

Leadership New Hampshire

Building a Community of Informed Leaders

BOW CHAT

Rick Minard's Living Room, Bow, NH, Nov. 8, 2006 – 6:00pm

THE NEW GUY'S TAKE ON NH HABITAT, WILDLIFE, POLITICS AND PEOPLE

Presenters: Rick Minard, President of the NH Audubon Society and Bob Varney, Regional Administrator of the EPA

Attending: Rick Minard (host), Edith Tucket, Connie Roy Czyzowski, Sheils Kabat, Rob Werner, Mary Ann Gashnig, Rachel Rouillard, Cathy Provencher, Joe Kabat, Shawn LaFrance, Katie Mellow, Cathy Chesley, Edda Cantor (LNH Executive Director) and Melanie Waldvogel (LNH Staff)

What is happening with the Environment, and what needs to Change?

Rick Minard began the conversation discussing climate change, and the unique nature of the NH Audubon Society. The NH Audubon Society has 5,000 member households, and under Rick's management, is striving to set priorities for the future. The Society strives to connect the wildlife (namely, birds and birding groups) with seniors, adults and kids (through popular school trips, home-schoolers and camps). Due to climate change, there is environmental instability, and new breeds of wildlife will emerge as a result. The Society does have issues, as currently there is a lobbyist position open, and there are donor issues. However, many previous donors and members are ready to return with the new commitment to policy.

Bob Varney mentioned an EPA report that outlined how climate change in NH will affect some of its most prized possessions, ranging from ski areas, to trout fishing to the maple syrup industry. Energy conservation is key: look at ways you can be more energy efficient in your own home (example: fluorescent light bulbs). The technology is there, readily available and cost efficient, but the access to the information needs to dramatically improve. This would add up to savings in the millions for the state.

Businesses also need to be more efficient, and connections need to happen to bring non-profits, the state and businesses together to promote and sustain energy conservation methods.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- LNH will have a new session day this year: Health and the Environment, in December. A ½ day session for alumni based on this day, will be held tentatively in February. Plan to attend, and more details will be available soon!

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO SUPPORT NH'S ENVIRONMENT:

1. Log onto <https://www.nhaidubon.org/membershipform.htm> to sign up as a member of the NH Audubon Society, or here for underwriting opportunities: <http://www.nhaidubon.org/underwriting.htm>
2. Click here for the EPA's Brownfield's report: <http://www.epa.gov/ne/brownfields/>, and visit their site at www.epa.gov/ne for energy efficiency tips and climate change information
3. Try to do energy efficient things in your own home, from buying compact fluorescent light bulbs to unplugging lamps and TVs when not in use.
4. Visit www.ecofoot.org to see what your own eco footprint is leaving on the earth

For further Information, please visit: <http://www.nhaidubon.org>