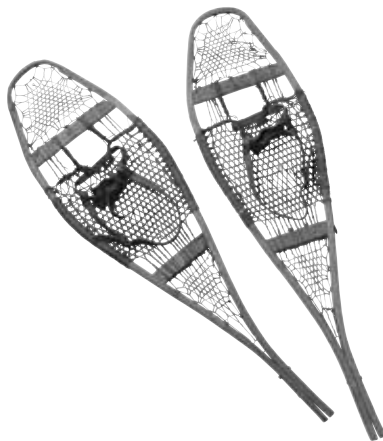


The Merrymeeting News



Winter 2005 VOLUME 15, No. 1

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



Friends of Merrymeeting Bay

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to preserve, protect and improve the unique ecosystems of the Bay through:

Education

Conservation & Stewardship

Membership Events

Research & Advocacy

Support comes from members' tax-deductible donations and grants.

www.link75.org/mmb/

The Merrymeeting News is published seasonally by the of Friends of Merrymeeting Bay (FOMB) and is sent to FOMB members and other friends of the Bay.

For information call:
Ed Friedman, Chair,
at 666-3372.

Sarah Wolpow,
Executive Coordinator, 721-0941



191 Acres & 8,000 Feet of Waterfront Protected



Abbagadassett River flowing through newly protected property

Photo: Ed Friedman

Ninety-six acres and nearly a mile of newly protected frontage along the Abbagadassett River in Bowdoinham will continue to provide valuable spawning habitat for migratory fish. The tract brings to nearly 600 acres of land along the river protected by the Maine Wetlands Protection Coalition. The land was purchased through a grant from the Land for Maine's Future Program in an effort led by FOMB.

FOMB first contacted the landowners, Wallace and Elisabeth Umberhind, two years ago as part of our Abbagadassett Initiative. Although they faced a good deal of pressure to sell the family property for development, the Umberhinds chose to protect their land and benefit generations to come. The purchase was negotiated with the help of The Nature Conservancy and it was the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife [MDIF&W] that ultimately

acquired the parcel and will manage it in conjunction with other wildlife management lands in the area.

The wooded parcel includes a part of Abbagadassett Falls as well as the site of the original Carding Mill. Bounded on the west by the Carding Machine Rd., the parcel is part of a three-mile river section between the Falls and head of tide. The parcel is unique in that much of it includes acreage on both sides of the river. The section provides spawning habitat for migratory fish such as smelt and alewives. Brook trout, suckers, sea lamprey, American eel and possibly Atlantic salmon rely on this stretch of habitat as well.

Due to the foresight and generosity of Don & Joan Lipfert and their family members, 70 acres of forest, fields and wetlands in Woolwich along with approximately 1300' of Kennebec River

continued on page 2

From the Chair: 2004 in Review

2004 was another successful year for FOMB if membership and accomplishments are any indication. We started off the year on a high note, hiring our Executive Coordinator Sarah Wolpov. Sarah's focus would be on helping us strengthen the organization from the bottom up to best address our long-term sustainability. Following the adage "water to the roots" we are trying to build volunteer involvement, from participation in activities, to standing committee responsibilities, project management and Board or Steering Committee roles. Membership is a good place to start towards these goals and Sarah has done a great job of getting our membership database into shape, reaching out to lapsed members, new and old members and recruiting volunteers.

We ended the year on a great note as well, protecting nearly 200 acres and 8,000 feet of valuable waterfront and receiving full funding, nearly \$50,000, from The Merrymeeting Bay Trust for our longstanding research priority; a study of the Circulation Patterns of the Bay and tributaries. Also in the waning weeks of the year the plight of the American eel, brought to our attention by the Watts brothers, was picked up by the N.Y. Times and Associated Press. Still no response from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC] to the complaint we filed back in October on this slaughter, but hopefully we will see positive developments in response to Tim and Doug Watts' petition filing with US Fish and Wildlife Service for listing the eel as an endangered species.

Special standouts during the year have been our increased classroom participation reaching hundreds of students in elementary schools around the Bay, whether teaching map classes, bringing in our taxidermy critter mounts, or teaching a 5-week class on Merrymeeting Bay. In mid summer we ran our second successful archaeological dig bringing in over 60 volunteers and

finding some interesting artifacts including a long double-ended stone rod, the likes of which had not been found since the 1930s. Under the supervision of long-time FOMB members and Bowdoin College faculty, archaeologists Leslie Shaw and John Cross, this dig broke some 5-8,000 year old ground and should add a great deal to our knowledge of native Americans living along the Androscoggin at that time.

We have continued to beat the enforcement drum at the DEP as we see there a reflection of lax federal policies that threaten our natural resources daily. On a number of occasions now we have provided them with detailed data on problem areas. Whether PCB hotspots or the presence of suspected endocrine system disrupters below mill, their follow-through continues to be zilch. We've had better luck helping out a few neighborhood groups [on gravel mining and pesticide issues] as they have come to understand that most environmental issues are more widespread than their own backyards and that they are connected to other issues [like tax reform] as well.

My special thanks go to our many volunteers [including our hard working Steering Committee members] and to our many Partners without whom our accomplishments would not be possible. Our future challenges in this political climate remain great, our rewards with your help, awesome.

Lastly, but certainly not least, our good thoughts and condolences go out to Fran Leyman. Fran lost a soul mate and FOMB a good friend when her husband John Detweiler passed away prematurely in December. John and Fran donated one of our earlier conservation easements [40 acres on the Abbagadasset River Mill Pond] that in addition to protecting valuable habitat served as an example for future donors to follow. Our thoughts are with you Fran.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ed Friedman, Chair

Waterfront Protected

continued from page 1

waterfront have been protected in perpetuity. Situated on the south side of Thwing Point, the property lies just north of the Coffin Wildflower Preserve owned by the New England Wildflower Society. The protected property straddles Rte. 128 and includes 1500' along Chops Creek on the east side of Rte. 128 plus an additional 25 acres of tidal wetland in Merrymeeting Bay considered Highest Value Habitat by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Approximately 10 years ago, the Lipferts sold their old farmhouse protecting the 28 acres of land that accompanied it with certain deed restrictions. Now with Coffin Preserve to the south and their old property to the north, the entire 4000' of Lilly's Cove on Merrymeeting Bay is protected.

The Lipferts, having owned this parcel for 41 years decided that their love of the land could best be articulated by donating a conservation easement on 70 of their remaining 116 acres to Friends of Merrymeeting Bay [FOMB]. For several years FOMB worked together with the Lipferts to come up with satisfactory language, work out easement exclusions and boundary issues, and complete all of the documentation prior to the closing just before Christmas.

A conservation easement allows for land protection specifics to be negotiated individually between the landowner or donor and the easement holder, usually a non-profit charitable organization, in this case FOMB. Easement conditions may be "forever wild" or may allow for such things as agricultural, forestry, or recreational activities, and possibly even limited development. Conservation easements provide for permanent land protection while continuing private ownership. These protected lands may be sold or transferred in the normal manner while the conservation conditions remain attached to the property.

Ed Friedman

Smelt Makes The Ice

Smelt was hungry, and restless. It was the dead of winter and the days were just starting to get a little longer. Smelt had been lying low off the mouth of the Kennebec all through the warm seasons, while voracious visitors from up-along hunted the rivers and Bay. Shag and Striper, Osprey and Bluefish had cut a swath through the finny tribes, but now they were long gone, chasing the Sun.

Smelt rose up from the deeps and sniffed the Sagadahoc tide. MMM. The mud-brown ebb spilling into Ocean's crystal brine was rank with a promise of plenty. Smelt followed his nose into the current flowing from the rivers, his whole body quivering with anticipation. But even the low winter sun hurt Smelt's eyes where it dazzled in the shallow waters. It had been a long time since Smelt had seen the shimmering sparkle of sunlight at the water's surface, or the swift play of shadows from windblown clouds. He'd long been lulled by the slow swinging music of the Summer deeps, and the dizzying brightness of the swift running rivers startled him. Made him anxious. Smelt hesitated where the salt and fresh waters meet.

The smell of tender morsels pouring out of Merrymeeting Bay was almost overwhelming. Smelt wriggled in the ebbing tide, fanning his fins, dreaming of the storied goodness around the Bay where six rivers meet. It was told how the precious essence of New Life was scattered piecemeal on bottom, in the higher reaches of the Bay. Smelt yearned to find these promised treasures. Still the waters lay open to the sky, and the Sun glared into the waters.

Then, as Smelt flicked his tail and rattled his scales in the current, he started to hum to himself. Just an idle murmur at first, to match the rhythmic beating of his tail, the pulsing of his gills. Then, as the tune took hold, Smelt began to chant aloud. Calling for the surface waters above him to thicken and block the Sun. Smelt sang on.

At first Smelt's song went unheard. The heedless rivers ran to the sea and the cruel Sun stared down. But little by little the waters changed their tune, to swing with this new beat. The thin hissing of skim ice making and breaking joined Smelt's incantation. His chant melded into the crackle and clatter of pan ice rattling to the beat. Smelt sang on.

Each night Smelt would venture farther into the shallow waters, singing his song, only to be frightened back by the dawning brightness. The waters would skim over to the music, only to be rent apart by the forces of Day. Smelt sang on.

Wind and current churned the making ice, and sunshine ate away at the congealing waters. But each day the ice thickened. As the tide flooded and ebbd along the channels, plates of ice broke and heaved together at the edge of the shallows. Pressure ridges of glittering ice lined the channels.

Bright daylight shined through the up-thrust panes of ice. Smelt sang on.

Then, on a moonless night, when the Sky was still and the tide in flood, Smelt's incantation reached up into the last trickle of the least guzzle of the whole watershed, and all the waters knit. Smelt had sung, and the Black Ice had come.

In the morning, thick dark ice covered all the rivers and the Bay, shutting out the Sun. The great sheets of ice humped and buckled and fissured, but Smelt had sung, and the ice had made good. Under the Black Ice the river boomed a beat in time to Smelt's song. The bright Sky couldn't disturb the waters.

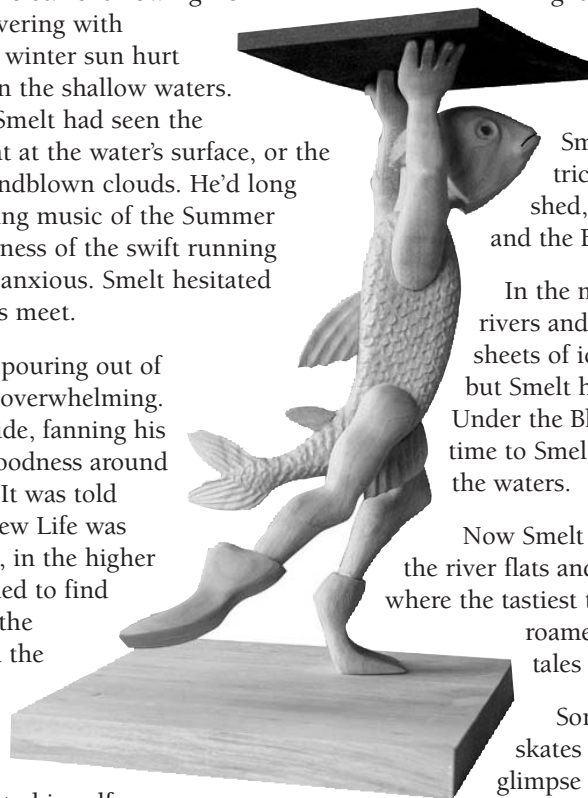
Now Smelt rode the rising tide under the ice, over the river flats and up into the tiny creeks and drains, where the tastiest treats were waiting. Day and night he roamed the Merrymeeting waters and found the tales of a Smelt Paradise were true.

Sometimes Smelt would hear the scraping of skates on the dark ice above, or catch a quick glimpse of Eagle keeping his winter vigil over an open race hole. Sometimes on a big tide he would hear the faint echo of Owl hooting at the Moon. But Smelt was safe under the Black Ice, and he hummed his song. Now all the waters were vibrating with the tune.

All through the deepest winter Smelt gorged himself in anticipation of the Spawning Time to come. In the darkness under the ice Smelt was gathering up the treasure of New Life. The scattered promises of Spring.

Which is why you can hear the boom of Smelt's song under the Black Ice. And why you must seek the New Life in the frozen darkness.

Bryce Muir / Photo & Sculpture Bryce Muir



Friends of Merrymeeting Bay 2004 Accomplishments

Media	Print: Approximately 24 articles: <i>Archaeology, Education, DEP Enforcement, Caged Mussels, Land Conservation, Dam Removal, Fish Restoration, American Eel kills</i>
Volunteers	Minimum 300 volunteer days 123 volunteers
Membership	340 members [72 new members this year] Speaker Series - 150 people Outside 2004 [Paddle Series & Walks -49 people] Newsletters - 4
Funds Leveraged	\$73,000 [land acquisition]
Grants	\$10,000 [staff], \$50,000 [Current Study](\$22,000 in 04, balance in 05)
Outreach Presentations	Androskoggin Source to the Sea Trek-14 people Gulf of Maine Sea Kayak Symposium-6 people Maine Wastewater Association Training Conference-30 people Western Maine Audubon-30 people Kennebec Historic Waterway Conference-participant Toxics Action Center Conference-participant/display Portland Neighborhood Coalition Conference-40 people
Education	Two Bay Days [320 students] Hall-Dale on the Bay [80 students] Curriculum Binder; increased distribution School Visits-22 [520 students] Web site updates

- Conservation and Stewardship** Total Protected – 191 acres, 8,000' of shoreline
- Acquisitions [with Maine Wetlands Protection Coalition] Umberhind - 96 acres, 5200' Abbagadassett R. shoreline, in Bowdoinham
 - Easements One easement, 70 acres, 1300'of shoreline-Kennebec; 1500' of shoreline-Chops Creek, plus 25 acres tidal wetland, Woolwich
 - Stewardship All easements monitored

Research Completed & released Caged Mussel reports on Kennebec & Androskoggin
East Brunswick Archaeological Dig with Bowdoin College & MHPC
Coordinated on Invasive Plant project with The Nature Conservancy
Water Quality Monitoring – 16 sites

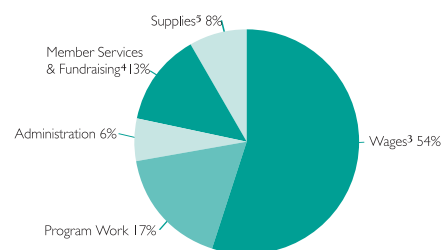
- Advocacy (postings, letters, testimony, etc)**
- Speed Limit Signs
 - Merrymeeting Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Signs
 - Land for Maine's Future
 - American Eel Protection
 - Dioxin Monitoring Program/Surface Water Ambient Toxics Program
 - Fort Halifax Dam Removal [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission]
 - Gardiner Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades
 - Fish Consumption Advisories
 - Hydro Power Alternatives Analyses
 - Gulf Island Pond
 - Toxic Release Inventory
 - Redrock Wilderness Act
 - Kennebec Gravel Mining
 - USFWS Salmon Hatchery Support
 - Utah Wilderness Coalition
 - Center for Environmental Health & Justice
 - Bowdoinham Float Plane Dock
 - USFWS Gulf of Maine Coastal Program
 - Brunswick Aquifer Protection Zone

Primary Partners

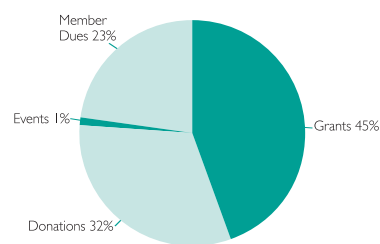
- The Nature Conservancy
- Bowdoin College Environmental Studies
- Department of Environmental Protection
- Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Maine Natural Areas Program
- Department of Marine Resources
- Friends of Casco Bay
- Maine Toxics Action Coalition
- Applied Biomonitoring
- International Paper
- SAPPI
- Gardiner Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Maine Rivers
- Maine Historic Preservation Commission
- Environment Canada
- Maine Coast Heritage Trust
- Maine Wetlands Protection Coalition
- Patagonia Outlet, Freeport
- Grand View Neighborhood Group
- Land Trust Alliance
- Maine Eco
- Androskoggin Alliance
- Friends of Kennebec Salmon
- Maine Maritime Museum

2004 Financials

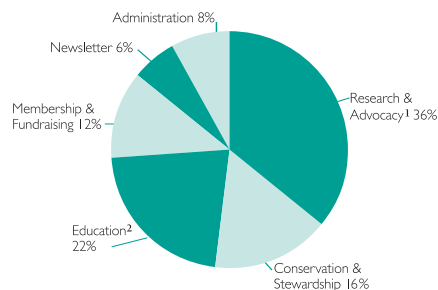
Expenses (\$34,361)



Income (\$60,645)



Volunteer Energy (3000 hours) (includes Chair, committee, & all other vols.)



1 Includes archaeological dig & water quality testing
 2 Includes Bay Days
 3 Staff time went to 35% program work; 33% membership, outreach & fundraising; 22% admin (inc. setting up new computer and database); 10% newsletter.

4 Includes quarterly newsletter printing and postage
 5 Includes new computer

Aquifer Protection: This Could Be Your Town

Granted, it's February and spring seems an eternity away. Most of us are not thinking about lush, weed-free turf grass; but in Brunswick we have an outstanding opportunity to help guide our town's direction on two major environmental issues: aquifer protection and town lands management.

The question facing our town is whether or not to repeal a municipal ban on pesticide use at playing fields that are above the public water supply. The prohibition is part of Brunswick's drinking water protection rules. Brunswick town councilors are currently considering the matter and will hold a public hearing in February. It is ironic that in these days of increased public awareness on the dangers of toxic chemicals and the sensitivity of aquifers in particular, that the town is considering the reversal of their progressive policy. A vote is expected before spring.

For some, it might be a tempting proposition. But this proposal threatens the health and safety of children and other park visitors and endangers our water supply. Federal government studies have shown that even the legal use of pesticides has led to ground water contamination, including in aquifers located in Maine. Pesticides are poisons that can be harmful to people, wildlife and pets - so our elected officials must ensure that what the town applies to its parks does not increase the likelihood of health risks for children and others.

Fortunately, there is another choice: Organic Turf Management. A growing awareness of the harmful effects of pesticides is prompting many US and Canadian municipalities to seek this alternative for sports turf care. These communities' successes demonstrate that pesticides and herbicides are not necessary to promote vibrant, dense turf grass and that the public water supply may be protected while still providing safe playing fields. An ever-growing number of communities and provinces are actually banning the use of pesticides entirely.

Consider the experience of Marblehead, Mass. Four years ago the town banned the use of pesticides on all municipal lands- including playing fields, and adopted an organic pest management policy. At Seaside Park, one of the town's multi-use sports fields, thick, practically weed free turf still covered playing surfaces through mid- November.

"Seeing is believing," says Pat Beckett, founder of the citizens group that convinced Marblehead town officials to go organic. "You can create beautiful, cushioning sports turf that can withstand overuse and compaction through natural, organic turf care practices," Beckett said.

Organic pest management is guided by the principle of working with nature and not against it. The starting point is sound soil science, since healthy soils that are alive with earthworms and various beneficial microorganisms are necessary for promoting deeply rooted turf grass plants that can hold up under the stress of heavy use. Marblehead's non-chemical program relies on soil testing, natural soil amendments such as compost, balancing nutrients, adjusting pH levels to favor grass growth instead of weeds and overseeding with a high quality turf seed mix.

Another reason for Brunswick to choose organic land care protocols is that chemicals can actually make things worse. A Cornell University report finds that sandy soils such as we have here, are very susceptible to devastating turf disease when managed with regular pesticide applications. "The fact is that chemicals make turf weaker not stronger, and when problems do arise they are more severe under a chemical management program than with an organic one," states ecological turf care expert, Paul Sachs.

If turf strength and quality is not compelling enough consider the obvious: Studies cited by the Brunswick-Topsham Water District, that supports maintaining the current pesticide ban, conclude that sandy soil conditions and close-to-surface water tables increase the risk of pesticide contamination to ground water.

History has shown that oftentimes the hazards of toxins such as pesticides only become recognized after damage is done; there can be a long lag time between cause and effect. Recently, the federal government phased out distribution of two of the most widely used pesticides, Dursban and diazinon, because their effects were found to be more dangerous than first thought. Brunswick's Parks and Recreation Department had previously used both.

Brunswick Town Councilors showed great visionary thinking with the enactment of the current drinking water protection rules. This approach focuses on prevention, rather than waiting until someone or something is harmed [the Precautionary Principle]. It's an idea that makes a lot of sense particularly when the viable alternative of Organic Turf Management is available.

Laura Moon

Ed Note: For the current status of this issue in Brunswick and what you can do to help, please contact Laura at 725-4709. In the new legislative session both Arthur Lerman and Libby Mitchell have introduced an assortment of aquifer protection bills that also deal with such issues as gravel mining atop aquifers.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL! We now have two new email lists to keep you more informed about ways to help protect and enjoy our beautiful Bay. One will be used for notices of events and volunteer opportunities (maximum 2-4 emails/month). The other will be used to alert you when action is needed to support our advocacy work. We may suggest that you call your legislators, or write a letter to the editor. There is no obligation on your part — you can follow through as time and interest permit. (maximum 12 emails/year). Please send a note with your email address to fomb@gwi.net if you would like to be added to either of these lists. FOMB will not exchange your email with any other organizations.

One Earth, one Maine, one voice, Join Maine ECO!

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay has just become a participating organization in Maine ECO (Environmental Citizens Online). Maine ECO is a free grassroots email action network that will alert you about the most important Maine environmental issues and connect you to key decision-makers (legislators, government officials, etc.). You will receive no more than 2 email alerts per month. Maine ECO is sponsored by a coalition of 16 organizations. To sign up, send an email with subject line "FOMB ECO member" to maineeco@suscom-maine.net. Include your name, residential address (sorry, no PO boxes), home phone (optional), and email address

Did we Say THANK YOU?

Over 120 people volunteered time or donated services to FOMB in 2004! While we have used these pages to thank many of you along the way (notably, our water quality testers, Dig and Bay Day volunteers), many others of you have toiled in obscurity – until now! Among the people listed below are our hard-working committee members, Outings Coordinator, paddle and walk leaders, easement monitors, landowners, partners in land protection, newsletter contributors, Education Coordinator, educators, speakers, envelope-stuffers, and poster-hangers. We could not have done it without you! Our deepest apologies if we have missed anyone.

Brad Allen, Rosemary Armstrong, Hal Bonner, Liz Bouve, Bowdoinham Town Office, Margaret Brann, Will Brune, Deb Burk, Frank Burroughs, Dana Cary, Dorothy Chaisson, Kent Cooper, Jim Connolly, Rick & Deb Coughlin, Doug Coulis, Creative Maine Taxidermy, Dee & Clancy Cummins, Margo & Jack Curley, Andy Cutko, Bob Decker, Ruth Deike & The Rock Detective, Dragonworks Kayaks, Paul Dumdey, Kathie Duncan, Rusty Dyke, Will Everitt, Jean Fawcett, Jane Fisher, Peter Footer, Fore St., Ron Franklin, Ruth Gabey, Grandview Neighborhood Group, Tracy Gregoire, Betsy Ham, Anne Hammond, Ann Hartzler, Sam Hayward, Julia Henze, Libby Hyatt, Bob Houston, Eileen Johnson, Kathleen Kenny, Bridget Kirouac, Alice Knapp, Gary Lawless, Fran Leyman, Judy Lipetz, Don, Joan, Nathan & Janine Lipfert, Joan Llorente, Monique Lucarelli, Mike Mahan & Mahan Graphics, Elaine Makas, Kathleen McGee, Martha Mitchell, Tom Mitchell, Jason Morin, Bryce Muir, Nancy Murphy, Steve Musica, Liza Nelson, Joe Payne, Steve Pelletier, Jay Robbins, Brian Robinson, Mike & Sandra Salazar, Naomi Schalit, Debbie Seybold, Brian Smith, Kermit Smyth, Martha Spiess, Betsy Steen, Rob Steen, Millie Stewart, Dan Stockford, Mary Sturtevant, Steve Taylor, Donna Therriault, Adelaide Trafton, Tree-Tee Productions, D.D. Tyler, Wallace & Elisabeth Umberhind, Paul Wade, Doug & Tim Watts, Warren Whitney, Woodlot Alternatives, Erin Woodsome.

Introducing The Bowdoin Blurb...

The faculty, staff and students at Bowdoin College play a major role in the scientific research being conducted in Merrymeeting Bay; this new series of articles will feature a particular person or research project going on at Bowdoin.

The Biology Department at Bowdoin College is pleased to welcome visiting scientist Dorte Koster. Dorte recently received her PhD in Paleolimnology at the University Laval in Quebec City; she is going to be spending six months at Bowdoin studying sediment cores extracted from the tidal marshes of Merrymeeting Bay. Sediment cores contain fossil diatoms (microscopic algae) that are good indicators of water quality. By examining the changes in diatom species through the sediment record the environmental history, specifically the water quality history of the bay, can be reconstructed. Data collected in the sediment cores will help us to understand the response of the ecosystem to past pollution and its ability to recover from environmental stress.

Heather Caron



Photo: E. Friedman

Last Call for photos!

Deadline for submitting photos to our Merrymeeting Bay calendar is
March 1, 2005

We need your help: talking to local businesses about carrying the calendar in their stores and promoting sales.

Call us or visit our website for details:
www.link75.org/mmb

Current Study to Proceed in 2005

At year's end FOMB received full funding from The Merrymeeting Bay Trust to conduct a long-standing research priority of ours. The project: Circulation Patterns of Merrymeeting Bay, includes all 6 tributaries from head of tide through the Chops and will use transmitter equipped drifters to track the spatial and temporal flow of water as it moves through the system. Drifter locations will be plotted in a moving display using animation software incorporated onto a map of the Bay. Aside from adding to our basic knowledge of the Bay the study should help answer practical questions such as:

- a. What will be the path and duration of possible oil or waste spills?
- b. Where should we be sampling to look for evidence of contaminants?
- c. Where might we look to best monitor presence of aquatic invasives?
- d. How and where do floating fish larvae move through the system?
- e. Are those nursery habitats and contaminated sediments in the same place?

For more information please click on the FOMB link on our web site.

Ed Friedman

FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY

Steering Committee

- David W. Chipman (Harpswell)
- Clancy Cummins (Richmond)Secretary
- Dee Cummins (Richmond)
- Will Everitt (Portland)
- Ed Friedman (Bowdoinham)Chair
- Steve Musica (Richmond)Treasurer
- Martha Spiess (Freeport)

Committee Chairs

- Education
 - Tracy Gregoire666-8919
- Conservation and Stewardship
 - Andy Cutko666-3162
- Research and Advocacy
 - Ed Friedman666-3372
- Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator
 - Bill Milam443-9738

Executive Coordinator

- Sarah Wolpow721-0941
- 45 Page St. Brunswick ME, 04011

Thank you to Tom and Martha Mitchell for designing this issue of The MMNews & to all our contributing writers.



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

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- \$_____ Other.
- \$20 Smelt
- \$50 Alewife
- \$100 Shad
- \$250 Striped Bass
- \$500 Wild Salmon
- \$1,000+Sturgeon

Name

RR# or Street Address

Town /State/Zip

Phone

Email

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

- Renewal
- New Member
- Please send me information about volunteer opportunities

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

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay
P.O. Box 233, Richmond, ME 04357
Return service requested



Coming up in Merrymeeting...

Thursday, March 3 @ 7 PM

- **Swan Island, Jewel of Merrymeeting Bay:** Rusty Dyke, *Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife*
Beam Classroom, Visual Arts Center, Bowdoin College, Brunswick

Tuesday, March 8th @ 6 PM

- **Focus Species Forestry: Integrating Forest Management and Biodiversity: A Workshop for Landowners, Foresters, Loggers, Communities and Land Trusts.** Sponsored by *Maine Audubon*, co-sponsored by *FOMB*, the towns of *Topsham & Brunswick*, and other local organizations.

For more information on the workshop, visit <http://www.maineaudubon.org/conserves/forest/focusspecies.shtml>.

Location: Topsham Public Library

Thursday, April 7 @ 7 PM

- **Water Grab! Our Ground Water & its Privatization:** Pat Seaward, *Maine DEP*; Ruth Caplan, *Alliance for Democracy*
Beam Classroom, Visual Arts Center, Bowdoin College, Brunswick

Thursday, May 5 @ 7 PM

- **The Farm to Art Connection: Fiberarts around the Bay:** Christine Macchi, *Maine Fiberarts*
Bridge Academy, Dresden (NOTE: location may need to be changed pending repair work to building).

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS – Spring Bay Day (Tuesday, May 17th) Help coordinate our Spring Bay Day!

The Coordinator will be in charge of scheduling teachers, students, presenters, and chaperones. We would also love help with chaperoning kids around the sites. Please call Sarah Wolpow (721-0941) – and mark your calendars!

Just a reminder: An excellent exhibit of Heather Perry photographs, “Watermen of Merrymeeting Bay,” continues through Sept., 2005 at the Maine Maritime Museum.