



## 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

### Research & Advocacy

### Member Events

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

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

For more information call:  
Ed Friedman  
Chair of Steering Committee  
666-3372



## News Briefs: How We Spent the Summer

### Research

#### Land Use

Towards the tail end of what seemed an endlessly wet summer, we had perfect flying weather on August 6<sup>th</sup> allowing the James W. Sewall Company to shoot aerial photography for an update of our 1998 vegetation and land use study. Photo interpretation and conversion to a GIS product and report are ongoing. Flying conditions required the nexus of low tide, peak vegetation, sun angle below 45 degrees and no clouds below 6,000 feet.

#### Invasive Plants

In our phragmites eradication project on the Abbagadasset River we made a dent in the stand using the very controlled clip and drip methodology, marking and injecting individual plant stems to avoid collateral damage to other species. A lower than hoped for number of volunteers kept us from completion this year but our efforts were Herculean.



Bryan Emerson from Stantec applies a very small and controlled amount of herbicide to help eradicate invasive phragmites. Thank you to volunteers Kermit Smyth, Michael Ebert, Bert Singer, Steve Musica, and Ed Friedman for helping with this project.



Kermit Smyth coordinates FOMB's Water Quality Monitoring Program.

#### Water Quality

We are wrapping up our most intensive year yet of water quality monitoring. This year we focused on the lower Androscoggin River and in an effort to successfully revisit our upgrade efforts we increased the frequency of sampling there [from monthly to every two weeks] and the number of sites [from three to nine]. We sampled for *E. coli* bacteria and dissolved oxygen and partially engaged with the DEP, incorporating some of our sites and volunteers

into their new Volunteer River Monitoring Program. Of course we continued with our other sites around the Bay and up the Kennebec to Waterville.

Thanks to: Melinda & Ken Emerson, Nancy Murphy, Ed Friedman, Sarah Cowperthwaite, Kathleen McGee, Diane Richmond, Linda Hutchins, Helen Watts, Bill Briggs, Dick Nickerson, Dave Parsons, Pippa Stanley, Kathie Duncan, Bethany Laursen, Steve Eagles, Dave Whittlesey, Tom Walling, Ed Benedikt and Bert Singer. Thanks also to coordinators Bill Milam and Kermit Smyth and analyst Ruth Innes.

#### Archaeology

Our Phase 2 archaeology survey of Thwings Pt. with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission was quite successful. Although the body of Thomas Ashley from 1654 was not recovered still breathing, we did find some evidence of a dwelling on the site including a great deal of daub, the mud used to pack into woven stick or wattle walls. Other artifacts included English gun flint and quite a few clay pipe fragments. A number of young folks volunteered and were terrific in their enthusiasm and help.

*Continued on next page*

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## News Briefs

Thanks to: Bob & Diane Weggel, Sarah Cowperthwaite, Steve Cowperthwaite, Mary Perkins, Cassidy Howard, Ed Friedman, Michael Baribeau, Karen Davis, Cheryl Yeaton, Hilary Warner-Evans, Kerry Hardy, Alex Peabody, Griffin Han-LaLime, Luke Levesque, Michael Klimov, Claire Robinson, Andre Klimov. MHPC Staff: Lee Cranmer, Bill Burgess, Kathy Bridge. Special thanks to Sarah Cowperthwaite for coordinating volunteers to property owners Michael and Claire Robinson and to regional biologist Jim Connolly representing IF&W, the easement holder. [See related article on opposite page.](#)

## Advocacy

### Fish

Following expansion of the endangered species listing for Atlantic salmon, we organized a meeting here with Dave Nicholas our attorney, attorneys from Defenders for Wildlife and the National Environmental Law Center, petitioner Doug Watts from Friends of Kennebec salmon and National Marine Fisheries Service representatives. We have major concerns regarding continued incidental take of salmon at dams [killing them] and the lack of designated critical habitat on the Androscoggin. Unable to make that meeting but meeting with us since, were representatives from the Maine Toxics Action Coalition and Center for Biological Diversity. United, we will ensure pressure remains on the federal agencies to require fish passage improvements in a timely fashion consistent with the ESA.

FOMB has launched our Healthy Rivers/Healthy Gulf initiative building community support for a revitalized river/Gulf connection as demonstrated mostly through safe, effective migratory fish passage and cleaner water. Please see our web site for more details.

## Land Conservation

Our oldest easement [in Richmond] and one we certainly would not have accepted these days, is finally somewhat threatened by partial build out of a 33 home subdivision of which the easement was an open space component. We will need to monitor this quite closely. On a more positive note, negotiations are underway for the



**A foot of a clay pipe bowl found during our archaeology survey of Thwings Pt. Along with a number of other artifacts we found, the survey showed evidence of a 17th century dwelling at the site.**

protection of some very important lands along the Bay.

## Education

### Bay Day

Shining smiles, just like the sunshine, were abundant September 22<sup>nd</sup> during FOMB's Fall Bay Day. Approximately, 180 students from Georgetown, Phippsburg, Harpswell Islands, Chop Point, Bowdoin and Bowdoinham joined us at the Bowdoinham Wildlife Management Area to experience the marvels of Merrymeeting Bay in a way they won't soon forget. Along with sunshine and joyful participants our Bay Day was also visited by a film crew from MSN documenting the event. They are creating a short video about Merrymeeting Bay, our work and why it's so important to preserve and protect this unique place. The video will appear on a web site called *The Practical Guide to Healthier Living* (<http://healthyliving.msn.com>) and Kashi Food's website ([www.kashi.com](http://www.kashi.com)). Once the film is completed we will be sure to inform you about where to view this video.

Because of the strong support provided by all our volunteers working collaboratively, sharing experiences and ideas our Bay Days continue to excite and inspire future stewards of the Bay. Many thanks to: Chaperones- David Whittlesey, Diane Richmond, Fritz Kempner, Joan Lorente, Dick Nickerson, Milo Stanley, Dana Cary, Ann Hartzler, Ed Benedikt, Emma Schneider, Brendan Parker, Monique Lucarelli, Kathie Duncan, Andrew Fiori, & Pam Hanson. Guides- Betsy Steen, Kathleen McGee, Tom Walling, Steve Musica, Nate Gray, Tom Hoerth, Andy Cutko, Pete Goodwin, Steve Eagles, Kent Cooper, Hannah Wilhelm, Bill Burgess, Lee Cranmer, Jay Robbins, Abby Drew, Misty Gorski, Ed Friedman, Sue Jensen, Jill Jordan-MacLean, Eric Bartlett, & Geri Vistien. Also, thank you to Wild Oats Bakery for providing a delightful lunch for our volunteers!

### Hall-Dale

We had the usual 80 or so students from the Hall-Dale 6<sup>th</sup> grade come down to Choice View Farm in Dresden and despite orders



**Fall Bay Day: While students from towns around the Bay joined us for a closer look at this amazing place, a MSN film crew gathered footage for a short video about our work.**

*Continued on page 7*

## Living My Dream

It was the summer after ninth grade before I participated in my first archaeological dig. I had wanted to be an archaeologist for nearly three years, since I was in seventh grade, but had never really done anything about it. I had only seen a dig site once, and no one was even digging in it at the time. That was about two years ago. Most of my information about archaeology was from books that I had read. So what a stroke of good luck it was to find out from my local newspaper, *The Times Record*, about the Thwing's Point dig in Woolwich and how Friends of Merrymeeting Bay was seeking volunteers to participate.

The dig was supposed to try and find the home of Thomas Ashley. His house was used as a meeting place for residents of the Kennebec River in 1654 when they were setting up a new government in the Merrymeeting Bay area.

Although I have only wanted to be an archaeologist since I was twelve, I have been interested in archaeology for years before that. My interest goes back to when I was about eight years old. That summer, I remember I dug up the old mole hills left from the winter and found many pieces of brick and a little bit of yellowish ceramic. I sold them by the side of the road: "Pottery, ten cents." Only one person bought my "pottery," and perhaps just out of pity. I can hardly imagine they actually wanted it.

It was my mother who put the idea in my head to be an archaeologist. And for some reason, it stuck. So of course I had to sign up. I called the phone number in the paper, the one for the dig coordinator, Ms. Cowperthwaite, and left a message, since no one answered my call.

For a few days, I waited for a call back. During that time, my mother persuaded me to leave another message and an email. I hoped that nobody would think I was annoying. I liked to stay on people's good sides. Finally, I was called back and signed up to be at Thwing's point all day Monday and Wednesday. I received directions and information about the dig in an email.

On Monday morning, my parents drove me to the dig. That day, I sifted for artifacts with a screen that I moved back and forth. At first, we found only pieces of brick and slag, or burned coal, but that was still interesting to me. It was my first time at a dig. Anything was interesting, although just brick and slag time after time was probably boring to the archaeologists there from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Then we started to find things like ceramics, nails, and even a seventeenth century clay pipe stem.

I returned on Wednesday. That day I found daub. Daub, the thing that people used to make their walls out of as far back as ancient times! A house would have a frame of wood. The space between the wood would be covered with wattle and daub. Wattle is a weaving of sticks and daub is a mixture of mud, clay,



Hilary Warner-Evans and Michael Baribeau screen soil at the archaeology site.

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**We started to find things like ceramics, nails, and even a seventeenth century clay pipe stem. . . . I returned on Wednesday. That day I found daub. Daub, the thing that people used to make their walls out of as far back as ancient times!**

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straw, and manure. For me, the daub was the most interesting thing to find. I liked the dig so much, that I decided to return on Thursday, and I did. I found flint that day. I now think it's the most beautiful rock in the world.

Going to Thwing's point was a good experience for me for two reasons. One was because I learned many things about archaeology. I learned how to tell the difference between machine cut and hand forged nails. Machine cut ones have a very square look to the sides. I also learned how to tell whether or not glass is hand-blown. If you hold it up to the light, hand-blown glass will have solid markings in it.

The other reason was because it gave me a chance to interact with many other people like myself. For years people have been telling me that there were many people in the world like me, but I barely believed that there were more than a few until I volunteered at the Thwing's point dig.

—Hilary Warner-Evans

## Wild Rice

The following article is excerpted with permission from “Notes on a Lost Flute” by Kerry Hardy, available from Down East Books at [www.downeast.com](http://www.downeast.com). Kerry has worked closely with FOMB on fish passage issues and designed our Safe Passage logo on the cover of *Merrymeeting News*.

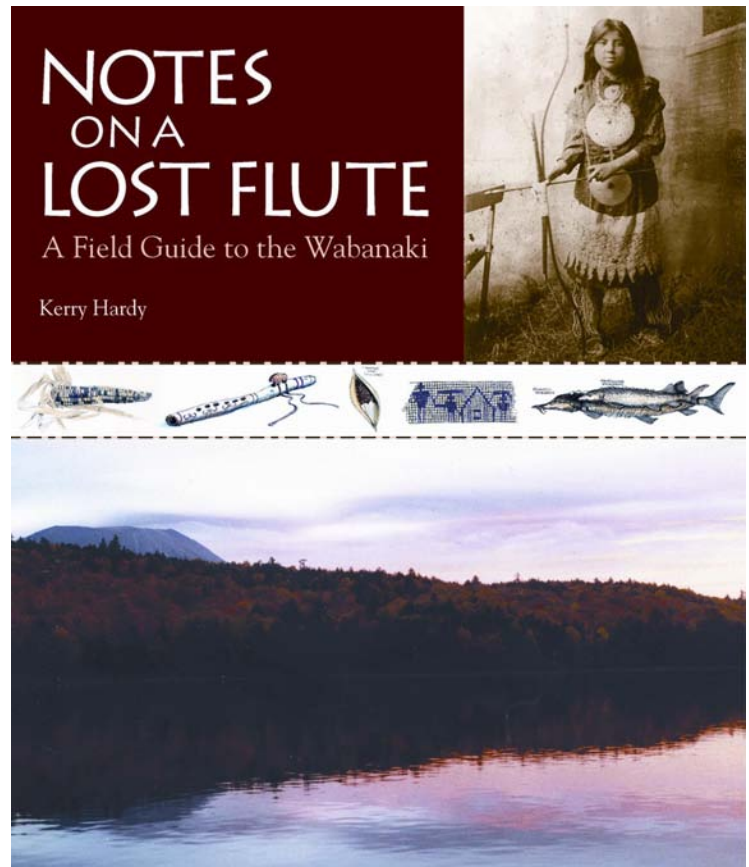
One of the enduring mysteries about the lifeways of precontact New England involves wild rice, *Zizania aquatica* to botanists and the staff of life to migratory waterfowl. Simply put, was it here, and did people eat it? Wabanaki historian Nicholas Smith has cast a wide net fishing for an answer, but when the question comes up he can only shake his head with the sad smile of someone who’s been chasing a ghost for sixty years.

Now in his eighties and living in Brunswick, Smith has scoured the written record, gone through boxes of unpublished notes taken by the Maliseet folklorist Edward Tappan Adney, interviewed Maliseet and Passamaquoddy elders since the 1950s, walked and canoed the ancient trail from Meductic to Penobscot, and followed up every lead, but he has yet to turn up any hard evidence. It seems safe to say that the plant has passed from Wabanaki culture and memory.

Meanwhile, two miles from his house, Merrymeeting Bay is full of the stuff. It doesn’t figure. Wild rice grows all around the shallow, muddy edges of this freshwater river delta, and every fall thousands of ducks and geese stop there to fuel their southward migrations. Given the bay’s unique water conditions, which are perfect for rice, and that waterfowl have been doing flyovers since the glacier’s retreat, I have to believe that the rice has been here since time immemorial.

Similarly, we know that aboriginal Americans have been using wild rice as food for a long time. Midcontinental groups such as the Menominee and the Anishinaabeg (formerly Ojibway) have developed a full suite of cultural connections to this essential food plant. (The latest ritual involves trying to convince courts and government that wild rice was developed by nature rather than by NorCal, the California company seeking to patent the plant.) When I started looking for links between the Wabanaki and wild rice, the first step was to find a local name for it. In Joseph Laurent’s Abenaki dictionary, the word is *malomin*, which he took care to distinguish from the rice used by Europeans, *wabi-malomin*, “white rice.” So that was a promising start; it proved that the nineteenth-century people at Odanak at least knew the plant. Moreover, as I rolled the word around in my mouth and mind, it suddenly dawned on me that this was the L-dialect version of a word I already knew, the *menomin* at the core of Menominee!

A bit of digging confirmed this. The Menominee were the *Omano-minewak*, the wild rice people, in their own language. Similar or identical words for the plant showed up all around eastern and central Canada. I needed to translate the word *malomin*—what did it mean, and who had first named it? I already knew half of the answer, because throughout the Algonquian world the root *-min* (pronounced meen) indicates a seed, berry, fruit, nut; the product of a plant. But where did *malo-* come from?



One answer came from Abbé Maurault, the nineteenth-century author of *Histoire des Abenakis*. His translation, which many scholars have accepted, suggested that *malomin* was “the grain of those of St. Malo,” the French town wherefrom many of the earliest French explorers and traders hailed, but I didn’t like it. Certainly there’s no doubt that European rice was an early trade commodity in Acadia, but I was willing to bet that wild rice had its own name long before the first Frenchmen ever lugged a sack of basmati ashore here. That’s why European rice had its own name. I was convinced that *malomin* was an original word, centuries older than the European presence here, but I didn’t know how I’d prove it.

Luckily, Jean André Cuoq had already done that for me. Cuoq was a contemporary of Maurault’s and was fluent in both Algonkin and Mohawk. His 1886 *Lexique de la Langue Algonquine* is a work that continually provides useful clues and facts, perhaps because the Algonkins and Abenakis are historically close to one another. I’ve spent many nights working methodically through his book, and as I

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chugged away on the letter *M*, I came across the entry of my dreams. I offer it here and hope that my translation does it justice:

Manomin meant at one time that which we now call Canada rice or wild rice, water-rice, *Zizania aquatica*. The month of September is called the moon of the manomin harvest, manominike-kizis. When the European colonists introduced true rice to the people of America, it was called *akangkitci kami manomin*, that is to say, rice from the other side of the great water, or also manomin wezowawang, that is to say, straight rice. But eventually people were content to simply say *manomin*, to indicate European rice, and the wild rice fell out of favor, and was only known by the name of *cicib-manomin*, “duck rice.” The name of *manomin*, in the sense of wild rice, is preserved in *manominikesi*, a kind of snipe, and in *manominik*, in English Menominees, the nation of wild rice, the Maloumines so celebrated in the History of the [Jesuit] Missions.

Now I could proceed with the original word, which I had in both L- and N-dialect. Working backward, I speculated about the word’s form in the pre-1700 R-dialect of the Abenaki: *maromin*, *meromin*? As I pondered these sounds, I had a flash of insight; *meromin* sounds a lot like merrymeeting, and wild rice grows at Merrymeeting Bay.

From here a couple of very interesting scenarios come to mind. One involves the Abenaki word for still water, *-begw* (sounds like “baygoo”—you see this root in lake names such as “the big water,” *K’ici-begw*, which we call Sebago). Simply put, the

ancient Abenaki way to say “wild rice lake” would be *meromini-begw*, which is quite close to Merrymeeting Bay.

One last possibility is to stick with straight Algonkin, for in that tongue the locative ending is *-ing*; and, like Abenaki, Algonkin was an R-dialect at the time of earliest contact. This approach may well be where the name begins; “at the wild rice place” would be *Meromining*. I’ve never especially liked any of the English explanations about how Merrymeeting Bay got its name, but I like this one.

Because of the bay’s resource density, and the ease of travel here by water from all points of the compass, I have no doubt that various groups found their way to ancient Natsouac, “the land between,” as the Bowdoinham side of the bay was called. But did the Indians eat rice while they were here? Like Nick Smith, I’m still waiting to learn. But if I’m right in thinking that they named it The Wild Rice Place, then it seems quite likely that—at least once upon a time—someone did.

## Maine’s First Metropolis?

Before the arrival of agriculture, the Merrymeeting Bay area might have supported the largest native population in the Northeast. It was, quite simply, the richest landscape north of Chesapeake Bay—an easy parallel to notice, since one Abenaki name for Merrymeeting Bay was Chisapeake, “great sea” (from Seibert). Jamestown and Popham were the English portals to the New World, and their siting was no accident.

Merrymeeting shares one other famous name as well. The bay’s waters escape through a funnel that the English called “the Chops,” but to the Indians it was *Kebec*, “the narrowing,” identical in name to the famous narrowing place on the St. Lawrence, which the French fashioned as Québec.

Torrents of finned and feathered protein passed through The Chops each year, in both directions. As the map shows, the region was also better endowed with edible nuts than the rest of the state. Native settlement patterns surely would have reflected this resource density, at least until corn culture tipped the balance toward the rich soils and hotter summers in the center of the state.

—Kerry Hardy

Questions about wild rice, like so many other aspects of Native American culture in the Northeast, will have to remain unanswered for now. That’s okay—in fact, it’s better than okay, it’s intriguing. I have little use for *answered* questions; once the life has been wrung out of them, they just die and turn to stone.

Stick with a live mystery long enough, and new answers will arise, for knowledge is not a static thing. As technology advances, archaeologists see old evidence through new eyes. As language reclamation work continues, linguists find new stories in old words. Each new scrap of knowledge improves, if only slightly, the lens through which we view the past, just as each new student sees different things through that lens and interprets them in new ways.

Can you hear the sound of gravel scraping underneath our canoe? This journey, or at least this leg of it, is reaching an end. My hope is that you’ve found the trip enjoyable and informative and that you now have a few questions of your own to pursue. Good luck, and if I can help, let me know.

—Kerry Hardy

# What Can We Do with Unwanted Pharmaceuticals?

## IN SUPPORT OF NEEDED LEGISLATION: LD 821

Are we, who are dedicated to the preservation and conservation of our natural resources, doing all we can to honor that commitment? For example, what are we doing with unwanted pharmaceuticals? Proper disposal of drugs presents a prime opportunity to be good stewards. Most households have one or more containers of medications – prescription or over-the-counter – which sit on a shelf or in a drawer but will not be used for any of a variety of reasons. We now know that trashing or flushing the liquids or pills can contaminate our waters and wildlife. Maine's aquatic organisms of all kinds, exposed to some of the thousands of drugs on the market, are at dire risk.

Drugs are designed to be biologically active. Studies have shown detrimental impacts (such as male fish producing eggs), on non-target organisms. The body of evidence is growing almost daily as more research is done. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove pharmaceutical ingredients before discharge. Human risk from low dose exposure, perhaps over an extended time frame, to multiple pharmaceuticals via drinking water is unknown, but based on a growing body of evidence, likely. And chemicals in the pharmaceuticals entering our septic systems are not dissolved but rather leach out into the soil and ultimately into the waterways.

Historically our waters have been monitored for industrial and other pollutants. More recent analysis shows that *pharmaceutical* contamination in Maine's waters is commonplace. In short, our ponds, lakes, rivers, and bays and all who depend on them for

existence are increasingly at risk. And, since many of these chemicals by themselves and synergistically act as endocrine disruptors, so are we.

It is time the companies which develop, manufacture, advertise widely (spending more than \$12 billion each year on ads), sell, and profit from their products take responsibility for collecting and disposing of unwanted and unneeded or undated household pharmaceuticals. This is done in parts of Europe and Canada – and it is high time that Maine has a similar program, financed and administered by these manufacturers. A dollar or two per person out of the pharmaceutical advertising budget alone would probably pay for a *national* collection/destruction system. Maine, with our vast waterways and our emphasis on remaining or returning to a pristine state, needs such a program NOW.

**LD 821, an Act to Support Collection and Proper Disposal of Unused Drugs**, takes a common sense approach to the problem. Maine's legislature has the opportunity to pass this bill, introduced by Representative Anne Perry, chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. This significant hazard can be greatly reduced. NOW is the time.

Everyone who sees the risks, the need, and the possibilities is invited to contact local legislators to express concern. And to *insist* on change!

—Betsy Cantrell  
Merrymeeting Bay Triad  
Sagadahoc County Board of Health



### An Act to Support Collection and Proper Disposal of Unused Drugs

Disposal of unwanted pharmaceuticals in our waters presents a significant and preventable hazard to our wildlife, our water quality and raises concern about unknown impacts on human health.

In 1999 the USGS sampled 139 streams in 30 states for 95 pharmaceuticals, hormones and other contaminants (OWCs) in the water. At least one OWC was found in 80% of the samples.

More studies have shown pharmaceutical contamination in our waters is commonplace.

**The BIG Environmental Picture:** Historically our waters have been monitored for industrial and criteria pollutants. More recent analytical methodologies have increased detection sensitivity and expanded the scope of what can be found.



- Pharmaceuticals and their metabolites enter the ground and surface water through excretion by humans and animals, sludge application, washing of externally applied pharmaceuticals, and through flushing or land disposal of unwanted medications.
- Drugs are designed to be biologically active. Studies have shown detrimental impacts on non-target organisms at low concentrations, such as male fish producing eggs. The body of evidence is growing almost daily as more research is done.
- There are thousands of drugs on the market. The increasing number of prescriptions, expanding drug uses, an aging population and other factors are contributing to a dramatic rise in drug sales each year. The US accounts for about half the worldwide sales of ethical pharmaceuticals, including veterinary and over-the-counter sales. Without action, environmental degradation caused by inappropriate disposal is a problem that will only get worse.
- Quantities of drugs entering the environment are only one factor. How rapidly a drug is metabolized, how rapidly it degrades in the environment and the toxicity of the drug or its metabolites are a few other factors complicating the picture.
- Aquatic organisms may be exposed to pharmaceuticals continuously or in what has been termed a "pseudo-steady state". Breakdown may be balanced by replacement. Other drugs are truly persistent.
- Little is known about the additive and synergistic effects of continual, long-term exposure on non-target aquatic organisms.



- Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove residuals of pharmaceuticals before discharge.
- And finally, human risk from low dose exposure, perhaps over an extended time frame, to multiple pharmaceuticals via drinking water is unknown.
- Trash disposal can lead to drug diversion and abuse, or to accidental poisonings.



- The drug manufacturers collect and dispose of unwanted household pharmaceuticals in Europe and many Canadian provinces. Isn't it time Maine had a similar program, financed and administered by these same manufacturers?

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay · Box 233 · Richmond, Maine 04357

**Membership Levels**

- \$1,000+ Sturgeon
- \$750 American Eel
- \$500 Wild Salmon
- \$250 Striped Bass
- \$100 Shad
- \$50 Alewife
- \$20 Smelt
- Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

RR# or Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Renewal
- New Member
- Send me information about volunteer opportunities.

\$7 Enclosed for a copy of *Conservation Options: A Guide for Maine Land Owners* [\$5 for book, \$2 for postage].

**Friends of Merrymeeting Bay**

**Steering Committee**

- Sarah Cowperthwaite (Topsham)
- Ed Friedman, Chair (Bowdoinham)
- Nate Gray, Secretary (Freeport)
- Vance Stephenson, Treasurer (Wilmington, NC)
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Thanks to Will Everitt for volunteering to design and layout this newsletter edition.

*Continued from page 2*

**News Briefs**

from the SAD to avoid going down towards the water because of Eastern Equine Encephalitis [6 people a year in the US get this-and 2 will die], we had a great time.

**School Visits**

Tom Walling and Misty Gorski, accompanied by coyote and coopers hawk, traveled to Cape Elizabeth this Summer visiting campers at the Davinci Experience. Tom and Misty shared information about predator and prey relationships to help the campers better understand food webs and population dynamics in the natural world.

FOMB is now back to school, visiting classrooms, accompanied by our critter friends. As the school years gains momentum there is still plenty of time to join our efforts or arrange an educational presentation for your group, home schoolers, or local library. Contact Misty Gorski, Executive Coordinator at fomb@gwi.net or 582-5608 for more information.

**Celebrate Bowdoinham**

On September 12<sup>th</sup> FOMB volunteers came together at Celebrate Bowdoinham to offer enjoyable children’s activities and share our work with event spectators. Kent Cooper and Bethany Laursen worked diligently through the morning session helping kids mold goeey mud into a watershed model of Merrymeeting Bay providing a valuable introduction to the functionality and importance of this watershed.

During the afternoon session, Tom Walling and Abby Drew offered children and adults an opportunity to learn more about anadromous fish living within the Bay as they created fish prints. Questions abounded from children as they rolled vibrant colored paint over rubber replica fish, yearning to learn more about our aquatic friends.

**Outings**

The September 26<sup>th</sup> paddle to Bird Island wrapped up another successful series of *Summer Outside*. Special thanks to our *Summer Outside* 2009 guides and coordinators for providing memorable experiences and sharing their knowledge of the Bay with us: Anne Hammond, Paul Dumdey, Andy Cutko, Jay Robbins, Warren Whitney, Sarah Cowperthwaite, Piers Beirne, David Barber, & Misty Gorski.



Campers get a close up of FOMB’s coyote, one of the many critters we bring with us on school visits.



At Celebrate Bowdoinham, kids got a chance to get their hands dirty as they made a model of the Merrymeeting Bay watershed.



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

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## Heaven's Eel

A slight wrinkle on the pond.  
Small wind.

A small wind and the ruffled clouds' reflection.  
Ho hum...What's needed is something under the pond's skin,  
Something we can't see that controls all the things that we do see.  
Something long and slithery,

Something we can't begin to comprehend,  
A future we're all engendered for, sharp teeth, Lord, such sharp teeth.  
Heaven's eel.

Heaven's eel, long and slick,  
Full moon gone, with nothing in it place.

A doe is nibbling away at the long stalks of the natural world  
Across the creek.

It's good to be here.  
It's good to be where the world's quiescent, and reminiscent.  
No wind blows from the far sky.  
Beware of prosperity, friend, and seek affection.  
The eel's world is not your world,

But will be soon enough.

—Charles Wright

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## Thank you!

We want to send out a special thank you to our supporters and to the Patagonia Outlet Store in Freeport who find our action-oriented nature and holistic approach to protect and improve Merrymeeting Bay, unique and effective.

Acknowledging our hard work, style and results, Patagonia Freeport nominated FOMB in their *Voice your Choice Campaign*.

From September 24th through October 24th, shoppers at the Patagonia Outlet got the opportunity to voice their choice for what organizations the store would support with a grant.

Thanks to all the folks that voted for us, FOMB was awarded \$1,000 for our Healthy Rivers/Healthy Gulf Initiative. Through the Initiative, we are working to build support for establishing safe, effective fish passage around all dams.

Thank you for voting for us!