



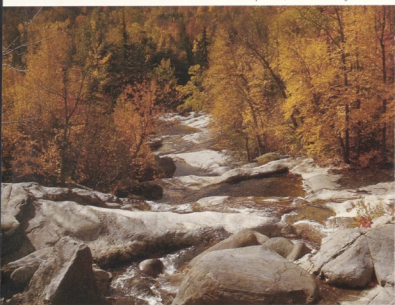
Photo by Eliot Porter

Actions speak louder than words.

Over the course of three decades, The Nature Conservancy has developed effective tools to identify, protect, and manage significant natural areas. The organization that in the 1950's was safeguarding small, park-like properties now commands the nation's most comprehensive private conservation program for natural lands.

Working with concerned citizens, conservation agencies in the public and private sectors, the corporate community, and foundations, the Conservancy has assembled the largest system of privately owned nature sanctuaries in the world. Some 700 preserves—beaches, forests, wetlands, prairies, mountains, deserts, islands—harbor rare and endangered species, plant communities, aquatic systems. More than 70 of these preserves are in the State of Maine.

Step Falls, Daniel Smiley



Blagden Preserve, Tim Loomis

Whether the project involves tropical forests in Hawaii, rare prairie orchids in Illinois, or bald eagles in Maine—the Conservancy's work is guided by one objective: the preservation of natural diversity.

Every species on Earth is dependent upon the health of the others. The loss of a single part reduces the strength and vitality of the whole.

We cannot begin to calculate the benefits of sustaining the planet's natural treasury. Like Noah with his ark, we must preserve our invaluable "genetic library"—to provide sources of food and medicine, and to ensure an environmentally stable, livable Earth. The species with the most at stake is *Homo sapiens*.

How does the Conservancy work?

The Conservancy's 170,000 members believe in conservation through private action. Although the organization frequently assists government agencies in natural-area acquisition, it is supported entirely by private sources. Gifts of money, securities, and land are tax deductible. The Conservancy is a publicly supported charitable organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Money to purchase lands comes from the national organization's revolving funds, which are replenished through local fund raising.

The Nature Conservancy accomplishes its goals through three major programs:

- ☐ **Identification:** working with local experts, as well as public and private agencies, to identify significant natural areas and set land protection priorities.

- ☐ **Protection:** preserving ecologically significant natural areas through outright acquisition (purchase, gift, or bequest), and by conservation easements, management agreements, and other techniques.

- ☐ **Stewardship:** the "protection" that begins once the deed is signed. Volunteer and professional land stewards oversee preserve management, research, and public use.



Seaside roses, Kent Wommack

Please join us.

The Maine Chapter, one of the Conservancy's oldest, was founded in 1956—thanks largely to the efforts of eight individuals, two of whom were Rachel Carson and Charles P. Bradford. Conservancy preserves touching salt water are included in a preserve system named in honor of Rachel Carson. Inland preserves are dedicated to the memory of Charles P. Bradford.

The Maine Chapter was built by volunteers and has flourished under their leadership. Today, volunteer and professional staff work together, creating an unexcelled force for conservation. Among the chapter's outstanding preserves are: Crystal Bog, one of the largest undisturbed peatlands in Maine; Great Wass Island, with its bold headlands and rare coastal plants, in Washington County; the Chapter's first preserve, Step Falls, a tumbling 200-foot waterfall near the New Hampshire border; and the Sebobeis River Gorge, eight miles of the wild watercourse lined by spruce and fir forest.

As a member of The Nature Conservancy, you will receive our full-color bimonthly magazine, *The Nature Conservancy News*, and the Maine Chapter newsletter. Members are welcome at Conservancy preserves across the nation, on field trips, and at state and national meetings. But perhaps the greatest benefit of membership is the satisfac-

tion of knowing you have taken a personal role in protecting the wildlands and wildlife that are our legacy.

Already more than 20,000 acres of Maine's finest lands have been protected through the Conservancy's efforts. With your help as a member, much more can be done—and that's a promise.

Maine Chapter
The Nature Conservancy
20 Federal Street
Brunswick, Maine 04011
(207) 729-5181

Damariscove seabird count, Wommack



YES, I want to help save Maine's distinctive natural heritage. Enroll me as a member of The Nature Conservancy's Maine Chapter.

☐ \$1,000 Life

☐ \$50 Supporting

☐ \$15 Family

☐ \$100 Acorn

☐ \$25 Contributing

☐ \$10 Subscribing

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

☐ Please send me a listing of the Maine Chapter preserves.

Dues entitle you to membership in both the Maine Chapter and the national organization. Please make your check payable to: **The Nature Conservancy, Maine Chapter**, and mail to **20 Federal Street, Brunswick, Maine 04011**. Phone: (207) 729-5181

Maine's Rich Heritage

Eagles, eiders, orchids, boreal forests, peatlands, coastal islands, barrier beaches—all are features of our rich natural heritage in Maine. The state's diverse habitats harbor a wide variety of species and communities. But each year the job of protecting Maine's wildlands and wildlife for future generations grows more complex. The Nature Conservancy is doing something about it—and as a member of the Maine Chapter, so can you.

The Nature Conservancy is a publicly supported nonprofit organization that works quietly to preserve the nation's best remaining natural areas. Its effort is clearly defined. The Conservancy doesn't try to preserve the whole landscape but concentrates on selecting—with the greatest possible precision, in light of the best available information—jeopardized areas of the highest ecological value. Since its founding in 1951, the organization has won protection for *two million acres* in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean.

COVER. Eider nestlings by Alan Hutchinson

The Nature Conservancy
National Office
1800 North Kent Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209



Eiders at sea, Barbara Youtz

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The Nature
Conservancy
in Maine