

Maine Legacy

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SPRING 1993

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Now-or-Never Opportunities

Thursday, March 11, was a big day for The Nature Conservancy both nationally and in Maine. On that date, the national office announced the launching of the Conservancy's \$300 million, organization-wide Last Great Places campaign, the largest private fund-raising effort in conservation history.

Simultaneously, the Maine Chapter announced that it was increasing the goal of its Maine Legacy campaign from \$3.5 million to \$5 million, equalling the previous record for conservation fund raising in Maine.

The Centerpiece

The Maine Chapter also announced that it had signed an option to purchase 1,015 additional acres at the Waterboro Barrens, the centerpiece of the Maine Legacy campaign as well as a component of the Last Great Places campaign, for \$455,000. (The Conservancy purchased an initial 1,100 acres at the Waterboro Barrens last year with funds raised through the first phase of the Maine Legacy campaign.)

The Waterboro Barrens, located about 25 miles west of Portland, is a pitch pine/scrub oak forest ecosystem. Pitch pine/scrub oak ecosystems are considered endangered worldwide. The Conservancy believes the Waterboro Barrens to be the best remaining example of the boreal variant of this ecosystem. In addition, the Conservancy believes the Waterboro Barrens may harbor more endangered species than any of its other 82 preserves in Maine.

If the purchase price can be raised through the expanded Maine Legacy campaign, the Waterboro Barrens will become the Conservancy's largest pre-



BILL SILVER, JR.

The second phase of the Maine Legacy Campaign will double the size of the Waterboro Barrens Preserve, increase Appleton Bog, Perham Bog and Saco Heath Preserves, bolster stewardship endowments, further international conservation, and provide funds for new acquisition opportunities.

Maine Legacy Campaign Expands to Protect More of Maine

serve in southern Maine at 2,115 acres. With a conservation easement on 142 adjacent acres held by the Town of Newfield and managed by The Nature Conservancy, the newly optioned property extends formal protection to more than 75 percent of the pitch pine/scrub oak forest remaining in its natural state at the Waterboro site.

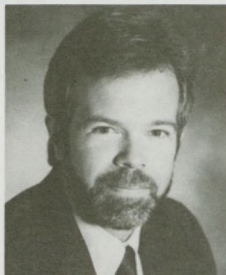
In announcing the planned doubling in size of the Waterboro Barrens Pre-

serve, executive director Kent Womack and director of land protection Jim Dow expressed the Maine Chapter's gratitude to the Saliba family of Yarmouth. The Saliba family made both the original 1,100 acres and the second 1,015 acres available to the Conservancy on advantageous terms.

Continued on page two

APR 29 1993

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THE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

by
Kent W.
Wommack

The recent announcement of The Nature Conservancy's "Last Great Places" campaign represents the organization's most ambitious effort to date to tackle ecosystem conservation. It is an approach which encompasses projects large and small, traditional and experimental, across three continents.

So what does ecosystem conservation mean for the Nature Conservancy's work in Maine? Primarily, it means building on our past successes in establishing nature preserves and working in creative partnerships to better protect Maine's wealth of biological diversity.

Specifically, an ecosystem approach recognizes that individual species are part of a larger natural community, or system, and the healthy functioning of the system is essential to those species that live within it.

This means we need to ensure that the boundaries of our preserves encompass enough land to protect, to the greatest extent possible, a site's key ecological

functions. Our recent additions to a number of high-priority preserves, especially fragile wetlands and the Waterboro Barrens, are a result of this expanded vision.

Protection of ecosystems also requires that we understand the site's ecological processes, and actively manage the preserve to support those processes. Our stewardship responsibilities at larger preserves are increasingly focused not only on managing human use, but also on controlling exotic species, conducting prescribed burning, mitigating off-site impacts, and making other efforts to preserve the natural functions of a site.

Finally, we need to recognize that many of the individual species that are sheltered on Maine preserves can survive *only* if the surrounding environment remains relatively healthy.

For example, we have acquired a number of bald eagle nest sites throughout Maine, most recently around Cobscook Bay in Washington County (which boasts the highest concentration of bald eagles in the northeast). Aside from secure nest sites, however, the eagles need a steady supply of fish

and waterfowl upon which to feed — species which are abundant in Cobscook Bay because of its clean waters and eighteen-foot tides.

Local residents are also dependent on the Bay's clean and productive water — for aquaculture, clamming and fishing, the mainstays of the local economy and way of life. Therefore, The Nature Conservancy is working to support local efforts to protect the natural and eco-

"The healthy functioning of the system is essential to those species that live within it."

nomie bounty of the region by working with such organizations as the 'Quoddy Spill Prevention Group and other local initiatives aimed at protecting the Bay's resources—for both man and nature.

The Nature Conservancy's goal remains the same—the preservation of biological diversity. We will continue to protect Maine's most important habitats based on the best scientific information available, and we will continue to work in our traditional, non-confrontational manner with landowners and others who share our vision. For in the end, all of our lives (and livelihoods) depend on the same ecosystem, and we must all work together to sustain it.

Now or Never Opportunities

Continued from page one

The second phase of the expanded Maine Legacy campaign is similar in objectives and structure to the first phase.

- Approximately \$515,000 (35 percent) will be devoted to the purchase of lands already identified, including the second Waterboro Barrens tract and additional properties acquired during the first phase of Maine Legacy but not budgeted within the campaign. These include critical additions to the Conservancy's Appleton Bog, Perham Bog and Saco Heath preserves.



- An additional \$345,000 (24 percent) will be devoted to the creation of stewardship endowments for those properties retained and managed by the Conservancy.

- Approximately \$300,000 (21 percent) has been set aside for the protection of properties likely to be acquired prior to the planned conclusion of the expanded campaign at the end of 1994. Specific projects will be announced once negotiations have been concluded.
- The sum of \$150,000 (10 percent) will be allocated to the Land Preservation Fund, the revolving internal loan fund that enables the Conservancy to acquire properties in advance of fund raising or repayment by government conservation agencies.
- The sum of \$100,000 (7 percent) will be allocated to one or more international conservation programs that have intrinsically high biodiversity value as well as a direct bearing on the survival of Maine's migratory bird species.

Last Great Places

At a March 11 press conference featuring the organization's newest national board member, General Norman H. Schwarzkopf, Nature Conservancy president John Sawhill announced a \$300 million capital campaign for an ambitious ecosystem conservation initiative called "The Last Great Places: An Alliance for People and the Environment." A single \$37 million donation from the Putnam family of Cleveland, Ohio, through the Mildred Andrews Fund, pushed the campaign past the mid-point of its fund-raising goal.

In Washington and in regional events held simultaneously, Sawhill and Schwarzkopf introduced the first 40 large-scale conservation projects in the Last Great Places initiative. These projects, which the Conservancy calls "bioreserves," seek to protect rare plants, animals and natural systems in the United States, Latin America and the Pacific.

The Last Great Places initiative evolved from the Conservancy's recognition that traditional conservation methods cannot always guarantee protection of biodiversity in the future. Many smaller nature preserves established decades ago are now under pres-



sure from encroaching development and the resulting environmental degradation. To counter this threat, the Last Great Places initiative takes an ecosystem approach to conservation, with conservation activities instituted across whole watersheds and landscapes. Just as important, it seeks to integrate compatible economic activities with environmental protection.

Although The Nature Conservancy is acting as a catalyst for "bioreserve" conservation, it is not acting alone.

Most "bioreserve" projects involve the concerted efforts of many others, including other nonprofit groups, private landowners, civic organizations, government agencies, the corporate sector and the citizens of the various communities in which such projects are located.

Through its expanded \$5 million Maine Legacy campaign, the Maine Chapter is participating in two components of the Last Great Places campaign. In addition to the Waterboro Barrens, the Maine Chapter is providing financial assistance toward the protection of Ria Celustun, a major wintering area for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl on the north coast of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula.

The Waterboro Barrens project is a part of the Northeast Pine Barrens Conservation Program component of the Last Great Places campaign. In contrast to the "bioreserve" approach typical of most Last Great Places projects, which focuses a variety of protection strategies on single large landscapes, the Northeast Pine Barrens project seeks to protect several smaller, biologically distinct examples of this endangered ecosystem throughout its range. (See "A Wide Range of Conservation" in this issue.)

- Approximately \$50,000 (3 percent) will be required to administer the expanded campaign.

At the time the expanded campaign was announced, the Maine Chapter was within approximately \$90,000 of successfully completing the original \$3.54 million campaign. We hope to complete this first phase no later than June 30, 1993, as originally planned. More on this later!

It has not been easy raising the \$3.45 million secured to date, and it will be even more difficult to raise an additional \$1.55 million to reach our expanded \$5 million goal. However, the Waterboro Barrens and other projects encompassed within the expanded Maine Legacy campaign represent now-or-never land conservation opportunities that will benefit generations to come.



We hope our 12,500 members and many new friends will support this urgent and important effort to the best of their abilities. We are particularly grateful to almost 2,000 individuals,

foundations, and corporations whose generosity has brought us to a point where such a bold new conservation initiative is possible.

A Wide Range of Conservation

An ecosystem can be defined as a natural community together with its environment. In Maine, such a community is named for its "dominant" vegetation species. A pine barren ecosystem, for example, such as that found at the Maine Chapter's Waterboro Barrens preserve, includes a woodland of pitch pine and hundreds of associated plant and animal species that are all adapted to a dry, sandy environment that is prone to periodic fires.

On a broader scale, pitch-pine barrens are often associated with other ecosystems such as dry ridgetop oak/pine forests, sandplain grasslands, kettlehole bogs, and sandy aquifer ponds. What links these ecosystems is the landscape of which they are a part—in this case, a sandy glacial outwash deposit. Given similar environmental conditions, such ecosystem associations may repeat themselves across a geographic region that includes several states—that is, the ecosystems have a much wider range than can be protected in one state alone.



Until recently, much of the Conservancy's work has been directed and implemented at the state level. While we try to "think globally" in setting our priorities, we mostly "act locally" in effecting conservation. However, as we attempt conservation of more complex ecosystems, we need a more coordinated approach to ensure that we use our resources as efficiently as possible on a regional as well as statewide basis. As a result, conservationists are taking a range-wide approach



to protection of some ecosystems.

As *Maine Legacy* readers know, pitch-pine/scrub oak barrens are one of the most threatened forest ecosystem types in the Northeast. The range of this ecosystem is limited to a narrow band from Pennsylvania to southern Maine. Five distinct variants of this ecosystem have been tentatively identified:

- the nationally protected New Jersey Pine Barrens, which has been designated an International Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations;
- the Poconos pine barrens of Pennsylvania;
- the inland variant, best represented by the Albany Pine Bush in New York and the Concord, N.H., pine barrens;
- the coastal variant, found on Cape Cod, Mass. and Long Island, New York;
- the boreal variant, of which the Waterboro Barrens is considered the best example.

The Conservancy is working on major ecosystem conservation initiatives for each of these types as a part of the Northeast Pine Barrens Conservation Program, a component of the Last Great Places campaign.

This comprehensive Conservation Program has six goals:

- 1) to understand better the variability of the ecosystem across its range, so that we can make sure we are protecting not only the best examples of the type, but capturing the

full spectrum of variation and the greatest possible biodiversity.

- 2) to pool our resources for research on appropriate site design and management. For example, how large an area is needed to support the full complement of invertebrates associated with this system? How can corridors of habitat be used to augment existing reserves? How does fire management affect individual rare species?
- 3) to develop common monitoring systems and techniques so that lessons learned at one site can be readily applied to other barrens.
- 4) to share resources of experienced staff and specialists in research and management.
- 5) to exchange information and experience concerning common threats and management needs.
- 6) to identify the best opportunities for protection of this ecosystem type across its range, regardless of state lines.

The Maine Chapter will have an important role in achieving these goals because the Waterboro Barrens stand out as critical not only from a statewide but also from a range-wide ecosystem protection perspective. Coordination of the Conservancy's activities at several pine barrens sites in the northeast will enable us to do a better job of preserving the Waterboro Barrens.

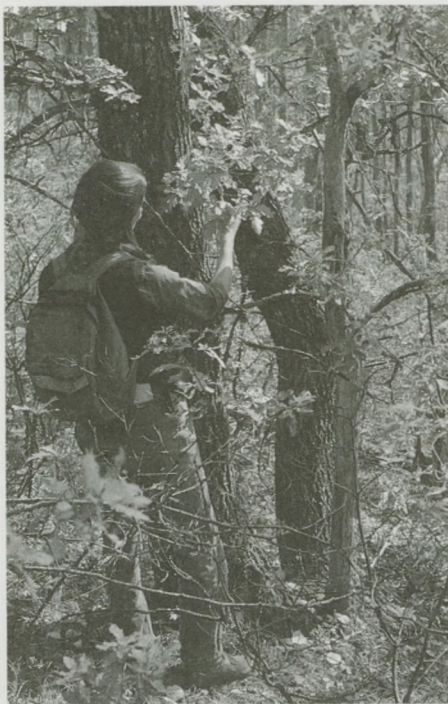
Stewardship of Ecosystems

Conservancy preserves are getting bigger. Ten years ago, the median size of a Maine Chapter preserve (excluding islands) was 65 acres. Since 1983, the median size of new preserves has been 265 acres. Today, the chapter manages five properties over 1,000 acres, with Big Reed (4,853 acres), Crystal Bog (4,102 acres) and the Waterboro Barrens (2,123 acres including land under purchase option) topping the list. Increasing preserve size reflects the Conservancy's efforts to protect whole ecosystems, not just habitats of individual rare species.

As preserves become larger and more ecologically diverse, stewardship grows more complex. It is no longer enough for stewards to "let nature take its course," and simply manage public use. We are now responsible for monitoring and maintaining healthy *ecosystems*: not only the different natural communities that comprise them and the species which inhabit them, but also the natural processes which create and maintain them.

To do this, land managers need a clear understanding of how a system works. This means reviewing current knowledge and researching what we don't know. We then set goals that articulate what we are trying to accomplish at a particular place. For example, goals for the newly created Waterboro Barrens preserve include maintaining the diversity of the pine barrens ecosystem; maintaining rare species populations; and managing the preserve so as to accommodate compatible public use. These goals guide our stewardship activities.

Ecosystem management can be very complicated. It may include activities like the reintroduction of fire or flood as a natural process, or the removal of non-native species. As stewards, we also need to monitor the results of our actions, to make sure that management is having the intended effect.



JULIE HENDERSON

Management of human use and impacts also grows more complex as preserves grow in size and diversity. Property we acquire typically has a history of public use. Preserve neighbors may do things on their land that affects ours, and vice versa. While we strongly believe that conservation land benefits local communities, we also know from experience that preserve neighbors can be a real asset to stewardship activities. More than ever, we expect to involve our neighbors and the community in preserve matters.

At the Waterboro Barrens, for example, we are working with community members on stewardship and protection issues. Because the barrens are fire-prone, our top priority has been to plan against the possibility of wildfire. Last October, stewardship staff met with Maine Forest Service staff and fire officials from Shapleigh, Waterboro, Newfield and Limerick to discuss wildfire prevention and control.

As we continue the management planning process this spring and summer, we expect to meet with town officials and the neighboring lake associations to discuss issues such as public access, road maintenance, and fire management. We also look forward to sharing our knowledge of the unique barrens ecosystem with our new neighbors through field trips and slide presentations.

In today's world, it would be impossible for us, even if we wanted to, to isolate an entire ecosystem from all human impact. Given this reality, we attempt to understand and accommodate the role of people, encouraging compatible uses while trying to minimize disruption to the system.



JULIE HENDERSON

1993 Field Trips

Once again, we are happy to offer you the opportunity to visit a number of Maine Chapter preserves and recent projects. (Special thanks to volunteer Elaine Loran for coordinating our field trip arrangements.) You'll notice we have a new field trip format this year. In order to extend the opportunities to visit our preserves, we will be offering seasonal trips in each issue of *Maine Legacy*.

Note: Trips numbered 1 through 4 were listed in the Winter newsletter.



Intertidal explorations on Great Wass Island.

5. Intertidal Ecology of Great Wass Island Preserve (Jonesport) - moderate

WHEN: Saturday, July 10, 9 a.m. to noon

MEET AT: Preserve parking lot. Take Route 127 from Jonesport to Beals Island, go over the causeway, turn right on the road to Black Duck Cove. The parking lot is on the left, just after the lobster pound and duck pond.

One of the chapter's most spectacular properties, Great Wass Island Preserve offers jack pine woodlands, raised peatland, and miles of rocky shoreline and intertidal flats. Many fascinating plants and animals live in the intertidal zone; we will learn about these species and their complex relationships as we hike along the shore. For those interested, an optional visit to the Regional Shellfish Hatchery on Beals Island will add an hour at the end of the trip.

LEADER: Brian Beal, Assistant Professor of Marine Ecology, University of Maine, Machias

6. The American Chestnut at Harkness Preserve (Rockport) and The Forests and Shores of Lake Megunticook, Fernald's Neck Preserve (Camden and Lincolnville) - easy

WHEN: Saturday, July 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MEET AT: Rockport Elementary School, 100 yards east of the junction of Route 1 and Route 90

Once the Northeast's dominant tree, the American chestnut has been virtually eliminated from our forests. By the 1950s a fungal blight had wiped out the equivalent of nine million acres of pure chestnut stands. The Conservancy's **Harkness Preserve** protects a small stand of American chestnuts that are relatively unaffected by the blight, and therefore are invaluable to science and natural history. Naturalist Peter Blanchard will describe his steadfast efforts to protect this stand. (10 a.m. to noon).

After lunch, we will travel to nearby **Fernald's Neck Preserve** for a ramble through the beautiful woodlands and along the unspoiled shoreline of Lake Megunticook. (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.)

LEADER: Peter Blanchard, Conservancy steward and naturalist

7. Ecology of the Kennebunk Plains (Kennebunk) - easy

WHEN: Saturday, July 24, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

MEET AT: I-95, Exit 3 Southbound, West Kennebunk

The Kennebunk Plains covers 1,500 acres of sandplain grasslands, making it one of the largest examples of this type of threatened natural community in New England. On a hot summer's day, the rustling grasses provide background for the buzzy trills of the grasshopper sparrow, one of Maine's most endangered birds. We will tour the plains watching for this bird and other grassland species while learning about the dependence of this community on fire and the history of the property's protection by the State of Maine and the Nature Conservancy.

LEADER: Chapter field ecologist



Cameras focused on plovers, sandpipers and ruddy turnstones during last year's South Lubec Sand Bar trip.



Wood lilies (*Lilium philadelphicum*) on Kennebunk Plains.

8. South Lubec Sand Bar Shorebird Ecology (South Lubec) and Dougherty Cove/Straight Bay Walk (Lubec) - easy

WHEN: Saturday, August 14, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

MEET AT: Lubec Town Landing, across from Tipp's Restaurant

South Lubec Sand Bar is one of Maine's important stopover and feeding areas for migrating shorebirds, who arrive in late summer to feed in the nutrient-rich mud flats that are exposed during low tides. Semi-palmated sandpipers, black-bellied and semi-palmated plovers, sandpeeps, and ruddy turnstones congregate by the thousands to feast on insects, worms and other invertebrates. Herb Wilson will lead us on the exploration of this fascinating area. (9:30 a.m. to noon)

After lunch, enjoy breathtaking views of nearby Straight Bay with leader Nancy Nielson. Dougherty Cove, an important waterfowl habitat, is the location of the Quoddy Regional Land Trust's first conservation easement and Nancy's home. While we leisurely explore the area, Nancy will describe the land trust's work locally. (1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.)

LEADERS: Herb Wilson, Assistant Professor of Biology, Colby College and Nancy Nielsen, Quoddy Regional Land Trust

9. The Ecology of Crystal Bog (Sherman) - strenuous

WHEN: Saturday August 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MEET AT: Exit 58, U.S. Route 95, heading towards Sherman Mills, first gas station on the left.

Crystal Bog is one of the largest sphagnum-heath bogs in the northeast and one of the Chapter's most ecologically significant preserves. The associated fen area provides habitat for at least 20 species of rare plants. We will learn about the ecology of the bog, including the dynamic history of its rich and diverse vegetation. This trip provides a rare opportunity for a guided exploration of this fragile natural community where, to protect the ecosystem, humans must remain infrequent guests.

LEADER: Sally Rooney, biological consultant and long-time Conservancy volunteer steward

Reservation Guidelines

FEE: Non-refundable \$15 per person, adult or child

WEATHER: trips will be held rain or shine

RESERVATIONS: PLEASE CALL the Maine Chapter at (207) 729-5181 during business hours (8:30-5:00 M-F).

Space is limited to 15 people per trip and reservations are accepted on a first come, first served basis. If space is available you will be asked to send in the fee. Please do NOT mail in reservation requests.

Field Trip Guidelines

To help you prepare for your trip, we provide the following guidelines and suggestions:

Easy: A relaxed walk of two miles or less over reasonably gentle terrain, with frequent stops.

Moderate: A longer hike of two to five miles, often not on a trail, or a shorter hike over more challenging terrain.

Strenuous: Only for the fit and energetic; sustained cross-country hiking that may require bush whacking or bog slogging.

Food/drink: If a trip takes place over the noon hour, bring a lunch. Please bring something to drink on all trips. For any trip, you may want to bring a snack.

Wear appropriate footwear: sturdy shoes/boots for hikes; rubber boots are a good idea for bog walks.

What else to bring: binoculars, camera, field guides, insect repellent, sunscreen, etc., may make your trip more enjoyable.

Start time: Trips usually start promptly at the hour scheduled.

Los Miembros del Capitulo de Maine Ayudan a Proteger las Aves Migratorias en Mexico *

In February, a delegation of Maine Chapter members, trustees, and staff travelled to Mexico's Yucatan peninsula to hear progress reports from two of our Latin American conservation partner organizations, Amigos de Sian Ka'an and Pronatura de Yucatan. Based on those reports and on-site inspections, the Maine Chapter presented each organization with a check for \$50,000.

When the \$3.5 million Maine Legacy campaign was publicly announced in 1991 (see cover story), it included a \$300,000 commitment to conservation partner organizations in Bolivia, Mexico and Panama. Behind this commitment was a recognition that many of "our" migratory birds spend more of their life cycles in Latin America and the Caribbean than they do in Maine ... and that, if we want them back in the summer, we'd better help take care of them in the winter.

Amigos de Sian Ka'an

Amigos de Sian Ka'an focuses its efforts primarily on the protection of the United Nations-designated Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, an immense (1.3 million acre) wildlife sanctuary on the southeast coast of the Yucatan peninsula. The reserve includes tropical forest, grassland savannas interspersed with hardwood hummocks, mangrove swamps, coastal lagoons, and a portion of the world's second largest coral reef.

Apart from a few ancient Mayan temples scattered throughout, the reserve suggests what the southwest corner of Florida, the Everglades and the Keys must have looked like before they were subjected to intensive development.

Among the local rare and endangered critters are manatee, jaguar, ocelot, tapir and two species of crocodile. In addition, Sian Ka'an provides critical habitat for such endangered sea turtles as the green, loggerhead, hawksbill and leatherback, plus thousands of waterbirds including the roseate spoonbill, the wood and jabiru stork, and 15 species of ibis, heron, egret and bittern.

Of particular importance to the Maine Chapter, Sian Ka'an also pro-



Left to right: Maine Chapter (MC) staffer Mason Morfit, trustee Hoddy Hildreth, Amigos de Sian Ka'an (ASK) trustee Barbara MacKinnon Montes, ASK executive director Juan Bezaury, MC trustee Carol Wishcamper, and Nature Conservancy Mexico program director Joe Quiroz flash the cash.

vides essential winter refuge for large numbers of songbirds that breed in Maine. A total of 48 Maine summer breeding species spend their winters at Sian Ka'an, primarily in the tropical forest and savanna components of the reserve. Because birds that nest in interior northern forests appear to be most at risk among neotropical migrants generally, it is particularly reassuring that 22 species of birds found within the Maine Chapter's Big Reed Forest Reserve are among the winter refugees at Sian Ka'an.

Pronatura de Yucatan

Pronatura de Yucatan, which was the 1992 winner of The Nature Conservancy's Clifford Messinger Award for outstanding conservation achievement in Latin America, concentrates much of its conservation work on the barrier beach/mangrove swamp/lagoon ecosystem that extends intermittently across the Yucatan peninsula's north coast, from

Ria Celustun on the west to Ria Lagartos on the east. This coastal estuary complex is the only one in the world fed by underground freshwater springs, making it a uniquely attractive habitat for a variety of bird species. (Editor's note: *ria* is not a typo for *rio*, the Spanish word for river; *ria* is the Spanish word for estuary.)

From the Maine Chapter's perspective, the Rias Celustun/Lagartos ecosystem is most highly valued as one of the western hemisphere's relatively few major staging and wintering areas for migratory shorebirds. At such areas, large proportions of entire shorebird populations, numbered in the hundreds of thousands, may gather at one time. Total shorebird numbers at Rias Celustun/Lagartos range from 500,000 to 1 million.

Among the shorebirds found at Rias Celustun/Lagartos are black-bellied, semi-palmated, and piping plovers, ruddy turnstones, sanderlings, spotted sandpipers, short-billed dowitchers, less-

**Maine Chapter Members Protect Migratory Birds in Mexico*

er yellowlegs, killdeer and willet. The area also supports large numbers of migratory waterfowl, including such duck species as pintail, blue-winged teal and shoveler. For the visitor, all of these species tend to be overshadowed by flying clouds of pink flamingos (*flamenco* in Spanish); Rias Celustun/Lagartos supports one of the world's largest populations of these spectacular birds.

The Maine Chapter's support of Amigos de Sian Ka'an and Pronatura is unrestricted, intended to provide both organizations with "seed money" to undertake new projects and financial flexibility to match restricted major grants. The Maine Chapter's support will qualify The Nature Conservancy's Mexico Program for a 4:1 match from the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID).

If the birds that show up at your feeder this spring are speaking Spanish, perhaps they're saying "*muchas gracias, miembros del Capitulo de Maine.*"

Left to right: Pronatura president Joann Andrews, executive director Luis Gonzalez, Maine Chapter staffer Mason Morfit and trustee Carol Wishcamper demonstrating the migration of the gringo dollar. (Photo: Ramon Celis Perera/Diario de Yucatan)

Islands Leased

The Maine Chapter has granted a management lease to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Ship Islands Preserve in Blue Hill Bay. The USFWS plans to manage these seabird nesting islands (including Ship, Trumpet, the Barges and part of Bar Island) to enhance their suitability for nesting arctic, common and roseate terns.

Island-nesting terns were once much more common on the coast of Maine than they are today. Loss of habitat and competition from other species has caused a steady decline in tern populations since the 1930s. As the first step in reversing this trend, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) recently completed management and recovery planning for island-nesting terns.

The MDIFW plan, which is support-



Above: Successful conclusion of a nighttime crocodile censusing operation at Sian Ka'an. Note the judicious placement of duct tape around the mouth and legs of the subject 7-foot animal, subsequently returned to the lagoon none the worse for wear.



ed by both the Maine and National Audubon Societies, identifies Blue Hill Bay as a top priority for tern restoration. It further identifies Ship and Trumpet Islands as the best islands within the bay for such an effort. As many as a thousand pairs of terns once nested on these islands. While there is still a local population of terns nesting in the bay, the birds are limited to small, unsuitable islets and are regularly failing to reproduce successfully.

A tern restoration project on the Ship Islands would primarily benefit the common tern, which selects inshore islands for breeding. However, biologists are optimistic that the federally endangered roseate tern could also be enticed to nest on the islands because of their ideal nesting and feeding habitat.

The USFWS has successfully carried out tern restoration at several other Maine sites. The agency, with the coop-

eration and assistance of MDIFW and the College of the Atlantic, will begin restoration efforts this spring.

Wish List

If you can donate any of the items below, you'll be helping us do our job more efficiently. Your gift is tax deductible. If you can help, please call Suzanne Drew, (207) 729-5181.

- Folding tables and chairs
- Desk lamps
- VCR
- Bird and plant field guides
- Like-new small chainsaw with accessories
- Plain-paper fax machine
- File cabinets

Annual Meeting To Be Held At Moosehead Lake

For its annual meeting this summer, the Maine Chapter is heading inland to Maine's largest and most spectacular lake. The meeting and related field trips will be held in and around Greenville, at the southern end of Moosehead Lake, on Saturday, September 18.

The 1993 annual meeting promises a stimulating and enjoyable day in the midst of some of Maine's most magnificent scenery. Once seen, Moosehead Lake and its mountainous environs are not soon forgotten. We hope as many of our members as possible will seize this chance to visit the area.

Save the date:

Saturday,
September 18, 1993

Field trips to both Nature Conservancy preserves and other scenic areas will be offered on Saturday morning and early afternoon. Destinations may include the Conservancy's Moose River and the Hermitage preserves, as well as state reserves at Little Squaw Mountain and Mount Kineo; and some of Maine's most dramatic natural sites, such as Big Wilson Cliffs, Gulf Hagas and Big Spencer Mountain.



JAMES R. RAYMOND

The Steam Ship Katahdin enters the east cove of Moosehead Lake

As an added attraction we have reserved The Katahdin, Moosehead Lake's last remaining steamboat, for an afternoon cruise on the largest lake located within any northeastern state. A social hour will be offered during the final hour of the cruise.

The annual business meeting and dinner will be held after the cruise at the Greenville Community House, which is located within walking distance of the

Katahdin's dock. We're planning a delicious, genuine up-country dinner, an interesting brief review of the Conservancy's work during the last year in Maine, and a compelling speaker of national renown.

More details concerning annual meeting activities will be published in the summer newsletter. We look forward to seeing you in Greenville.



Southwest face of Mount Kineo from the lake

land, 101 miles from Augusta and 71 miles from Bangor), members may wish to make a weekend of it and reserve lodging space for Sept. 17 and 18.

Greenville Area Lodging

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 18. We suggest that members make their reservations early for overnight accommodations in and around Greenville. Because Greenville is well removed from population centers (158 miles from Port-

A partial list of possible accommodations follows:

Inns and Motels

The Greenville Inn, Greenville
695-2206

Greenwood Motel, Greenville
Junction 695-3321

Kelly's Landing, Greenville Junction
695-4438

The Lodge at Moosehead Lake,
Greenville 695-4400

Bed and Breakfasts

The Devlin House, Greenville
695-2229

Hillside Gardens, Greenville
695-3386

Northern Pride Lodge, Greenville
695-2890

1890 House, Greenville 695-3082

Campgrounds

Casey's Spencer Bay Campground,
Greenville 695-2801

Indian Hill Campground, Greenville
695-2623

Moosehead Family Campground,
Greenville 695-2210

Seboomook Wilderness Campground,
Rockwood 534-8824

Volunteer Naturalists

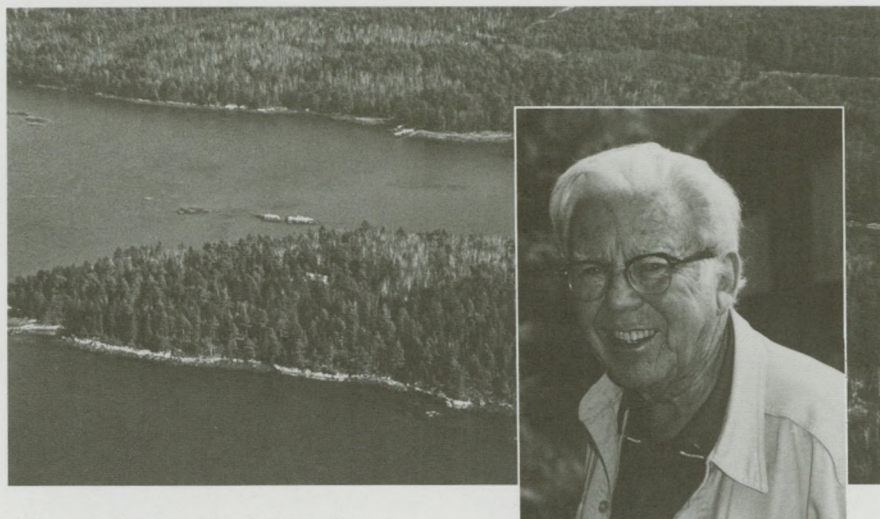
We are grateful for the continuing generosity of our preserve caretakers who also share their expertise and enthusiasm by taking members on free nature walks in some of the Chapter preserves.

Marnie and Ken Crowell are volunteers at **Crockett Cove Woods** on Deer Isle. Dr. Ken Crowell teaches biology at St. Lawrence University in New York and Marnie is a natural history writer. They will lead a nature walk at Crockett Cove Woods on **Saturday, July 24** from 10 a.m. to noon. Interested participants should meet in Sunset at the garden opposite the Sunset Post Office. In case of questionable weather, participants may call the Crowells at 207-348-6065.

Peter Blanchard, naturalist and long-time Conservancy steward, will lead natural history rambles at **Indian Point-Blagden Preserve** (Mt. Desert) on Friday mornings, **August 6, 13, and 20**. Please call Peter the week before at 207-244-5063 to let him know you are planning to attend and to find out meeting time and place.

Volunteer Classifieds

Marble Fen Preserve Steward — Preserve steward needed to visit Marble Fen Preserve (T6R7) occasionally throughout the year, maintain trails and boundary lines, and submit an annual report.



Plummer Point, South Bristol

Ingram Henry Richardson, 1906-1993

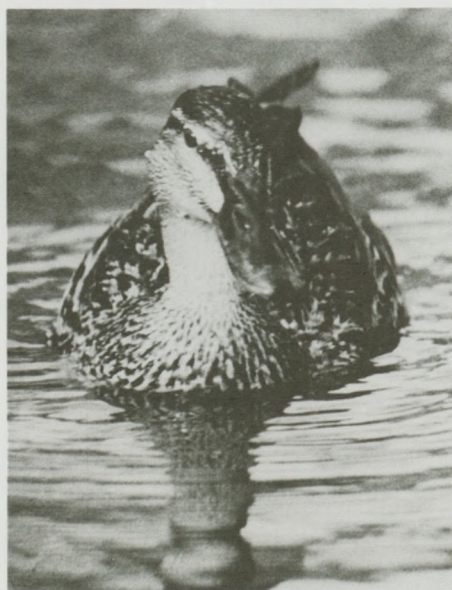
We are deeply saddened by the passing of Ingram Henry Richardson, a friend and supporter of The Nature Conservancy for over 30 years.

One of the Conservancy's pioneers on the national level as well as in Maine, Mr. Richardson was a former member of the national Board of Governors. His generous donation of Plummer Point to The Nature Conservancy set the standard for land conservation in the Damariscotta River watershed. He provided key assistance to the Maine Chapter in

acquiring La Verna Preserve in Round Pond, Bass Rock and Rachel Carson Salt Pond Preserves in Bristol, and Tracy Shore, which was transferred to the town of South Bristol.

For many years Mr. Richardson was a devoted steward to Bristol area properties. In addition, he provided counsel and support in the forming of the Damariscotta River Land Conservation Trust.

Mr. Richardson's family has advised us that donations to the Maine Chapter in his memory would be appropriate.



We are grateful for ...

Memorials

Gifts in memory of the following individuals, with names printed in bold lettering, have been received.

Dr. Robert D. Barnes
from Lewis & Jean Frank
Gladys R. Cargill
from Carl Y. France
Charles W. Churchill
from Retha M. O'Daniel
Marion Clendaniel
from Dr. & Mrs. Frank B. Schley, Jr.

Paul Favour
from Dr. & Mrs. Rhys Williams
Dwight D. Moore
from Eben Moore
Earl W. Reinsch
from State Office of Policy & Legal Analysis
Oswald L. Totten, Jr.
from State Dept. of Human Services, Biddeford
State Dept. of Human Services, Portland

Jack Waxler
from Paul & Judy Trudeau

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The Nature Conservancy

Maine Legacy

Published quarterly by the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, 14 Maine Street, Fort Andross, Suite 401, Brunswick, Maine 04011; telephone (207) 729-5181.

Subscriptions to this newsletter are available to members. Membership dues are as follows: Life, \$1,000 (one-time); Conservator, \$100; Supporting, \$50; Contributor, \$35; Donor, \$25. More than 12,000 households currently support the Conservancy's work in Maine.

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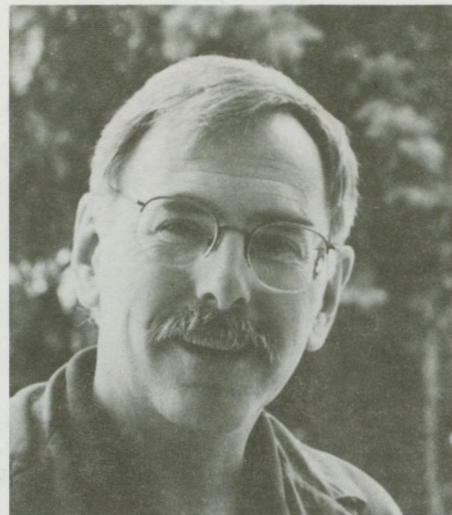
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Communications Coordinator

The Maine Chapter welcomes Bruce Kidman as the Chapter's new Communications Coordinator. Bruce comes to us from the Maine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where he has served as Director of Communications since 1989. Previously Bruce served as Director of Public Information and Publications at Westbrook College. He has also taught photography in the evening division of the Portland School of Art.

Bruce earned a B.F.A. in Photography from the Portland School of Art in 1981 and a B.A. in English Literature from Colby College in 1968. Along with his wife Joan, he served two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Truk District of Micronesia.

Bruce's duties will include editing the



newsletter and other Maine Chapter publications, conducting media outreach, organizing the Annual Meeting and other special events, and assisting the executive director in developing cooperative programs with various partner organizations.

Friends Indeed

Sincere thanks to:

- Waltman & Company, Inc., Designers/Builders of Yarmouth for donating the materials and insight needed to build four preserve registration boxes.
- John and Cynthia Howland of South Harpswell for their donation of a file cabinet in response to our wish list.

Thank You, Volunteers!

We continue to be grateful to new volunteers and to continuing volunteers who have taken on new duties. Thanks to helpers Zoe Amos, Caitlin Collins, Molly Dougherty, Mark Feldman, and Franklin Jones, who take time from their activities at Bowdoin College to assist us, and to Ned May and Mark Woodruff, all of whom have provided assistance in our stewardship and protection work. And thanks to Beth Sperry for her work on an educational outreach project.

Maine Chapter
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