

Merrymeeting News

The Newsletter of Friends of Merrymeeting Bay • P.O. Box 233 • Richmond Maine 04357

FALL 1997

*To Preserve, Protect
and Improve the
Unique Ecosystems
of Merrymeeting Bay.*

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Support comes from members, tax-deductible donations and grants.

Education

Hands Around the Bay, speaker series, field trips.

Conservation & Stewardship

Protecting traditional conservation resources through private ownership, easements and stewardship.

Membership Events

Swan Island picnic, paddle tours of the Bay, field trips, conservation meetings, potluck suppers and shoreline clean-ups.

Research and Advocacy

Water quality data collection, analysis and protection.

1997 Steering Committee

Frank Burroughs, Bowdoinham
Dana Cary, Topsham
Susan Fides, Brunswick
Ed Friedman, Bowdoinham
Steve Hammond, Bath
David Hunt, Dresden
Esther Lacognata, Topsham
Bob Lenna, Bowdoinham
Don and Joan Lipfert, Woolwich
Pat Maloney, Topsham
Tenley Meara, Topsham
Jay Robbins, Richmond
Karin Tilberg, Bowdoinham
Warren Whitney, Bowdoinham

Executive Director

Betsy Ham, Bowdoinham

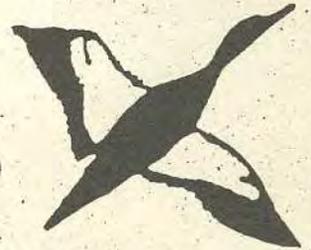
Web Site

<http://www.col.k12.me.us/mmb/>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY'S 1997-1998 WINTER SPEAKER SERIES

7:00 p.m. Beam Classroom, Visual Arts Center
Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine (exceptions noted)



- October 15** **Edwards Dam: What's Next?**
Ron Kreisman, Kennebec Coalition
- November 19** **Preserving Land For Future Generations:
A Discussion of Conservation Easements**
Betsy Ham, Executive Director, FOMB
Rupert Neily, Project Manager, MCHT
(Location: Room 4 Druckenmiller Hall)
- December 17** **Geology of Merrymeeting Bay**
Joe Kelley, Marine Geologist with the Maine Geologic Survey
- January 21** **Prehistoric Archeology of Merrymeeting Bay**
Steven Cox, Archeologist, Maine State Museum
- February 18** **Tidewater Ice:
A History of the Ice Industry on the Kennebec**
Eleanor Everson, Dresden Ice Historian
- March 18** **Shipbuilding and Shipping in Merrymeeting Bay**
Nathan Lipfert, Maine Maritime Museum
- April 15** **Dioxin in our Environment**
Nick Bennett, Staff Scientist, NRCM
- May 20** **Birds of Merrymeeting Bay**
Peter Vickery, Ornithologist (Location TBA in Richmond)

The Winter Speaker Series sponsors: Patagonia, Bowdoin College Environmental Studies Program with help from the Brunswick - Topsham Land Trust.

OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

Merrymeeting Bay: A Sense of Place presented by Frank Burroughs featuring Sally Butcher's beautiful slides of the Bay.

WHEN: October 22 at 7 p.m.

WHERE: Nellie's Church, corner of Spruce & Gardiner St., Richmond

JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL AUCTION

DECEMBER 10TH, 5:30 - 8:30 PM

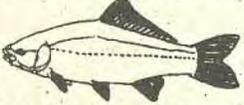
THE SECOND ANNUAL FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY AUCTION will be held on December 10th at the Bowdoinham Community School. The fun will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a pot luck supper and musical entertainment. The

continued on page 2.

1997 FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES POSTED

FOMB HAS PLACED the following poster near fishing areas around the Bay to inform fishermen and fish eaters of the existing Fish Consumption Advisories of relevance to the Bay. The complete advisories are issued by the Maine Department of Human Services-Bureau of Health.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY



Freshwater fish consumption in most areas of Merrymeeting Bay should be limited

Due to Mercury Contamination
(Mercury damages the nervous system.)

- All waters:**
3 meals a month of warm water fish (bass, suckers, perch, carp, etc.)
Stricter limitations if you are pregnant, nursing, may become pregnant or are less than 8 years old.
- Due to PCBs and Dioxin Contamination**
(PCBs and Dioxin cause cancer and hormonal disruption)
- Kennebec River:**
Do not eat freshwater fish (Edward's Dam to the Chops)
- Androscoggin River:**
6 meals per year of freshwater fish (Gilead to The Bay).

Consumption of lobster tomalley, striped bass and bluefish should be limited in all waters.

A public service of Friends of Merrymeeting Bay
With support from the John Melick Fund
For a full copy of the State consumption advisories call 666-3376

For more information contact FOMB at 666-3376.

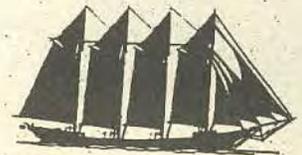


Fall 1997
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October 1997

Merrymeeting News
is the newsletter of Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, P.O. Box 233, Richmond, Maine 04357, and is published seasonally. *Merrymeeting News* is sent to FOMB members and other friends of the Bay. For information call Betsy Ham, Executive Director 666-3376.

ANNUAL AUCTION

Continued from Page 1



silent auction will run from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. to be followed by a live auction from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Other opportunities for bidding on silent auction items may be available. Look for details in our auction catalogue. Last year's auction items included among other things an Old Town canoe, airplane flights around the Bay, clothing, guided kayak trips, overnight stays at remote cabins, food items and fine dining, and art work. What a great way to do your holiday shopping and help raise funds for Friends of Merrymeeting Bay.

YOU CAN DONATE AUCTION ITEMS

Last year's auction was our biggest fundraising event of the year with more than seven thousand dollars in profits raised to support FOMB programs. This year we hope to do even better, but we need your help. To make this auction a success we need donations from you. Do you have a special talent you could teach others? Could you host a family at your cabin? Are you a good cook or a talented artist? Do you run a family business from which you could donate items? Do you have a pair of wooden skis sitting unused in your barn? Donations like these made our auction a success last year. To get you thinking, here are some items that members donated last year: guided fishing, canoe and kayak trips; skijoring, rock climbing, canoeing and horseback riding lessons; a day sail on Casco Bay with picnic lunch; Hungarian Christmas pastry; a stay in a downeast cottage and many other items. Last year our categories were: lodging near and far, services fun and useful, arts and crafts, fun outdoors, fun inside, gardening and other stuff you want and need. If you will donate an item or you have a friend who can please fill out the form below and return to us by **OCTOBER 27**. We will call you to arrange delivery or pick up. If the item can not be present at auction time (a gift of lessons for example) a card, certificate etc. signed by the donor describing the donation would be useful and avoids later confusion. Pictures of the donation also help to sell the item. If you have questions call FOMB at 666-3376 or Ed Friedman at 666-3372. Thank you for your generosity.

If you are a member, you will be receiving our auction catalog in the mail in November. Come join the fun and do your gift shopping with us!

FOMB 1997 Auction Donor Form
Return to FOMB, PO Box 233, Richmond, ME 04357 (**Deadline: Oct.27**)

Your Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone: _____

Item description	Minimum price (optional)	Fair market price
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		

Your donations qualify as tax deductible contributions to the extent allowed by law. If you solicit donations from others or need more room for descriptions, please copy the information on this form onto a separate sheet of paper.

FERC STAFF SAYS DAM MUST GO!

FINAL DECISION ON EDWARDS DAM EXPECTED THIS FALL

IN A MOVE THAT MADE NATIONAL HEADLINES, federal regulators have recommended that the Edwards Dam in Augusta be retired and completely removed.

"This is a giant step forward in our efforts to restore the Kennebec River," said Steve Brooke, project coordinator for the Kennebec Coalition, of which FOMB is a member. "This is the first time in our nation's history that removal has been recommended for an operating hydro-electric dam."

The news came July 28 in the form of the long awaited Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) prepared by staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The FERC report gave the following reasons for this unprecedented decision: "Based on our independent analysis, we conclude that retirement of the Edwards Project and removal of Edwards Dam would be best adapted to a comprehensive plan for improving or developing the waterway of the Kennebec River Basin. We base our recommendation primarily on the following factors:

1. The prescribed fishways are needed and appropriate, but the cost of installing them (about \$10 million) makes licensing the project 1.7 times more costly than retiring the project and removing the dam;
2. Removing the dam would allow shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, striped bass, and rainbow smelt access to the 17 miles of historic (pre-dam) spawning habitat between Edwards and Lockwood Dam;
3. Compared to licensing, project retirement and dam removal would result in an overall increase in wetland habitat, recreational boating, and fishing benefits;
4. Project retirement and dam removal should not result in any substantial adverse environmental or social effects and;
5. Project retirement and dam removal would be consistent with: a) all applicable comprehensive plans including the State of Maine's Comprehensive Management Plan for the



*Photo By Helen Boynton
The Kennebec River in Richmond, taken on a tour of the bay that was donated by Merrymeeting Aviation which she "won" at last year's FOMB auction.*

Kennebec River, b) state and federal fish and wildlife agency management goals and objectives for the Kennebec River Basin's anadromous fisheries, and c) the recommendations of the State of Maine and the state and federal fish and wildlife agencies."

The dam removal conclusion of the FEIS stands in sharp contrast to FERC's December 1995 draft EIS, which recommended a new long-term operating license for the Edwards Dam. Why the change at FERC? The 7,000 pages of expert analysis and information provided to FERC during the comment period by the Kennebec Coalition may have influenced this decision.

The staff recommendation for dam removal still must be confirmed by

FERC commissioners through a decommissioning order. The commissioners are not bound to the staff recommendation and may accept it, reject it, or ask for further work to be done on the FEIS. Commissioners are expected to issue their final ruling sometime this fall. The owners of the Edwards Dam have said they will challenge any dam removal order.

Steve Brooke, Kennebec Coalition

Comment: The Edwards Dam removal is far from certain. However, FOMB welcomes the FERC recommendation as a very positive step. As a member of the Kennebec Coalition we feel that our concerns have been heard at the Federal level.

HANDS AROUND THE BAY DIRECTORIES NOW AVAILABLE

TWO NEW DIRECTORIES, a Site Directory and a Community Resource Directory, are now available for educators in the MMB area. The Site Directory contains information about each public access site on the Bay including activities for students and site maps. The Resource Directory includes names of local experts on the Bay who are willing to talk with students, participate on field trips and visit schools. For more information call 666-3376.

Betsy Ham

WINTER SPEAKER SERIES - A LOOK BACK

NOW THAT FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY is beginning a new Winter Speakers Series it's a good time to reflect on last years series and some of the things we learned. Phil Henry attended two speaker series in February and March. The following is a summary of those events. To learn more about the Bay join FOMB at this years speakers series (see page 1 for details).

ANADROMOUS FISH CONTINUE THEIR COMEBACK IN MERRYMEETING BAY

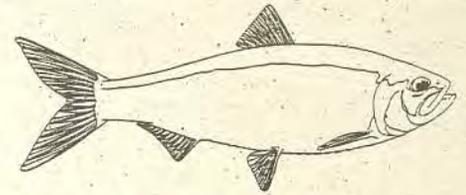
THE FEBRUARY WINTER SPEAKER SERIES speaker was Maine Department of Marine Resources scientist Tom Squires. Mr. Squires updated FOMB on efforts to restore the variety of anadromous fish found in the Kennebec River ecosystem. (An anadromous fish is a fish that is born in fresh water, spends most of its life in the sea and returns to fresh water to spawn.)

Squires said, "the Kennebec River system is unique in the state of Maine in that it is the only habitat in which all ten species of anadromous fish can be found." He added, "this habitat also represents an important spawning and nursery area for the majority of endemic anadromous fish species. These include the American shad, rainbow smelt, striped bass, shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon, and alewife." Although nearly wiped out earlier in the century, several species, including the American shad, rainbow smelt and alewife, are making dramatic comebacks through reduction of contamination of their spawning and nursery grounds, and better access between fresh and salt water.

A combination of industrial pollution, low dissolved oxygen levels, over fishing and man-made barriers (like Edwards Dam) contributed to the long decline in anadromous fish population from the late nineteenth century until the 1960's, Squires said. But new fish passageways, allowing both up- and-downstream travel, as well as significant reductions in chemical contamination, and increases in dissolved oxygen levels have helped reverse the long decline of this valuable resource.

Additionally, Marine Resources biologists augment the native American shad population by trapping adults

in the Connecticut River and trucking them to the upper levels of the Kennebec and Androscoggin Rivers, where they are released. Both the American shad and the alewife benefit from an agreement with hydroelectric operators to underwrite these trap-and-release programs until fish passageways are completed on the rivers. Striped bass have also been stocked on the Kennebec.



Alewife

In summary, Squires said, while there have been dramatic improvements in the preservation of Merrymeeting Bay's anadromous fish, more research needs to be done to determine the long-range effect of chemical contamination on their viability.

-Phil Henry, Brunswick

ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORIAN ED HAWES "ILLUMINATES" MERRYMEETING BAY'S EARLY YEARS

SPEAKING AT FOMB'S WINTER SPEAKER'S SERIES Environmental Historian Ed Hawes (assisted through the clever use of period props) traced the early years of Merrymeeting Bay through the words of travelers and diarists from the eighteenth to the early twentieth century.

Quoting from an Anglican minister writing in the 1760's, a "gentleman from South Carolina" in the 1820's, a local historian from the 1910's, and data from the Maine Register, Ed traced the shift in balance between nature and commerce. Until the Civil War, he said, there was a relative balance between economics and ecology, but after that new technologies, reliance on imported resources, and shifting values changed the earlier harmony.

The early chroniclers believed economic development led to improvement of the human condition, and they didn't romanticize the wilderness. For example, Anglican clergyman Jacob Bailey, writing in the 1760's, wrote of his "disgust and

horror" at the untamed natural surroundings, which he contrasted with praise for the "cultured" or controlled agricultural landscape.

By the late nineteenth century, however, there were problems with working conditions, sanitation and pollution, and the disinterest of absentee owners, which marked the end of the balance between nature and commerce. This lack of balance led to heavily polluted rivers, and a marked decrease in wildlife populations. Only recently, because of increased pollution awareness and control efforts, have there been signs of change. In the last couple of decades pollution has decreased in the Bay and many wildlife species are making a come back.

Ed noted that we now have a chance to restore the balance between ecology and economics. The choice is ours. He emphasized that environmental history is an ongoing process, and that the environmental history of Merrymeeting Bay is still being written.

-Phil Henry, Brunswick

SUMMER SUMMARY

FUN, FUNDRAISING AND FOOD were all on the agenda this summer as members and non-members alike got together for a series of events to celebrate, enjoy and learn more about the Bay.

The Strawberry Jam kicked off the summer with music and food for all. Thanks to the generous time donation of four excellent bands: The Big Chips Trio, The Maine Balalaika Band, Catharsis and The Blues Buzzards a good time was had by all. We were also out in the Strawberry fields of Prouts, Poppo and Green Point Farms giving out information on the Bay and selling Berry Raffle tickets. Thanks to these growers and all that donated time and raffle items to this event.

We helped organize and lead the next to last day of the Androscoggin River Source to the Sea Canoe Trek. Despite the cloudy threatening weather we attracted fourteen hardy souls for a paddle from the Brunswick boat landing out to Sturgeon Island and back to Pleasant Point.

Our Annual Meeting of the membership was held outside this year on the grounds of the historic Pownalborough Court House, built in

1761 in Dresden. Between tours of the court house, mouths full of food, and glimpses of the sun setting over the Kennebec we elected a new Steering Committee and revised our Bylaws. All the revisions listed in our summer newsletter passed. Copies of the revised Bylaws are available by calling 666-3376. Many of our Steering Committee members are back for another year. Thanks to Tad Hunter from Topsham who stepped down this year after many years of volunteering for Friends of Merrymeeting Bay and welcome to Steve Hammond from Bath and Susan Fides from Brunswick, our new Steering Committee members. We now have representation on our Steering Committee from all towns immediately surrounding the Bay.

In August we hosted, along with the Richmond Historical and Cultural Society, Catherine Petroski who read from her book *A Bride's Passage: Susan Hathorn's Year Under Sail* and Victoria Parks who sang traditional songs for us including her own "Banks of the Kennebec River". Dianne Salfas's paintings of Richmond Scenes were on display throughout. We all enjoyed the mixture of history and



entertainment.

We had thirty nine people, nearly half of them children, join us on Swan Island for our fourth annual Swan Island Summer Picnic and overnight. We all had fun exploring the island on foot and by guided truck tour, spotting wild turkey and deer, swimming and relaxing. The full moon lit our way to bed and pancakes greeted us in the morning. If you couldn't come this year join us next August for the fifth annual Swan Island Picnic, it's too much fun to miss!

We closed out our summer activities with a Mud Walk around Abagadasset point lead by botanist Dr. Barbara Vickery.

Summer is over but the fun's not. Join us at our Winter Speakers Series; *Merrymeeting Bay: A Sense of Place* by Frank Burroughs and Sally Butcher; and our Second Annual Auction all described in this newsletter.

Betsy Ham

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN DONATING a conservation easement we have materials that describe these benefits in detail. Currently FOMB holds two easements and is helping four other landowners to place conservation easements on their land in Woolwich, Dresden, Bowdoinham and Topsham. Generally, the process for donating a conservation easement to an eligible conservation organization such as FOMB contains the following steps:

A landowner who is interested in conserving special, natural features of his or her property contacts FOMB.

Representatives of FOMB meet with the landowner to answer questions and provide technical materials

to the landowner regarding the benefits and mechanics of donating a conservation easement.

The landowner reviews the materials, determines that a conservation easement is the right conservation tool for his or her needs and identifies the conservation goals for the property.

The landowner meets with FOMB representatives to discuss the conservation goals. If these goals and the property fall within the criteria for accepting conservation easements developed by FOMB, and the organization approves the conservation goals, a Conservation Plan is developed, and then a conservation easement is drafted.

The landowner reviews the draft

conservation easement with private counsel and develops a supporting deed description and plot plan. After final revisions and collection of baseline data, the landowner and FOMB sign the conservation easement and record it in the appropriate Registry of Deeds. The landowner is usually asked to make a donation to a stewardship fund to support the long-term monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement.

If the idea of a conservation easement interests you and you would like to learn more, contact FOMB to explore whether this effective land conservation mechanism is an option for you.

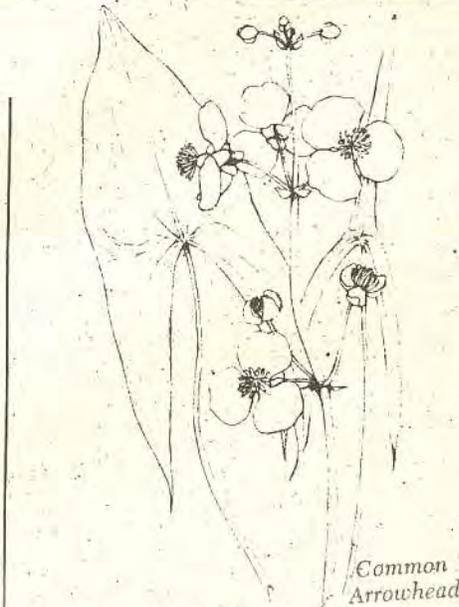
Prepared by Karin R. Tilberg, Esq.

TIDING / FALL

BY LATE SUMMER, lawns and roadsides are mangy, bleached-out, and ragged. The foliage of trees has not exactly begun to turn, but it looks weathered and brittle, like old leather. Greenness has seeped out of the pastures; gardens, no matter how hard you try, start to look, well, seedy—disreputable and unkempt. Birds are in their molt plumage—the ebullient bobolink of May and June has become as drab and furtive as a sparrow, and slips away without our even noticing.

But on the Bay, late summer and on through September is Prime Time. Wild rice and bullrushes never have to worry about drought and the parching sun—they are watered twice a day, from top to bottom, rain or shine. They have now reached their full growth, and are a deep, fresh green, with the lush succulence of a pasture in early June. The tasseled heads of the rice are filling out and getting heavy; they stir and nod in the least movement of the air.

This is the best possible season of the year to get a canoe or a kayak or a small boat and go and see the Bay for yourself. The best possible time of the day is early morning, and the best stage of the tide is the end of the ebb and the beginning of the flow. As the tide starts coming back, you can paddle, pole, row, or just drift up the guzzles, between walls of marsh higher



Common
Arrowhead

than your head. You can also wade, but a boat is better—it is silent, and does not disturb the smooth surface of the morning. If you are quiet and lucky, you may get a look at one of the shy birds that have marsh as their element, and look it: a Virginia rail, a sora, a bittern. It takes no luck at all to sit for a few minutes and watch the water sliding over the flats, advancing irregularly, in lobes and runnels, like batter spreading out on a hot griddle. Carp come in behind it, and you can see their wakes as they cruise the shallow, and their surprisingly limp tails and fins, floppy and indolent as a pig's ears above the surface of the water. They root and churn up mud and bits of vegetation; when approached too closely, or otherwise alarmed, they take off like torpedoes.

At night, all places seem to renew themselves, and put on a freshness and cleanness for the morning. You can sense this even in a city, if you walk through it at dawn. For the first hours of the morning, the Bay's renovation seems complete, and it is a place to itself, lying under a spell of silence. It seems even to have its own light and its own weather—thin, smoky mists to the east, a soft dampness in the air, a pale quilting of cloud overhead. Then a breeze rises from the west, and the first motorboat appears, headed hell-bent-for-leather for Popham and the deep blue sea, the sun burrs the sky clean, and the ordinary world reclaims the Bay. And then its time to go back to the landing and back to busy-ness.

Ducks are beginning to build up, reminding us that this optical illusion of springtime in August will now quickly give way to autumn. They signal the last concentrated rush of life, and then the emptying out, the closing down, and the coming of winter.

Frank Burroughs,

This column appears seasonally.

IF YOU ENJOY Frank Burroughs' column, Tidings, come join us for Frank's slide presentation **Merrymeeting Bay: A Sense of Place** featuring Sally Butcher's slides of the Bay (See page one for details).

THANK YOU!

THANKS TO LOTS OF VOLUNTEER TIME we were able to offer a lot of member activities this summer. I apologize if I forgot anyone, all your help is appreciated. For helping with the Berry Jam: Ester Locognata, Jean Parker and Bob Dale and their grandsons, Ed Friedman, Kate Cutko, Jean and Bill Fawcett, Tad Hunter, Linwood Rideout, Jay Robbins, Don and Joan Lipfert. A special thanks to Prouts, Popp and Green Point Farms for allowing us to set up displays in their fields and to the band members from The Big Chips

Trio, The Maine Balalaika Band, Catharsis and the Blues Buzzards who played for free at the Jam. Thanks to the Berry Raffle donors: Kate Cutko, John and Tenley Meara, Merrymeeting Aviation and Particular Produce Farm. Jay Robbins and Dianne Salfas helped make the Afternoon of History and Entertainment in Richmond a success. Thanks to the Trafton family for allowing us to land our canoes on their property for the Source to the Sea Trek. The Lincoln County Historical Association generously allowed us to use the Pownalborough Court House for our annual meeting and Maarten

Janssen and Amy Janssen-Brnnan gave us a wonderful tour. Peg Parsons and Jean Parker did a great job planning and buying the food for the Swan Island Summer Picnic. Thank you to Barbara Vickery for leading and doing the preparation for the mud walk and the Porters for allowing us to use their land for the walk. As always the Steering Committee helped on all events. Thanks you all for your wonderful support of FOMB this summer!

We need volunteers for the Auction! If you can help give Betsy Ham a call at 666-3376.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dorothy and Stanley Baker, Bowdoinham; The Bath Garden Club, Bath; Macky Bennett, Brunswick; Joan Brewer, Brunswick; David Cummiskey and Sarah Conly, Bowdoinham; Ruth Deike, Dresden; Ruth Ferrara, Brunswick; Helen Finlayson, Belfast; Edwin Gamble, Brunswick; David Hall, Richmond; John and Susan Holt, Seattle, WA; Susan Langley-Dyer, Randolph; Jack Linehan, Bailey Island; Mark McLam, Bath; Don Peckham, West Rockport; Gretchen Shaw, Brunswick; Carl Stinson, Arrowsic; John Tewhey, South Portland; Andrew Vavolotis, Lakeville, MA.

BEAUTIFUL CARDS OF THE BAY MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

THE CARDS OF THE BAY, with Sally Butcher's beautiful photos on the front and a quote from author Franklin Burroughs on the back, are available now. Frank and Sally are generously donating all profits from the sale of these cards to Friends of Merrymeeting Bay. A dozen cards costs \$12 and gives you a selection of 6 different photos; 3 different scenes of the Bay, a close up of a snapper turtle, ducks on the fly and flowers. They are

FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY

STEERING COMMITTEE

- Frank Burroughs, 81 Wallentine Rd., Bowdoinham 04008 666-5979
- Dana Cary, 1052 Foreside Rd., Topsham 04086 *Treasurer* ... 729-4945
- Susan Fides, 152 McKeen St., Apt A-3, Brunswick 04011 721-9764
- Ed Friedman 42 Stevens Rd., Bowdoinham 04008 *Chairman* ... 666-3372
- Steve Hammond, 1 Grove St., Bath 04530 442-8535
- Esther Lacognata, 19 Elm St., Topsham 04086 729-4088
- Don and Joan Lipfert, RR 1, Box 650, Woolwich 04579 443-8751
- Robert Lenna, P.O. Box 185, Bowdoinham 04008 666-8421
- Pat Maloney, 31 Bridge St., Topsham 04086 729-8941
- Tenley Meara, RR 1 Box 96, Topsham 04086 *Vice Chairman* ... 725-2738
- Jay Robbins, P.O. Box 9, Richmond 04357 737-2239
- Karin Tilberg, 9 Main St., Bowdoinham 04008 666-5902
- Warren Whitney, 145 Pork Pt. Rd., Bowdoinham 04008 *Secretary* ... 666-3376
- David Hunt, River Rd. #1105, Dresden 04342 737-2511

CONSERVATION & STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR:

Karin Tilberg, (see above) 666-5902

HANDS AROUND THE BAY COORDINATOR:

Pat Maloney (see above) 729-8941

SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR:

Jean Parker, Hockomock Island, RR 1 Box 1785, Woolwich 04579 442-0982

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Betsy Ham, 145 Pork Point Rd., Bowdoinham 04008 666-3376

truly beautiful! These make great Christmas gifts. To order your cards call Betsy at 666-3376.

Thank you to: Clancy Cummins for editing and Josephine Mussomeli for designing this issue of MMNews.

CORRECTION

In the DIOXIN UPDATE article in the Summer issue special thanks also to State Senator Sharon Treat for her support of Tom Bull's bill LD 1533.

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, P.O. Box 233, Richmond, Maine 04357

ANNUAL DUES **\$15.00**. Renewal

\$15.00 enclosed for individual membership. \$20 Family

\$30 Contributing \$50 Supporting \$100 Sponsoring \$250 Sustaining \$500+ Benefactor

\$ _____ enclosed as an additional tax-deductible donation.

NAME _____
 RR# OR STREET ADDRESS _____
 TOWN / STATE / ZIP _____
 PHONE _____

\$6.00 enclosed for a copy of ***Conservation Options: A Guide for Maine Landowners.*** (\$5 for the book, \$1 for postage)

HELPING FOMB MAY REDUCE YOUR TAXES

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW all cash contributions to FOMB are tax deductible but did you also know that we can accept other types of gifts which may help reduce your tax burden? Here are some examples of other ways you can give to FOMB:

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Depending on your personal financial situation a gift of a conservation easement to FOMB can reduce your estate, property and income taxes.

ESTATE PLANNING

There are a variety of estate planning vehicles which can benefit nonprofits such as FOMB. Conservation Easements mentioned above may assist you in the planning of your estate and reduce your estate taxes if a significant portion of your income is

tied up in land. Wills and bequests are another tool in estate planning which can benefit FOMB. If you would like to put FOMB in your will, consult your lawyer or call us for some suggested wording.

GIFTS OF STOCK

Certain appreciated stocks can be significant gifts to FOMB. These gifts may, at the same time, allow you to claim an income tax deduction and/or eliminate the capital gains taxes you would have paid if you had sold the appreciated stock.

All these potential tax savings options greatly benefit FOMB by allowing us to continue to work towards our mission of preserving, protecting and improve the unique ecosystems of Merrymeeting Bay. How they benefit you will depend on your personal financial situation. If you are



interested in pursuing any of these options consult your financial advisor. We would be happy to provide you with more information by calling 666-3376. Thank you for your generous support.



**FRIENDS of
MERRYMEETING BAY**

P.O. Box 233 • Richmond, Maine 04357

Return Service Requested

ANNUAL AUCTION DEC. 10TH

See page 1

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1
Dresden, ME