

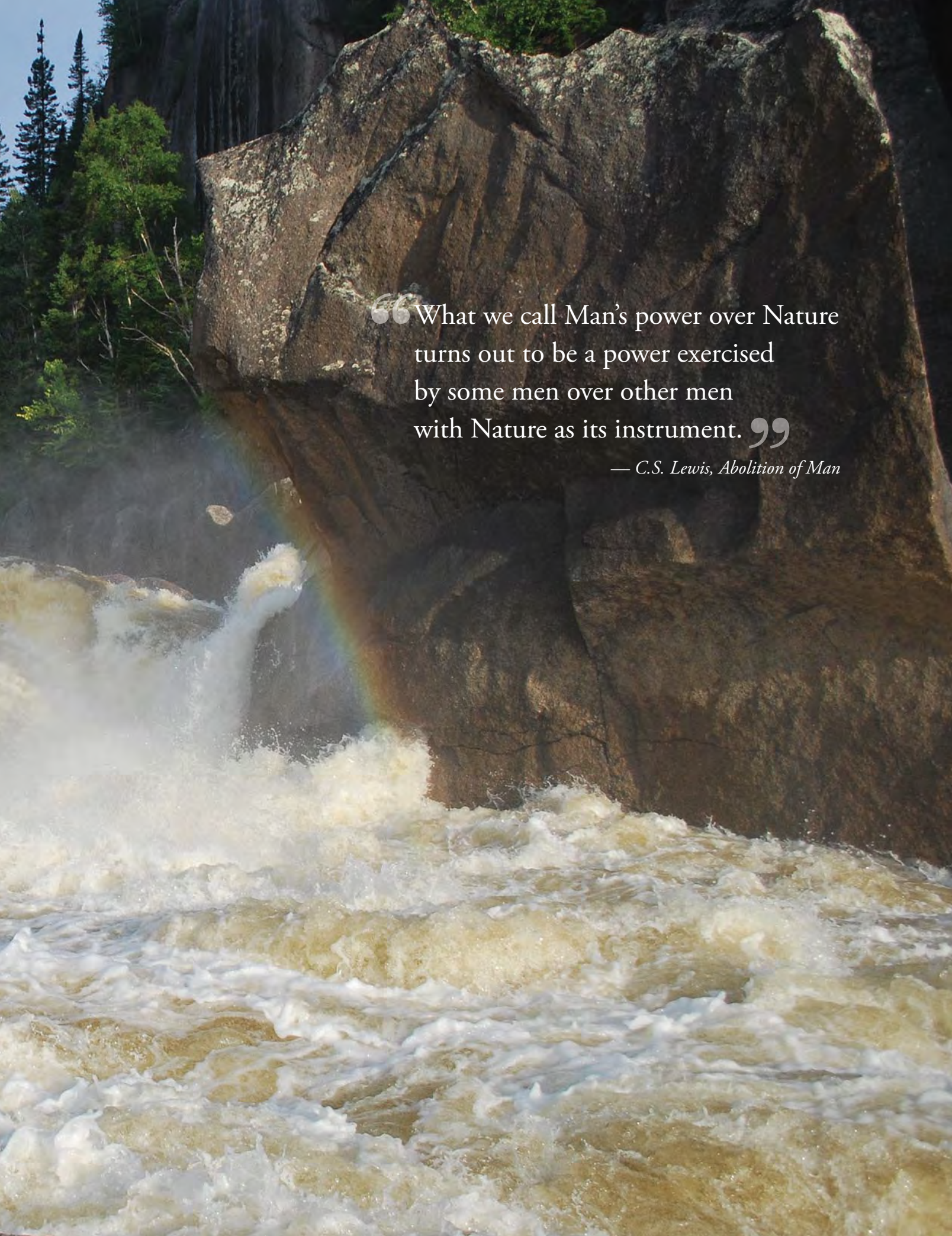


adieu, Romaine

Story, photos and map by Tripp Burwell
Additional Reporting by Christian Woodard

As Hydro-Quebec, the corporation behind Northern Pass, works to dam Quebec's Romaine River, three kayakers paddle it for the last time in its natural state. The power in the water is evident; what's not clear is how Quebec's push for hydropower dominance makes economic, social or environmental sense.

Christian Woodard runs Spike rapid, near the Romaine 2 dam site at dawn. This stretch of the river will be left essentially dry by Romaine 2.



“What we call Man’s power over Nature
turns out to be a power exercised
by some men over other men
with Nature as its instrument.”

— C.S. Lewis, *Abolition of Man*

Dynamite blasts rippled the pre-dawn air as we paddled through the Romaine River's cold, tannic water. Fog and black flies smothered the dense evergreen banks. Three of us, Christian Woodard, James Duesenberry, and I had teamed up for the last descent of this huge and steep river. For three days, we had paddled through the heart of the central Quebec wilderness. That night, we had camped above Romaine 2, one of four Hydro-Quebec dam sites—the future tombstones of a once free-flowing river. A wall of gravel and boulders loomed downstream, diverting the flow into a tunnel punched through a nearby hill. We hoped to sneak through the construction and rejoin the Romaine wherever it returned to its ancient course.

The groan of hydraulic machinery lifting, drilling, and crushing stone joined rhythmic thumps of underground explosions. The air had the sharp, silicate smell of broken rock and blasting mixed with diesel exhaust.

As we floated closer to the construction site, Duesenberry observed that our trip could be ending. Woodard countered that we would have a quick ride to the bottom.

Not as quick as the new electricity Hydro-Quebec hopes to transmit and sell to New England and New York, I thought.

ENGINES OF PROGRESS

Everybody, it seems, wants to “go green.” The states of the northeastern U.S. too have decided to power more of their energy consumption from sustainable sources—goals not lost on their provincial neighbors to the north. Quebec has mastered the art of turning flowing water into power, which many consider renewable.

In 1962, Quebec nationalized its major power corporation, Hydro-Quebec. The company hauled the province into a modern economy. New industrial jobs and affordable energy fostered economic independence and notions of self-rule in largely agrarian Quebec. By the early 1990s, 13 of the province's 17 major river systems were transformed into engines of liberation and progress.

North and east of Quebec City, the capital, the north coast of the St. Lawrence River tilts sharply into its gulf. Powerful rivers spill over steep granite, pounding hundreds of miles down to the sea. The Côte-du-Nord is a goldmine of energy potential. Its rivers are also perfect settings for challenging multi-day whitewater trips.

First paddled in its entirety solely for its whitewater in 2008, the rapids, wilderness experience, and impending damming afforded legendary status to the Romaine in the whitewater community. During a previous trip, Woodard learned that Hydro-Quebec planned to begin turning the Romaine's gorges into reservoirs in late 2010. By spring of 2011, they were a year behind schedule. Three teams had paddled it before us in 2011, the busiest whitewater summer for the Romaine. We were the last trip of the last season; this was the last chance that anyone would ever have to kayak it.

To get to the Romaine 2 dam site, where we hoped to bypass the construction to continue our trip, we had flown 125 miles into the bush from Havre-St-Pierre and paddled 75 miles of river. While



stuffing gear into boats at the floatplane base, one of the pilots had warned us that Hydro-Quebec had been removing paddling groups above the dam and transporting them back to Havre-St-Pierre. With no plan except a burning desire to run the whole river, we had flown in anyhow.

QUEBEC'S ENERGY FUTURE

The Romaine Complex is part of Plan Nord (also known as *Le Nord pour tous*, or “The North for All”), a new energy, mining, and development initiative for northern Quebec. Announcing the plan in May of 2011, then-Premier Jean Charest called it “the most important sustainable development project for the future of Quebec.”

Plan Nord includes three major dam construction projects, the Eastmain 1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert (920 MW - megawatts), the Romaine (1,550 MW), and the Petit Mecatina (1,200 MW). Hydro-Quebec finished flooding the Rupert River in 2010, began construction on the Romaine in 2009, and intends to start on the Petit Mecatina River in 2015. Only two of Quebec's 17 major river systems will remain untouched. Flooded forests in the sparsely populated north will provide a power platform for widespread development, both in Quebec and the Northeast.

The two main political parties in Quebec, the Liberals and the Parti Québécois, both support this ambitious project to open the north to mining and other resource extraction. Quebec's defining political issue is whether Quebec should become independent of Canada. Former Premier Charest's Liberal Government, which favors staying in Canada's federal system and traditionally supports big business, introduced Plan Nord. Parti Québécois's mission is Quebec sovereignty. The party believes that Hydro-Quebec should do what it has always done—push Quebec towards independence.



Above: Christian Woodard paddles Dome Falls on the Romaine River. It is the site of Romaine 3, the dam upstream of Romaine 2.

Left: At the construction site of the Romaine 2 dam, the author and fellow kayakers walked their boats through the gravel where the river used to flow.

SELLING ELECTRICITY AT HALF COST

As Plan Nord ventures deeper into Quebec's geographic margins, Hydro-Quebec pushes farther into its profit margins. Hydro-Quebec expects the fully-completed Romaine Complex will cost \$6.5 billion plus another \$1.5 billion to build power lines to the United States. According to Hydro-Quebec's impact assessment, power produced from the Romaine will cost 9.2 cents per kWh (kilowatt-hour), about 40 times as much as the massive Churchill Falls hydroproject in neighboring Labrador. Any dam on the Petit Mecatina, which has neither a road nor a town at its mouth, would only be more costly.

Hydro-Quebec has committed to sell power from the Romaine Complex to provincial aluminum smelters at 4.2 cents per kWh and to Vermont at 5-6 cents per kWh, approximately half of the generation cost. When asked about the price gap, Hydro-Quebec referred all media requests to the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources. Nicolas Bagin, a spokesman for the Ministry, commented that Hydro-Quebec "does not sell power to the U.S. at below generation costs." Opponents say otherwise, surmising that since Hydro-Quebec is nationalized, increasing electricity bills for Quebecois will cover the loss in government revenue for selling electricity at half-cost.

A VISION FOR THE NORTHEAST

So far, Vermont is the only state with a power contract for electricity from Hydro-Quebec's portfolio of dams and power plants. Vermont citizens and Gov. Peter Shumlin have long campaigned to replace the output of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, the state's largest energy provider, with green power. Three years ago, the Vermont Legislature expanded the definition of renewable

hydro power. Previously, only projects generating less than 200 MW fit that designation; now all hydro projects qualify, including those under Plan Nord. Vermont will save its vistas at the expense of pristine forests in Quebec, rather than promoting local solutions to its energy issues.

Hydro-Quebec's U.S. plans do not stop with Vermont. In partnership with Northeast Utilities, Hydro-Quebec wants to construct the "Northern Pass," 180 miles of high-voltage power lines, to transmit 1200 MW through northern New Hampshire into the lucrative southern New England market. In New York, Transmission Developers, Inc. (TDI) plans to implement the Champlain Hudson Power Express, bringing 1000 MW of hydro power from the Canadian border to Queens. As TDI CEO Donald Jessome said on the *Journal News' Editorial Spotlight*, "These generators ... are being built as we speak ... this is a great opportunity to get access to a resource that's being developed and looking for a market." Connecticut is currently considering a change in legislation similar to Vermont, designating any hydropower from Canada as renewable.

Only some Northeasterners share Hydro-Quebec's vision. In New Hampshire, the Society for the Protection of N.H. Forests and its conservation partners are fighting Northern Pass's initial proposal for an above-ground transmission line bisecting the state, arguing that the transmission line would mar the landscape, harm the state's important tourism industry and erode property values, all for corporate gain and little public benefit. Challengers of the Champlain Hudson Power Express point out that New York currently has ample supply and that infrastructure issues pose a greater problem for the state's grid.

"What's the rush for new energy?" asks Paul Messerschmidt, an energy consultant who has worked for the Cree Indians in Quebec.



Left: A map shows the Romaine River from the group's fly-in point to the river's mouth at the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Also shown are the locations of the four dams and the rapids pictured in this article. The inset depicts both the Romaine (on the left) and the Petit Mecatina (on the right) as well as their intended power markets in the Northeastern U.S.

spring of 2010, Hydro-Quebec proposed routing power lines through the village and offered \$4 million in compensation. Uashat-Malietenam refused and the governing Band Council sought an injunction against the Romaine power line project. In the fall of 2011, Hydro-Quebec returned with more money, but again the village refused. The situation is currently in court, even though dam construction continues.

This treatment of First Nations is standard behavior for Hydro-Quebec. In the 1970s, the corporation flooded 4,440 square miles more of Cree and Inuit hunting grounds to build the La Grande Complex (1.5 cents per KWH, 15% of the cost of Romaine power), without consulting the communities beforehand. In 1975, both sides signed the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement that provided \$225 million in compensation for flooding 350,000 square miles of Cree and Inuit lands.

Boyce Richardson, who wrote the definitive account of the Cree and Hydro-Quebec in his book, *Strangers Devour the Land*, remembers that the "Cree were under a lot of pressure to make an agreement. Either they signed it and got something or they didn't and got a project around their neck, because it was already started." Despite the contract, the Crees have had to go to court to make sure almost every part of the agreement was honored. For the Rupert project, the first 920 MW of Plan Nord, Hydro-Quebec again promised to honor the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, but offered no new compensation.

INEFFECTIVE RESISTANCE

Though First Nations have received economic compensation for their ancestral lands, the cultural result has been a glacial assimilation into Western society. Many semi-nomadic hunting families were pooled and diverted to government-designed towns where they then sought wage employment to pay for their amenities. Richardson feels that "the Crees have fought less as they have become more integrated ... [however,] they have made a fairly successful integration, as best they could."

"As best they could" may have left both the Crees and the Innu in cultural limbo - too far removed from the land to fight passionately about it, but also too far removed from the mechanisms of Quebec society to fight effectively for it. Chris Scott, spokesperson for Alliance Romaine, a Quebec non-profit, remains hopeful that growing awareness and political activism, particularly among the Innu along the Côte-du-Nord, will result in the Cree and Innu reclaiming more ownership of their future.

"It's not over until all the dams are built," said Scott.

Meanwhile, Hydro-Quebec labors on. Sam Howe Verhovek, who has written about Hydro-Quebec for the *New York Times Magazine*, told me, "Hydro-Quebec, as an entity, is hugely confident in what it does. They think they're doing the Lord's work."

"In 2013, we have lots of surplus capacity in both the Northeastern U.S. and Southeastern Canada. There is currently no need for new capacity, and little, if any, in the next 10 years. Even if there were, natural gas is abundant, cheap, and will be for years."

THE SOCIAL COST

The Romaine Complex's unnecessary new capacity comes at significant social cost for Quebec's Innu peoples, who have called the Romaine and its forests home for a thousand years.

Innu poet Rita Mestokosho said, "I am convinced that making a dam north of our land will destroy a lot of dreams. It will destroy our culture, our language, Innu-aimun. It will destroy our medicinal plants, it will poison the animals, it will pollute the air we breathe."

At a meeting with Hydro-Quebec representatives in her village of Ekuanitshit (Innu-aimun for "take care of the place where you live"), Hydro-Quebec employees told Rita and other village leaders that power lines would go through their lands whether or not they signed an agreement with the utility. Feeling they had no choice, Ekuanitshit signed to receive what they could out of the deal. As Rita later explained to me, "The dam project has always existed in the minds of engineers at Hydro-Quebec. They are waiting for the right moment to create division within the Innu Nation, and even within our community."

Many other towns have signed agreements to allow power lines on their land; only Uashat-Malietenam has held out so far. In the



*Christian Woodard and James Duesenberry
soak in the scenery on the Romaine River.*

'WHILE I STILL COULD'

Woodard and I had decided before climbing into the plane that we would portage *Le Maudite*. Translating roughly to “The Devil,” the rapid spreads over a series of angled shelves, creating chaotic waves at the top of the chute and finishing with two big holes at the bottom. Recirculating features of that size can stop a paddler and hold him for several minutes.

But knowing that once built, Romaine 3 will turn *Le Maudite* into a placid lakebed, Duesenberry had decided to fire it up. The width and power of the river dictated that he would be alone, amidst a giant series of turbulent, crashing waves. He thought that he would be able to make it through the rapid, but he could not see exactly how.

Woodard launched into the pool below the rapid, offering token clean-up support in the darkening evening. A very small Duesenberry ferried out to the center of the river, angling left through the first drop, dropping awkwardly into the second. He flipped, rolled, and flipped again while sliding down the third. In the fourth, he fought his way out of both holes, tweaking his shoulder. Woodard, though glad to see him upright at the bottom, remarked that it had not looked smooth.

Duesenberry replied, “No, but it’s the last time anybody will run it. It was something I needed to do while I still could.”

By damming the Romaine and the Petit Mecatina, Hydro-Quebec would essentially close their hydropower frontier. This may have led to myopic decision-making on their part, offering cures for which there is no disease and ignoring other possible solutions for a truly green energy future. What happens when Hydro-Quebec dams the last wild rivers in the province?

Messerschmidt lays out an alternate vision to the continued damming of Quebec’s major rivers. “The optimal strategy for Quebec would be to develop their wind resources (estimated at over 15 gigawatts) to work in conjunction with their existing hydro

resources, which would serve as storage for intermittent wind resources.” He notes that expanding wind capacity is far cheaper than building new dams.

“It’s a mystery why they keep throwing up dams,” Richardson said.

A BLIND EYE

Dawn at the Romaine 2 dam site eased into morning. The blasting quieted down and banks of halogens flicked off down the riverbed. We shouldered our boats and walked over the rocky fill, hoping to look purposeful. Around the corner, we were shocked to see the river returned to its ancient course. Instead of flowing through turbines at the end of a dry canyon, it was diverted for only a few hundred yards. We could keep paddling if Hydro-Quebec did not stop us.

On a higher road a man stepped out of a modular building and pointed at us. Another joined him, and they walked to a pickup truck. Two other men leaned on a backhoe, drinking coffee.

“Bonjour,” Woodard said.

They both nodded and turned away. Taking an “if we build it, they will come” approach, Hydro-Quebec has ignored First Nations, energy economics, and actual renewable solutions to finish damming the rivers in Quebec. Many in the Northeastern U.S. have been happy to follow their lead. As Hydro-Quebec turned a blind eye to us, like so many others, we slid back into the water under the redoubled cacophony of construction.

Editor’s note: The Romaine Complex 2 dam is still under construction. The company’s website indicates the first of the four Romaine River dams will be commissioned sometime next year, and the full project is slated to be completed by 2020. When this project is complete, Hydro-Quebec will have flooded 6 million acres. The state of N.H. is 5.9 million acres. ♯

This story is dedicated to Boyce Greer, who belonged to the Romaine more than most.

THE FOREST SOCIETY'S ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

Chase House, the Inns at Mill Falls, Meredith, N.H.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: P.J. O'ROURKE

Humorist and author

Life as a Failed Country Gentleman



New Hampshire landowner and self-described 'failed country gentleman' P. J. O'Rourke insists that there is little difference between being a Certified Tree Farmer and being lost in the woods. O'Rourke's astute powers of

observation over the course of several decades of forest management on his own farm provide him with a satirist's perspective on what it means to live on the land, where, as he has noted, "I get to deduct what I spend on growing trees (nothing) from what I earn selling timber (nothing)."

Known for his appearances on National Public Radio's "Wait Wait . . . Don't Tell Me!" and as a prolific author of books such as *Don't Vote, It Just Encourages the Bastards* or his more recent *Holidays in Heck*, O'Rourke's talk is likely to entertain and enrage in equal measures. A vote will be taken after his presentation on whether or not to thank him.

Photo of P.J. O'Rourke by James Kegley.

FIELD TRIPS: *Before the meeting, Forest Society members are invited to join us on one of these field trips to experience the scenic landscapes that epitomize land conservation and forest stewardship in the Lakes Region. Each trip starts at a separate location, so please get directions when you register. The field trips are free, with the exception of the Squam Lake boat tour, which will cost \$25. For updated information visit www.forestsociety.org or call (603) 224-9945.*

1 Hike Mount Major 9 AM to 3:30 PM

Mount Major, the eastern peak of the Belnap Range southwest of Lake Winnepesaukee, is one of the most heavily hiked peaks in New Hampshire. The Forest Society, Lakes Region Conservation Trust, and other partners in the Belnap Range Conservation Coalition are working to purchase key tracts to protect significant natural resources and perpetuate traditional recreational access to the network of hiking and snowmobiling trails extending to all parts of the range. You'll learn more about this project, enjoy spectacular views and see unusual natural communities.

Difficulty: *Strenuous, full-day hike, with steep and rocky terrain; 4 miles roundtrip.*

2 Newfound Lake Watershed Tour 11 AM to 3:30 PM

The Newfound Lake watershed has benefitted from a comprehensive land conservation plan resulting in the protection of more than 1,000 acres in the last two years. This field trip hike to the 486-acre Butman family conservation easement in Alexandria overlooking Newfound Lake provides one example of landscape-scale conservation success where the Quabbin to

Cardigan region initiative overlaps the Lakes Region conservation plan. We'll hike to great views, look for signs of wildlife and explore historic foundations.

Difficulty: *Moderate; 2.5 miles round trip.*

3 Hike Morse Preserve Noon to 3:30 PM

The 431-acre Morse Preserve was protected by the Forest Society in 2008. The hike to the open summit of Pine Mountain will reach fantastic views of the Belnap Range, Mt. Major and Lake Winnepesaukee. Along the way, you'll learn about a unique habitat management project, trails and forestry. Learn about emerging land conservation opportunities and the extensive recreational trail network of the Belnap Range.

Difficulty: *Moderate; 1.7 miles round trip.*

4 Squam Lake Boat Tour Noon to 3:30 PM

This special scenic boat tour aboard the Squam Lake Science Center pontoon boat will feature spectacular islands, coves and open water views of the Sandwich Range peaks. The Forest Society's Coolidge Tree Farm and Eagle Cliff properties are located on Squam. Other

natural areas include the UNH "Five Finger Point" and a network of protected lands under the stewardship of the Squam Lake Conservation Society and the Squam Lake Association. Learn about proactive land conservation efforts and the close relationship between forests and the health and water quality of New Hampshire's second-largest lake. Limited registration.

Note: *Additional cost: \$25 per person. Inclement or windy weather may force cancellation.*

5 Liz and Dennis Hager **Easement Property Tour** 1 to 3:30 PM

Landowners Liz and Dennis Hager are planning to place a conservation easement on their scenic farm to protect its open fields and forest habitats in New Hampton. Several historic structures have been moved, rehabilitated and lovingly-restored there, including the Eliza Remmick farmhouse formerly located on the Forest Society's Cockermouth Forest in Hebron. The property features expansive views of the Lakes Region.

Difficulty: *A short, half-mile hike to a hilltop cabin includes a fairly steep grade. One mile roundtrip.*

See back cover for registration options.

Help Clear the Way During Monadnock Trails Week

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events

Go online. Get outside. Visit our website at www.forestsociety.org/thingstodo for a complete and up-to-date list of field trips and special events.



Volunteers remove a boulder from a trail during last year's Monadnock Trails Week.

Not all jobs are so strenuous, we promise!

JULY 12-16 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monadnock Trails Week

Monadnock State Park, Jaffrey

Join conservation professionals and other volunteers from the Forest Society and N.H. State Parks in restoring hiking trails on Mount Monadnock! Come for one day or several, alone or with friends. Prior trail maintenance experience is welcome but not necessary. Tasks for the week will include restoring and re-marking trails, building waterbars, improving trail tread, and constructing footbridges.

Meet at Mount Monadnock Park Headquarters at the end of Poole Road in Jaffrey at 9 a.m.

Bring old clothes, work gloves (if you have them), a bag lunch and plenty of water. Trail tools will be provided. Sign up by emailing Carrie Deegan at cdeegan@forestsociety.org or call (603) 224-9945.

JUNE 14 | 9 a.m.-noon

Tree Identification Field Workshop

Conservation Center, Concord

Join Forest Society staff foresters Gabe Roxby and Wendy Weisiger to learn some tips and tricks for identifying many common trees in our New Hampshire woods. This workshop will take place on our Merrimack River Outdoor Education and Conservation Area, where we find a good diversity of tree species. Come prepared to be outdoors, with appropriate footwear and water.

Cost: \$10 for non-members; free for members, land stewards and other volunteers. Sign up by contacting Tina Ripley at signup@forestsociety.org or by calling (603) 224-9945.

JUNE 25-26 | 7-8:30 p.m.

Wooden Sign-Making Workdays

Conservation Center, Concord

Learn the steps involved in creating and/or refurbishing the beautiful routed wooden property signs that grace our Forest Society reservations! We are looking for some handy and energetic folks to help stencil, route, plane, sand, stain, varnish and paint signs during this workday blitz. There is something for all interests and abilities. We will bring the music and spring for a pizza lunch—you just need to bring enthusiasm and your work clothes!

Bring old clothes and work gloves. If you have a belt sander or router you're willing to bring, that would also be helpful! Sign up: email Carrie Deegan at cdeegan@forestsociety.org or call (603) 224-9945.

JULY 6 | 2-4 p.m.

Herbert Welsh Trail Dedication

Dewey Marsh, Jobs Creek Road, Sunapee

Join members of Sunapee Conservation Commission and Sunapee Historical Society for a dedication of the newly-designated Herbert Welsh Trail on Garnet Hill in Sunapee. Herbert Welsh was an early advocate and leader of the conservation efforts for Mount Sunapee in Newbury and The Dewey Woods in Sunapee. Welsh was a Forest Society vice president at large and staunch campaigner. A dedication ceremony will be followed by a short hike to the summit of Garnet Hill.

No registration is required.

JULY 13 | 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Farnsworth Hill Forest Hike and Celebration

Farnsworth Hill Reservation, Washington

Join us to celebrate and explore the Forest Society's newest reservation on Farnsworth Hill in Washington, N.H. Learn how a committed group of local residents surrounding Millen Pond partnered with the Washington Conservation Commission and the Forest Society to create a 313-acre permanent forest reservation.

To sign up contact Tina Ripley by email at signup@forestsociety.org or by calling (603) 224-9945.

JULY 15 | 7-8:30 p.m.

Exemplary Country Estates of N.H.

The Rocks Estate, Route 302, Bethlehem

Art historian Cristina Ashjian of Moultonborough will present some of the great country estates of New Hampshire, such as the Forest Society's own Rocks Estate, The Fells on Lake Sunapee and Saint Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish. She'll also delve into the architecture and fate of other significant private estates showcased in the state's promotional literature in the early 20th century.

This free presentation is sponsored by the N.H. Humanities Council as part of the Humanities to Go Program. For more information, go to www.the.rocks.org, email us at info@therocks.org or call (603) 444-6228.

THURSDAY JULY 18 | 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Field Trip 101: YOU Can Lead a Guided Hike!

Conservation Center, Concord

Learn the basics of how to lead a guided hike or nature walk on conservation land in your community. Contrary to popular belief, you don't have to be an "expert" to lead a hike. We'll teach you how to plan, advertise and pull off a successful, fun and safe walk that will leave you wanting to do it all over again! Leading hikes and other forays is rewarding and a great way to contribute to the conservation effort in New Hampshire (the more people know about conservation land, the more likely they are to support conservation efforts.) Give it a shot!

Bring a bag lunch and water, and be prepared to go outside. Sign up by contacting Tina Ripley at signup@forestsociety.org or call (603) 224-9945.

JULY 24 | 1-3 p.m.

(Rain date: July 25)

Dragonfly Walk at Heald Tract

Heald Forest, Wilton

If you have ever wondered what dragonflies look like up close? Here is a chance to find out! Join Land Steward Program Specialist Carrie Deegan on a walk to learn about dragonfly biology and see which species we can find at the Heald Tract. This walk is appropriate for children and families. Come prepared to be outside, and to potentially get your feet wet!

Sign up: email Carrie Deegan at cdeegan@forestsociety.org or call (603) 224-9945.

AUGUST 11 | 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Hazelton Farm Hike and Celebration

Hebron

Explore the rich mosaic of natural resources and wildlife habitats of the recently conserved Hazelton farm and forestlands with the Forest Society in Hebron. Learn how a local group of conservationists around Newfound Lake and natural resource agencies and funders came together to help the Forest Society purchase a conservation easement protecting the 272-acre scenic property at the north end of Newfound Lake.

11 to 12: Ecology walk around the open fields and Cockerhmouth River habitats

ART EXHIBIT

The Conservation Center Conference Room is open Monday-Friday, 9 to 5 p.m. Please call ahead at 224-9945 to make sure the conference room isn't being used for a meeting.

JULY – AUGUST

Birds, Birds and More Birds!

Conservation Center, Concord

Close-up photographs of birds in New England and beyond, by Udo Rauter, a member of the N.H. Society of Photographic Artists who lives in Chichester.



As seen in his photos of a great blue heron and a vermilion flycatcher, Udo Rauter specializes in capturing magnificent detail.

THE BRETZFELDER PARK FAMILY EDUCATIONAL SERIES

Bretzfelder Memorial Park, Prospect Street, Bethlehem, 7-8 p.m.

For more information about this free series, visit www.therocks.org or call (603) 444-6228.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 7

Search and Rescue in New Hampshire

Matt Holmes, a N.H. Fish and Game Dept. conservation officer and member of the department's Advanced Search and Rescue Team, will share his experience gained from assisting in dozens of search and rescue missions.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 14

Aquatic Critters

A Squam Lakes Natural Resource Center naturalist, with help from three animal ambassadors, will unveil the myths and facts about N.H.'s aquatic species.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28

Barb's Nature Songs, with singer/songwriter Barbara Desroches

Nature-inspired music and puppetry for kids ages 3 and older.

12 to 12:30: Presentation by Jane Difley, President/Forester of the Forest Society

Optional: more strenuous afternoon hike along upper Wise Brook

To sign up, contact Tina Ripley by email at signup@forestsociety.org or by calling (603) 224-9945.

Follow us on Facebook!

Go to www.facebook.com/ForestSociety and like our page to find out more about things to do and places to go!