

The Merrymeeting News



Fall 2004 VOLUME 14, No. 4

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



Friends of Merrymeeting Bay

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

Education

Conservation & Stewardship

Membership Events

Research & Advocacy

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

www.link75.org/mmb/

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

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



FISH INIQUITIES: The American Eel — an Endangered Species



4 ft. female American Eel slaughtered by turbines of Benton Falls Hydro Dam, Sebasticook River, Benton, Maine. 14 October 2004. Photo: Watts Brothers

NEWS ITEM: On March 10, 2004 the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's American Eel Management Board recommended that the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) consider designating the entire coast wide stock of American Eel as a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

My brother and I were first introduced to the American Eel at Leach Pond at what is now Borderland State Park in North Easton, Massachusetts. It was about 1972 and our dad brought us to Leach Pond fishing. Shortly after setting out our lines we noticed an unattached bobber moving lazily around the lily pads. Being the curious sort, we hauled up our lines and paddled the canoe over to the meandering bobber. Dad reached over, grabbed the bobber and began pulling. Several seconds later Dad hauled a massive clump of weeds and a three foot long American Eel over the side of the canoe. At that time neither my brother nor I had any idea where that eel had come from or how it got there.

Today, 30 odd years later, we do. How that eel reached Leach Pond is one of nature's, and one of the world's, most remarkable stories of endurance, perseverance and will to survive. Leach Pond is at the very top of the Taunton River watershed in southeastern Massachusetts.

First, consider the time line. Female American Eels can live in freshwater for over 50 years before returning to the ocean to spawn. Assume that our mother eel from Leach Pond was fifty years old in 1972. That means she began her migration from

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Photo: E. Friedman

Picture This!

There are just a few months left to submit photos for our Merrymeeting Bay calendar **Deadline: March 1, 2005!**

We would love your input on all aspects of this project – including helping to solicit photographs, arranging a show of submitted work in venues around the Bay, picking photos for the calendar, finding sales outlets, and of course, buying calendars!

Please join us to make this major FOMB fundraiser a success!

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

Note: Please let us know ASAP if you are planning to submit your work.

OUR FIRST MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

It's coming to your door very soon (if it's not already there). PLEASE take a moment to fill out our membership survey and return it to us! If you read Steve Taylor's article (on page 6) you will see that FOMB uses a variety of different strategies to protect Merrymeeting Bay. Consequently, we are always making important decisions about how to allocate funds and resources. Yet, in all of our discussions, we have only a limited sense of how our membership wants us to invest their money and volunteer time. We hope that this survey will help us fill in some of these gaps. This is your organization – we ask for your support to help shape its future.

Note: If you would like to be involved in opening surveys, analyzing data or follow-up calls on survey results, please contact Sarah Wolpaw at 721-0941 or fomb@gwi.net.

FISH INIQUITIES

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the Sargasso Sea and entered the Taunton River sometime around 1922. To reach Leach Pond she swam up the Taunton River to the Mill River in downtown Taunton. She climbed over three dams on the Mill River before reaching Sabattia Lake, several miles upstream. From Sabattia she moved into the Snake River and on to Winnecunnet Pond in Norton. She left Winnecunnet by way of Mulberry Meadow Brook. Heading upstream toward the Wheaton Farm Ponds she found herself in a maze of dikes and spillways, where Mulberry Brook had been turned into an extensive series of cranberry bogs. Once out of the bog maze she continued on through the Wheaton Farm Ponds up Mulberry Brook still further to the dam at New Pond in the Furnace Village section of Easton. Climbing over the New Pond dam, she swam up Poquanticut Brook and on to the top of the Taunton River watershed in Leach Pond at the Easton-Sharon line. This is an amazing enough feat today in 2004, however in 1922 this animal's journey and the fact that she reached Leach Pond is truly miraculous.

In 1922, the Taunton and Mill Rivers were little more than flowing sewers, filled to the brim with untreated industrial and municipal waste. The Mill River would have been one of the foulest streams in the watershed. In 1922 it flowed through the industrial heart of the flourishing metals plating industry of the City of Taunton. Our mother eel found her way over six dams, through water that would peel paint, through bog mazes treated with some of the harshest pesticides ever used and into Leach Pond, hundreds of miles from her birthplace in the Sargasso. Is there another animal in nature capable of making such a miraculous journey?

Our direct experience on two New England rivers, Cobbosseecontee Stream in central Maine and the Weweantic River in southeastern Massachusetts, provide insight into a

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FISH INIQUITIES *continued*

principal cause of the precipitous decline in the American Eel population of North America.

Cobbosseecontee Stream drains 217 square miles of central Maine and enters the Kennebec River at Gardiner, Maine, six miles below the Kennebec River's head of tide at Augusta, the state capital. The watershed of Cobbosseecontee is dominated by a number of large natural lakes, totalling 12,000 acres in surface area. These natural lakes create a very large amount of ideal habitat for American Eel and undoubtedly have for millennia.

In 1979, the State of Maine permitted construction of a hydro-electric dam at an abandoned mill site on lower Cobbosseecontee Stream. The dam is called the American Tissue Dam. State and federal fisheries agencies in 1979 were offered the opportunity to require the dam owners to provide safe passage for American Eel and other native fish at the dam. None expressed an interest in doing so and a federal license was given to the dam without any protection for the fish living in the stream.

When the American Tissue Dam was put into operation in 1980, it began to kill large numbers of adult American Eel. Fishermen who collected and photographed bushel baskets of chopped eels killed below the dam demanded action. State and federal environmental officials took no action to stop the killing. The killing has continued each fall for 20 years.

This same scene is repeated at hydro-electric dams on every river in New England and has been ever since these dams were built or converted to hydro-electric generation. These eels, predominately female, are 20 to 50 years old. They are older than every mammal in New England except for humans and yet we are slaughtering them year after year after year ... at the very moment they are trying to give birth.

Like Shylock, American Eels bleed when pricked. Four foot long eels forced

to migrate through a hydro-electric dam turbine are more than pricked. They are chopped into pieces or worse, deeply gouged and lacerated, but still alive, breathing on the stream bottom for weeks as the back half of their body rots and decays. Most of the female American Eels in New England die this way.

Our recent experience at Cobbosseecontee Stream illustrates how difficult it is to stop this killing even when the hands and arms of State of Maine fisheries biologists are covered with the deep red blood of freshly dismembered female adult American Eels.

Despite four consecutive years of meticulous documentation of these annual eel kills by ourselves and Matthew O'Donnell, Nate Gray, Skip Zinck and John Perry of the Maine Department of Marine Resources, the annual killing of eels has still not been stopped on Cobbosseecontee Stream or others. Despite extensive media coverage, and repeated requests by citizens, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Office of Attorney General have repeatedly refused to take any enforcement action to stop the annual killing of American Eels at Cobbosseecontee. Instead, these agencies have said these severe, annual fish kills are allowed under Maine law.

The Weweantic River

About now, March 17, 2004, swarms of baby American Eels (glass eels) are swimming and drifting with the currents towards the coastal streams of the Atlantic coast. These glass eels were born several hundred miles away in the waters of the Sargasso Sea near Bermuda. Their mothers, those dwindling few which have survived this coastwide carnage, some as old as fifty years, give birth only once in their lives.

About two weeks from now, the babies born of these mother eels, these tiny transparent orphans, will begin entering our coastal rivers and streams. One such river is the Weweantic River. Weweantic enters Buzzards Bay in the

Town of Wareham Massachusetts, and is the largest tributary of Buzzards Bay. Weweantic is about a fifteen minute ride from our front door and we spend a lot of time there.

This spring, thousands and thousands of these baby eels will meet an ugly fate at the base of a dam built more than one hundred years ago below the head of tide on the Weweantic-- the Horseshoe Pond Dam.

The Horseshoe Pond Dam is abandoned, serves no purpose, and is impassable to fish. It is falling down but has not fallen down. Unlike the hydro-electric dam on Cobbosseecontee, there are no spinning turbine blades on the Weweantic slicing American Eels to ribbons. The carnage is not as graphic or heart wrenching at the Weweantic. At the Weweantic you will find no severed heads, whose still living eyes look up at you from the stream bed, no gill plates on disembodied heads struggling in vain to supply oxygen to a rotting, mutilated body which hours before was sleek and beautiful -- brimming with life and a mother's desire to give birth to new life.

The carnage on the Weweantic is brought about by the simple fact that the baby eels cannot get past the dam. Each spring night, when the spring peepers are singing, the baby eels gather at the base of the dam and cloud the water in slithering, translucent masses. Like people rushing from a burning building they try to force themselves through tiny trickles dripping from cracks in the rotting concrete dam abutments. Very few of the baby eels ever make it past the dam.

Scenes like this play out each and every spring on hundreds of New England streams and at the bases of thousands of dams, as they have for two centuries. Like the carnage at Cobbosseecontee, the waste at Weweantic will continue until the day the dam finally wastes away.

Carnage, disembodied heads, severed heads with living eyes--many who read this will think, well yes, it's probably

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FISH INIQUITIES *continued from page 3*

true, these things have, do and will probably continue to happen. However, the message won't carry. Because we view these animals, the eels and other fish, as fish. We do not see or react to their death and suffering through the same lens as we view our furry and feathered friends. It's a Fish Iniquity.

"Away with the superficial and selfish philanthropy of men, who knows what admirable virtue of fishes may be below low-water-mark, bearing up against a hard destiny, not admired by that fellow-creature who alone can appreciate it! Who hears the fishes when they cry?"

Henry Thoreau wrote that more than a hundred years ago sitting at his cabin on Walden Pond pondering the meanderings of ants. Today in 2004 that question asked to us by Henry Thoreau remains unanswered — *"Who hears the fishes when they cry?"*

Well, who does?

In April, May and June of 2004 thousands of baby eels will be unnecessarily slaughtered at the base of the Horseshoe Pond Dam on Buzzards Bay in Wareham Massachusetts and throughout New England. In the fall of 2004 adult mother eels will be chopped to ribbons by the turbines of the American Tissue Dam on Cobbosseecontee Stream in Gardiner Maine, and throughout New England.

How would New England's environmental community react to this slaughter if these eels were bluebirds? If wind powered generators were built on Buzzards Bay in Massachusetts or Merrymeeting Bay in Maine, and if every spring and fall the waters beneath them were littered with the severed heads and rotting bodies of terns, plovers, ospreys and sea gulls, would the wind farms be tolerated? Would we hear the birds cry?

"Men may be highest, or so men say, but they cannot be complete without granting equal dignity to the unsurpassed uniqueness of other forms of life. One ought to be able to

say: "Here is a life not mine. I am enriched." From the preface to his book **The Run** by John Hay, 1959.

Do the eel, alewife, shad or lamprey have equal status with us and our furry and feathered friends? Should they? If we, the conservation minded individuals and groups both private and regulatory cannot view these animals' plight with compassion, if we do not speak out and act upon what is happening before our eyes, who will?

The ongoing carnage at Cobbosseecontee and Weweantic are not isolated incidents taking place in a distant wilderness. Cobbosseecontee flows into the Kennebec just downstream from Augusta Maine, the state's capital. It is centered among many of the state's various regulatory agencies, universities, and offices of numerous environmental groups.

The same can be said for Weweantic. The Horseshoe Pond Dam is only about a ten minute car ride away from the office of the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program. It is only a half hour away from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Falmouth, and about the same distance from the Manomet Center in Plymouth. The Horseshoe Pond Dam on Weweantic and American Tissue Dam on Cobbosseecontee sit in what many would consider the epicenter of environmental enlightenment, yet still, year after year after year the carnage goes on.

Is the American Eel's decline so precipitous that it needs protection under the ESA? We hope not, if so the writing could already be on the wall, and this magnificent animal's fate could already be sealed.

After all, the eels life cycle is unique: extreme female longevity, spawning only once far out in the ocean where the babies must undertake a long arduous migration through dangerous waters. It takes vast numbers of spawning adults and returning juveniles to maintain a viable population of these animals. What is the threshold number

for these animals? Were the butchered mother eels pulled from Cobbosseecontee this year or last the ones which kept the species above the viability threshold? Were the tiny glass eels languishing below Horseshoe Pond Dam last spring essential for the species ability to recover? We humans, who know so little about the American Eel except how to destroy them, may never know until it is too late for us, and the American Eel.

Timothy A. Watts
South Middleborough, Massachusetts
and Douglas H. Watts
President, Friends of Kennebec Salmon

Editor's note:

Word just in from Doug Watts that this past September, the dam owners at Cobbosseecontee voluntarily installed a perforated steel plate over the entire turbine intake of the dam, which completely prevents adult eels from getting into the turbines. They have also opened a "deep gate" at the bottom of the dam to allow the eels to migrate past the dam without having to climb over the spillway, which they are very reluctant to do. Initial observations indicate these changes have completely stopped the eel kills at the dam for the first time in its history (it was built in 1978). Further investigations will be needed to determine whether suction is trapping eels against the plate.

Meanwhile, the eel [and alewife] slaughter continues unabated at many other hydro facilities throughout the Merrymeeting Bay watershed and probably statewide as these fish begin their seaward migrations. FOMB has filed a complaint with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requesting cessation of nighttime operations during the migration period. For more information and disturbing images please see the Friends of Kennebec Salmon web site at www.kenneberiver.org.



Scenic Augusta Skyline Rises Above Kennebec River [in valley beyond foreground]. Pit courtesy of Steven McGee, City of Augusta, & the DEP. photo: EF

Welcome to Augusta!

Edwards Dam is dismantled. 18 miles of main stem spawning habitat is re-opened between Augusta and Waterville. The Kennebec is reborn. Augusta has revitalization plans for downtown. All well and good but look at the approach. Mostly along the river's western bank from Augusta north into at least Sidney, large sections of the adjacent hillsides continue to be stripped and excavated for their underlying gravel deposits.

These activities continue to expand with relatively little oversight by the DEP and municipalities. There have been blatant breaches of the shoreline buffers to the river, buildings and 25,000 gallon fuel tanks buried in the pits threatening the aquifer and river, erosion problems, encroachment on adjacent neighborhoods, clear-cutting violations, illegal and unsecured storage of blasting materials and fueling supplies, illegal quarrying and blasting creating air emission problems and even un-licensed pits operating under the nose of the state.

A dedicated neighborhood group in north Augusta affected by all of these issues has lately been bringing these problems to the fore in a persistent and thorough fashion. Gravel mining in the state is widespread and can create many problems. The DEP is dreadfully under staffed in this area and weak consent agreements with violators, rather than stiff penalties, are the norm for action, if any, by the department. The city of Augusta has enacted a temporary moratorium on further expansion of these activities while ordinance issues are addressed however the moratorium has been violated with no repercussions to the violators.

Please contact David Gomeau of the Grand View Neighborhood Group at 626-3590 or inlet@gwi.net for more information or what you can do to help. Your backyard or water supply could be next.

Ed Friedman

Eagles Reproduce Poorly This Year

Of 12 nests in the Bay area only 8 or 9 birds were fledged. A healthy population in the wild would typically yield 2-3 fledglings per nest. This poor rate of success was not limited to the Bay this year and may indicate poor weather at critical time periods.

Summary of Merrymeeting Bay Nesting Success 2004

Richmond: Kennebec R.:	active nest	1 fledgling
Dresden: Courthouse Pt.:	active nest	1 fledgling
Dresden: Eastern R.:	inactive nest	2 adults
Perkins Twp.: Little Swan Isl.:	inactive	single adult?
Perkins Twp.: Swan Isl.:	active nest	0 fledglings (abandoned egg)
Bowdoinham: Abby' Pt.:	active nest	1 fledgling
Bowdoinham: Bald Head:	inactive	single adult?
Woolwich: Thorne Isl.:	inactive nest	2 adults
Woolwich: Day's Ferry:	active nest	1 fledgling
Topsham: Pleasant Pt.:	active nest	1 fledgling
Topsham: Freyer Isl.:	active nest	1 fledgling
Topsham: Androscoggin:	new active/	2-3 fledglings?

Data courtesy of Charlie Todd, MDIF&W

Water Quality Testing Wraps up for the Season

We've just wrapped up another successful season of water quality testing with assistance from Friends of Casco Bay. We were very pleased this year to extend our testing to two additional sites on the Androscoggin River as far north as Livermore Falls in Turner. Our hardy volunteers, listed below, ran tests one weekend of every month from April through October, in rain or, well, given this summer, more rain. We will get the data analyzed and let you know what we found! Special thanks goes to our Water Quality Coordinator, Bill Milam and to Peter Milholland of Friends of Casco Bay for training assistance.

Bill Briggs	David Lachapelle
Phil Brzozowski	Kathleen McGee
Dee & Clancy Cummins	Bill Milam
Debbi Davidson	Nancy Murphy
Craig Denis	Richard Nickerson
Steve Eagles	Grace and Dave Sherwood
Ed Friedman	Jim Thibodeau
Dave Hedrick	Helen Watts
Bev Johnson	

1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = ???

Congratulations! If you're reading this newsletter, you are privileged to be part of one of the more special community organizations in Maine, maybe even in the country. FOMB may not be a truly unique organization in the sense that the Hope diamond is unique, but we are certainly unusual. Most environmental or conservation organizations adopt one strategy to fulfill their mission. FOMB uses at least four: advocacy, education, land protection, and research.

In the United States, efforts to protect our environment and by extension our health developed in several phases over at least the past hundred years. The conservation movement that flourished in the first half of the twentieth century advocated for protection of natural resources, primarily in order to better manage them for the benefit of humanity. As toxic pollution of our air, water, and soil became increasingly apparent in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, a new form of environmental movement campaigned to end or limit these discharges in order to protect human health, primarily through legislative and media strategies. More recent efforts have focused on environmental racism (the disproportionate impact of pollution on people of color) and pollution prevention.

Most present day organizations concerned with air, water, land, and species reflect one of the two main origins of U.S. environmental/conservation organizations: protection of natural resources for their own sake or for the benefit of humans; or limitation or elimination of toxic pollution that threatens both the environment and human health. Each group of organizations tends to have their own networks and national associations, their own funders, and their own vocabularies, assumptions, tactics, and strategies. Conservation organizations tend to be more cooperative and low-profile, working to build support for land protection while not alienating significant constituencies. Organizations focused on toxic pollution tend to be much more involved in local and state legislative debates and other public affairs, challenging both polluters and regulators to protect people and the environment. Both strategies are important and productive, but only rarely co-exist in the same organization.

FOMB is highly unusual in that we value, include, and support both land conservation efforts and opposition to pollution, as well as high-level scientific research and grassroots education of children and adults. Most of us embrace this diversity of strategies as one of the things that makes FOMB special and effective, and our members consistently say that they value our multiple approaches to protecting the Bay. But there will always be some of our friends and neighbors who don't think that we should employ all these strategies, or at least not employ them all equally and aggressively.

Would FOMB be better off if it followed only one strategy? Yes and no. Would we do more and better scientific research if we focused primarily on that? Sure. Could we protect more

land if all we did was solicit conservation easements and buy parcels? Of course. Would more kids learn about the Bay if education were our only priority? Absolutely. Could we achieve greater reductions in toxic pollution of the Bay if all our resources went to advocate for that? You betcha.

If we pitched some of our strategies to protect the Bay overboard in order to focus on one or two, we would probably do more in the remaining areas, and perhaps do it better. But we would also drive out of the organization those who most valued the strategy that we rejected, losing essential knowledge, volunteers, and financial support in the process. We would lose the opportunity to learn about alternative approaches, the opportunity to be challenged, and the opportunity to support worthwhile projects not because they are our own first priority, but because they are important to other valued members of our organization.

The reality is that many of us will always feel a bit uncomfortable in an organization as broad as FOMB, and we will always support some efforts more strongly than others. I certainly wouldn't lose sleep at night if we stopped funding research on plants and tides in the Bay. But if we stopped buying land to protect it from development, or stopped opposing toxic pollution of the waters that flow into the Bay, I would be very upset. There are other members who couldn't tell a PCB from a dioxin or a brominated flame retardant (okay, I fess up, I can't either), but who would be horrified if we stopped holding annual Bay Days to help 4th graders learn about the Bay.

My point is pretty simple and probably pretty obvious. We all gain by supporting an organization that is broad-minded and flexible enough to pursue a whole canoe-load of different strategies to protect a truly special resource. I may not understand everything that field botanists or GIS mappers do, or why those things are so expensive, but I do understand that an organization that only advances my personal priorities isn't going to be big enough or strong enough to accomplish much. FOMB's different strategies, and the members who support them, may not always co-exist in complete peace and harmony. But in pursuing a holistic approach to a very complex and unique ecosystem we are assuredly all better off together than apart.

Steve Taylor

Proposed FOMB By-Law Amendments to be presented at the Annual Meeting as recommended by the Steering Committee [SC]

1. Art. III-A: Reduce SC size from 15 to 11.
2. III-F: Reduce SC quorum from 7 to 6.

Discussion: 1. Current recommendations [Maine Association of Non-Profits] of Board size for a group like FOMB range from 9-12 members. 2. We have only perhaps once since 1993 actually had a full Steering Committee of 15. 3. Lack of a full Steering Committee has on occasion been a major factor in the denial of grant requests or inclusion in funding programs. The FOMB Steering Committee proposes amending the by-laws to reduce the number of Committee members from 15 to 11 and the number constituting a quorum from 7 to 6.

Fall Bay Day

During these beautiful fall days FOMB hosted over 200 area school children in hands-on environmental education workshops alongside the Bay. We worked with approximately 120 4th graders from Bowdoin, Topsham, and Bowdoinham as well as 86 6th graders from the Hall-Dale School in Farmingdale. Ecology of Merrymeeting Bay, trees, wildlife, geology, archaeology, and non-point source pollution were just some of the workshops and walks our wonderful volunteers led and chaperoned. Join us at our annual meeting December 10th as some of these 4th graders present highlights.

Thanks to: Steve Eagles, Bill Milam, Jay Robbins, Lee Cranmer, Bill Burgess, Anne Hammond, Jack Witham, Ruth Deike, Alison Voner, Ben Lubbers, Jason Bartlett, Ed Friedman, Michaeline Mulvey, and Susan Breau. Thanks also to Bill Briggs, Leon Ogradnik, Dave Chipman, Dee Cummins, Kent Cooper, Carole Dyer, Dana Cary, Ed Benedikt, Joan Llorente and Judy Lipetz. Special thanks are due Clancy Cummins, coordinator extraordinaire.

Ed Friedman

Land Conservation Update

Just because you don't read of newly protected lands in each issue of The Merrymeeting News doesn't mean there isn't a lot of effort constantly going on behind the scenes to achieve that end. By the time you read this we hope to have completed two deals that will protect about 160 acres including approximately 1300 feet on the Kennebec in Woolwich and 7000 feet on the Abbagadasset in Bowdoinham. One of these is a conservation easement and one an acquisition in cooperation with the Maine Wetlands Protection Coalition.

FOMB has at any given time along the spectrum of land conservation efforts, a number of parcels "in play," as we do now in addition to the two mentioned above. Using the metaphor of a pregnancy, there is usually a rather long gestation period in land conservation efforts before that hopefully healthy birth. We don't believe in birth announcements prior to term but we would like to thank our members for your continued support and let you know we expect to deliver again soon. All contributions to the college fund are welcome and very much appreciated.

Ed Friedman

FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY

Steering Committee

- Dorothy Chaisson (Brunswick) . . .Treasurer
- Clancy Cummins (Richmond) . . .Secretary
- Dee Cummins (Richmond)Chair
- Will Everitt (Portland)
- Ed Friedman (Bowdoinham)
- Steve Musica (Richmond)
- Martha Spiess (Freeport)

Committee Chairs

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

Executive Coordinator

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

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



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

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- \$ _____ Other.
- \$20 Smelt
- \$50 Alewife
- \$100 Shad
- \$250 Striped Bass
- \$500 Wild Salmon
- \$1,000+Sturgeon
- \$ _____ enclosed as an additional tax-deductible donation.

Name

RR# or Street Address

Town /State/Zip

Phone

email

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

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

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay
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Coming up in Merrymeeting...

Friday, December 10 @ 6 PM and 7:30 PM

- **Annual Business Meeting and potluck supper at 6 PM**
- **Hands Around the Bay 2004:** 4th Graders from Bowdoin and Bowdoinham elementary share their experiences from our Fall Bay Day at 7:30 PM

Cram Alumni House, 83 Federal St., Bowdoin College, Brunswick Public welcome at both events. We will be raffling off a Minnow kayak (if enough tickets are sold). Visit our website at www.link75.org/mmb for more details.

Thursday, January 6 @ 7 PM

FOMB Archaeology Digs of East Chops Point (multi-year excavation) and East Brunswick (2004 excavation):
Jay Robbins (Robbins Historic Research), John Cross and Leslie Shaw (Bowdoin College)

Beam Classroom, Visual Arts Center, Bowdoin College, Brunswick

Thursday, February 3 @ 7 PM

Merrymeeting Bay Research Update: Bowdoin College Environmental Studies Department

Beam Classroom, Visual Arts Center, Bowdoin College, Brunswick