

From the Chair

The UN's International Panel on Climate Change has just released its long awaited report noting the severity and rapidity of global warming and climate change. For many of us the conclusions are no surprise. Boiled down to their essence, we are in an environmental emergency and things are all connected. Long has FOMB taken a holistic approach to things. We can't, with any long term hopes of survival, protect the land without also protecting the water or air. We can't ignore the health risks of spraying our elementary schools with pesticides without being aware of long-term effects to our children. We can't decimate the elver population, kill migrating pregnant adult female eels and not realize that we will be affecting a broad range of species and river health in general. We can't poison our neighbors with Outdoor Wood Boiler smoke, or discharge 40 million gallons/day of pulp mill effluent into our rivers or keep driving extra large vehicles and leave them idling when we go into stores. Not if we want to leave a decent world for our children or the other species that we share the earth with.

There don't, so far at least, appear to be many earths in our piece of space. We can remember that we need to make conscious choices about how we live. We can remember to help each other out. We can realize that economy vs. the environment is a false choice and that alternative energy does not have to mean plugging up the Chops with propellers. We can choose to act well, think carefully and be well. And we can be better about thinking long-term. In multiple generations as the Native Americans did. We are blessed with living around Merrymeeting Bay, a resource that was probably one of the bread baskets of North America. It's still a special place, very special. And part of a whole.

It's a good time to again remember the image of earth taken from Apollo. We have been enjoying island living at its best, but it's still island living.

My thanks to our steering committee, active volunteers, staff, membership and many partners for your support.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Friedman, Chair

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay 2006 Accomplishments

Media

Print: Approximately 12 articles: Education, DEP Enforcement, Atlantic Salmon Endangered Species Petition, Fish Restoration, American Eel Kills, Circulation Study, Outings, Sludge, Chops Hydro Proposal

Television: Local Cable (Brunswick, Biddeford): Merrymeeting Bay, eels, outdoor wood boilers, Bay Day, water rights

Radio: Maine Public Radio & WMPG: American eel

Volunteers

Minimum 3657 volunteer hours (457 days)
132 volunteers

Membership

359 members (65 new members this year)
Speaker Series - 288 people
Outside 2006 (Paddle Series & Walks - 128 people)
Newsletters – 3
Shoreline Cleanup-6 people-1200 pounds

Funds Leveraged

\$1,000,000 (land acquisition)

Grants

\$66,364: staffing, eels, education, circulation study, water quality

Outreach Presentations

Androscoggin Source to the Sea Trek, Gulf Island Pond
Toxics Action Center Conference, Brunswick
DMR Spring Running, Augusta
Wildlife Appreciation Day, Augusta
Patagonia Store, Freeport
F.W. Horch, Brunswick
Merryspring Nature Preserve, Rockport

Education

Two Bay Days (316 students)
Hall-Dale on the Bay (80 students)
Mid-Coast Senior College Kennebec Course-(30 students)
School Visits-12 (347 students)
Critter Visits-21 (810 students and public)
Web site updates-extensive additions to Cybrary & Friends of Merrymeeting Bay links

Conservation and Stewardship

Total Protected – 76 acres transferred to state.
1,600' Kennebec R., 2,600' inland wetland in Woolwich
Two conservation easements in process- Topsham Cathance & Androscoggin
Stewardship- All easements monitored

Research

Posted MHPC Umberhind/Leyman-Detweiler-LMF Archaeological Dig Report
Completed second phase of Circulation Study

Completed draft report of Caged Mussel Endocrine Disrupter Study
Assisted MDIF&W with bald eagle breeding surveys
Water Quality Monitoring – 20 Standard & 11 Fecal Coliform sites

Advocacy (postings, letters, testimony, etc)

Channel Speed Limit Signs
Merrymeeting Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Signs
Land for Maine's Future Bond
American Eel Protection-Endangered Species Act Comments, BEP Petition
Kennebec Atlantic Salmon-filed Endangered Species Act Petition
Fish Consumption Advisories
Gulf Island Pond
Chops Hydro Intervener
Center for Environmental Health & Justice
Brunswick Aquifer Protection
Zone-Sludge Spreading
Androscoggin Upgrade
Land Conservation Donor Tax Changes-US Senate & House

Primary Partners

The Nature Conservancy
Bowdoin College Environmental Studies
Department of Environmental Protection
Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Maine Natural Areas Program
Department of Marine Resources
Friends of Casco Bay
Maine Toxics Action Coalition
Applied Biomonitoring
Maine Rivers
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
Environment Canada
Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Maine Wetlands Protection Coalition
Patagonia Outlet, Freeport
Land Trust Alliance
Maine ECO
Androscoggin Alliance
Friends of Kennebec Salmon
Maine Maritime Museum
Mid-Coast Senior College
Brunswick Pesticide Watch
Toxics Action Center
Maine Rural Water Association
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