



faces of conservation

MAINE MEMBER UPDATE | *Winter 2009*

Dear Friend,

I am constantly awed by the talent and dedication of my colleagues and our partners and the unique paths that have led them to careers in conservation. For many, the calling to conservation has been sparked by a sense of the joy and wonder about the world that was ignited in their childhood. For others, the calling is about leaving a better world for the next generation. Whatever the inspiration, we need stories like these more than ever.

To that end, we are pleased to present “Faces of Conservation,” a new section on our Web site that features the Conservancy staff, members and partners who make our work possible in Maine. The stories that begin on the pages of this update continue online and come to life through multimedia features. And we will be adding new stories regularly. I invite you to visit nature.org/mainefaces to learn more about the people behind our conservation.

As you know, we are now facing environmental and economic crises at the same time. Much remains uncertain, but one thing is clear: Each day means fewer forests and diminished fish catches—a less healthy and less livable world. The only way to change this reality is by investing in the lands and waters that have proven—again and again—their ability to protect us and provide for us.

The Conservancy has not been immune to the current financial turmoil, and we are taking steps to tighten our expense budgets and focus our resources on conservation. For example, we have opted for a single-sheet update this spring to save money on printing and postage, and we’ll be increasing the use of our Web site to provide you with a deeper look at our projects in Maine.

As the stories in this update illustrate, nature has a lot to teach us about resiliency and

hope. If we adapt and seek new opportunities in difficult times, survival and even growth are possible. We must look at this time as a chance to sharpen our focus. If we adapt well, our program will continue to produce significant conservation wins—and we’ll emerge a stronger institution.

We are very fortunate to have you on our side. I hope you will stay engaged with our work, and support us in reducing expenses, by visiting nature.org/maine and by signing up to receive our newsletter and updates via e-mail. I thank you for your loyalty and friendship, and I ask for your continued support—it has never been more essential.

Sincerely,

Mike Tetreault, *Executive Director*

Roger Milliken Jr., Chairman of the Board of Directors

Why are you a conservationist?

In my life as a forest manager, conservationist and leader of wilderness rites of passage, the central question has always been: What constitutes the right relationship between us and Earth? Conservation is one form of respect for the world of which we are a part and an expression of reciprocity for all we receive from the natural world.

What current project are you most excited about?

Our work in the Gulf of Maine, which is bringing our reliance on science and respect for people into an effort to support sustainable livelihoods that protect people who fish, people who eat fish and the bounteous ocean that grows those fish.

What's your favorite place in Maine?

Many places—they all share the presence of a vibrant forest and a deep stillness.

Name one thing you learned while working with the Conservancy that surprised you.

The Conservancy's ability to be crystal clear about our own objectives while at the same time being open to and respectful of the perspectives of other players.

What are you most proud of?

Pride is a mental state I work hard not to cultivate.



Left to right: Maine State Director Mike Tetreault, Nature Conservancy's CEO Mark Tercek and Roger Milliken Jr., meeting in Brunswick, Maine, December 2008. © Dan Grenier/TNC

Where do you find hope?

In the many people of goodwill who look deeply into their own motivations, connect with that which is larger than us and work for a more just, peaceful and sustainable world.

ON THE WEB Visit nature.org/mainefaces to learn more about Roger's recent appointment to the Conservancy's national board and find out about the conservation work that has captured his imagination—from the St. John River Forest to international forest conservation.

Barbara Vickery, Director of Conservation Programs



Left to right: Barbara Vickery outdoors in Maine circa 1983 (© TNC) and in January 2009 (© P.Vickery/TNC).

Why are you a conservationist?

As it is for most people, I think, it began with a love for a particular place: Morse Mountain in Phippsburg, where I grew up. Conservation was not my first career, but over summers spent at Morse Mountain

and at my home in rural northern Maine, I became entranced by all the little green things that unfurled when the harsh winter ended. Every chance I got, I was out identifying plants. down to Morse Mountain; I couldn't imagine being far from it. My grandfather purchased coastal land here in the 1930s, and about 30 years ago my entire family—siblings, aunts and uncles, cousins—decided to take steps to conserve it.

What's your favorite place in Maine?

When opportunities arose for me in other states over the years, it always came

What current project are you most excited about?

We've done a lot of exciting work with the state on statewide wildlife and habitat conservation programs, such as State Wildlife Action Plans and Beginning with Habitat. The next step is to look at these programs through the lens of climate change. We need to plan for the impacts on habitats and natural communities. Everyone—including conservationists—must answer the question: How must we act differently?

Where do you find hope?

My hope is the natural world itself—it's my biggest source of wonder, love, learning and joy. And if it is that way for me, I hope it can be for others, as well.

ON THE WEB Learn how reading *Peterson's Field Guide to Ferns* changed the direction of Barbara's life, see a slideshow of her favorite projects over 25 years with the Conservancy and learn how her family helped protect Morse Mountain at nature.org/mainefaces.

Stay in touch and dig deeper
at Nature.org/Maine

EVENTS 🌿 *Conservation in China* with Rose Niu, director of the Conservancy's Asia program. May 13, Portland Museum of Art

Will Brune, Director of Land Protection

Why are you a conservationist?

My grandfather was deeply connected to the conservation community in the Adirondacks, where I grew up. Those conservationists were my childhood heroes.

What's your favorite place in Maine?

Merrymeeting Bay, in the heart of the Kennebec Estuary. Whether I'm ice fishing for smelt migrating in from the ocean in winter or watching alewife and herring arrive in spring, there's a constant changing of the guard here.

You just completed your 100th land deal for the Conservancy. What deal has been most rewarding?

It's been exciting to watch the pieces of the puzzle come together in the Kennebec

Estuary. We had a stunning donation last year of a property called the Basin—one of the most valuable private lands that has ever been donated to the Conservancy.

In the cold spells of winter, the black ducks congregate in the saline, tidal waters of the lower estuary, where they still have access to food and open water. This is also a place where we hope to study the ability of salt marshes to migrate as sea levels rise.

Where do you find hope?

In the landowners I meet who love their land, have taken the right steps to care for it and don't want to see it lost. Even museums and buildings are temporary when compared with gifts of land. In my opinion, there is no bigger impact you can make.



Will fishing in the Kennebec Estuary with Kate Dempsey of the Conservancy; and in New Zealand after catching—and before releasing—a brown trout. © TNC

ON THE WEB Will's childhood heroes taught him that those who love to hunt and fish have a special responsibility to protect nature, and he's been following that advice ever since. Read Will's full Q&A and watch a video about our work in the Kennebec Estuary at nature.org/mainefaces.

Geoff Smith, Marine Program Director



Geoff Smith out on the Gulf, holding a monkfish. © TNC

Why are you a conservationist?

When I was kid growing up on the Kennebec River, my parents taught me some basic principles of conservation: simple things like don't litter and throw back the little fish so that they can grow up. I've always

enjoyed spending time in the woods and on the water, so I chose a career focused on giving something back to the places that give so much to me.

What current project are you most excited about?

I'm very excited about the groundfish permit banking strategy the Conservancy is currently exploring. We're working directly with fishermen to improve on-the-water conservation while helping to preserve long-term access to the fishery for coastal communities. The project plays to the Conservancy's strengths in developing innovative, market-based solutions while also tapping into the incredible knowledge fishermen have about the Gulf of Maine.

What's your favorite place in Maine?

Lobster Lake in the North Woods. It's remote, beautiful and relaxing. But being on the water around the islands of Penobscot Bay is a very close second—can I pick both?

What's the best thing you get to do as part of your job?

Working directly with fishermen who realize more than I ever could that healthy fishing communities depend on healthy fish populations and productive marine habitats. Many of these folks are struggling to get by financially right now. I'm inspired by their ability to remain optimistic and creative and by their willingness to help us try to craft solutions that work well for the fish and the fishermen.

ON THE WEB Visit nature.org/mainefaces to see a video about our work in the Gulf of Maine and find out what Geoff thinks is the most important thing we must do to keep this incredible ecosystem healthy and sustainable.

meet the faces of conservation



A new Web site series about the stories behind
The Nature Conservancy's work in Maine.
nature.org/mainefaces



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