

Dan Gardoqui
Cape Neddick

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for addressing this long-standing issues of mylar (and other) balloons being released and ending up in our woods and waters in Maine. I've spent over 20 years as an outdoor educator, Maine Guide and nonprofit leader in Maine and can't recall how many times I've been guiding groups of kids, teens or adults in gorgeous, wild places only to find an errant balloon stuck in a tree or half-covered with leaves on the ground. Sometimes, these balloons are partially eaten.

We can do better than this, Maine. We need not release balloons outdoors anymore. We're smarter than that, Maine. As Mainers we know just how valuable and enriching our connection to a clean, healthy and wild landscape is to our economy, communities and to our well-being as individuals.

Please stop the outdoor release of balloons in Maine.

Sincerely,

Dan Gardoqui
Cape Neddick, Maine