat stretches of pavement. As the weather warms, the turtles leave hibernation and look for breeding and egg laying habitat, sometimes right at the edge of a highway.

The volunteers have helped identify crossing hot spots where signage and other techniques may be used to lower the number of turtles lost to vehicles. The information provided will also show developers and conservationists areas where even stronger measures should be taken, such as careful reviews of road placements and, perhaps, wildlife underpasses.

The Maine Department of Transportation, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy funded the six-week project.

"Turtles are a keystone species," says Robin Stanley, research assistant for the project. "If we can protect them along the corridors they travel, then we're protecting a whole community of other animals as well."

The least we can do is help them across the road.



PHILLIP DEMAYNADIER



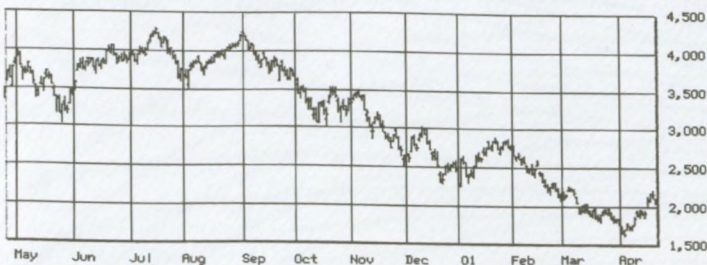
HAROLD MALDE





## Tired Of Playing **Russian Roulette** With Your **Retirement Funds**?

**NASDAQ** Nasdaq Composite Index



### Try A **Gift Annuity** With **Income Guaranteed** By The Nature Conservancy

Charitable gift annuities are the Conservancy's most popular planned gift. There are three types, each with features that appeal to donors of different ages and with different financial and charitable objectives. Here's why so many members have made such a gift.

#### **Benefit 1 - Fixed Income You Can Depend Upon.**

A gift annuity is a contract between you and the Conservancy. The assets of the organization guarantee your income payments.

#### **Benefit 2 - Income Now or Later; You Decide.**

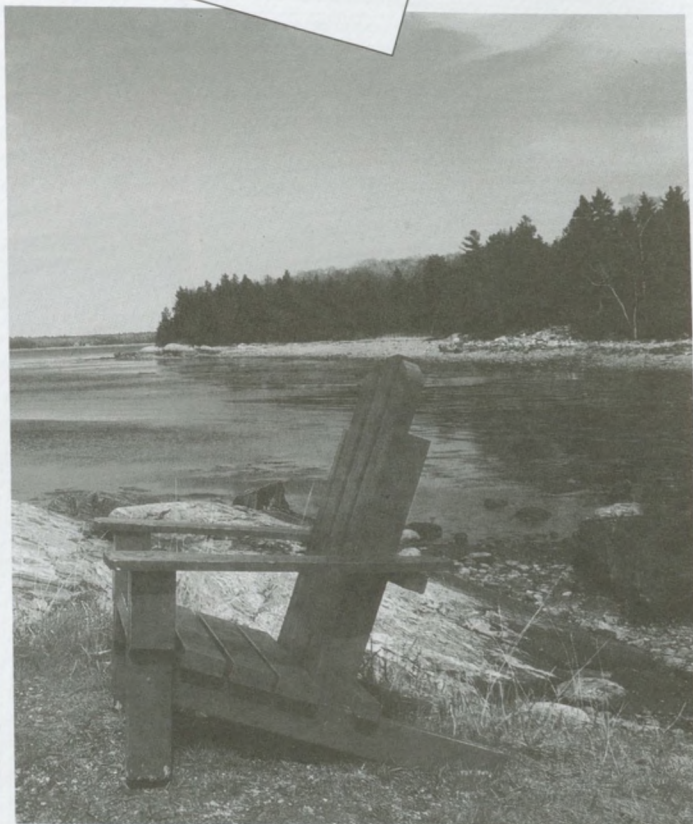
There are immediate-payment gift annuities to meet current income needs, as well as deferred-payment gift annuities to assist with retirement planning.

**Benefit 3 - Retirement Planning Flexibility.** With a flexible deferred gift annuity, you can decide now or later when your income payments should begin. You can even change your mind.

**Benefit 4 - Immediate Tax Savings.** All gift annuities qualify for a charitable income tax deduction. With a deferred gift annuity, the deduction depends upon the length of the deferral. The longer you wait, the higher the deduction - helping to offset income during your peak earning years.

**Benefit 5 - Leaving a Legacy.** The Conservancy seeks to ensure that all of the ecosystems and species we know today will endure for generations to come. Your gift will help make this possible. For more information, call Mason Morfit at the Maine Chapter office: (207) 729-5181.

The copy that appears to the left is reprinted from the Spring 2001 issue of Maine Legacy, when the NASDAQ was at approximately 2,000. As this issue goes to press in July 2002, the NASDAQ is now in the range of 1,200...about 800 points (40%) below last year. Now may be the time.



BRUCE KIDMAN



# Volunteers Needed

## River Docents

We've been training River Docents to provide basic conservation and river use education to recreational users on the upper Saco River. Based out of the Conservancy's Saco River Project office in Fryeburg, the Docents will heighten community awareness about the natural values of the Saco River's floodplain ecosystem while advising recreational users on ways to minimize their impact on river resources.

Work hours and tasks will vary based on volunteer skills and program needs. Volunteers should be willing to work with the general public and have transportation to the Project Office and presentation sites between Fryeburg and Brownfield. The bulk of the public education work will be carried out on weekends through the summer, May through September. The greatest need will be on Friday evenings, Saturday and Sunday mornings and afternoons, and on the occasional Monday holiday. If you would like to help protect the resources of the upper Saco River, please contact Stefan J. Jackson, Saco River Project Director at 207-935-9303 or by e-mail: [sjackson@tnc.org](mailto:sjackson@tnc.org).



*There is no age limit when it comes to helping out at Mount Agamenticus. Above, some young faces show up for a trail building work day; at right, you can run or walk and still make a difference.*

Kennebunk Savings Bank's  
2nd Annual



## MT. AGAMENTICUS CHALLENGE Sea to Summit Road Race & Walkathon

Sunday, September 15, 2002 • 9:00 AM • York, Maine

The 2nd Annual Kennebunk Savings Bank Mt. Agamenticus Challenge Road Race will help raise \$20,000 for the Mt. Agamenticus Challenge. Race sponsors in addition to Kennebunk Savings Bank include: Media • Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram • York County Coast Star/York Weekly • Goldenrod Restaurant • Sports Medicine Atlantic Orthopaedics • York Parks and Recreation • Hannaford's • Poland Springs • Nature Valley Granola • and many other local businesses who will be sponsoring raffle items & gift certificates.) Call 439-9498 to register or for information.



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 Thompson  
 Evelyn Jephson  
 From her friends at the Maine Department  
 of Environmental Protection, and the office  
 of the Maine Attorney General:  
 Cynthia Bertocci  
 Mr. David L. Courtemanch  
 Jeffrey Dennis  
 Ellen and Kevin Doering  
 Mr. Clifton Eliason

# We are grateful for...

these gifts received between March 11, 2002  
 and July 24, 2002

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## In Honor

Wedding of Robert Hauhart  
 and Diane Wiegand  
 Mr. and Mrs. William J. Boor  
 Jo-An Page  
 Birthday and Anniversary of  
 Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Cox  
 Mrs. Fanny W. Dale  
 Birthday of Mr. J. Philip Miller  
 Barbara and William Buss  
 Birthday of Suzanne Olbricht  
 Joan Spiegel  
 Wanda Thompson  
 Pauline and John Reohr  
 Anniversary of Lawrence  
 and Ethel Wright  
 Ellen C. Hopkins





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## A Candidate's Forum

Devoted Solely To

## Maine's Environment



**Maine's next governor  
will play a key role in determining  
the health of our environment.**

The Nature Conservancy, Maine Audubon, Maine Conservation Voters Education Fund, Natural Resources Council of Maine, and the Northern Forest Alliance are sponsoring a

### Gubernatorial Candidate Forum Thursday evening, October 3, 2002

The two-hour program begins at 7:00 PM at the  
**Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland.**

Susan Chisholm of Maine Public Radio will ask each candidate to respond to questions exploring land conservation, energy policy, land use planning and the management of the state's natural resources. As a nonpartisan organization, our interest is in providing an educational forum that will provide each candidate the opportunity to speak directly and clearly to these persistent issues.

*Please plan on joining us.*

### Maine Chapter The Nature Conservancy

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