

Merrymeeting News

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

SPRING 2003

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

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Support comes from members' tax-deductible donations and grants.

Education

Hands Around the Bay, Speaker Series, field trips.

Conservation & Stewardship

Protecting natural resources through private and public ownership, easements and stewardship.

Membership Events

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.

2003 Steering Committee

Frank Burroughs, Bowdoinham
Dee and Clancy Cummins, Richmond
Steve Eagles, Dresden
Ed Friedman, Bowdoinham
DeWitt John, Brunswick
Kathleen McGee, Bowdoinham
Bill Milam, Woolwich
Leon Ogrodnik, Harpswell
Steve Pelletier, Topsham
Steve Taylor, Bowdoinham
Peter Vickery, Richmond

On-Line

<http://knox.link75.org/mmb/>
fomb@gwi.net

NEWS FROM AUGUSTA

A Cleaner Kennebec !

As many of you remember, FOMB has, for a number of years, worked towards an upgrade of the Kennebec River water classification from "C" to "B" on the segment from Augusta to Abbagadasset Point. Formal upgrades are important in that they serve to protect the river quality from backsliding once the water quality has improved. This language in the legislation is known as the anti-degradation clause and the only possible reversal is through a very rigorous process that must be adhered to should a downgrade be proposed. The Kennebec has in recent years improved substantially with the closure of several mills and with the removal of Edwards Dam.

The two measurable criteria used in evaluating classification are dissolved oxygen [DO] and Escherichia coli bacteria of human origin [E. coli]. Our monitoring program has collected DO data on this section of river for the past four years and we used these data to support our most recent reclassification proposal. While our DO data supported the upgrade, bacteria discharges from the Augusta Sanitation District are in excess of what they should be and this threatened the proposal when it arrived at the legislative committee on Natural Resources in the form of a bill having already successfully passed through the Department of Environmental Protection [DEP] and their governing body the Board of Environmental Protection [BEP]. The argument was made that without complete compliance an upgrade would not be justified. FOMB countered with the fact the courts have ruled that reclassification and permitting **must** be used together to improve water quality and that "**classification is goal oriented as required by the federal Clean Water Act**".

In a major outreach effort led by FOMB Steering Committee member Leon Ogrodnik, organizations including the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Saco River Salmon Club, York County Audubon, Maine People's Alliance, Friends of Casco Bay, Trout Unlimited and the Atlantic Salmon Federation were contacted and asked to request their members to contact legislators who were undecided.

It was a tough fight in committee but in the end we persevered and the Natural Resources Committee voted ought to pass on a bill that included our segment. A compromise was reached whereby the bill would get support if the Augusta treatment plant would have until 2009 or license renewal [whichever comes later] to achieve compliance with residual chlorine and bacteria discharge limits.

Special thanks are due to Leon, the various organizational allies and their members who weighed in. Also, extra thanks to Nick Bennett, staff scientist at the Natural Resources Council of Maine, Dave Courtemanch at the DEP who led the reclassification effort with modeling assistance from David Miller, and to our volunteer monitors.

On June 20 and 21 the full House and Senate approved the legislation and it was "**Passed to be Enacted**". Every so often we win one.

Strange Bedfellows

In an unusual cooperative effort FOMB, the Maine Toxics Action Coalition
con't on pg 6

BAY DAY, SPRING 2003

Success can be judged in a number of ways. If the criterion is weather, FOMB's Bay Day at Chop Point School on Tuesday, May 20th, was a success. It was a sunny and warm spring day, unlike the previous year when the event was cancelled because of rain. If how many children got their shoes muddy is a criterion, the day was a success. If the smiles on the faces of 192 4th graders as they headed home are a criterion, Bay Day definitely was a success.

This year's spring Bay Day was a success because about 200 children from five elementary schools had an opportunity to learn about Merrymeeting Bay. Learning occurred in a "hands on" atmosphere that encouraged the asking of questions and the seeking of answers. In a relatively short span of time the students were exposed to a wide variety of aspects of the Bay and the Bay's surroundings. These aspects included identifying the varieties of plants to be found in three different environments—a marsh, a meadow, and a woodlands setting. Other students spotted tiny birds hidden in the upper branches of trees, and, through a telescope, observed a mature bald eagle sitting in a nest. Some built a model of the Bay and the six rivers that run into it and then ran water through the model to observe the flow of water into and out of the Bay. Groups of students carefully scraped the earth at an archaeological dig on a house site built in the early 18th century. Artifacts were found, including bricks, an old English coin, arrowheads,



Peter Vickery helps students spot a bald eagle nest across the Bay. Photo by Ed Friedman

and the outline of a 300-year-old shovel. Young artists learned about the Bay's wildlife by drawing pictures of several stuffed "critters," including a sturgeon, owl, otter and fisher. At the water's edge, students used a small seine to help survey juvenile fish populations, identifying what was caught. Still others examined both the shore and water along the Bay to determine what ancient people could have used for food, shelter and clothing. Throughout the different presentations students were eager and observant; vital elements in a learning process that went on countless times throughout the day.

All of this would not have happened without the superb work of the large group of volunteers, both members and non-members of FOMB. The group included eleven people who gave presentations, ten other individuals who acted as chaperones and thirteen high school

students from Richmond who assisted the chaperones. All of the volunteers did a great job. The presenters were the core of the educational program. These knowledgeable individuals put a great deal of effort into the preparation of their programs.

The 4th grader students came from five schools, Marcia Buker, Richmond; Hawthorne, Brunswick; Woodside, Topsham; Chop Point School, Woolwich; and Harpswell Islands School, Harpswell. Fourth graders from other schools will be invited for the next Bay Day. FOMB schedules Bay Day twice a year, with this year's fall session planned for the Merrymeeting Bay Wildlife area in Bowdoinham near the end of September. Our yearly goal is to have 4th graders from every school near the Bay attend either the spring or fall Bay Day.

By Clancy Cummins

Spring 2003
Vol 13, No 2
June, 2003



Merrymeeting News

is the newsletter of Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, P.O. Box 223, Richmond, Maine 04357, and is published seasonally.

Merrymeeting News is sent to FOMB members and other friends of the Bay. For information call Ed Friedman, Chair, at 666-3372.

Many thanks to: Richard Nickerson, Frank Hayward, Frank Burroughs, Jay Robbins, Leon Ogradnik, Anne Hammond, Ed Friedman, Susan Blair, Clancy Cummins, Libby Crosby, Bill Milam, Steve Eagles, David Stuntz, Peter Vickery, Tracy Gregoire, Jean Briggs, Bill Briggs, Steve Pelletier, David Chipman, Carol Dyer, Jason Bartlett, Anita-Ann Jerosch, Richmond High School student chaperones, Chop Point School for hosting us and all participating teachers, students, and school chaperones.

FOUR LEGS KEEP FOMB STEADY

At a retreat in early May, FOMB's Steering Committee unanimously reaffirmed the organization's commitment to a multi-pronged strategy for protecting and preserving Merrymeeting Bay. Friends of Merrymeeting Bay is a unique organization because it straddles the traditional boundaries that divide land conservation organizations from researchers, educators, and environmental advocacy groups. Our pluralistic focus allows us to use a wide variety of tools and strategies to protect the Bay.

We must understand Merrymeeting Bay in order to protect it. FOMB has supported research on and about the Bay for many years. In 1999, we began our own volunteer water-quality monitoring program on the Bay and the Kennebec River, and are working to expand the program up the Androscoggin. We've also mapped development around the Bay, and joined forces with archeologists, college professors, and others studying the Bay and its environs. Like all of FOMB's work, our research projects were conducted by leveraging financial contributions from our members with volunteer time and expertise to attract sizable philanthropic grants and college, state, or federal resources.

FOMB also works to educate area residents and policy makers about the unique ecosystem of Merrymeeting Bay. Our web site (found at <http://knox.link75.org/mmb/>) contains a great library of reports, publications, and other information. FOMB's Resource Directory – recently updated and distributed to area schools – provides teachers with many contacts who are willing to visit classrooms to share their particular knowledge about the Bay. Over the past two years, our Education Committee developed a complete curriculum about Merrymeeting Bay and distributed it to teachers. The centerpiece of FOMB's education work is our biennial "Bay Day," which brings up to 250 fourth graders from area schools to the shores of the Bay for a day of hands-on activities.

We supplement our research and education work with conservation and stewardship efforts to preserve open space and habitat around the Bay. For several years, FOMB has actively encouraged local landowners to implement conservation easements, which protect their property in perpetuity from unwanted development. Many area landowners have adopted easements held by FOMB, protecting over 300 acres of critical lands around the Bay. Our organization also actively seeks to purchase important properties – usually in partnership with other conservation organizations – and turn them over to the

state for management and protection. In the past few years, FOMB organized purchases of several large areas of important wildlife habitat around the Bay, including Choice View Farm in Dresden, the Bishop Farm and Pork Point in Bowdoinham totaling more than 400 acres and we have accepted donated property as well [Palmer Meadow Pond] totaling 90 acres.

Efforts to protect precious natural resources inevitably spark a backlash from individuals and organizations that don't value conservation as highly or aren't willing to accept the limitations that land and water protection require. For example, the wildly successful Land for Maine's Future program and local referenda aimed at limiting the size of commercial developments in certain towns have both prompted opponents to introduce legislation to block these conservation strategies. In other cases, important conservation measures – such as Maine's groundbreaking law to reduce dioxin in our rivers – may be undercut after the fact when public officials or agencies succumb to pressure by polluters and other interests opposed to aggressive protection of natural resources. FOMB recognizes that our local efforts to preserve Merrymeeting Bay cannot be successful in the long term unless we work to change and protect laws, policies, and practices at the town, state, and sometimes federal levels. Your Steering Committee remains committed to public advocacy as an essential component of our mission to preserve and protect the Bay.

FOMB's four strategies worked together recently in an effort to upgrade the Kennebec River from class "C" to class "B," providing a new level of protection for water flowing into the Bay. A class "B" certification means stricter limits on discharges by industrial facilities and other polluters into the river. Our water quality testing on the Kennebec over the past few years provided critical evidence to support the upgrade. Education of area residents, town officials, and state legislators established a base of support for reclassification. And advocacy in favor of the upgrade provided constructive pressure on legislators to do the right thing and protect both the Kennebec River and Merrymeeting Bay. Finally, FOMB's land conservation efforts provide additional long-term protection along the Kennebec as it flows into the Bay. Our successful efforts to reclassify the river clearly demonstrate the advantages of FOMB's multiple focus, and the special nature of our organization.

Steve Taylor

TIDINGS

Sturgeon are anadromous, and travel upriver to spawn, which guarantees that they will run head-on into an invasive species that has recently established itself globally--us.

We learned how to catch them when they came up into narrow water and made themselves vulnerable. In Maine, and generally in the New World, they were netted, trapped, and speared without restraint or thought for the future, until at last there were too few of them left to be worth our while. Then we forgot all about them. Sportsmen did not rush to their defense. Nor, more surprisingly, did commercial fishermen. Nor, until very recently, did environmentalists, and even today they do not have any passionate group of advocates, in the way that shad and salmon and striped bass do.

Here is how neglected they have been. Sturgeon have been commercially harvested in our part of Maine for exactly 375 years. But until 1970, when research was being done on the ecology of Montsweag Bay, nobody seems to have realized that we had two distinct species of them--the Atlantic and the short-nosed. Prior to that, adult short-nosed sturgeon were assumed to be immature Atlantic sturgeon. As recently as 1980, Peter Thompson's attractive book, *The Game Fishes of New England and South Eastern Canada*, listed the Atlantic Sturgeon and the Lake Sturgeon (which inhabits the Great Lakes), but does not mention their short-nosed cousin. And yet the short-nosed sturgeon is far more common in Maine than the Atlantic sturgeon. The misidentification and general ignorance helped the shortnose, making it seem more severely threatened than it is and earning it the status of an endangered species. It hurt the Atlantic. When a few big adult Atlantic sturgeon began reappearing in the Kennebec in the late '70's, the state permitted them to be harvested commercially. In the first year, 1980, 32 adult fish were caught. In the next year, none. In the year after that, none again. In 1983, three fish were caught. The Department of Marine Resources at that point barred further harvesting.

In other times and/or other places, sturgeon have been famous and important fish. In the mythological past, a brave walked down to the Kennebec near Gardiner. It was spring. He said "I am a sturgeon" and jumped into the water. Uncomprehending and full of woe, his family, his friends, all the people of the tribe, rushed to the edge of the river and called his name. He did not re-appear, but a huge sturgeon rolled out in the channel. From that time forward, the members of the tribe called themselves after

the Abenaki word for sturgeon--*cabbassa*. When asked to identify themselves, they quoted the last words of the doomed young brave: I am a sturgeon. Cobbissee stream derives its name from that; Cobbosseecontee Lake comes from *Cabbassaguntiquoke*--a place where sturgeon are found.

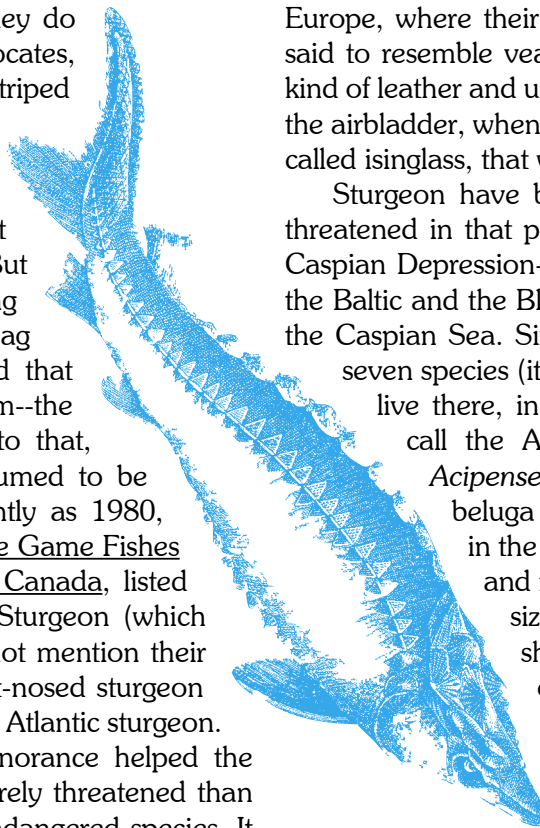
The first commercial fishery for sturgeon in the New World was established right down in Brunswick, presumably at the falls of the Androscoggin, in 1628. And the first cash crop harvested in Jamestown, Virginia, was sturgeon. In both cases, the fish were cured and shipped back to Europe, where their flesh was considered a delicacy and said to resemble veal. The tough skin was worked into a kind of leather and used in bookbinding. The membrane of the airbladder, when properly cleaned, yielded a substance called isinglass, that was used to clarify wine and beer.

Sturgeon have been most prized and are now most threatened in that part of the world known as the Aralo-Caspian Depression--a formerly submerged area between the Baltic and the Black Sea, extending as far eastward as the Caspian Sea. Six of the world's twenty six or twenty seven species (it seems to depend on who is counting)

live there, including *Acipenser sturio*, the one we call the Atlantic sturgeon, and also including *Acipenser huso*, or beluga sturgeon. The beluga (the name means simply *white*, as also in the beluga whale) is the largest of its tribe, and may weigh as much as a ton. One that size would be a female; when spawning, she would carry better than 200 pounds of roe. People from the vicinity of the Black and Caspian Sea, and all along the big rivers that feed into them--the Volga, the Danube--long prized the roe, which they pickled in brine to make what we call caviar.

A taste for this delicacy spread westward; it is to fish eggs what champagne is to vinegar. In 1601, Shakespeare has Hamlet speak of an excellent play that was not a crowd-pleaser as having been "caviare to the general"--that is, pearls before swine when it came to ordinary folk like you and me. I think it is safe to say that caviar still appeals to the snob in us, as it appealed to the snob in Hamlet. It is the plutocrat's potato chip, the debutante's doritio, its expense perhaps as much a cause as an effect of its appeal.

The czars and upper Russian aristocracy were devoted to caviar; the commissars and apparatchiki who replaced them were careful to preserve this vestige of privilege and autocracy, because it was a reliable source of good hard cold decadent capitalist cash. During the Soviet period, the belugas were managed carefully, and the penalties



Sturgeon

for poaching or black marketing caviar were savage. The collapse of the Soviet Union put an end to that--the market and the resource are now controlled by the Russian mafia, and it is estimated that the beluga population has declined by at least 90% since 1970. The species may not last another decade, as there seems to be neither the will nor the resources to protect it.

Back here in late May in the Kennebec watershed--God, what a wonderful time and place to live--shadbush is almost past blooming, the rose-breasted grosbeak is singing from the top branch of an aspen that trembles in a cool morning breeze, and somewhere out of our sight and out of our minds, the sturgeon are nosing upstream, preparatory to spawning. We think there are between seven and ten thousand short-nosed ones in our watershed; we are much less sure about the Atlantic sturgeons, but what evidence we have suggests that their population may be rebounding slightly, undoubtedly helped by the removal of the Edwards dam, which has granted them access to prime spawning water. We are gradually learning more about them. We know that a female short nose is about ten years old when she spawns for the first time, and that she goes at least three years between spawnings; an Atlantic is substantially slower to reach sexual maturity, and probably goes longer between spawnings. We know that the short-nosed sturgeons of the Androscoggin are genetically distinct from those of the Kennebec. We know that the young sturgeon ride back and forth with the tide, keeping within a moving zone of brackish water. We know that short-nosed sturgeon eat, among many other things, zebra mussels, another invasive species, but, from their standpoint, a benign one.

Consider what our meager knowledge has as its object. Fossil sturgeon, very similar in all respects to *Acipenser sturio*, indicate that the species was thriving during the Cretaceous Period, seventy million years ago. As you may have forgotten, things got stressful in the Cretaceous, and such imposing creatures as the dinosaurs succumbed to it. It is hard to see what design features enabled the sturgeon to swim unscathed through that massive biocide. It is a fish (think of it--slow, toothless, benthic, fond of big rivers) that is as old as the Andes Mountains, and has changed a lot less than they have, and that swims past our backyards

every spring. It has seen continents drift, lived and thrived and left its fossilized remains in sea basins that are now dry land, observed the advance and retreat of the glaciers, the depression and rebounding of the earth's surface, the arrival of the first mammals, the first humanoids, the first jet skis. The slow-motion apocalypses of geology and evolution have passed over it, signifying less to it than the daily turnings of the tide or the annual cycle of the seasons. By our standards, sturgeon have no conception of time; by their standards, we are bubbles on the stream.

They look strange, as though cobbled together out of zoological spare parts. The tapering snout and small eyes, set well back in the head, give them a facial resemblance to an ordinary garden mole. The bony plates, or scutes, along the back and sides are vaguely alligatorish. The scimitar-shaped tail is borrowed from a shark. The lips, on the underside of the snout, are protrusile, like those of human beings and chimpanzees, only much more so. Between the mouth and the tip of the nose is a stiff, rudimentary moustache of tactile barbels. When the barbels detect something edible in the mud, the lips protrude and smooch, inhale and ingest. The tail flexes, the creature moves on--a submersible, self-propelled vacuum cleaner. And from time to time they jump, for reasons that no one understands.

Two summers ago I sat on the deck of the Sea Dog Restaurant in Topsham, having a beer with a young colleague. He had recently moved to Maine from Connecticut and was still waiting on Maine to acculturate to him. It was going more slowly than he had hoped. But we had a nice afternoon, and were watching the river, and as we watched a sturgeon jumped, hung in the air for a moment, then splashed back down. It was almost surely a short nose, maybe three feet long. My friend asked me if I saw that. I said I did. He asked me what it was. I told him, and tried to instill in him some enthusiasm for this ancient beast. But it was caviare to the general. When I finished he said could we go inside now and finish our beers there? Sure, I said, but why? Because, he said, if he saw that thing again, it could persuade him to swear off drink forever, which risk he preferred not to run.

Franklin Burroughs

Tidings is a regular feature of Merrymeeting News

*By our standards,
sturgeon have no
conception of time; by
their standards, we are
bubbles on the stream.*

NEWS FROM AUGUSTA *(from first page)*

[MTAC], and the paper industry have been working together lately to improve the DEP dioxin monitoring program. None of our groups have been happy with the lack of established criteria to be used in judging compliance with the 1997 dioxin discharge law or with the monitoring method [fish] favored by the DEP for the "Above/Below test" that will determine if paper mills are still discharging dioxin.

In 2000 FOMB organized a caged mussel monitoring pilot project for this test but the DEP would not deploy the mussels to their best advantage. Since then we have been fighting for a re-test because even when deployed incorrectly the mussels showed a great deal of promise, in fact arguably more than either fish or artificial lipid bags also being trialed.

FOMB and MTAC lobbied the Natural Resources Committee very effectively on this issue pointing out the need for: 1. Caged mussels to be given a fair evaluation in a re-test handled by an outside contractor; 2. Independent peer review of the Above/Below dioxin test, and 3. The need for major quality control issues to be addressed at the UMO laboratory. The committee has responded positively and directed the DEP to comply with all three recommendations. Tied to these changes is a "Dioxin Compliance Extension" [LD 1403] giving the DEP more time to come up with a suitable test for the mills to comply with.

The paper mills want clarity from the DEP on what they will need to do to be in compliance. We both want a transparent program and FOMB and MTAC would also like it to be scientifically and legally defensible so that decisions made to improve water quality are not susceptible to legal challenge.

We all know it's not over till it's over but we continue to feel cautiously optimistic. Special thanks are due to members of the Natural Resources Committee, particularly Deb Hutton, Tom Saviello, Ted Koffman, and John Martin. For more information on this work refer to the "Cybrary" section of the FOMB web site.

More Is Not Better

Another bill we supported this session, LD 242 addressing cumulative impacts of development passed. This bill attempts to address intuitive yet hard to define aspects of growth. Most of us understand that at some point what may appear at first to be incremental development can turn into major sprawl. In a wooded section of the state at some point a multitude of small logging operations may create enough stream crossings that the fish populations are adversely effected. Around the Bay we are seeing more marinas creep in. The problem is that all of these uses are currently permitted on an individual basis but clearly there

is often an adverse cumulative effect. This bill recognizes that fact and forms a stakeholders group that will attempt to wrestle with the difficult task of trying to quantify some of these conditions that may help answer the age old question ahead of time: When is enough, enough?

Old Man River

In recognizing the age, status and opportunities along the lower Kennebec the legislature passed LD 680 "Directing the Department of Conservation [DOC] to design and establish the Kennebec Historic Waterway from the former Edwards Dam to Popham Beach". The DOC should: 1. Integrate state land holdings and easements with municipal landings and launches; 2. Coordinate where possible with existing trails, historic sites and scenic opportunities; and 3. Offer primitive camping sites at intervals along the waterway to encourage canoeing, kayaking and other forms of recreation...

The bill goes on to say that the DOC and State Planning Office should seek input from just about anyone with an interest in a clean river.

And Down River Just a Bit

In contrast to the Augusta Sanitary District the Gardiner Waste Water Treatment plant under the supervision of Chuck Applebee is doing a bang up job. Constantly seeking and getting funding to improve their operations, the plant has been very successful in producing ever cleaner effluent. FOMB recently wrote a letter supporting the city's grant application for phases 2 and 3 of a multi year capital improvement program. The plant has just received a \$540,000 loan and a \$439,672 grant for the construction of a Combined Sewer Overflow [CSO] abatement structure, settling storage tanks, upgrade of wastewater treatment water lines, repair of defective sewage pipes, as well as chlorination and dechlorination tanks. These changes should increase operating efficiency and reduce unintended effluent into the Kennebec. Besides Chuck and his crew thanks are due to the Gardiner City Manager and to Bill Card in Senator Collins Augusta office as well as Maine's various US representatives and senators. For more information please refer to the plant's web site at: http://www.pagardinermaine.com/Public_Documents/GardinerME_Depts/waste

It takes a lot to work on these issues and while life at the legislature can often seem like a black hole it is usually the place where changes can be made. If you would like to help on legislative issues please contact us and as usual, thank you for your support.

Ed Friedman

WE NEED YOU

We can't do it all without you, enough said. This summer we need you for the following projects:

- Bay Clean Up
- Archeology (see Calendar, Pg 8)
- Caged Mussel Project (see Calendar)
- Boat Count
- Invasive Plant Survey
- Accompany a Water Quality Monitor
- Contact: Ed Friedman at 666-3372, edfomb@gwi.net

A FAREWELL TO ARMS

FOMB bids a fond farewell to our Executive Director Warren Whitney. Whit's arms helped me quite a bit in carrying out the day to day responsibilities that come with managing a vital, active and diverse organization such as we are. His organizational talents were particularly welcome amidst my chaos and he will be missed.

After several years of helping to further the mission of FOMB, Whit has become the new Community Outreach Coordinator at the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. In that capacity he will be responsible for promoting and seeking support for Trust projects in coastal communities. A special bonus will be working along side his wife [his predecessor at FOMB] also now an employee at MCHT. We wish Whit the best in his new position and thank him for his service to FOMB.

Ed Friedman

Thank you to David Hansen for designing this issue of MMNews.

FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY
Steering Committee

- Frank Burroughs, 81 Wallentine Rd., Bowdoinham 04008Secretary 666-5979
- Dee and Clancy Cummins, RR1 Box 112, Richmond 04357 737-4175
- Steve Eagles, 123 River Rd., Dresden 04342 737-8023
- Ed Friedman, 42 Stevens Rd., Bowdoinham 04008Chair 666-3372
- DeWitt John, 134 Middle Bay Rd., Brunswick 04011 729-5881
- Kathleen McGee, 32 Wildes Rd., Bowdoinham 04008 666-3598
- Bill Milam, 107 Brushwood Rd., Woolwich 04579 443-9738
- Leon Ogrodnik, 13 Hawthorne Ln., Harpswell 04079 725-4935
- Steve Pelletier, RR1, 9 Jesse Rd., Topsham 04086 725-0083
- Steve Taylor, PO Box 231, Bowdoinham 04008 Treasurer 666-8919
- Peter Vickery, PO Box 127, Richmond 04357 737-2958

Education Coordinator:

- Tracy Gregoire, PO Box 231, Bowdoinham 04008 666-8919

Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator:

- Bill Milam, 107 Brushwood Rd., Woolwich 04579 443-9738

Executive Director:

This Space Vacant



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

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS.

- \$15.00 enclosed for individual membership. \$20 Family
- \$30 Smelt \$50 Alewife \$100 Striped Bass \$250 Salmon \$500+ Sturgeon
- \$ _____ 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)

- Renewal Gift From:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUL 19 ANNUAL MERRYMEETING BAY CLEANUP
10:00-2:00

JUL 24 SOURCE-TO-THE-SEA ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER PADDLE TREK.
Brunswick-Bath Section
11:00 a.m., from Water St. boat ramp in Brunswick. Pre-register.

Contact us at 207-666-3376 or fomb@gwi.net for more information and to pre-register.

Archaeology

AUG 9-16 Help Maine Historic Preservation Commission excavate a possible Paleo-Indian site at Choice View Farm in Dresden. Single or multi day help. Pre-register.

Contact Ed Friedman 666-3372, edfomb@gwi.net

Paddle Series

JUNE 30 EAST CHOP POINT (SCHOOL)

JULY 28 RICHMOND (CIRCUMNAVIGATE SWAN ISLAND)

AUG 19 BOWDOINHAM (TOWN LANDING)

Anyone so disposed might want to bring a fishing rod on the June 30 trip.

All trips will leave at 6PM and return 8:30ish.

Contact: Frank Burroughs 666-5979,

fburroug@polar.bowdoin.edu

Dioxin Monitoring on Kennebec and Androscoggin Rivers

EARLY AUGUST AND LATE SEPTEMBER [APPROXIMATE]

Assist with caged mussel deployments. Mussel collection, sorting, deployment, retrieval, and shucking. Cooperative effort with DEP, Sappi, and International Paper.

Contact: Ed Friedman 666-3372, edfomb@gwi.net

Printed on: Simpson Quest 100% recycled, 100% post consumer paper, processed Chlorine Free.

Paddle Series Calendar pg 8
Legislative Success pg 1
Return service requested

P.O. Box 233, Richmond, ME 04357
MERRYMEETING BAY

FRIENDS OF



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