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MEET THE BOARD

Roger Milliken Jr.



LENGTH OF SERVICE: Nine years. Named board chair in 2008.

BACKGROUND: Majored in English at Harvard University; graduate work in Sanskrit and Buddhist studies at the University of Hawaii. Seriously considered becoming a monk. Ultimately joined Baskahegan Co., his family's timber business in eastern Maine, and introduced sustainable-harvest methods. Currently serves as Baskahegan's president and chief executive officer. Former president of the Maine Forest Products Council; now chair of the Advisory Board of the Manomet Forest Conservation Program. Longtime trustee of the Conservancy's Maine chapter; co-chaired its For Maine Forever and Katahdin Forest campaigns, which together protected some 500,000 acres.

Family: Wife Margot, son Max (24), daughter Tara (18).

Lives in: Cumberland, Maine.

On the United States and the Conservancy having new presidents: You've got an upwelling of hope and a sense of new beginning in both situations. And also unprecedented economic uncertainty. [White House Chief of Staff] Rahm Emanuel's notion of "not letting a crisis go to waste" is being followed by the Conservancy. We're revisiting budget and financial expectations, asking questions related to priorities. **Buddhism in daily life:** The question for me always has been, What can I do with my life as somebody who has grown up in a family of privilege in a world where most people have far less? In Buddhism, there's the concept of a

"right livelihood." As my life has unfolded, buried in that question is the question of what does a right relationship with the natural world look like.

How a timber man can have high regard for tree sitters: One of the things that draws me to the Conservancy is its ability to work with a range of groups to find common ground. But the Conservancy wouldn't be as effective if there weren't other people out there making landowners and resource users uncomfortable enough that there's pressure on them.

The Zen of tree pruning: For me, it's very much a meditative undertaking. It's physical. It's outdoors. When I'm in sort of the tree pruning "mind-set," what I'm really trying to do is align myself with how a tree wants to grow.