

Merrymeeting News

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

SUMMER 2000

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

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Support comes from members' tax-deductible donations and grants.

Education

Hands Around the Bay, Speaker Series, field trips.

Conservation & Stewardship

Protecting natural resources through private and public ownership, easements and stewardship.

Membership Events

Paddle tours of the Bay, field trips, conservation meetings, potluck suppers and shoreline clean-ups.

Research and Advocacy

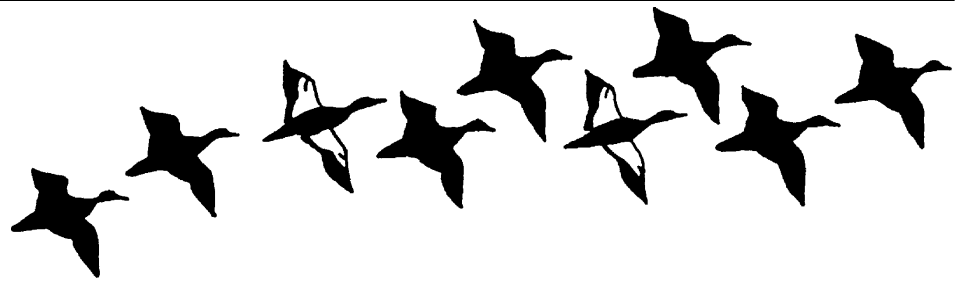
Water quality, data collection, toxics, fisheries restoration.

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SHOW US YOUR MUSSELS!

“Whatcha doin?” asked the inquisitive young boy as he rode along the stream bank with his bicycle. “Collecting mussels,” came the reply from the aquatic biologist, as he picked up another of these mollusks from the gravel stream bottom. “What’s a mussel? What good are they? Can you eat them?” [from Zeto and Schmidt (1985)]

So starts an excellent article by Scott Martin in a 1997 issue of the journal *North-eastern Naturalist* (Vol. 4 No. 1) on freshwater mussels of Maine. From my own limited experience trying to answer the bicycle boy’s question I can say with absolute certainty that the (freshwater) mussels I attempted to eat were awful. Others whom I have asked have seconded this view. Nevertheless large kitchen middens of mussel shells found indicate that prehistoric inhabitants of Maine and other areas may have had a better recipe than I. These peoples also utilized the mussel shells for tools, ornaments and in their pottery process as well as adorning themselves with pearls sometimes found within.

The finding of a magnificent freshwater pearl in N.J. during the 1850’s triggered a “pearl rush” in this country that devastated mussel populations. After a while pearls glutted the market, prices plummeted and the market collapsed around the turn of the century. While freshwater mussels occur worldwide, they reach their greatest diversity in North America. The Mississippi drainages are where freshwater mussels are most prolific and where some harvest continues, both legally and illegally. These mussels are collected for their shells, which are ground up and sent to Asia where the particles are used as irritants that stimulate the growth of cultured pearls in marine oysters.

Freshwater mussels could have a pretty limited home range without help. All freshwater mussels have a short parasitic stage where their larvae (called glochidia) hitch a ride on a particular host fish and light out for new territories. Some mussel species use “lures” to bring the host fish close enough for the glochidia to grab hold. Two of Maine’s more common mussels are *Anadonta implicata* (the alewife floater) whose primary host is...well, never mind, and *Elliptio complanata* found throughout eastern North America and hosted here in Maine by banded killifish, largemouth bass and yellow perch.

As filter feeders at the interface of water and substrate, mussels can be very sensitive to changes in water quality. They have been used in salt, fresh and estuarine environments for the last 25 years to monitor water quality because of their sensitivity to a broad spectrum of pollutants (mercury, dioxin, PCB’s, TBT, etc.). Caging bivalves offers many advantages in a study. They don’t move, statistically sound populations may be used, individual variability is less than fish and growth and effects endpoints may be measured. This approach augments the biomonitoring techniques that DEP has been using and may offer stronger and more reliable data.

FOMB has been learning more about these creatures for the last couple of years and encouraging state agencies to learn more about their applied uses. Some species

con't on pg 6

BAY DAY 2K

Take 250 students, mix with a dedicated group of knowledgeable ecologists, add the most beautiful day of the spring, put the cooker on "high energy", serve it all up at the Chop Point School at the Chops in Woolwich and you get FOMB's Bay Day 2000.

For this second annual event fourteen classes from eight area schools arrived on May 16th to learn about the Bay, its inhabitants and related environmental topics. The classes, which ranged from second to sixth grade, latched on to the demonstrations with gusto, digging, identifying, cataloging, hauling and triangulating with the vigor that only kids on a beautiful spring day can have. Bay Fever ran rampant as the students participated in a couple of these sessions:

- Water Testing
- Chop Point archeology - a dig at a 1718 homestead
- Tides of Merrymeeting Bay
- Topography of the Bay area
- Forest ecology
- Map and Compass
- Micro-ecosystems
- Anadromous fish of the Bay

None of this would have been possible without the guides, who used their expertise to teach the kids about some aspect of the Bay and its environs. This

group included: Peter Millholland, Jay Robbins, Peter Lea, Bill Milam, Steve Pelletier, Mike Cline, Keith Sherman, Ann Hammond and Linwood Rideout.

Special thanks also go to this year's chaperones, who worked with the teachers to help the kids get the most out of each session, and got them from place to place. This brave group consisted of Clancy Cummins, Bob Dale, Jean Parker, Kathleen McGee, Jenn Cost, Helen Watts and Steve Eagles. Also thanks to Ed Friedman for being co-bus czar.

Finally, many thanks to Steve Eagles who helped pull this successful day together and to the faculty, staff and students at Chop Point School for letting us have the run of their beautiful school and grounds for the day.

CLEAN UP

On June 10th, in conjunction with National River Cleanup Week, a hearty crew of volunteers took part in FOMB's annual cleanup day. Most of this year's haul came from Cork Cove on the eastern side of the Bay near the confluence of the Kennebec and Eastern Rivers. We also scored some quality tires and other debris from the tip of Abby Point.

A "perfect" trap for trash transported by tides and currents, Cork Cove also sees heavy ice fishing use in the winter and a few bad apples have left debris over the years.

Despite the challenges of mud and a long haul back to the collection site, the group collected 55 gallon drums, pieces of at least two dilapidated ice shacks, a beyond-repair pedal boat, many tires, (some truck size) and carpeting (!), countless bottles, cans and assorted junk.

Many thanks to Gary Higginson, Al and Ben Mesrobian, Kathleen McGee, Shannon and Ryan Dougherty, Trey and Bill Milam, Holly and Nina Whitney and Ed Friedman who all helped with the initial cleanup or the subsequent trip to the Bath landfill, which graciously accepted the materials free of charge.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have some free time? Are you interested in helping out on some issues that will really make a difference in the health of the Bay? Please consider volunteering for one of the following activities:

MUSSEL STUDY. To perform the bivalve study described elsewhere in this newsletter we need volunteers to assist in the retrieving, shucking, weighing, and measuring of mussels. This is a two-day project in early October, and you'll work with other FOMB volunteers with music, food and general conviviality guaranteed. No experience necessary, and think of what it will do for your resume.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING. FOMB is bulking up its already significant water testing efforts. We're looking for volunteers who would be interested in taking on regular responsibility for a site, for those who would be interested in

storm-event testing and others to serve as back-ups to our faithful testing crew.

RESOURCE DIRECTORY. This summer FOMB is updating its Resource Directory for local schools. This directory contains names of local experts who can assist in area schools. We need volunteers to bring this information to the schools to make sure principals and teachers understand this valuable resource.

NUTRIENT SAMPLING. FOMB is working with scientists at the University of New Hampshire on a study of nutrients in the Gulf of Maine. These scientists are looking for volunteers to do sampling in the Bay area. The sampling itself is simple, but it is a significant time commitment. This is your chance to get up close and personal with the Bay all year.

To volunteer for any of these opportunities contact Whit at 666-3376 or email FOMB at fomb@gwi.net.

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Merrymeeting News

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Merrymeeting News is sent to FOMB members and other friends of the Bay. For information call Warren Whitney, Executive Director, at 666-3376.

TIDINGS/SUMMER

Bobolinks belong to the troupial family, which includes black-birds, orioles, and meadowlarks. If you live near the right sort of habitat, anywhere in their breeding range, you cannot possibly miss them; if you don't, you may go to your grave without seeing one. Their closest allies are farmers; so are their worst enemies. The better the farmer, the worse, as far as this bird is concerned. If he is foresighted, prosperous, and on top of things--the kind who keeps his pastures well-fertilized, ploughs and re-seeds them every five years or so, and gets two cuttings of prime hay off them per summer, he is an unworthy steward of his acres, a public enemy. But if he belongs to that undervalued class of people who operate at suboptimal efficiency, are always behind and are too busy catching up to last week to be thinking about next year, then he is their friend, their patron saint, and their salvation. He does not get around to haying until August, and so their nests and fledglings are spared. He does not re-seed or fertilize with much regularity, and his fields reward him with poor hay, but also with vetch, buttercups, hawkweed, asters, fragrant bedstraw, and blue-eyed grass. And with bobolinks. Studies show that they prefer "old" fields--ones that have gone eight years or more since the last re-seeding, and that are comparatively sparse and weedy.

Of course if the farmer succumbs entirely to apathy, despair, poor returns, goldenrod, milkweed, thistles, and eventually to alders and poplars and pines--if he stops mowing altogether--then the bobolinks desert him. They grace with their presence those whose labor is honorable, sincere, always hoping for prosperity and never achieving it; is both never ending and an end in itself. The Red Sox might consider, about this time of the season, renaming themselves the Boston Bobolinks, and letting the grass grow long in the outfield.

Before the Europeans with their axes and oxen and grasses arrived, it is probable that bobolinks did their nesting largely in the Midwest. As the Europeans pushed west, transforming the landscape, the bobolinks pushed east, colonizing the pastures and meadows that were now available to them. It is a good thing that they did--the plough would deprive them of most of the Midwestern grasslands that had been their original breeding grounds. Thus, like such birds as barn swallows, chimney swifts, and purple martins, they are now both wild and domestic, as dependent on us as horses or housecats, but still as free as ever in their comings and goings. They assert their independence in late July and August, when they leave us behind and set out for their wintering grounds, in northern Argentina. This seems to be the longest migration made by any New World songbird, although several shorebirds and waterfowl outdo it.

Male bobolinks arrive here in the middle of May, in small gangs of six or eight. These gangs are interesting. They will all nest in the same general area--the same hayfield, for example--and compete among themselves for territory and females. They will share a common musical dialect, and pass it on to their sons. They will leave for Argentina at the same time. And, if all goes well, a year later they will arrive back at the same field in the middle of May, in a small gang.

You could as easily overlook the arrival of a gang of motorcyclists or candidates for the presidential nomination. They believe in advertising their presence and playing to the crowd, even if they crowd is imaginary. They are black below and white or

buffy above--the general effect is like a skunk or a man wearing his tuxedo the wrong way, with the tie and the white shirt and the lapels and the cummerbund facing rearward. This seems and is strikingly heterodox, if not downright unnatural. Most birds and mammals, and even most reptiles and fish, are counter-shaded--darker on the back, paler on the belly. Thus the shadow on the critter's underside is offset by the paleness there, making the whole animal less noticeable.

That is why deer standing in a field are so easily overlooked and why, when you do see them, they appear insubstantial, as though sculpted out of smoke. But the whole point of being a male bobolink is to be noticed. He perches on wires, on the very tips of shrubs, or teeters on the stems of tall grasses. He sings there; he also sings in flight, flying with his head thrown back, his tail angled downward, his wings in a sort of trembling flutter, as though he had held them out stiffly to the side and induced some sort of seizure or convulsive spasm in himself. He returns to the ground with his wings locked in a vee above him, in a guided free-fall like the winged seed of a maple, still singing as he spirals down. The song is bubbling, effervescent, ecstatic. If you are looking for modesty, dignified self-restraint, the eloquent sincerity of understatement, look elsewhere. This is a bird not merely full of himself. He is overflowing with himself; he is stylin'. And he does not, like the woodcock, put on his bravura performance in the chaste seclusion of the late evening hours.

He is a primetime performer, going strong right through the middle of the day. For the first four or five days, the males claim their territories and chase each other--and just about any other bird this side of a Coopers hawk--off of them. Then the females--noticeably smaller than the males, and as inconspicuous and nondescript in their plumage as sparrows--arrive, and the males add them to the list of things that need chasing. These chases are prolonged and they are low, right across the tops of the grasses, the male a foot or two behind the female, following her swerve for swerve, a model for fighter pilots everywhere. Oh what a life! What a lark, you might say, except that this bird outlarks any lark that ever larked anywhere on earth. And he is, I hardly need add, enthusiastically and unabashedly polygamous, although not heartless. He participates fully in brooding and feeding the family of his first mate, but does not seem to leave his subsequent families entirely in the lurch. He provides a sort of domestic triage to them, helping the females most urgently in need of it. So he is not a deadbeat dad, although surely, by the end of the nesting season, one who is dead beat.

In late summer the males molt, and from then until the following spring are not readily distinguishable from the females and the young of the year. Although it appears likely that the small gangs of males hang together throughout the migration and on the wintering grounds, they now do so in the context of large, coeducational flocks. The migration is, like all bird migration, a considerable mystery, but, because of its length, it has been studied with unusual care. We now know that iron oxides in the vicinity of the nasal opening and reactive to the earth's magnetic field provide the bird with a kind of compass, which plays an especially large role in its navigational system. It also relies on configuration of the stars in the night sky to tell it when to leave and how to recognize its latitude and set its course.



CHOICE VIEW FARM

This Dresden property located along the upper reaches of Merrymeeting Bay at the mouth of the Eastern River has just been purchased by a conservation minded buyer willing to work (at least for a while) with FOMB for its protection. The parcel consists of 18 acres of upland and 9 acres of tidal wetland. FOMB will be negotiating an option to purchase and protect the field and the wetland portions of the property while the farm buildings with an out parcel of approximately 4 acres will be put back on the market.

Formerly home to Harland McCobb's Morgan horse raising operation, the property contains wetland habitat of the highest value and is contiguous to other state protected property. The waters off the property comprise wintering ground for shortnose sturgeon, an endangered species. There are only two incredible views of Merrymeeting Bay from surrounding numbered roadways. The open nature of this property adjacent to Route 128 makes this viewshed one of those. The northern terminus of "The Lost Town of Cork" may have been on this property.

The view here is a superb and inspiring one of an upper section of the Bay at the confluence of the Eastern and Kennebec Rivers. It is a long sweeping view. Pastoral and

slowing falling away from the road, it draws the viewer in while encompassing the aforementioned river confluence, Green Point, Swan Island, and extending south to Abbagadasset Point in the distance. The field will be mowed to preserve the viewshed and important grassland habitat for migratory waterfowl and song-birds.

In keeping with much of the Bay shore, these wetlands and mudflats provide habitat for a number of rare plants. The property is contiguous but across the Eastern River from the recent purchase by Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) of Green Point Farm with it's approximately 160 acres of wetlands. Maine Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) has found that this area where the Eastern meets the Kennebec appears to be wintering ground for the shortnosed sturgeon, currently on the endangered species list. In the winter smelt fisherman utilize the river area to the south of the property as well and the Eastern is considered valuable spawning and nursery habitat for a range of anadromous fish species.

Merrymeeting Bay, like much of Maine in the 17th and 18th century was a turbulent place to settle in large part due to Indian attacks. A settlement known variously as "The Transient Town of Cork" (Thayer) and "The Lost Town of Cork" (O'Brien) was initiated along the Bay between the Chops and the Eastern River in approximately 1718. The south side of the Eastern's mouth prob-

Location, Location, Location

If you or anyone you know might be interested in a \$120,000 (without a realtor) piece of property with a \$270,000 view, this is your chance. An out parcel of Choice View Farm (see accompanying article) with the farm buildings including house, horse barn and garage is now for sale. In order for FOMB to protect the farm fields, wetlands and view the buyer we are working with had to purchase the entire farm. The house is 100-130 years old, has been continuously inhabited but could use a lot of system updating. Purchase of this piece will help FOMB by helping our buyer. Please contact Ed Friedman at 666-3372 for more details or a farm visit.



ably represented the northern end of Cork. Along this section residents lived in constant apprehension of Indian attack until on June 13th 1722, as Thayer describes, spurred on by the Jesuit Rasle a gleeful band of 40-60 Norridgewock swept south in 20 canoes, "broke into houses, bound and made prisoners to the number of 64, pillaged the houses and burnt everything." This may also be a valuable prehistoric archeological site.

Working with support from a number of other groups FOMB has taken the lead in raising money for the protection of this prop-

TIDINGS/SUMMER (CON'T FROM PG 3)

Their diet in summer is innocuous, and even beneficial--to the best of their ability they assist the struggling farmer who provides them with the field of their dreams (neglect it and they will come) by eating weed seeds and insects. And, of course, by providing him with the joyous and incomparable spectacle of themselves. In fall, they begin to favor grains. I believe they tend to depart our area before much of the wild rice has ripened in the Bay, but they feed on it avidly further south, in the marshes along the Potomac. In antebellum Virginia, Georgia, and the Carolinas, they descended in vast hordes on the cultivated rice fields of the tidewater districts, and did serious damage. Their population, sustained by this rich fare, may have reached its peak when rice cultivation did, shortly before the Civil War. The planters tried to shoo or scare them away, shot them, tried every expedient they could think of, but nothing really worked terribly well, and they became simply part of the unavoidable overhead of the business. They grew plump and, by all accounts, delicious on the rice, if you didn't mind sitting down and picking at an entrée which, when all properly plucked and dressed, was about the size of your thumb. When I was growing up down there and would hunt in the old rice fields, which by then were freshwater marshes, they would still fly over

erty. Upon completion of the fundraising we plan to transfer the protected field section to IF & W who has agreed to mow it along with their other properties in the area.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We need to raise approximately \$160,000 to protect this parcel. We have commitments of \$70,000 thus far leaving \$90,000 to raise within the limitations of what will probably be a 6-8 month purchase option. Your (preferably large) contributions are needed, welcomed and appreciated at this time. Please write Choice View on your check to FOMB and thank you in advance for your support.

Ed Friedman

in large numbers, but these were apparently nothing to what they had been a century or so earlier. In the 1850's they might have been the only sentient creature on the continent to equally approve and admire the dour and thrifty farmers of New England and the lordly oligarchs of the Carolina lowcountry.

Until I came to Maine, I had never seen one in its breeding plumage. In the South Carolina marshes, they were drab and silent, making only an intermittent metallic chink noise as they came over. They were still locally known as ricebirds, although the rice itself was long gone. And their species name--*oryzivorus*--means rice-eater.

They get to northern Argentina in time for a second spring, a second summer. While there, they feed on crops and are persecuted accordingly. They perhaps go no further south in Argentina because, if they did, they would begin to experience the longer hours of daylight that seem to trigger their mating behavior. And, if that were to happen, they would have no need to return to us in mid-May at all. And we would be bereft.

Franklin Burroughs

Tidings is a regular feature of Merrymeeting News

CLEAN IT UP!

The largest single source of Kennebec River pollution is the S.D. Warren/ SAPPi Somerset Mill located in Hinkley, Maine (just north of Skowhegan). S.D. Warren, now owned by SAPPi (South African Pulp and Paper Industry) discharges 28 million gallons of polluted wastewater each day and released 55,173 pounds of toxic chemicals into the water in 1998 (EPA/TRI data). Wood pulp is bleached in this mill and until recently chlorine was used in the process, which created and discharged as a byproduct dioxin, one of the most toxic chemicals known to man. Recent legislation requires this mill and all other bleach kraft mills in Maine to use elemental chlorine free (ECF) processing. Using chlorine dioxide (in the ECF process) instead of chlorine, dioxin production has been substantially reduced but not eliminated. As long as a chlorine compound is used in the process total elimination is unlikely. S.D. Warren is the largest discharger of phosphorus in the river, largely the result of mismanagement of that additive.

The operating license for the mill has expired and SAPPi has applied for relicensing, as they must routinely do. The Clean Water Act intent was to by "vigorous demands placed on those who are regulated by it achieve higher and higher levels of pollution abatement under deadlines specified in the law." The EPA draft permit for the mill states "Notwithstanding specific conditions of the permit, the effluent must not lower the quality of any classified body of water below such classifications, or lower the existing quality of any body of water if the existing quality is

higher than the classification." So, not only should we, according to the Clean Water Act, be working through the permitting and classification processes to improve water quality but it is clearly stated that there shall be no backsliding if in fact water quality exceeds that of the current classification, (which it does).

FOMB has submitted comments on the draft permit to EPA and has requested a public hearing on the relicensing. Our provisional water quality data and the DEP data show that actual water quality exceeds that of the current river classification. We note in our comments that: "These conditions whereby permitted levels are far in excess of actual levels are unacceptable. An artificial ceiling on water quality improvement is created by this situation. It is a "Catch 22." DEP says they can't upgrade the river classification because under worse case (permitted) scenarios, proposed Class B (in this case) standards might be violated and the EPA says they can't raise the permit standards to meet actual conditions because receiving waters meet the current classification levels. This condition, while supported by industry, quite clearly violates the intent of the Clean Water Act and NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)."

Our comments concluded that: "FOMB finds this draft to be outdated and inadequate. We recommend that the permit be modified to reflect at minimum the actual discharge data and preferably to, in accordance with the Clean Water Act, require higher levels of pollution abatement than actually occur at present and that are in practice at other mills owned and operated by SAPPi elsewhere."

Ed Friedman

DIOXIN UPDATE

Love Canal, Times Beach, Agent Orange are all names synonymous with dioxin. But it is also in almost every food we eat and is present in the bloodstream of every American. The EPA finally released its long awaited study of dioxin and even after a 6-year delay due to industry interference they confirmed what environmentalists have been saying for decades; dioxin is the most dangerous chemical know to man [thus far]. Once determined to have a very high cancer risk of about 1 in a 1,000 to 1 in 10,000, the EPA now considers there is a 1 in 100 cancer risk from exposure to dioxin.

Dioxin actually alters the way genes function working on a cellular level. Reproductive disorders, immune deficiency problems and cancer are only a few of the detrimental effects of dioxin. There is also evidence of impacts on learning abilities, thyroid and liver function and glucose tolerance [diabetes] as well as being associated with endometriosis and birth defects.

Kathleen McGee

MUSSELS

con't from front pg

are considered endangered but some are abundant. On June 6th FOMB sponsored and DEP hosted a workshop presentation by Michael and Sandra Salazar of Applied Biomonitoring of Seattle who have worked in this field for many years. We were then asked by DEP to develop two proposals that could be included in this year's Surface Water Ambient Toxics (SWAT) Program.

This was done in cooperation with the Salazar's and at the SWAT meeting the proposals were discussed and approved. Very simply, freshwater mussels are collected, preferably from a clean water body. They are then sorted and measured for various characteristics. Some are retained for a "before" or time zero (T-0) tissue analysis and the rest are suspended in cages at the

study sites for 60-90 days. At the end of this period they are re-measured and then the multiple individuals per cage (20-50) are composited together for the "after" tissue analysis. Multiple cages are used at each site.

Mussel collection is only done where populations are very abundant and in cooperation with biologists from Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. It is important to consider that these mussels will be used as a means to improve water quality, which in turn will benefit their population as a whole. Our pilot projects will attempt to measure dioxin above and below the S.D. Warren/ SAPPi mill on the Kennebec in Hinkley and to identify the extent and source of the PCB hotspot in Augusta. For more information please call: Ed Friedman. Also of interest may be the Applied Biomonitoring website: <http://members.tripod.com/mussels/mussels.htm>

Ed Friedman

BAY QUIZ

Q: What's the speed limit for watercraft on the Bay?

A: Headway speed only within 200' of any shoreline, and a maximum of 10mph on the Bay (except within the buoyed channels).

If you've been out on the Bay this summer you may have noticed that a lot of watercraft are going much faster than this, and FOMB is taking action to educate operators about the existing speed limits.

We're working with the Department of Marine Resources on language for a letter to be handed out with boat registrations at area town clerks, a poster to put up at boat launches around the Bay and signs that will be mounted on bridges that cross the smaller tributaries or on buoys. With these public education initiatives we hope that there will be more compliance with the laws, resulting in a safer, healthier Bay.

For copies of this information, call Whit at 666-3376.

FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY

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- Warren Whitney 666-3376

Thank you to David Hansen for designing this issue of MMNews.

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

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS.

- \$15.00 enclosed for individual membership. \$20 Family
- \$30 Smelt \$50 Alewife \$100 Striped Bass \$250 Salmon \$500+ Sturgeon
- \$ _____ enclosed as an additional tax-deductible donation.

NAME _____

RR# OR STREET ADDRESS _____

TOWN / STATE/ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

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

- Renewal Gift From:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CHOPPS POINT LECTURE

Chop Point School will be hosting a luncheon on Saturday, September 16, from noon till 2:00 p.m. to discuss some of the known history of Chopps Point. A walking tour of the area will be included. Appropriate shoes for trail hiking are recommended. This would include viewing some of the recent archeological dig sites and some of the findings. This event is free of charge and open to all. Please contact Wyeth Willard at wyeth@choppoint.org, or 737-4265 if you plan to attend.

FISH POSTING

Once again FOMB is posting fish consumption advisories around the Bay as part of a statewide effort by the Maine Toxics Action Coalition [MTAC], of which FOMB is a member. The brightly colored signs have been posted at various fishing and boating access points surrounding the Bay.

Mercury, dioxin and PCB contamination of fish continues to be a problem, as are the sources of these contaminants. FOMB works proactively towards the elimina-

tion of these extremely dangerous toxins. Meanwhile, we suggest that the sensitive population (pregnant and nursing women, women who may soon become pregnant and children under 8) avoid consumption of all fish caught in Merrymeeting Bay.

A long awaited National Academy of Science (NAS) study on mercury strongly suggests a most precautionary approach to fish consumption for the sensitive population. Mercury is an extremely dangerous substance that causes serious neurological damage to the developing brain of the fetus and young children. For health as well as sporting reasons FOMB suggests catch and release.



FRIENDS of
MERRYMEETING BAY

P.O. Box 233, Richmond, ME 04357
Return Service Requested

CHOICE VIEW FARM (pg 4)
SHOW US YOUR MUSSELS! (first page)

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