

# Merrymeeting News

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

AUTUMN 1994

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

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay was formed in 1975 for people who care about the Bay's future. FOMB was revitalized in 1991 and re-incorporated as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. FOMB's interests are diverse: scientific, educational, literary and historical. FOMB is also a Land Trust that accepts donations of land and provides stewardship for conservation easements. FOMB depends upon on volunteers and an active membership.

### **FOMB COMMITTEES:**

#### **Water Quality**

Ed Benedikt, Brunswick  
Tom Benn, Whitefield  
Peter Vickery, Richmond

#### **Wildlife & Fisheries**

Marilyn Cole, Bath  
Ed Friedman, Bowdoinham  
Steve Pelletier, Richmond

#### **Property Protection & Stewardship**

Nancy Churchill, Dresden  
Esther Lacognata, Topsham  
Joe Trafton, Topsham

#### **Membership, Fund Raising & Endowment**

Tad Hunter, Topsham  
Bill Jewell, Woolwich

#### **Special Events**

Jean Parker, Woolwich

#### **Newsletter**

Tim Nason, Dresden

## **FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY AT MANY SPECIAL EVENTS**

**T**HE SUMMER AND FALL of 1994 will surely go down in history as a "watershed" year for us. Not only have we kept up our membership base and raised enough money to keep things afloat, but more importantly we have reached out to groups with like-minded interests and have found many new friends.

In August we held our 1st Annual Swan Island Summer Picnic, a full day of walking, eating, paddling and taking the truck tour of the island provided by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. Some 50+ registered for the outing (38 attended) and more than \$800 was raised for FOMB, some of which will be used for projects on Swan Island. The weather was perfect, conservation aides Slade and Erik were skilled tour guides, and the picnic drew many new friends of the Bay. *Related article inside.*

On the weekend of September 23-25, we had our booth at the Common Ground Country Fair held by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association in Windsor. Despite record rainfall and foot-deep ponds around some exhibition areas, FOMB was fairly high and dry and managed to sell some T-shirts, recruit a few new members and add 56 people to our burgeoning mailing list. Exhibitors had plenty of time of get to know one another during the Fair, so we renewed valuable contacts with many organizations and individuals. On Sunday, we informally shared our space with Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust. Many thanks to Joanna Bradley, George & Sue Sergeant, Jean Parker, Bill & Alice Jewell and others who volunteered at the booth.

On October 1st, Jean Parker took a fall foliage boat trip through Merrymeeting Bay as a special guest of Bud Warren and the Maine Maritime Museum. Some 50 people on the museum's cruise were treated to Bud's excellent presentation about the natural and human history of the Bay. Bud distributed copies of a map of the route which described points of interest, including Lines Island (where a 150-lot subdivision has been on the books for some time), the Chops, and Swan Island. Jean talked about the fisheries and wildlife of the Bay and about our mission to protect these resources.

Also on October 1st, Maine Island Trails Association (MITA) members participated in a coastal clean-up in Merrymeeting Bay. Trash was picked up at Brick Island, Bird Island and a mile-long stretch of shoreline at Brown's Point (Abagadasset Point). Tires, beach chairs, a plastic swimming pool and an oil heater were among the many items removed from the Bay. FOMB Steering Committee member Anne Hammond is the MITA coordinator for the mid-coast section of the Maine Island Trail, a 325-mile water route for paddlers which links landing sites on islands from Portland to Machias. FOMB Steering Committee member Ed Friedman of Bowdoinham helped ferry MITA volunteers to the islands and back and participated in the clean-up.

October 1st was also opening day of hunting season for Canada geese, brant geese, snow geese and woodcock, so FOMB Steering Committee member Linwood Rideout of Bowdoinham was out providing guide services as he has done for decades. Linwood is scheduled to lead an evening of Merrymeeting Bay stories and tall tales for FOMB in December. Look for a notice in your mailbox in November.

On October 14 & 15, FOMB members Marilyn Cole, Ed Friedman, Jean Parker and Tim Nason led a series of 12 one-hour field trips at the Merrymeeting Bay Wildlife Management Area in Bowdoinham for 4th and 7th graders as part of the Beacon School Program. The event, co-sponsored by officials at the Brunswick Naval Air Station, who provided troops, tents, communication, transportation, and workshops on weather monitoring and wilderness survival, was organized to get children out of the classroom and show how skills in math and science are used in the "real world." Some 240 youngsters now know about and have come to appreciate Merrymeeting Bay as a result of this exciting program. □

## SPECIAL EVENTS LEAD TO MERRY MEETINGS

### Swan Island Summer Picnic

Thirty-eight people attended our 1st Annual Swan Island Summer Picnic and we had a great day. The Zellinger family canoed over, and my daughter Lisa and I kayaked. It's a nice paddle! All others were ferried over by Eric and Slade, the two conservation aides who were helpful, pleasant and informative.

At 10 a.m. we all met, registered, bought T-shirts and made contacts with new and old friends on the Richmond side of the Kennebec. Those who took the launch boat were picked up and trucked to the picnic site on Swan Island. Here we ate our lunch, played with the kayaks and visited each other until Eric and Slade had time to share with us (they were so busy with ferrying!) about the history of the island, which was a very active community at one time. The island is now a wildlife preserve open to tours and camping (write Swan Island Reservations, MDIF&W, RFD #1, Box 6378, Waterville, ME 04901; or call 207-547-4167). Hardy picnickers walked the 4-mile nature, and everyone took the truck tour to the southern tip of the island.

Although the day was not without glitches, there was nothing we all couldn't handle — in fact it was fun! We look forward to a 2nd Annual Picnic. We are open to suggestions and would

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### *Merrymeeting News*

is the newsletter of Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, P.O. Box 233, Richmond, Maine 04357, published in the winter, spring, summer and autumn. *Merrymeeting News* is sent to all FOMB members (\$10 annually). For information call Tim Nason, Black Spruce Type/Graphics, Dresden (737-4282). FOMB welcomes donations to help pay for the cost of printing and mailing.

welcome volunteers. Thank you all who helped and participated.

Since Swan Island is a very place for us, we would like to set up a work day on which a group of us would go to the island and do some maintenance activities. If anyone would like to help with this, please write to us, or call me at 442-0982. — Jean Parker, Woolwich

### Bath Heritage Days

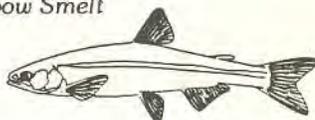
Back in July, we had our booth at Bath Heritage Days. You never know who you might meet at such an event. In this case, we met Gov. John McKernan and his wife, Rep. Olympia Snowe. We also met Mr. Jeb Byrne of Alexandria, Virginia. Mr. Byrne recently wrote to us:

*"Maine seems to call back those who have lived there. We spent ten good years in Maine, 1951-61, have regularly gone back on vacation to Phippsburg/Popham Beach, explored the Merrymeeting Bay region more thoroughly this year ... and my wife and I are thinking about spending much more time in the Kennebec River area. Meanwhile, we'd like to keep up-to-date on your doings through your newsletter."*

He goes on to mention that he is the president of a group called Friends of Dyke Marsh. The marsh is in the midst of a highly developed area, part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Virginia, and is apparently managed by the National Park Service. In the Fall issue of the group's newsletter, *Marsh Wren*, is an article entitled "1994 Dyke Marsh Breeding Bird Survey." The annual survey is conducted by "volunteer birders" who observe bird species in the marsh on foot and from canoe between May 27 and June 26. Some 75 species were observed, 34 of which were confirmed as breeders, 21 listed as probably breeders and 20 as possible breeders.

The reason we report this information is to spark an interest in conducting such a breeding bird census in Merrymeeting Bay. Or, if such a census is currently ongoing, perhaps someone will report to us how it works and how FOMB can get involved. — Tim Nason, Dresden

### Rainbow Smelt



### Fall Foliage Cruise to Richmond

On Saturday, October 1st, the Maine Maritime Museum offered a cruise of Merrymeeting Bay for birdwatchers, leaf peepers and Merrymeeting Bay enthusiasts. It was a clear, cool and windy day and just magnificent to be out on the water. There were eagles (and a nest), great blue herons, a seal cub and geese flying south, as well as hunters (first day of the season), kayakers (Maine Island Trails crew) and lots of boaters. We went from the Museum landing at 10 a.m., proceeded to Swan Island with a stop for lunch in Richmond and were back at the Museum by 2 p.m. Bud Warren, the tour leader, pointed out many sites of interest along the way, including historic landmarks, using a marked nautical chart.

Notices of Maine Maritime cruises will be posted in future issues of *Merrymeeting News*, so members can take advantage of this excellent resource.

— Jean Parker, Woolwich

### Mainly-Green Beacon School Program

Those of us who participated in the Beacon School Program in Bowdoinham on October 16-17 were delighted to see the enthusiasm and genuine curiosity of 4th and 7th graders about the ecology of Merrymeeting Bay.

Ed Friedman led the FOMB "station," called A Merrymeeting Bay Walkabout, by marking a trail that linked heavy pine growth with the old Sedgely burial ground, spiny undergrowth beneath the power line with dry areas of ledge that are unsuitable for trees or grass, to habitat for songbirds that is created by simply not mowing a hayfield, and finally to the edge of the Bay itself where we talked about wild rice, Joe Pye weed, arrowroot and other plants of freshwater marshes. On display for the kids to observe along the way were deer antlers and bones, a jar of lead shot (which looks exactly like bayberries) and the curved talons of a raven and a hawk. It was humbling and gratifying to see the kids so excited about each natural feature that was pointed out to them.

The Beacon School Program is directed by Ray Fisher at Bowdoin College in conjunction with the Brunswick Naval Air Station under a grant from the National Science Foundation. One object is raise the interest and proficiency in math and science skills. — Tim Nason, Dresden

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

PLEASE HELP US with our **December Christmas Party** to be held December 6, at 6:30 p.m., at the Chase Barn Chamber on the campus of Bowdoin College in Brunswick. This will be a potluck dinner followed by stories, tall-tales and reminiscences of long-time Bay residents Linwood Rideout and Maxwell Ward.

Please call our Special Events coordinator, Jean Parker (443-0982), if you would like to help with the Christmas Party, or call any of our other Steering Committee members to tell them what you would like to work on. □

## PRESERVING FAMILY LANDS

STEPHEN J. SMALL'S *Preserving Family Lands; Essential Tax Strategies for the Landowner (Revised 2nd Edition)*, is also available from FOMB for \$5. Please order your copy from us at P.O. Box 233, Richmond, ME 04357 (order form on page 7).

The book describes the tax benefits of conservation easements, gifts of remainder interest, testamentary gifts, direct gifts to family members, cash sales and limited development, and includes sources of help, estate tax tables and more. Once the terms and issues are understood, landowners can ask a financial advisor or lawyer how to implement the most appropriate tax-saving options.

**This book is very useful to landowners who are concerned about passing land to their children and the serious tax problems this can create.**

## CONSERVATION OPTIONS: A GUIDE FOR MAINE LANDOWNERS

WE STILL HAVE COPIES for sale of the new, revised edition of *Conservation Options*, published by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Cost to FOMB members is \$5 (order form on page 7). **We urge landowners to buy this excellent booklet from us.** It will explain everything you need to know

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY has participated in or has organized several public events this year to increase our visibility, raise money, and involve members in outdoor activities on the Bay.

Several of our special programs will very likely turn into annual events that will help establish FOMB as the logical "clearinghouse" for Bay activities.

One of the lessons we have learned over the past year is that we gain new friends and important allies when we promote and join the efforts of other organizations.

We have also learned to welcome and support members who come up with creative programs and are willing to turn ideas into realities. For example, Bob BaRoss has forged ahead to gather design and production ideas for a comprehensive map of the Bay. And special recognition should go to Jean Parker for her enthusiasm and drive, not to mention her courage, in bringing about so many minor miracles this year. Thank you, Jean.

In recognizing one or two, we do not at all diminish the role played by the many other members who provide leadership and moral support.

In addition, our members and friends have provided another kind of



Great  
Horned  
Owl

support in the form of donations. With almost every new and renewing membership is an extra \$5 to \$50 to \$100 as a donation. We are indeed grateful for these expressions of confidence in our efforts.

While we have had a public presence this year and have made many links to other groups, our Steering Committee has been involved in a less-visible, but no less important, long-term planning process. At two well-attended meetings (so far) led by Nancy Coverstone of the Cooperative Extension Service, we have renewed our mission to protect the Bay, restated our priorities, and developed action plans to guide our work over the coming years. We are confident that this effort will strengthen us internally as we press ahead with our more visible public activities.

We are growing, maturing, finding new strengths, new friends, new leadership. Please join us, share your ideas, volunteer, for the sake of the Bay.

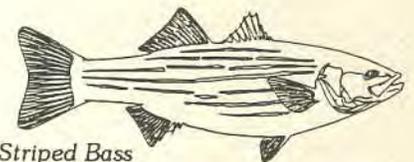
— Tim Nason, Dresden

about conservation options for your property. FOMB believes that permanent property conservation by private landowners is the most viable, long-term way to protect Merrymeeting Bay.

"The conservation easement is a flexible tool that protects land while leaving it in private ownership. The easement, a legal document, guides future uses of a property regardless of ownership. A landowner generally donates the easement to a qualified conservation organization or government agency which ensures that the conditions of the easement are met over time. In a few instances, landowners have been able to sell conservation easements to public agencies in Maine.

"Conservation easements provide numerous benefits:

- Landowners retain title to their property and may continue to live on it, or pass it on to heirs, knowing that it will always be protected.



Striped Bass

- Easements may eliminate or greatly reduce estate taxes, preventing the forced sale of properties. Easements can also provide landowners with income tax and property tax reductions by eliminating unwanted development value.

- Easements are flexible, adapted to the particular needs of the landowner and the resources of the property.

- Easements can reduce the potential for disagreement when lands are passed on to the next generation.

- Easements offer permanent protection, applying to all future landowners. A land trust or government agency ensures that restrictions are followed in perpetuity."

— from *Conservation Options: A Guide for Maine Landowners*

## DIOXINS JUST WON'T GO AWAY

Dioxins, highly toxic chemical by-products in combustion and chemical and industrial processes that use chlorine, have been found by the EPA to be even more toxic than once believed. In addition, dioxins have now been shown to cause cancer and have a harmful affect on the human immune system at very low exposure levels.

A recent EPA draft study on dioxin has been in development for three years and has involved some 100 scientists in and outside the agency. Its purpose is to assess the health dangers of dioxin in order to effectively regulate its presence in the human food chain. The study was demanded by industry which had argued that dioxin was not dangerous and was already over-regulated.

The EPA scientists cited waste combustion as the major source of low-levels of dioxin, accounting for 99% of known dioxin emissions. Ash containing dioxin settles on food plants and is further concentrated in grazing livestock.

Though the presence of dioxin in food plants and livestock is of concern to us, our greater concern is that dioxin and other toxins are poured daily into our Merrymeeting Bay rivers by Maine paper mills and other industries that use chlorine.

People are advised not to eat fish that are caught in Maine rivers because of high dioxin content. In addition, lobsters, which bottomfeed on dead fish and other delicacies, have been found to retain high concentrations of dioxin in the tomally (the green part, not the meat). Pregnant women are advised not to eat any tomally because dioxin has such potent effects on the human reproductive system.

Our concern is that while dioxin dumping continues unchecked, non-human organisms that depend on clean water are seriously threatened, particularly wildlife species that are high on the food chain, such as eagles, otters, blue herons, ospreys and the like. These species cannot be advised to avoid eating the fish they catch in Maine rivers.

This year, the Maine Legislature created the Ambient Toxics Monitoring Program to enable the DEP to study toxins in the sediment of mudflats. Species that

## ISSUES & QUESTIONS

WHEN WE ATTEND MEETINGS and greet visitors and friends at special events, many questions are asked, many issues are raised. Sometimes we don't have a ready answer. And other times the issues raised are so complex or fraught with political overtones that we don't claim to have a policy or even an "official opinion."

The following issues and questions are listed without comment or judgment. If members or other friends would like to respond, we welcome your letters or postcards. Send them to FOMB, P.O. Box 233, Richmond, ME 04357. Or if you have a question or issue you would like to be raised, let us know.

- What is a wetland? When does merely "wet land" become a wetland?
- There seem to be very few ducks around. Are there really fewer, or do they now migrate at night? Is there really anything we can do to help them?
- What size is the "buffer-zone" needed for breeding eagles and other wildlife? What characteristics should this buffer-zone consist of? All year 'round?
- Are the smaller rivers around Merrymeeting Bay dying, or have they always been full of silt and mud? Can anything be done to "save" them?
- Where are good places on the Bay to watch birds?
- Where are the public landings on the Bay?
- Does the wake of motorboats affect shoreline feeding-places for birds; do motorboats churn up the bottom? Is this harmful? Should speed limits be posted on the Bay?
- Why do sturgeon jump out of the water? [One member has reported that sturgeon have twice jumped into a neighbor's boat.] □

Barred Owl



are low on the food chain, such as clams and mussels, live in mudflats.

As part of this program, thanks to the lobbying efforts of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, sediment samples from sites in Merrymeeting Bay will be taken. With a budget of \$12,000, analysis will be undertaken for the presence of pesticides, heavy metals and some aromatic hydrocarbons, but not dioxin. Each test for dioxin would cost about \$1,200. It is suspected that samples will be kept in storage until dioxin testing either becomes cheaper or the public demands that it be done.

The Maine paper industry has been slow to adopt chlorine-free paper production, though it is the standard in Europe. Efforts to encourage the state to purchase only chlorine-free paper and create market demand have failed in the legislature. It would appear that if the new EPA study is used as the basis for regulations and probable lawsuits, the paper industry will soon have hell to pay. Wouldn't it be better if the paper industry showed some environmental leadership on this issue? □

## EDWARDS DAM WON'T GO AWAY EITHER

THE KENNEBEC COALITION reported in July that attempts to reach a settlement on removal of the Edwards Dam in Augusta had failed, and that relicensing procedures would begin again. The operating license for the dam expired in December of 1993. The Kennebec Coalition consists of Kennebec Valley Trout Unlimited, American Rivers, Atlantic Salmon Federation, and Natural Resources Council of Maine.

The first step in the relicensing process will be an Environmental Impact Statement drawn up by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the entire Kennebec River Basin from Moosehead Lake on down, a stretch that includes ten other dams, in addition to Edwards, whose licenses have also expired and are seeking relicensing. This watershed-wide look is considered a first for FERC, which usually studies individual projects in isolation.

Paper mills in Maine and Berlin, New Hampshire, pour millions of gallons of wastewater containing dioxin and other harmful compounds into the tributaries of Merrymeeting Bay.

To help FERC decide what issues to study in the Kennebec Basin, a public hearing was held on July 13, which quickly degenerated into impassioned arguments for and against Edwards Dam. The dam is owned by the Edwards Manufacturing Co., and provides the City of Augusta with \$80,000 in annual revenues. The city would like to eventually acquire the dam: Opposed to Edwards Dam are sportsmen's and environmental groups, as well as state agencies and Friends of Merrymeeting Bay. The dam prevents anadromous fish from reaching seventeen miles of premier spawning waters that run from Waterville to Augusta. These waters are currently flooded by the dam. Anadromous fish are salt water species that spawn in fresh water; they include smelt, sturgeon, shad, salmon, alewives and striped bass. The dam was originally built in the mid-1800s and, along with pollution, played a major role in the collapse of the fisheries resource in the Kennebec River and Merrymeeting Bay. Removal of the dam would lead to a prolonged economic boom based primarily on sport fishing of striped bass and salmon, and a renewed commercial shad fishery.

Apparently the Edwards Company is trying to "tweak" the relicensing effort by working to get the short-nosed sturgeon de-listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The fish was put on a "red list" prior to the passage of the ESA because it had disappeared from commercial harvests. In the 1980s, "thousands" of short-nosed sturgeon were reportedly found in the Kennebec and Androscoggin rivers. No follow-up studies have been done to see if the species is increasing or decreasing. Ironically, to be removed from the ESA list, the fish will have to be exhaustively researched. When a species is listed as "endangered," regulations that are considered onerous by industry are put into play. Recently, the group Restore: The North Woods petitioned to have Atlantic salmon listed under the ESA in an effort to halt the proposed Basin Mills Dam on the Penobscot River. The Farm Bureau opposes the listing of salmon as an endangered species due to concerns about possible over-regulation of land use (in particular, institution of 1,000-foot buffer zones along rivers).

In Edwards Dam news unrelated to the relicensing procedure the state sued Edwards Manufacturing this spring over

## WETLANDS IN THE NEWS

### Ducks Unlimited Project in Richmond

ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1994, a 70-acre wetland development project called Raynes Farm Marsh in Richmond was officially dedicated. In this case, "wetland development" doesn't mean a parking lot or mall. It means controlling the flow of water through a wet area to provide nesting and feeding habitat for ducks, i.e., "high quality emergent type wetland." The project mitigates for wetlands destroyed by the construction of I-95.

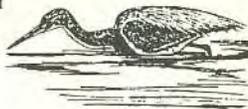
The Raynes Farm project is roughly five miles from the Kennebec River and Merrymeeting Bay, and is about two miles from Upper Pleasant Pond. It is the source of Denham Brook (or Stream) which flows into the West Branch of the Cathance River in Bowdoinham.

The project, which was first proposed in the early 1970s, consists of "two concrete piers and appropriate stop-logs at an existing concrete structure on Denham brook adjacent to the west side of I-95.

"The site has nesting boxes that will be monitored, and hens will be banded. These numbers will be used in the annual brood survey."

Partners with Ducks Unlimited in the project is the ME Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. Each party put up \$18,500; MDIF&W has a 30-year management agreement with the owner of the property and the option of five year extensions.

Tri-colored  
Heron



a large fish kill that occurred in the "head race canal" in 1992. Water levels were lowered in the canal to allow repair work on trash-raking equipment. An estimated 600,000 shad were killed when the fish used up the oxygen in the lowered water. The specific charge by the state is that water quality standards were violated. A second violation is

For more information about the Raynes Farm Project, please contact Bob Humphreys of Ducks Unlimited at 729-1199 - w; 688-4854 - h.

— Information and quotes from  
The Eider Spectacle (newsletter  
of Maine Ducks Unlimited),  
with thanks to Linwood Rideout

### Crooker Property in Brunswick

A FOUR-ACRE site owned by Harry C. Crooker & Sons on the banks of the Androscoggin River will be reclaimed and landscaped by the state, to mitigate for 6.5 acres of wetlands that will be destroyed by construction of the Brunswick-Topsham by-pass.

The Crooker site was filled with gravel in the 1960s. Reclamation will be done by the ME Dept. of Transportation, and involve the removal of up to nine feet of earth. Plantings will be made to create a forest swamp, a shrub swamp, and an emergent tidal marsh. The cost for this type of reclamation usually runs about \$100,000 per acre. The land, which is has no buildings and is largely unused by Crooker, will apparently be acquired by the state through eminent domain.

— Information from The Times Record  
(September), with thanks to  
Ruth Benedikt of Brunswick

### Editor's Comment

The 70-acre Raynes Farm project in Richmond seems to have cost a total of \$37,000. The 4-acre Brunswick reclamation will probably cost \$100,000 per acre. If \$400,000 were given instead to Friends of Merrymeeting Bay or the Maine chapter of Ducks Unlimited, for example, to enhance existing habitat, simple math indicates that some 687 acres could be "developed" as prime wetland.

alleged to have occurred when Edwards flushed the 600,000 dead shad into the Kennebec River. A possible third charge was also being considered, that of "discharging without a license."

— Based on articles in the Kennebec Journal and Maine Times, and information supplied by the Kennebec Coalition and the Maine Farm Bureau Assoc., with special thanks to David Popp of Dresden and Bill Moulton of Pittston.



## LOON PLATE BOONDOGGLE?

Much controversy has been generated by the optional Maine license plate with the loon and mountain pond pictured on it, which is available annually for an extra \$20. The plate is very attractive and has been purchased by many Maine motorists.

The controversy comes in because until April 1, 1996, half of the \$20 annual surcharge will go to the Secretary of State (Bureau of Motor Vehicles) for "administrative expense." The other half

is to be split between the Department of Conservation (\$6) — a department whose budget was gutted by \$320,000, an amount roughly equal to anticipated receipts from the sale of the plates — and the Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife to benefit non-game wildlife and endangered species (\$4).

Many of those who have not purchased the loon plate argue that it is an indirect (albeit voluntary) tax. However, if not enough people buy the plate (i.e., fewer than 80,000), the Dept. of Conservation's programs will suffer. To others, the plate has the appearance of a bait-and-switch scam.

To those of us who would like to give whatever reasonable amount we can toward the active protection of wildlife habitat in Maine, buying the loon plate, beautiful as it is, is not very efficient.

Buying "Duck Stamps" seems to be a more direct way to give to wildlife protection programs in the state. Fees from hunting and fishing licenses are also used for these programs, with much of

the money going to the wardens and other staff of the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (who own and operate Swan Island and other wildlife management areas in Merrymeeting Bay).

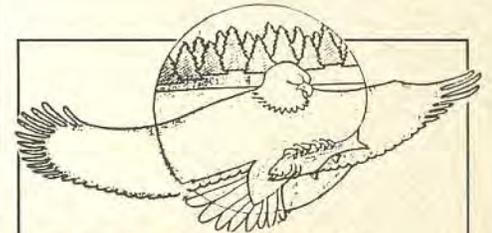
Another direct way to protect wildlife habitat is to give money to FOMB, or to other groups that have an active land conservation program, such as Ducks Unlimited (see article on page 5).

The most direct and efficient way to protect wildlife habitat in Maine are found in the "contributions" we make every day; that is, we "manage" our own acreage or houselot in ways that increase its value to wildlife, and we try to live our lives in ways that help the natural environment as much as possible.

Your comments are welcomed.

— Tim Nason, Dresden

— Information from The Times Record, the Kennebec Journal and the Natural Resources Council of Maine



## FOMB T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

COLORFUL FOMB T-shirts are available at \$15. Please send checks and a donation to cover postage to P.O. Box 233, Richmond, ME 04357. The T-shirts are bright teal-blue Hanes Beefy-Ts, with a multi-color image on the front of an eagle in flight clutching a fish in its talons. On the back is printed "Friends of Merrymeeting Bay" in white script. Sizes: large, x-large & x-x-large (medium is sold out). Three size small T-shirts are available in green only. Shirts can also be picked up at Tim Nason's shop in Dresden (737-8278) and at the Bowdoinham Town Office.

Please order a T-shirt today, and help us sell them, too. We have plenty in stock. So far, we have given away 24 shirts (mostly to bike-a-thon riders) and have sold 27 (income of \$405). The T-shirts cost \$1,500 for 156 shirts, so we need to sell a few more to break even. Please help spread the word about FOMB by buying these fine T-shirts.

## FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY

Please call the following steering committee members if you have a question or would like to work with Friends of Merrymeeting Bay. All of our committees welcome your assistance in developing programs. Don't be shy, call today — we are very friendly people!

### PROPERTY PROTECTION & STEWARDSHIP

Joe Trafton, Pleasant Point, Topsham 04086 ..... 729-1734 *Vice Chair*  
 Nancy Churchill, RR 1 Box 77, Dresden 04342 ..... 737-2005  
 Esther Lacognata, 19 Elm Street, Topsham 04086 ..... 729-4088

### WATER QUALITY

Ed Benedikt, 5559 Harding Rd. Ext., Brunswick 04011 442-0445  
 Tom Benn, RR 1 Box 1684, Whitefield 04353 ..... 549-3950 *Treasurer*

### WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

#### Sightings

Marilyn Cole, 8 Eagle Point Rd., Bath 04530 ..... 443-9675

#### Natural Resources Inventory

Steve Pelletier, RR 1 Box 385, Richmond 04357 ... 737-8407  
 Don Gleason, RR 1 Box 12, Dresden 04342 ..... 737-2817  
 Ed Friedman, RR 1 Box 1186, Bowdoinham 04008 666-3372

### MEMBERSHIP, FUND RAISING & ENDOWMENT

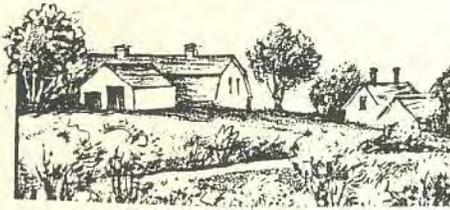
Tad Hunter, Foreside Rd., Topsham 04086 ..... 729-1544  
 Bill Jewell, RR 1 Box 475, Woolwich 04579 ..... 443-6520

### NEWSLETTER

Tim Nason, 15 Alexander Rd., Dresden 04342 ..... 737-4282 *Chairman*

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Jean Parker, Hockomock Island, Woolwich 04579 ..... 442-0982



Drawing by Jon Luoma  
from Working Landscapes

## FREE BOOKLET ON ZONING & WORKING LANDSCAPES

**A**N EXCELLENT FREE BOOKLET from the Natural Resources Council of Maine shows that small lot sizes in rural areas have a detrimental effect on "working landscapes," i.e., those used for agriculture and forestry. The booklet shows that 2- to 5-acre rural lots in local ordinances accommodate development rather than farming or forestry.

— Write/call NRCM, 271 State St., Augusta, ME 04330-6900 (207-622-3101)

## HELP US FIND OLD LANDFILLS

**F**OMB MEMBER Henry Knoll, working as a volunteer for Bigelow Labs, is doing a survey of landfills in towns around Merrymeeting Bay and along the

lower Kennebec River. Henry is sharing everything he learns with FOMB.

Members of FOMB can help Henry locate landfills that are not "official" municipal ones. Most municipal landfills are listed by the DEP or elsewhere. What we need to discover are older landfills no longer in active use — dumps, fuel stor-

age areas, places where construction debris might have been used as landfill, and other potentially hazardous sites such as junk-car lots and tire dumps.

If you have information you would like to communicate, write to Henry Knoll, Bigelow Laboratories, Boothbay Harbor, Maine 04575.

## FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY MISSION STATEMENT & LONG TERM GOALS

*The mission of Friends of Merrymeeting Bay shall be to act for the preservation, protection and improvement of the natural ecosystems of the Bay. The boundary for the Bay is defined as all freshwater tidal rivers above Thorne's Head.*

### Our Long Term Goals:

- Liaison with such agencies and organizations as federal, state, conservation groups, public and private organizations, towns and cities.
- Develop an effective and efficient administrative structure.
- Work for the continuing improvement of the water quality of the Bay.
- Land Use: Encourage municipalities, state and federal governments in the watershed area to adopt policies for the preservation, protection and improvement of its natural ecosystems and to work with private property owners on voluntary measures to protect the Bay.
- Wildlife & Fisheries: Improve the habitat for the fisheries and wildlife populations in and immediately adjacent to the Bay.
- Education: Encourage a broad-based education program.

Blackpoll  
Warbler




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

ANNUAL DUES \$10.00 (tax deductible).  Renewal  Gift

I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover membership for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s).

I also enclose  \$15  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$500

other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a tax-deductible donation.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RR#/STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SEASONAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### I would like —

- A copy of **Conservation Options: A Guide for Maine Landowners**. A check for \$5.00 is enclosed.
- A copy of **Preserving Family Lands: Essential Tax Strategies for the Landowner**. A check for \$5.00 is enclosed.
- An **FOMB T-Shirt** ( lg.  x-lg.  xx-lg) A check for \$15.00 is enclosed.

**Note:** Write checks payable to FOMB. An additional donation of at least \$2.00 per order is requested to cover the cost of postage and a padded envelope.

I would like to participate in the **Sightings** project.

# LETTERS FROM FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY

Dear FOMB,

So glad to see work being done to help Merrymeeting Bay. I love the Bay. The few days that I spend on it each year are special ... Thank you for your work.

— Ronald Ligon, Franklin, TN

Dear FOMB,

Here's my membership for joining. I very much look forward to actively helping you whenever I can. I am especially interested in writing and photography projects. Oral histories with knowledgeable older Friends would be a great way to start, as would a guidebook.

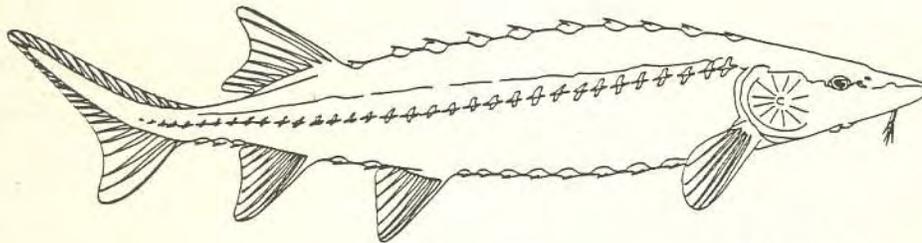
— Jane Fisher, Dresden

Dear FOMB,

Just received the *Merrymeeting News* (spring/summer issue) and was struck by how quickly the summer is going by. I

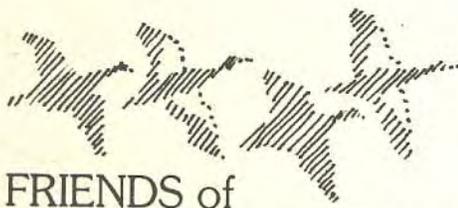
am writing this thank-you for my husband Steve Bradley, who won the wonderful mountain bike following his 50-mile ride around the Bay [in the FOMB bike-a-thon]. He did get a chance to take some good rides with it before he got called back to sea (he works on an oil tanker). I too have again discovered the pleasures of bike riding as a result of having the bike available. It has brought much pleasure to this household and we want you to know how much we both appreciate the bike. I enjoy the *Merrymeeting News* and appreciate all the work you do in connection with conservation and preservation.

— Joanna Bradley, Brunswick



Atlantic Sturgeon

*Editor's Note:* Joanna Bradley has proven to be a tireless helper and a fine Friend indeed, helping us at the Swan Island Summer Picnic and at our booth at the Common Ground Country Fair. Thank you, Joanna, and thank you to every member and Friend of Merrymeeting Bay.



**FRIENDS of MERRYMEETING BAY**

P.O. Box 233 • Richmond, Maine 04357

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