

Merrymeeting News

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

SUMMER 1998

*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 and public 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, toxics, fisheries restoration.

1998 Steering Committee

Frank Burroughs, Bowdoinham
Dana Cary, Topsham
Ed Friedman, Bowdoinham
Steve Hammond, Bath
Kathleen Kenny, 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

On-Line

<http://www.col.k12.me.us/mmb/fomb@gwi.net>

EDWARDS DAM IS HISTORY!!



see article "160-Year-Old Wrong Righted" on pg 4

SUMMER FUN CALENDAR

TOUR OF THE COFFIN WILD FLOWER SANCTUARY

Representatives of the Wild Flower Society who own the Sanctuary and Friends of Merrymeeting Bay who maintain the trails will meet to tour the Sanctuary. This is a great chance for you to tour the area with those who know the Sanctuary and its flora and fauna. Please join us!

WHEN: Thursday July 9 at 10 a.m.

WHERE: Meet at the Sanctuary at the Junction of Chops Point Rd. and Rt. 128 in Woolwich. From Rt. 1 take Rt. 127 then Rt 128 a little over seven miles north.

THE ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER CANOE TREK

The Source to the Sea Canoe Trek begins on June 27 at Umbagog Lake and reaches Merrymeeting Bay on July 14. FOMB will lead the Bay section of the trip which will begin in Brunswick. In the morning we will canoe to Chops Point School on East Chops Point where we will have lunch and talk about the Bay. In the afternoon those that wish will continue down the Kennebec on the Maritime Museum's boat (see event below). Please pre-register by calling Betsy Ham at 666-3376. For information on the rest of the Trek including the paddle from Bath to Fort Popham on July 15 and the end of Trek celebration call Bob Collins at (207) 782-2302.

WHEN: Tuesday July 14. Meet at 8 a.m. start canoeing at 8:30 a.m.

WHERE: Meet at the Brunswick boat launch at the end of Water St.

BOAT RIDE TO AND TOUR OF THE MAINE MARITIME MUSEUM

As part of the Source to the Sea Canoe trek all those interested will have the opportunity to take a guided tour down the Kennebec from East Chops Point in the Maine Maritime Museum's lobster boat. You will dock at the Maine Maritime Museum for a tour of the Museum, then you will be shuttled back to your cars. You need not participate in the canoeing part of the trek to join us for this part of the trip! There is no charge for this event but donations are welcome. Space is limited. You must call Betsy to pre-register at 666-3376.

WHEN: Tuesday July 14 at 1 p.m. to join us for lunch meet at 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: The dock at Chops Point School, East Chops Point in Woolwich

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

FOMB IS NOW 244 MEMBERS STRONG. Thank you to the members who responded to our appeal in the Spring Newsletter by signing up new members or suggesting names to us. You can help us reach 300 members by the end of this year! First if you have not already done so renew your membership. We send everyone reminders when your membership has expired. Save us multiple mailings and respond promptly. Thanks—each member is important to us. Next you can ask your neighbor, hunting partner, bike buddy, fellow bird watcher—you name it—to become a member. Tell them that individual membership is only \$15. For that they will receive four great newsletters telling them about events and happenings around the Bay and the satisfaction that they are doing their part to preserve, protect and

improve the Bay. If you are a shy person send us some names and we will mail out our brochure to them. Your friends, however, are more likely to listen to you; a note or recommendation from you is much more likely to increase membership than any of our mailings. If you need membership material call Betsy at 666-3376 and she will mail them to you. Just think, if each one of you recruited just one friend we could have almost 500 members by the end of the year!

A big thank you to the following members and supporters who have joined FOMB so far in 1998:

Elizabeth P. Wilson, Arrowsic
Kathleen McGee, Bath
Michael Palmer, Bowdoinham
Daniel Smaha, Bowdoinham

Ron Franklin, Bowdoinham
Piers Beirne, Bowdoinham
Tim Belcher, Bowdoinham
Robert and Nancy Curtis, Bowdoinham
James R Vitelli, Bowdoinham
Jeanne and Nick Knobil, Bowdoinham
Merrymeeting Farm, Bowdoinham
Theresa Torrent-Ellis, Bowdoinham
John Walchi, Bowdoinham
Dan Stockford and Maura McHugh, Bowdoinham
Kristen White, Brunswick
Charlotte Agell and Peter Simmons, Brunswick
Trevor and Susan Hunt, Topsham
Bob Edson, Woolwich
Charles R. Niehaus Fund, Dayton Ohio
Elizabeth Ehrenfeld, Falmouth
Cindy Whitney; Lee, New Hampshire
James and Martha Coles, S. Harpswell
Ellen Asherman, Yarmouth

KINGFISHER STUDY UNDERWAY ON THE BAY

SEEN ANY BELTED KINGFISHERS LATELY? This is the question the researchers from the BioDiversity Research Institute in Freeport have been asking folks around the Bay. The Research Insti-

tute has been funded by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to study bioaccumulative contaminants, including mercury, in kingfishers and the fish kingfishers eat in the Bay area. By taking blood samples from kingfishers the Institute is trying to determine the exposure to contaminants of birds higher up the food chain and the exposure of the fish they eat. By sampling this one indicator species the Institute hopes to better understand the potential risk from contaminants in Merrymeeting Bay. The kingfisher is a good species to study as it eats primarily fish and crawfish, hunts in a relatively small area so one can determine basically where they are catching their fish, and lives in burrows that are easily accessible. So far

the researchers have found three burrows around the Bay—two on the Kennebec and in a nearby gravel pit. They have captured these birds, taken blood and feather samples and released them back to their burrows. They are also painting each captured bird under their wings so they can observe their territory. If you see a kingfisher that has been painted note where it is fishing, and the date and time of day you saw it, then call us at 666-3376 to report your find. If you know of a kingfisher burrow or see a kingfisher regularly on a particular stretch of river also let us know. When the study is completed and the result analyzed the researches have promised to give us a



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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.



Belted Kingfisher

TIDINGS / SUMMER

Red foxes are astonishingly adaptable, inhabiting North America and Eurasia from the tundra and the taiga of the arctic, through the temperate zone, to the rain forests and deserts of the tropics. But they show up so early in our lives, in nursery rhymes, fables, ballads, picture books, and cartoons, that we are likely to think of them first and foremost as sharing an imaginary terrain with princesses, goblins, fairy godmothers, and Uncle Remus. They claim, and are claimed by, the magic and moralism of childhood stories and folklore.

In the stories, they outsmart everybody, sometimes even themselves. They smooth-talk gullible poultry and outfox the vindictive, hard-bitten farmer and his oafish hounds. Their bodies are soft and feline, their fur is as luxurious as the feathered boa thrown across a starlet's shoulders, and their black-stocking feet are dainty and delicate. But their faces are sharp, pinched, and full of predatory guile.

They are not, however, to be confused with dragons, wolves, or bears. They do not enter fiction from the primal past, as creatures of the deep forest, the hidden cavern, or the desolate fens and moorlands that we have stocked with our own nightmares and atavistic terrors. Instead, they skulk around barnyards, hen-houses, and rabbit hutches the way that pick-pockets, hustlers, scalpers, and shysters hang around country fairs and fancy resorts. We have a sneaking fondness for such sneaky fellows, and stories about foxes generally allow them to triumph, or to suffer nothing worse than a temporary embarrassment.

In the fields around Bowdoinham, or scurrying across roads, I see foxes from time to time, but not often enough to take them for granted. In spring and early summer, when they are feeding their young, they can be surprisingly bold. Two Aprils ago a big male took to showing up regularly in our yard, trotting over to inspect the hen-house. The hens were securely penned, but his appearance would set them off like so many car alarms. Considerably less than a big fox staring balefully into the pen can persuade a flock of chickens that the sky is falling in, and, once persuaded of a danger, chickens, like politicians and journalists, invest a great deal of their sense of self-importance in competitively proclaiming and denouncing it. The squawking got to be a predictable sort of afternoon interruption, an emergency update, a late-breaking bulletin you could just about set your watch by.

This spring, I've several times seen the vixen out mousing in our fields, and one blustery afternoon I stalked her. She was facing into the wind, standing as stock-still as a heron on a riverbank, staring intently into the grass about three feet in front of her. I edged closer, coming in from behind and downwind. She made no movement I was able to detect for nearly four minutes, by which time I was within forty yards of her and was standing still myself. Then she sat down, still staring at the spot. Eventually she lay down, although with her head still up and her attention still fixed, her ears cocked forward. She never glanced around, but



would occasionally swivel her ears—sometimes one, sometimes the other, sometimes both at the same time—until they pointed straight back at me, although she was still facing forward. Finally, she gave it up, rose, and trotted over toward the hedgerow. She saw me then, but as I remained still, she couldn't decide what to make of me. She broke into a leisurely, buoyant lope, as though it were important to her to mask her anxiety with an insouciant, self-flaunting grace.

And then last week I was walking toward the barn, looking idly down the road, and there was a single cub, headed my way. I stood still again, and was invisible to him. Everything about his body language said that he was lost—the way his ears were laid back, the droop of his tail, the nervous, tentative way he would trot and stop, look from side to side, then trot onward again. Every child has known that state—of being lost or having lost something, and of being so worried that you can scarcely see what you are looking at or where you are.

He got to the barn and disappeared behind the near corner of it. It occurred to me that he might follow along under the eaves of the barn, so I went to the opposite corner, waited a minute, then cautiously stuck my head around the corner. He was ten feet away, still coming onward but walking now, perhaps feeling a little safer with the bulk of the barn sheltering one flank. I withdrew my head and stood, and he came around the corner and there were my boots in front of him. He did not look up at all. He only saw something in his way, so he side-stepped it.

I think then he must have caught a scent. He stopped.

He was beside me, about a foot away from my right boot. He turned, put his nose to within an inch

of my ankle, and sniffed at it distractedly. It wasn't what he was looking for—its smell told him nothing about the whereabouts of his mother or himself. His fur looked fluffy and dry-cleaned, like a kitten's. His tail wasn't plumed out yet, and his muzzle, legs, and feet were puppyish—blunter and shorter and thicker than they would be when he had become a full-fledged fox.

A fox is about as wild as anything can be, but his distress at being thus temporarily orphaned was so plainly evident that I felt a strong urge to pat him or pick him up or speak to him. Of course I didn't—the last thing he needed now was to be panicked entirely out of his wits, and I had no particular need, unless to convince myself I wasn't dreaming, of having him sink his little needle teeth into my hand.

He went around the next corner of the barn. I waited a moment and followed. Now he was back in the road again, headed away from me. And further down the road was the vixen, sitting and looking at both of us. He did not see her, and turned off into the fields, but I felt sure they would find each other later.

There was no moral to the story, but enough magic to make this spring—the hungry, urgent, risky season—stand slightly apart, as though to say that it should not be allowed to merge into all the other springs that have come down the road and into the yard in Bowdoinham.

Frank Burroughs

Tidings is a regular feature of Merrymeeting News

160-YEAR-OLD WRONG RIGHTED

On May 26 Maine made history by signing an agreement which will ensure the removal of Edwards Dam thus opening up 17 miles of spawning habitat to many species of anadromous fish including striped bass, Atlantic salmon, Atlantic sturgeon and the endangered short nosed sturgeon. As Brownie Carson, director of the Natural Resource Council of Maine reflected, "The sturgeon have been in this river for 50 million years relatively unchanged. For the past 160 years they could not get above Augusta, now they can go back to their ancestral home".

In a signing ceremony which included Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, the heads of many environmental and sporting groups including American Rivers and Trout Unlimited, present and past governors and all of the congressional delegation to name a few, Senator Olympia Snow noted that the Dam's removal would be the, "Culmination to a commitment to leave a better Maine for future generations". Bruce Babbitt commented that, "You will look back and rejoice in the fact that you were present at the beginning of an historic chapter [in Maine and the Nations history]". Babbitt noted that we have started to say yes to the question, "Can we live a little more lightly on the land and watersheds?"

The agreement signed at the ceremony stipulates that Edwards manufacturing will transfer the entire dam facility to the State of Maine. A fund of \$7.25 million contributed by Bath Iron Works and the Kennebec Hydro Developers Group (all private sources) will be used to remove the dam and embark upon a fisheries restoration project for the Kennebec. This fund will be managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Bath Iron Works made a 2.5 million dollar contribution towards Dam removal as part of the mitigation plan that is required by state and federal agencies in connection with the shipyard's planned 17-acre expansion into the



Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt addresses the gathering

Kennebec River. The Kennebec Hydro Developers Group put 4.75 million into the fund in exchange for delays in the required installation of fish passage at seven hydropower facilities on the Kennebec River and its tributaries upstream from Augusta.

After all the speeches were over FOMB members attended a lunch where the true heroes of the day, the members of the Kennebec Coalition of which Friends of Merrymeeting Bay has been a long time supporter, celebrated. We are truly indebted to the members of the Kennebec Coalition; American Rivers, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Natural Resources Council of Maine and Trout Unlimited for making the removal of Edwards Dam possible.

With the dam's removal, scheduled for completion during the fall of 1999, the Kennebec will become the longest stretch of anadromous fish spawning habitat north of the Hudson. How will this change effect Merrymeeting Bay? First and foremost it will make the valuable habitat of the Bay even more valuable as the numbers of fish that pass through and spawn here increase.

Dam removal will allow the Bay to sustain an active sports fishery with a wide variety and increased quantities of sports fish passing through the area. The presence of large numbers of anglers should in turn add to the economic well being of area towns. FOMB needs to be prepared for the increased use of the Bay and accompanying stress on the wetland habitat and surrounding upland. FOMB intends to do just that by continuing its water quality programs, working with willing landowners to protect their land using conservation easements, and educating children and adults alike about the importance of the Bay. We must in the words of Brownie Carson, "Keep vigil together now over the Kennebec River and over the ecological health of the River from here to the Sea".

FOMB SPRING CLEANUP

by Ed Friedman

May 16 was a beautiful spring day for our annual cleanup. Those that came pitched in and did a great job. Most of the Bowdoinham debris came from a dump site (one of the costs of a pay-per-bag trash collection system) but the shores were in great shape. We picked up 6 tires on a particular stretch of shore, where in the last two years we collected

on the order of 50 and 70 tires. I believe that having cleaned up the historical accumulation in the previous two years we are now dealing with more moderate maintenance levels, which is great! Litter in Butler Cove continues to be a constant problem—probably compounded by easy vehicular access.

Total yields for the day: approximately 34 man-hours (9 people), 42 bags of trash, 41 tires and some miscellaneous items, yielding an estimated weight of 2100 pounds. Many thanks to all who helped: John Ferdico and his son Rocky, Betsy Ham, Warren Whitney, Nina and Holly Whitney, Theresa Torrance-Ellis, Kate and Andy Cutko, Anne Hammond.

Rocky Dava dr

FIFTH ANNUAL SWAN ISLAND SUMMER PICNIC

AUGUST 15-16

EXPLORE AND CELEBRATE SWAN ISLAND with us on FOMB's fifth annual Summer Picnic. We are planning many exciting events including tours of Swan Island by foot, truck, kayak and canoe, wild-life watching, plant identification, overnight camping, star gazing and, of course, good food and good company. You may join us for the day on Saturday or camp overnight.

Meet at the State Dock in Richmond at 9:30 AM to register and meet the rangers. Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) personnel will pick up all those interested in riding the launch to the island and transport everyone's gear to the camping area at 10 AM on Saturday. Many of us will be paddling to the campsite, leaving the State Dock at 10 AM. You are welcome to join us. After a pot luck lunch and an orientation meeting we will join the IF&W staff for a tour of the island by truck. For those that wish, there will be plenty of time to tour the island by canoe or kayak or hike on the nature trails. Day guests will need to be flexible about departure times as this will depend on what else the IF&W staff is doing on that day, but they will depart sometime before dinner. Our overnight guests will join together for a social hour and pot luck dinner. After dinner you can look forward to a campfire, songs and star gazing. There will be plenty of time on Sunday to enjoy the Island. We plan to depart about 1 PM. If you cannot be flexible about your departure time the best thing to do is to paddle your own boat to the

island so you can leave when you like. If you can't do this, let FOMB know in advance so we can try to arrange specific IF&W ferry times for you. We will try our best to accommodate your schedule but try to be as flexible as you can because there are a limited number of rangers on the island and they have many jobs to do.



drawing by Charlotte Agell

This is a great opportunity to get to know other FOMB members and their guests. Families with children are encouraged to come and enjoy this beautiful area. Last year we had fifteen children and they

all had a grand time. Is there something special you would like to do while you are on the island? Something you'd like to hear talked about? Let us know, we may be able to organize it for you.

Please register in advance by cutting out and mailing in the attached form by August 12. Late registration may be available by phone at 666-3376 but space is limited so try to register early. Because we have to pay Swan Island for each individual person (they don't have a family rate) we have changed the rates a bit from last year so that we break even on the expenses of the trip. If you cancel after August 12 we will request that you donate part of your refund to FOMB to pay for the expense of organizing the event.

Bring a dish to share for lunch if you are coming for either the day or overnight. For those spending the night bring a dessert, salad, or something else to share for dinner, your own breakfast and your own utensils, plates etc. Everyone should come prepared for the usual sun, bugs, rain and coolness. IF&W will provide water and firewood. FOMB will provide beans and hot dogs Saturday night and a crackling group fire. There are 10 Adirondack lean-tos, each sleeping 4-6 people but we recommend you bring your own tent or a lean-to bug net (yes they make them) to keep the bugs out of your sleeping area. The Picnic will happen rain or shine so come prepared. We look forward to seeing you there!

5th Annual Swan Island Summer Picnic

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

I/we would like to attend the SUMMER PICNIC and events on Saturday, August 15.
\$ 6 per person / \$ 18 per family # of people: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

I/we would like to attend the SUMMER PICNIC & CAMP OVERNIGHT Sat & Sun Aug. 15 - 16.
\$ 12 per person / \$ 30 per family # of people: _____ Amount enclosed: _____
(For families larger than 4 persons add \$5.00 per each additional family member.)

I would like to join Friends of Merrymeeting Bay. Enclosed \$ 15 annual dues.

I enclose \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____ as a tax-deductible contribution to FOMB.

Please make checks payable to
Friends of Merrymeeting Bay.

Your Name(s)

Address

State/ZIP

Phone

HANDS AROUND THE BAY FIELD DAY A SUCCESS

The windy conditions, heavy cloud cover and an occasional drizzle did not deter teachers and students busy learning more about Merrymeeting Bay on the site visits held June 9th. The Hands Around the Bay FOMB sponsored invitation to schools from around the Bay brought out eleven teachers and about 55 elementary students to explore and collect data about the various habitats at Baxter Forest, Topsham; Coffin Wildflower Sanctuary, Woolwich; Merrymeeting Wildlife Management Area, Bowdoinham; and Butler Head, Bath. The Swan Island visit had to be canceled at the very last minute due to high winds but we hope to have teachers scheduled to explore this area with us in the Fall.

At each site a guide led the students through the various ecological systems and encouraged observational skills. With the help of the guides, children recorded long lists of flora, collected samples of leaves, identi-

fied bugs and learned about human impact at the sites.

Enthusiastic reports from all participants suggest the need for continuing similar activities in the future. During the summer our committee will review all collected data and comments and enter information on the FOMB web site. Participating schools will be sent the summary. Schools and teachers that participated on June 9th received gift memberships to FOMB.

Thanks to our guides, Kevin Doran, Karin Tilberg, Linwood Rideout, Mark Milam, Joyce Stevens, Ed Friedman, Don Lipfert, Anne Hammond and Tenley Meara. We had a successful and fun afternoon because of their knowledge and interest in Merrymeeting Bay.

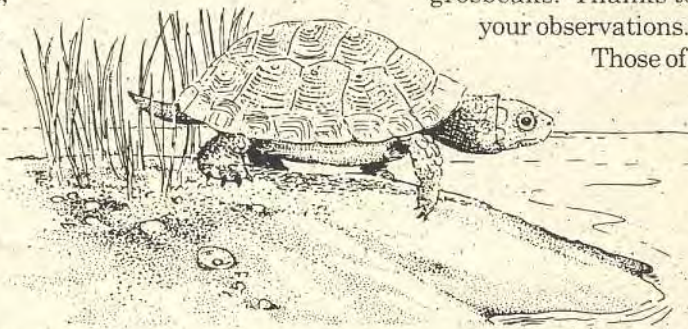
Pat Maloney
Hands Around the Bay Coordinator



A student from Jordan Acres School in Brunswick observing the flowers at Merrymeeting Wildlife Management Area in Bowdoinham

SIGHTINGS

As Spring turns to Summer our seasonal visitors have moved north not to be seen again until Fall while the rest of our bird population has settled into the serious business of raising families. Consequently, the clamor maybe a little subdued on the Bay but, as our members report, there are still lots of opportunities to observe wildlife. Ginny and Jim Conklin report seeing the following from their camp on Green Wing Cove Road in Bowdoinham: nine bald eagles sitting on mounds of mud at low tide, 3 great black-backed gulls, 6 pairs of common mergansers, many black ducks, wild turkey and a common loon. They also sighted a seal on four occasions in front of their camp along with kit foxes, deer and a beaver. They write, "This spring has been so full of wildlife. We have not seen this many birds and waterfowl in many years". That's good to hear. Jay Robbins from Richmond reported seeing 25 cedar waxwings in an apple tree near his house and a male fisher cat crossing the road one early morning in Bowdoinham. He also helped two painted turtles cross the road and saw one who didn't make it. Snapping turtles are starting to lay their eggs along the Abagadasset and Muddy. Carol Jack from Topsham reports seeing a pair of nesting bald eagles and observed two



Snapping Turtle

young on the nest using her scope. She has also seen many Osprey nesting and flying over the Androscoggin. One day she saw six flying over the river. She has also seen the following in the Androscoggin Area: northern harrier, kestrels, merlin, pileated woodpeckers, ruffed grouse, great blue herons, kingfishers, spotted and solitary sandpipers, alder flycatchers, kingbirds, bobolinks, brown creepers, winter wren, cliff swallows nesting at Ft. Andross, wood duck with young and rose breasted grosbeaks. Thanks to all of you who sent or called in your observations.

Those of you who attended Peter Vickery's talk on Birds of Merrymeeting Bay (the last lecture in our speakers series this year) will perhaps be inspired to get out on the Bay and watch for birds. He characterized the Abagadasset Bridge on Browns Point Rd. as one of the best places in Maine to spot different species of ducks especially in March. Remember that next spring! For now, as summer comes into full swing, keep an eye out for birds and other critters as you get out and enjoy the Bay and let us know what you see. Send or call in your observations by September first to get into the next newsletter.

Betsy Ham

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to Kate Cutko, Joan Lipfert and Jean Parker for shopping and helping FOMB host the reception at Maine Coast Heritage Trust's Conference for Maine Land Conservation. Thanks also to Borealis Bread and SHOP N SAVE for donating food for the event. Bob Edson (a new member—thanks for joining), Jean Parker, Bob Dale and Don Lipfert cleared the Coffin Wild Flower Sanctuary trails this year from ice storm damage. Thanks! Thanks to all the clean-up crew (see article, pg. 4) for helping with the Bay clean up this year. Thank you to Lindwood Rideout and Ed Friedman for taking researchers out on the Bay to find kingfishers. Thanks to Pat Maloney and all of those who made Hands Around the Bay Day possible (see article, pg. 6).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WATER QUALITY STUDY

IN AUGUST THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION will be taking water samples in the Kennebec from Gardner to Abagadasset point for chemical analysis. They need volunteers to help on the boats and to run water samples up to the Augusta Labs for testing. If you can help for all or part of a day call Betsy at 666-3376.

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
- Ed Friedmar 42 Stevens Rd., Bowdoinham 04008 .. *Chairman* 666-3372
- Steve Hammond, 1 Grove St., Bath 04530 442-8535
- Kathleen Kenny, River Rd. #1105, Dresden 04342 737-2511
- Esther Lacognata, 19 Elm St., Topsham 04086 729-4088
- Don and Joan Lipfert, 1108 River Rd., 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

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

Thank you to: Clancey Cummings for editing and David Hansen for designing this issue of MMNews.



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)

RESEARCH PROJECTS LAUNCHED ON THE BAY

Using FOMB's recently completed report Merrymeeting Bay: An Environmental Review as a guide, the Steering Committee agreed to focus its research efforts for the near future on three important areas: study of water movement, toxins, and the changes in quantity and quality of aquatic and upland vegetation. Water movement was chosen because it is probably the most fundamental and significant factor in determining plant growth and distribution, wildlife habitat and feed, sediment deposition, erosion and contaminant distribution. The study of toxins in sediments will help us learn more about the health of the fish and wildlife who depend on the Bay for food.

Finally, the quality and quantity of aquatic vegetation will allow us to better understand the over-all health of the Bay. We need a active committee to coordinate and oversee all future activities. If you would like to be a part of this important committee please give Betsy a call at 666-3376.



Drawing by Sarah Stapler

CALENDAR

(con't from first page)

SWAN ISLAND SUMMER PICNIC

Don't miss our fifth annual picnic and overnight on Swan Island. You may join us for the day on Saturday or camp overnight. Space on the Island is limited, please register in advance (registration form on page 5) by August 12.

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, August 15 and 16. Meet Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: The State Dock in Richmond to take the launch or paddle.



FRIENDS of
MERRYMEETING BAY

P.O. Box 233, Richmond, ME 04357
Return Service Requested

ANNUAL SWAN ISLAND PICNIC

See page 5

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