

Merrymeeting News

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

WINTER 1997

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

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Support comes from memberships, 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 tour of the Bay, field trips, conservation meetings, potluck suppers and shoreline clean-ups.

Water Quality Program

Data collection, analysis and publication.

1997 Steering Committee

Frank Burroughs, Bowdoinham
Ed Friedman, Bowdoinham
Tad Hunter, Topsham
Esther Lacognata, Topsham
Don and Joan Lipfert, Woolwich
Bob Lenna, Bowdoinham
Pat Maloney, Topsham
Tenley Meara, Topsham
Jay Robbins, Richmond
Vance Stephenson, Scarborough
Karin Tilberg, Bowdoinham
Warren Whitney, Bowdoinham

Executive Director

Betsy Ham, Bowdoinham

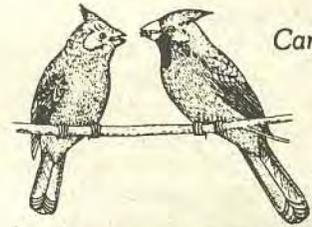
1996 IN REVIEW

A Letter from the Chairman

1996 WAS BY ANY MEASURE a successful year for FOMB. Your organization grew in membership, finished the year in a healthy financial position, and, most importantly, effectively worked to promote its mission to preserve, protect and improve the natural ecosystems of Merrymeeting Bay. This was a year of transition as well as we moved from being an all-volunteer group to an organization staffed by a part-time executive director.

In the realm of education, our Hands Around the Bay program put Merrymeeting Bay materials into the hands of elementary school teachers and students around the Bay. As part of the program, a Merrymeeting Bay Web site was launched on the Internet. The whole program was featured at a number of educational and technological conferences. Merrymeeting Bay map presentations and teacher training sessions were made to several schools and are available to others on request. Our ongoing Speaker Series has been interesting and well-attended, with topics ranging from the history of Swan Island to toxic contamination of the Bay. During the summer, Barbara Vickery led a large group on a rare plant mudwalk on Abagadasset Point where all sorts of hidden treasures were found.

Special events started off in the spring with a Merrymeeting Bay clean-up in cooperation with Maine Island Trails Association, Brunswick Naval Air Station and the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. We gathered approximately 5,000 lbs. of debris that had been washed up or dumped on various shorelines of the Bay. Our Swan Island Picnic and overnight was well attended. We enjoyed a hike around the island and a talk about history by James Hewat. In early summer, Frank Burroughs led the "Source to the Sea" group on the Merrymeeting Bay portion of their Androscoggin River trip. Participants with whom Frank shared his knowledge included the Governor and the commissioner of the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection. In the fall, Frank and I led a Merrymeeting Bay paddle down the Cathance to Brick Island and around into the Abagadasset. Very high winds caused a number of people to turn back while still in the Cathance, while those who continued enjoyed challenging paddling, a good lunch, some surfing, skittish ducks, soaring eagles and even a capsized and rescue.



Cardinals

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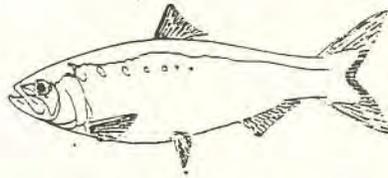
FOMB AWARDED \$10,000 FOR CONSERVATION EASEMENT WORK

FOMB HAS BEEN AWARDED a grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund for \$10,000 to seek and acquire conservation easements around the Bay, with particular emphasis on areas of valuable wildlife habitat. We will also use this grant to do public educational work on conservation easements by developing a color brochure and holding public meetings. Because Outdoor Heritage Fund grants cannot be given directly to a private group such as ours, the state sponsoring natural resource agency for this grant will be Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (IF&W). Under this program we will use our criteria to evaluate each easement acquired, but IF&W will be the final holder of the easement. This way, however, we can protect land without adding to our stewardship responsibilities. FOMB, of course, can still acquire easements of its own using other sources of funding. We are looking forward to working as partners with the IF&W during 1997 and beyond. □

DIOXIN UPDATE

DIOXIN IS ONE of the most toxic chemicals known. It threatens the health of Maine citizens and wildlife by contaminating fish, lobster and other organisms in our largest rivers, river estuaries, and coastal bays. Dioxin is discharged into our waters each and every day by Maine's seven bleach kraft mills — even though they don't have to. Dozens of mills worldwide make bright-white, high-quality paper products through processes that create and discharge ZERO dioxin.

While Merrymeeting Bay has been cleansed in large part of its prior obvious and often odoriferous and caustic pollutants, the insidious and probably more harmful influx of synthetic chemicals remains and must be stopped. Many of these chemicals including dioxins,



American Shad

furans, and PCBs are likely disrupters of hormonal systems and fertility, impairing development, and playing a role in endometriosis, diabetes, birth defects and cancer, to name a few.

Governor Angus King's announcement, last April, that Maine's seven bleach kraft mills had committed to eliminating their dioxin discharges, was extremely encouraging. Many Maine people have devoted over a decade of effort to having the paper industry fully acknowledge, and respond to, their dioxin discharges. The announcement was

also encouraging because it suggested that the industry was responding — not with yet another promise to reduce dioxin — but with the clear intention of achieving zero dioxin discharges.

Over four months, Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, The Natural Resources Council of Maine, the Penobscot Indian Nation, Maine People's Alliance, Friends of the Presumpscot, and the Cumberland County Greens met with the Administration and the paper industry to implement the April 8th agreement. We understood the purpose of these talks to be straightforward: to develop a plan for how and when the mills' commitment to dioxin elimination would become a reality. We had hoped that the paper industry's commitment to eliminating their dioxin discharges was genuine. Unfortunately for Maine's environment and Maine's citizens, our talks over the last four months plainly demonstrate that

SILENT AUCTION — A BIG SUCCESS!

ON WEDNESDAY, December 11th, FOMB sponsored a convivial, complex, multi-media fund-raiser at the Bridge Academy in Dresden. The central event was a combination live and silent auction. It was preceded by an outstanding potluck buffet — the Friends of Merrymeeting Bay very clearly are also sincere friends of good cooking — for

which Eric Johnson and Jim Joseph, of the group Scrod Pudding, provided live musical accompaniment; and by video footage of the Maine ice-harvesting industry, presented by historian and FOMB member Eleanor Everson. The auction itself included 144 items, ranging in price from \$1.25 (for a bunch of Harry Prout's renowned parsnips) to a Dragonworks Sea Kayak valued at \$2,320.00; all portrayed in a wonderful catalog put together by Liz Webster. Many of the items auctioned were activities that were donated by members — boat trips on the Bay, airplane flights over it, overnight or weekend accommodations in the Western mountains or on the downeast coast, as well as on the Bay itself. Among those donating their professional services was Jim Talbot, who conducted the auction with a fine combination of efficiency and geniality.

The tangible benefits to FOMB are still being tabulated; as of this writing it appears that we netted approximately \$7,300. The intangible benefits were fully as important. There were roughly 80 people at Wednesday night's event, and the great majority of us were members, many of whom had never met each other, much less had an opportunity to talk, from our different perspectives and experiences, about the organization and the Bay itself. The atmosphere of the occasion — informal, good-humored, in a handsomely decorated room — was conducive to our becoming acquainted

with each other, and gaining a clearer sense of the scope and diversity of FOMB. For an organization with membership scattered all around the Bay, and dealing with a great diversity of issues, there is an obvious need for gatherings of this kind, which do a great deal to enhance communication and co-operation.

It took a large effort by many people to bring off an event like this — volunteers who contributed goods or services to be auctioned; workers who helped out with record keeping, greeting guests, assisting the auctioneer, and so forth; and of course, Eleanor Everson, Eric Johnson, Jim Joseph and Jim Talbot, who donated their special talents. The initiative, energy, organizational skills, time, labor, and ingenuity Ed Friedman dedicated to conceiving and carrying through the affair were remarkable. Special thanks are of course due to Librarian Inge Foster and the Bridge Academy Board of Trustees for letting us use their great space.

Fund-raising is an ongoing obligation for this, or any, organization, one that always threatens to become an end in itself. This first auction made that activity into a real pleasure, one that has the potential not only to substantially increase our income, but also to foster and enlarge a sense of collective identity, purpose, and opportunity.

— Frank Burroughs
Bowdoinham



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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, Bowdoinham (666-3376).

they do not share the elimination goal.

On December 16, FOMB and the other environmental and socially concerned groups withdrew from the discussions with the Department of Environmental Protection and the paper companies. Since we no longer shared



the same goal of dioxin elimination it became obvious that we would need to pursue alternate strategies to attain this goal. While we had been at the "bargaining tables," an even larger "Dioxin Free" Coalition had been meeting to explore some of these alternatives for possible use should the "stakeholder" meetings not bear fruit. One of the alternatives was to draft proposed legislation prohibiting the discharge of dioxin into Maine Rivers by the mills.

On December 20, Representative Tom Bull submitted a bill entitled "An Act to Eliminate Paper Mill Dioxin and Restore Maine's Rivers." The Statement of Fact includes a timeline for certification of zero chlorine components (the cause of dioxin) in bleach kraft mills by 2002.

For Maine people, the mills' commitment to zero dioxin discharges held the promise of finally eliminating the primary source of dioxin in our major rivers

and river estuaries. The dioxin produced today puts almost 250 miles of Maine waters off-limits to the simple pleasure, and in some cases the necessity, of catching a fish and eating it. The mills' commitment to zero dioxin discharge held the promise of even more: the same steps that would eliminate the creation and discharge of dioxin would also put our mills in a position to eliminate their discharge of a wide range of pollutants and thus finish the job of restoring the full environmental, recreational, and economic value of our largest rivers.

The Androscoggin and Kennebec rivers remain the two most polluted rivers in Maine with over 1,700,000 lbs. of reported toxins discharged into them between 1990-1994. This number is less than what was actually discharged because not all toxic generators were required to report nor were all toxins

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HANDS AROUND THE BAY SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED

HANDS AROUND THE BAY, designed to help students and teachers work together on and learn from each other about Merrymeeting Bay went from concept to reality in 1996.

The Hands Around the Bay Project reached out to elementary schools in the towns of Brunswick, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Dresden, Pittston, Richmond, Woolwich, Topsham, and Bath by holding two informational sessions in February and March of 1996. During these meetings Ed Friedman and Pat Maloney summarized the goals of the project, shared a slide and talk show by Franklin Burroughs and Sally Butcher, and solicited response from the audience seeking to more clearly define the needs of students and teachers and begin to catalog already existing classroom projects about Merrymeeting Bay. Audiences were

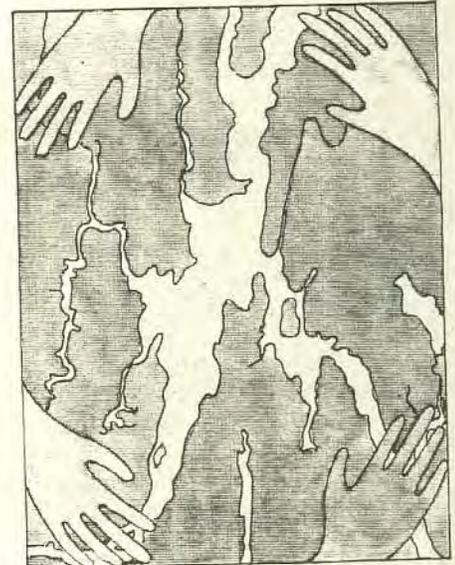
small but very receptive and enthusiastic.

These sessions led to a consultation with the Quebec Labrador Foundation which provided FOMB/HAB with a temporary intern who visited all interested teachers in the MMB region and worked with them to complete questionnaires. She also worked with Ed to survey public access sites around the Bay. This effort laid the groundwork for an ever growing data base and gave us an understanding of teacher needs.

HAB has been reaching out to help educators in a variety of ways this year. Ed Friedman, Tim Nason, Betsy Steen, Shawne McCord, Jim Moulton, and Pat Maloney individually presented workshops to the Beacon Schools Program, a gathering of Maine educators at a technology convention, and at the Community of Learners meeting for area businesses and educators. In the spring, we invited Susan Hayward from the Thomcrag Nature Center (Lewiston) to lead teachers on a wildflower walk at the Coffin Wildflower Preserve in Woolwich.

30 teachers received our first Hands Around the Bay three-ring binder project and resource guide. The binder includes a list of participating teachers and classroom projects, and information about Merrymeeting Bay, FOMB, and access sites. As students and teachers compile work about the Bay, this binder may be used as an evolving resource/curriculum

Hands Around the Bay



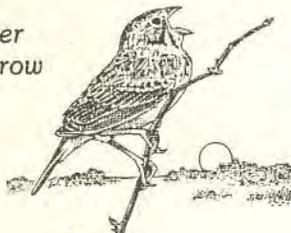
A program to encourage educational activities on Merrymeeting Bay and its tributaries.

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay

guide for interested researchers of any age. FOMB volunteers continue to develop a guide to Merrymeeting Bay public access sites where classes might gather to learn about the Bay and the variety of habitats to be found there. We are also developing a Community Resource Directory for teachers who want to have speakers visit their classes.

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Vesper Sparrow

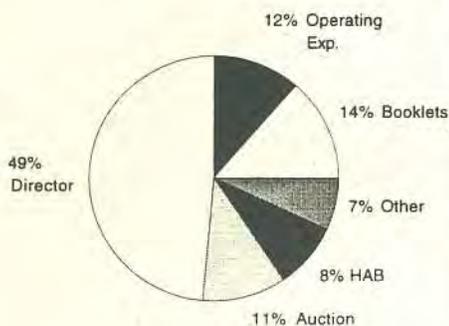


TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1996

WITH THE HIRING of an Executive Director in 1996, FOMB made a major financial commitment. By reading the articles in the rest of this newsletter I think you will agree that this commitment was worthwhile. FOMB spent \$5,326 on the Executive Director's salary. Tim spent 15% of his time on Hands around the Bay, 20% on Conservation and Stewardship, 10% on publicizing and coordinating the Winter Speakers Series, 30% on the general operation of the organization such as responding to mail, paying the bills, working on grant proposals, maintaining the membership data base, making bank deposits and keeping records, and the remaining 25% on such duties as creating the newsletter and organizing special events such as the Swan Island Picnic.

Due to a generous grant from Patagonia, FOMB was able to produce 1,500 copies of our booklet "Merrymeeting Bay: A Unique Ecosystem in

1996 Spending



Mid-Coast Maine," and 1,500 copies of our bright green membership flyer. We spent \$1,486 on this activity this year.

FOMB spent \$919 to fund several special projects for Hands Around the Bay, including a new Web site, a three-ring binder full of information for teachers and local meetings (see related article).

\$776 was spent during 1996 to publish the quarterly newsletter and sponsor a variety of other activities including the Winter Speakers Series, Swan Island Picnic, the spring Coastal Clean-up and the Paddle Tour.

FOMB spent \$1,193 for the Silent Auction largely for printing and mailing our catalog of auction items. This was well worth it, as we netted approximately \$7,300.

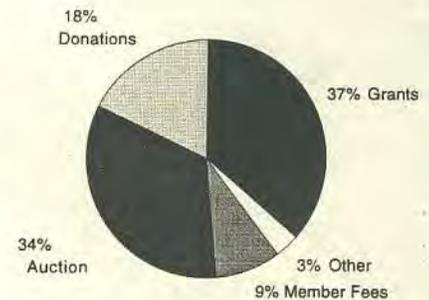
Operating expenses such as postage, phone and government filing fees cost FOMB \$1,267.

INCOME SOURCES

To fund all the activities mentioned above, FOMB relied on its usual income sources and some new and welcome funding. For 1996, FOMB received: \$2,085 from membership fees, \$4,078 in donations (including \$1,500 from Patagonia to replenish our supply of FOMB booklets and pamphlets), \$8,500 from grants, including the Davis Conservation Foundation Grant, and \$742 in business-related activities (Swan Island Picnic fees, T-shirt and book sales, and interest income).

But something else was needed and our chairman had the answer — a Silent Auction. Largely due to Ed's pursuit of a wondrous variety of donations, the auction realized about \$8,500 in sales, \$7,800 of which were collected in 1996.

1996 Income



With hard work and your help, Friends of Merrymeeting Bay will continue to preserve the Bay. Thank you for your generosity in 1996!

— Vance Stephenson
Scarborough

PATAGONIA DONATION

THE PATAGONIA OUTLET STORE in Freeport donated \$1,500 to publish and distribute two of our publications, "Merrymeeting Bay: A Unique Ecosystem in Mid-Coast Maine" and our green membership flyer. We are distributing them to schools, town offices and the general public. If you would like copies, give us a call.

DIOXIN

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required to be reported. Certainly much work remains to be done and FOMB will continue to support efforts to restore the health of the Bay and those communities in and around it.

— Jay Ritchlin, Peter Washburn
and Ed Friedman

HANDS AROUND THE BAY

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In the fall, we invited teachers and students from Bay-area schools to participate in a "data collection day." We might be accused of exaggerating to say we now have a baseline from which to continue this ambitious concept, but we do have fortitude and hope to ignite further interest.

Our Merrymeeting Bay Web site is up and running, thanks to Betsy Steen's hard work. This work already includes a wide variety of available resources and Betsy envisions adding future student

and community research. Our address on the Web is: <http://www.col.k12.me.us/MMB/>.

We who are involved with Hands Around the Bay look forward to another successful and productive year and thank everyone for your hard work on this successful project. We are so fortunate to have Merrymeeting Bay in our backyards. Let's continue to use this backyard as a valuable educational resource.

— Pat Maloney
Topsham

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Urge your local representative to support Bull's Bill to eliminate dioxin
- Join FOMB's water quality committee
- Read *Our Stolen Future* by Colburn, Dumanoski and Myers; Dutton, 1996. ISBN 0-525-43982-2. For those interested in the possible consequences of synthetic chemicals to animals and human populations this is a "must read."

1996 IN REVIEW

Continued from page 1

In the political arena, efforts to remove Edwards Dam, which would restore 18 miles of anadromous fish spawning habitat on the Kennebec River, and efforts to eliminate dioxin discharge into Maine rivers remain our two areas of focus.

Our Conservation and Stewardship chair, Betsy Ham, took us full blast into the process of developing conservation easements on five properties around the Bay that would protect over 220 acres. By year's end we had legally accepted one easement on the Eastern River in Dresden (see article below). The other properties, located in Bowdoinham, Topsham and Dresden, are in various stages of easement development. A grant received from the Outdoor Heritage Fund will help us to continue our conservation easement work in 1997.

We received a grant from the Davis Conservation Foundation to compile and evaluate existing water quality data from the Bay. Once this data is compiled in one place and evaluated we will have a much better understanding of the current water quality and what should be done to monitor and improve it. Look for a lot to happen in this area in 1997.

A grant was received from the Patagonia Outlet in Freeport to reprint and distribute two pamphlets.

Our fundraising auction was well attended by many generous supporters of FOMB. A good evening was had by all due to the generosity of the many donors, bidders, and volunteers, and to the Bridge Academy Trustees who let us use their beautiful facility.

1996 brought us a large and diverse steering committee which, although recruited with promises of minimal work and meetings, has decided that it would like to be more actively involved, which is music to my ears. As I have completed this year first as Vice-Chair then as Chair, I have found my own involvement increase unexpectedly and dramatically. While often stressful and tiring, it has also been rewarding.

As FOMB and those of us who are intimately involved with the organization continue on the path of growth and change, I hope that we will continue to successfully tackle both the obvious and the unforeseen challenges we will face. We are well poised for 1997 and I hope we will be as effective or more effective than in 1996 in fulfilling our mission.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully yours,

— Ed Friedman

A FRIEND MOVES ON

FRIENDS of Merrymeeting Bay would like to bid a fond farewell to Tim Nason who has left the Executive Director's position at FOMB to pursue other activities. We thank him for all he has done to make the organization stronger and wish him good luck in the future.

NEW DIRECTOR WELCOMED

BETSY HAM, our Conservation and Stewardship Chair, is FOMB's new Executive Director. Betsy lives in Bowdoinham on the Kennebec with her husband, Warren Whitney (our secretary), and their twin daughters. A native Main-er, she shares our commitment to the Bay. Betsy has a BA in Biology from Dartmouth and a MS in Land Resources from the University of Wisconsin. She has worked as a land use and transportation planner in Vermont, and an educational and research coordinator for the Atlantic Salmon Federation. Betsy has volunteered for the Sierra Club and served on her local planning board. She enjoys canoeing, camping and cross-country skiing with her family. She looks forward to meeting and working with FOMB members.

OCTOBER MEETING CELEBRATED CATHANCE RIVER

THOSE INTERESTED in the Cathance River gathered in the Bowdoinham School Library on October 24 to celebrate the beauty and value of the river and consider ways to protect it in the future. Bowdoinham's own Linwood Rideout got the evening started by discussing the history of the river and its natural value. Lois Winter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service then discussed possible ways to protect the river in the future and described the funds that may be available to help do this.

Rudy Engholm, who has a conservation easement on his land in Harpswell, spoke from personal experience about the values of easements and his own experience in obtaining one. He called the easement on his land "the ultimate private property right" because it is voluntary, is tailored to meet his needs,

and lasts forever. Afterwards, we had a good discussion about conservation easements and the importance of protecting the Cathance River. All in attendance agreed that private property owners along the Cathance have done a great job in being good stewards of their land. Conservation easements are one way that they can voluntarily continue this good stewardship forever, even if the land changes hands. If this kind of option is something you might be interested in doing on your own land, contact Betsy Ham at 666-3376 to learn more.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT DONATED

TIM AND SUE SHEPARD generously donated a portion of their property in Dresden, with frontage on the Eastern River, to Friends of Merrymeeting Bay. From one side of the property one can look out over the Kennebec to Swan Island. The other side borders and has a

view of the Eastern River. Wildlife habitat of highest value (according to U.S. Fish & Wildlife) borders the property.

We are very grateful to the Shepards for their generous donation and hope it will serve as a catalyst for others along the Eastern River to donate conservation easements on their land.

ICE HARVESTING PROGRAM

FOR THOSE OF YOU who missed Eleanor Everson's presentation about the local ice harvesting industry that was presented at our Silent Auction, you have another chance. Eleanor will present her full program on **Sunday, March 9th**, beginning at 2 p.m. at Bridge Academy. This event is sponsored by the Dresden Historical Society. For more information call Inge Foster at 737-2515.

YOU ARE ALL GREAT!

Frank Burroughs; Kevin Doran; Tad Hunter; Esther Lacognata; Don & Joan Lipfert; Bob Lenna; Pat Maloney; Tenley Meara; Jay Robbins; Vance Stephenson; Karin Tilberg; Laura Valentine; Warren Whitney; Chase Tavern Farm Alpacas; J.A. Henkel, Co. Inc.; Rocky Ridge Orchard; Halcyon Yarn; Old Haven Engineering; Valentine Farm; Gulf of Maine; Jean Parker; Peg Parsons; Yankee Yarns; Connections Gallery; The Picture Framer; Leslie Mills; Gallery Framing; Just Framing; Kennebec Flower Farm; Cornucopia of Crafts; Dawn Drexler; Sally Butcher; O'Farrell Gallery; Michael Patterson; Mitchell & Savage; Prout's Farm; Macky Bennett; Swango Farm; Corsican Restaurant; Harraseeket Inn; Robinhood Free Meeting House; Particular Produce Farm; The Cannery; The Pepper Club; Merry-meeting Farms; Alex Delicata; Main Street Dairy Treats; Kennebec Flower Farm; Micucci Wholesale Foods; Royal River Provisioners; Fore Street Restaurant; Morning Glory Natural Foods; Huso's Bistro; Bombay Mahal; Hi Bombay; Patchwork Organic Gardens; Harry Prout; Ben & Jerry's, Brunswick; Alex Poliakoff; L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery Program; Linwood Rideout; Jim Lentz; Jim's Smelt Camps; Chestnut Hill Farm; Maine Maritime Museum; Anne Hammond; Bob Fox; Jean & Bill Fawcett; Smith's Smelt Camps; Sarah & Allen Findlay; Lucretia & Mike Woodruff; Bowdoin College Outing Club; Triangle Farm; Amy Johnson; Dragonworks; Casco Bay Lines; Bath Iron Works; Hardy Boat Cruises; Merrymeeting Rowing Club; Doug Richmond; Dave Berry; Merrymeeting Aviation; Robinhood Marina; Sheepscot Ridge; Erik Lund; Stowe Travel International/American Express; Tom Powers; David Shiah; Matt & Dave's Video Store; The Theater Project; Bay View Plants; Bayberry Landscaping; Enterprise Farms; Albert Hansen; Becky Koulouris & Ed Hawes; Bethel Point B&B, Harpswell; The Gray Havens Inn; L'Ermitage, Bucksport; Small Point B & B; Carol Lenna; Bud & Betty Reed; The Town Landing; Robbins Historical Research, Inc.; Liz Webster; Skolfield's Carpet Service; Marilyn Nulman, Book Repairs; Androscoggin

Animal Hospital; Woodlot Alternatives, Inc; Karen Taber; Darcy Thirlwall; Michael Morrison; Main Street Fuel; DeLorme Mapping; Henry Knoll; Doris C. Safford; Governor Angus King; Bookland, Cooks Corner; Brooks Feed; The Rugged Bear; Doris Souviney; Coastal Marine; Eleanor Everson; Doris Safford; Mason Street Mercantile; Bath Industrial Sales; RVI; Lois Winter; Peter Washburn; James Hewat; Tom Squires; Ed Hawes; Joe Payne; Ron Kreisman; Patagonia Outlet Store in Freeport; The Outdoor Heritage Fund; The Davis Conservation Foundation; Molly Northrup; Elliott Gimbel; Jeff McEvoy; Bowdoin College Environmental Studies Department; Uncommon Copy; Barbara Vickery; Quebec Labrador Foundation; Reed Paper & Party Supplies; Round Top Ice Cream; Welch Farm & Orchard; Inge Foster; Swan Island Staff; The Nature Conservancy; Jack Aley; Joan Accord; Jim Talbot; MITA; Bill Michaud; Rob Bryan; Town of Bowdoinham; Dave Berry; America Outdoors; Eric Johnson; Jim Joseph; Maine Audubon; Dennis Carignan; Matt Hodges; Mike Ray; City of Bath; Steve Hammond; Ted Scharf; Susan Ayers; Steve Saucier; Gene Dumont; Karen Klein; Inland Fish & Wildlife; Mike Haskell; State Planning Office; Dave & Maureen Anderson; The Staff at Maine Coast Heritage Trust; Carl Smith; Shannon Thompson; Frank Ballou; Betsy Steen; Ron Franklin; Community of Learners; Anne Adjutant; Beacon School Program; Jim Moulton; Jeff West; Don Hudson; Mason Morfit; Wright-Pierce; Casco Cable; Brunswick True Value Hardware; Advance Consulting; Brian Smith Surveying; State Cable TV; U of Maine Cooperative Extension Androscoggin Sagadahoc Office; Natural Resource Council of Maine; Tracy Armitage; Mahan Graphics; Jay Ritchlin; Betsy Ham; Lisa Estabrook; Tidelines Inc.; Shawne McCord; Susan Hayward; Tim & Sue Shepard; Leo Redfern; Malcolm & Lucille Jewell; Joe Trafton; Julie & Jim Rea; Mary Haven; Roberta Schacht; Jean Bailey; Cindy Sellow; Tom Barrington; Seri Rudolph; and The Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust.

There are many more to thank. Our apologies to those we missed.

FOMB NEEDS YOUR HELP NOW!!!!!!

TREASURER

OUR TREASURED TREASURER Vance Stephenson has moved to Scarborough to a new job, a new home and a new baby. Vance has done a great job of financial planning, budgeting, tax filing and payroll work for FOMB. He needs a successor so he can devote his energies elsewhere. Vance has set up a good financial framework for FOMB so we really need someone savvy with numbers and tax information to plug into this and carry on. Vance estimates that the position requires an average of 5 hours a week. You would be an officer of FOMB and an Executive Committee member. In summary, we would like a CPA who loves the Bay to come our way! A CPA isn't a requirement but it would be nice.

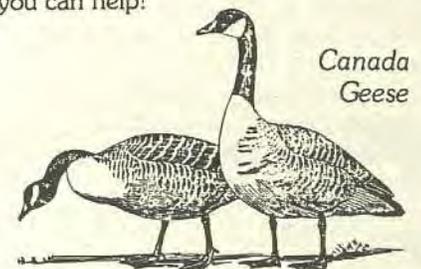
NEWSLETTER HELP

WE ARE SEEKING a class act to publish and edit FOMB's quarterly *Merrymeeting News*. Our newsletter as edited and published by our retiring director Tim Nason has been the envy of many organizations. We would very much like to maintain this quality. It may be that we will need several people to fill Tim's shoes. If you have skills in typing, editing, writing/design or have desktop publishing capacity and are willing to devote some time to FOMB four times a year when the newsletter is published, let us know.

ENTHUSIASTIC BODIES

COLOR, SEX, SIZE AND SHAPE not important, but desire to help with the FOMB mission is. We need your participation in our four main areas of concentration: Education, Conservation & Stewardship, Water Quality, Membership & Fundraising. Whether you are an expert in these areas or simply enjoy a mailing party we can use you.

Please call Betsy Ham at 666-3376 if you can help!



Canada Geese

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Since September 1996:

- Jeanine Beaudoin & Diane Waters,
Bowdoinham
- David Berry & Diana Rudloe,
Bowdoinham
- Bradford & Marla Blake, *Bowdoinham*
- Helen Boynton, *Brunswick*
- A. Maury Brinley, *Bowdoinham*
- Andrea Colnes, *Middlesex, VT*
- Andy & Kate Cutko, *Bowdoinham*
- John Ferdico & Barbara Duff,
Bowdoinham
- Russ & Carole Dyer, *Bowdoinham*
- Susan Fides, *Brunswick*
- John Frumer & Elizabeth Barrett,
Bowdoinham
- Sarah & Walter Gebert, *Bowdoinham*
- Linda & Charles Gill, *Bowdoinham*
- Raymond C. Harrison, *Topsham*
- Edward L. Hawes, *Brunswick*
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Hazzard, *Brunswick*
- Nancy Heiser, *Brunswick*
- Laura Jackson, *Dresden*
- Malcolm & Lucille Jewell, *Bowdoinham*
- Dave Hunt & Kathleen Kenny, *Dresden*
- Charles Ipcar & Judy Barrows, *Richmond*
- Frederick & Natalie Kempner, *Woolwich*
- Anne Kilham, *Rockport*
- Alexandra Maurer, *Brunswick*
- William Milam, *Woolwich*
- Mason Morfit, *South Freeport*
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- Elizabeth & Carlton Reed, Jr., *Woolwich*
- Carla & John Rensenbrink, *Topsham*

FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY

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- Ed Friedman, 42 Stevens Rd., Bowdoinham 04006 *Chairman* 666-3372
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- Esther Lacognata, 19 Elm Street, Topsham 04086 729-4088
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- Karin Tilberg, 17 Dunn Farm Road, Bowdoinham 04008 666-5902
- Vance Stephenson, 3 Meeting House Rd., Scarborough 04074. *Treas.* 883-9719
- 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 .. 443-0982

Executive Director:

- Betsy Ham, 145 Pork Point Road, Bowdoinham 04008 666-3376

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- Elisabeth Webster, *Bowdoinham*
- Kitty Wheeler, *Woolwich*
- Ruth J. White, *Brunswick*
- Suanne Williams-Lindgren, *Freeport*

We are pleased to announce that we reached our 1996 goal of 200 members! Thank you for your support!

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

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

A SELLOUT CROWD AT THE WINTER SPEAKER SERIES

FRANK BURROUGHS, accompanied by Sally Butcher's beautiful slides of the Bay, spoke to a "sellout crowd" of over 100 people at Bowdoin College on January 22. All who heard and watched this program came away with a better understanding for this place that we call Merrymeeting Bay. Our mission to preserve, protect and improve Merrymeeting Bay is easy to state, but after Frank's and Sally's presentation we all had a renewed sense of why we work so hard to fulfill this mission.

Come join us for the last three speakers in this successful Winter Speakers Series. Generous door prizes donated by Patagonia Outlet Store of Freeport and refreshments will be provided.

- February 26 — **Anadromous Fish of the Kennebec River and Merrymeeting Bay** — Tom Squires, Maine Dept. Marine Resources. Life cycle of

smelts, shad, alewives, striped bass, sturgeon and salmon and the restoration of this once-abundant fishery. 7 p.m. *Beam Classroom, Visual Arts Center, Bowdoin College.*

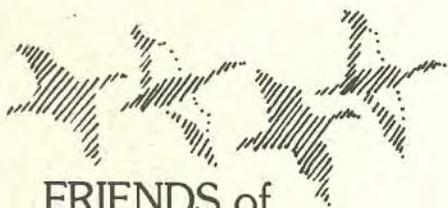
- March 26 — **Watersheds: Making Merrymeeting Bay's New History** — Ed Hawes, environmental historian. How economic decisions influence the history of natural resources. 7 p.m., *Beam Classroom, Visual Arts Ctr., Bowdoin College.*
- April 23 — **Making Friends with Our Bays** — Joe Payne, Friends of Casco Bay BayKeeper. 7 p.m., *Beam Classroom, Visual Arts Center, Bowdoin College.*

The Merrymeeting Bay Winter Speaker Series at Bowdoin College is sponsored by FOMB, the Bowdoin College Environmental Studies Program and the Bowdoin Druids, and received help from the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust.

PLEASE JOIN US!

NOTE CARDS BY SALLY BUTCHER AND FRANK BURROUGHS TO BENEFIT FOMB

SALLY BUTCHER and Frank Burroughs are looking into the production of note cards that would feature Sally's beautiful photographs. All profits from the sale of these cards will be donated to Friends of Merrymeeting Bay. Many of us who saw their presentation (see Winter Speaker Series article) were inspired to sign up on the spot to receive these cards. If you missed the presentation but would also like to sign up in advance for these cards call Betsy Ham at 666-3376.



**FRIENDS of
MERRYMEETING BAY**

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Forwarding and address
correction requested.

**Conservation
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See page 5.

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