

# The Merrymeeting News



Spring 2005 VOLUME XV, No. 2

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/](http://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.



## Heron Returns The Gift [Vernal Equinox]



Photo and sculpture credit: Bryce Muir

Heron was back. The ice had gone out with a rush one rainy evening, and the Cathance ran free once more. More or less. The river banks and flats were covered with the litter of winter — last year's dead grasses and sedges and reeds, ice-downed limbs and deadfalls, and all the ruck Jack Frost heaved up, or the ice fishermen tossed out. Every spring freshet swept flotsam into the river, and great masses of junk were sloshing back and forth with the tide. The hulks of dirty old ice pans were still rafted up in shady places under the bank, but most of the mud flats were fragrantly exposed to the warming Sky.

Heron had returned with the climbing Sun, and this morning she was out wading in the shallows, gazing distractedly at the soup swirling around her legs. Heron had a puzzle to solve, and she didn't know where to begin. You see, it's a rule of Nature that the gift must pass. You must give to receive, and the gifts you are granted must be passed along,

or the web of the World unravels. Heron had been blessed with a special gift last year. Right beside this very river.

It had been on a gray and raw evening, late last Fall. Heron had lingered too long by these shores. Her parting was well past-due. Ice was skimming over the still reaches every night, and all the tender tid-bits were burrowing into the mud or heading downstream to more salubrious climes. Still Heron strode up and down beside the Cathance — waiting for something.

That evening, as she stalked along the guzzle draining past Wildes Point, she saw a dazzle in the murky waters. One quick stab, and she speared a great Golden Carp. The Carp was much too big to swallow. Heron staggered into the shallow water, where she shook the fish off her beak, and stood contemplating her writhing handiwork.

Carp's sparkling coat of scales mesmerized Heron. She stood stunned before the shimmering vision. Carp was flopping and gasping, but he could still speak.

"Listen," the Golden Carp groaned. "I have given myself to you. For it's my time to rise from the waters. Feed on me and carry me to the sky. I have spent an Age groping in these turbid waters. Now a change is gonna come."

Heron thought this was pretty high-faluting phonics for an old fish, but she was bemused by the Carp's eloquence, the iridescence of his scales, and his catchy blues lyric. Even after Carp ceased flailing and gasping, and Heron had gorged herself, she puzzled on his last words. The image of this great fish

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## Heron Returns the Gift

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calling for transformation stuck in Heron's mind.

"I've given myself," she repeated. Heron shook her head, spread her great wings, and leapt into the air. Beating her wings Heron rose up, turned south and west, and rode down the wind — heading for her winter grounds.

But Heron couldn't forget the message of that glimmering gift. As the winter months passed, Heron found herself more and more thoughtful. She always had tremendous patience. Able to stand stock still over a fish by-way for hours, waiting for a mouthful. Now she would meditate all day on the puzzle of giving and receiving, while she stood in rigid silence.

Heron could always pierce deep into the questioning depths and come up with a shining answer. But this was too deep for her. If the Golden Carp had given her the gift of self, how was she supposed to pass it on?

Now it was Spring, and Heron was back on the banks of the Cathance. There was still a nip in the air, and the river was icy wading. Every few steps Heron would lift one leg and stand in a thoughtful pose, wriggling her toes until the circulation came back. Baitfish were scarce as yet. Eels were slow to rise out of their winter depths, and it was too early for Alewives, but Perch were wiggling into the river, and Heron managed to spear enough of the boney beasts to keep body and soul together. All the while she was thinking on that Carp, and the gift of self. Heron stood in thought.

The morning was misty. Coiling clouds of cold vapor glided along the river, shivering the Pines alongshore, making them play hide and seek. Heron curled her neck back so her chin rested on her chest. Heron stood in thought.

The tide was in flood and the tail of last night's flotsam flotilla came spinning back into the river's mouth, jammed and jumbled together. Heron

was too sunk in maze to notice the rafts of refuse clogging the tide. Nor did Heron hear the faint piping cry calling through the mist. Heron stood in thought.

The north wind was freshening. There were rents in the river fog, and the headwind had stalled that tangle of trash riding the tide. The vast mat of last year's leavings began to slowly circle in front of Heron. The tiny cry piped closer. Heron stood in thought.

Out on the flats the Migrant Ducks were slopping around, slapping their feet, gabbling over fresh rice roots. And the whole Crow Tribe was shouting about some rotten thing or another. Heron could hardly hear herself think. Heron stood in thought.

Just then a hole opened in the mist overhead and Heron saw a shimmering sparkle on the water. She jerked up her head, and heard the tiny voice crying out of the raft. She listened for a moment, and heard it again. Heron put her foot down. Stretched out her wings. Bent her knees. And pulled herself into the air with great wing beats.

Heron was still half blinded by the splash of sunlight. As she flew out over the junk pile she could hardly focus on details. The piping was louder now, but sounding more exhausted. Heron hovered where it was loudest. She still couldn't see anything below her. The piping turned into faint gasping cries.

"What are you?" Heron finally asked.

There was a long silence. Then the faintest of voices sighed and spoke breathlessly.

"Wouldn't.. you.. know." The voice piped disgustedly. "Trapped.. in trash.. half drowned.. who comes.. to rescue.. Brother.. Blue.. Heron."

"Who are you?" Heron called back, a bit uncertainly, her eyes watering, and her great wings milling in the air.

"Breakfast," the voice answered sarcastically. "AKA ..Master Frog.. but frogs.. won't learn.. the songs.. this.. year," the

voice died away sadly.

Heron was so stuck by this intelligence she stopped flapping her wings, and almost fell out of the air. She did drop to within a span of the raft, and had to dance from foot to foot on the loose logs and grass clumps until she got back her wing rhythm, and gained some altitude.

It was true. For Heron, Frog was a gustatory delight, and an early one at that, in this season. But Heron never imagined frogs could converse, or — wonder of wonders — be moody.

Heron flapped up a bit higher. Her eyes were clearing, and now she could see an elderly frog, half-shriveled and half-drowned, tangled in the roots of a floating blowdown. Heron cleared her throat.

"Master Frog," she began. "Master of what? And how did you survive the winter?"

"Quite.. nicely.. thank you. 'Til now." Master Frog panted sarcastically. "Every year.. we pick.. Master frog.. who.. best sings.. old songs.. goes to.. Winterhaven." There was a lengthy pause and a slight groan. Frog went on, "Many years.. haven .. this Cedar." Another pause. "Not so.. good choice," the frog fell silent.

"And you best know the old songs?" Heron asked, not unkindly. She was still a bit rattled, but the whole escapade was starting to amuse her. Talking Frogs? Singing Frogs?

What next?

"Supposed.. Teach.. New Frogs.. Old Songs," Master Frog managed to gasp out.

"I don't think I've ever heard a frog song," Heron mused aloud.

"Course not," Frog snapped. "You come. Frogs shut up."

Heron is a very patient bird, but when she decides to act she does it with lightning speed. She instantly stabbed down

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# Membership Survey Update

Thank you to all of our members who returned our first ever membership survey! We had an astounding 30% return rate with responses from over 100 people. You sent us some great feedback. We have a lot to think about.

To give you an idea of how the data look, below are some quick highlights of the quantitative results (i.e., the numerical ratings, the yes/no questions). The qualitative data (i.e., all the written comments) will take a bit more time to understand and we will report back to you on these data in another issue of this newsletter.

Most of you (77%) think Friends of Merrymeeting Bay is doing an effective job protecting the Bay (20% were unsure), and a whopping 96% want us to continue using our 4 primary strategies (research, advocacy, land conservation and education) to achieve our mission. You identified land conservation as the most important of these strategies (mean rating of 1.4, where 1 = extremely important and 5 = not at all important), followed by education and advocacy (both with mean ratings of 1.7) and finally research (mean rating = 2.1). When asked to judge the importance of some more specific examples of our program work, you chose conservation

easements and advocacy to eliminate toxic contamination as being of greatest importance, while archaeology/history came last (see table for a complete list).

Mean rating	Program item
1.37	Advocacy to eliminate toxic contamination
1.37	Conservation easements
1.45	Advocacy to limit harmful development
1.54	Research on toxic contamination/sediments
1.67	Limits on development (as a land protection strategy)
1.73	Advocacy to protect fish stocks
1.73	Research on impacts of development
1.80	Newsletter (as educational tool)
1.81	Land purchases
1.83	Bay Day
1.92	School curriculum
1.98	Speaker Series
2.05	Plants/biological research
2.14	Research on impact of boats/jet-skis
2.25	Advocacy to enforce jet ski/boat speeds
2.35	Archaeology/History

*Ratings of importance for different types of program work (mean rating is the average of respondent's ratings on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 = extremely important and 5 = not at all important; lower numbers indicate greater importance).*

As for FOMB's governance, most of you (62%) thought the Board was doing a good job, although a sizeable minority were unsure (33%). About half of you thought there should not

be term limits for Board members, while a quarter thought there should be and another quarter were unsure.

Finally, many of you (51%) were unsure of whether the actions of the Board reflect the members' beliefs. Most of the rest of you (44%) thought Board actions did indeed reflect members' beliefs. We hope this survey, along with a careful analysis of the qualitative data, will shed some light on this last question! We will also use this survey to inform our planning as we continue to work on protecting Merrymeeting Bay.

Thank you for your input; it is always welcome.

And the answer to a last pressing question: Who won the wonderful dinner at the Fore St. Restaurant in Portland? It was long time members Jean and Bill Briggs of Bowdoinham. Jean told us they would use the prize to celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary! Congratulations to them and we hope they enjoyed the meal. Thank you again to Fore St. restaurant for the generous donation.

Sarah Wolpow

## Come Work on Swan Island

Friends of Swan Island will be holding regular work sessions repairing old homes on Swan Island. Help with scraping, painting and roofing. Weekly Saturday sessions at 9 am.

Contact Bruce Trembly at 737-4352 or boatshop@gwi.net

## 50 Mile Tour de Merrymeeting Bay Bicycle Ride

Sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Topsham and Brunswick to benefit trail projects in Brunswick and Topsham. For more information:

WEB: [www.brunswickrotary.org/tourdemerrymeeting.cfm](http://www.brunswickrotary.org/tourdemerrymeeting.cfm)

PHONE: (207) 725-1726 ext. 192.

# A Cleaner Androscoggin

Representative Elaine Makas of the Lewiston/Auburn area has introduced LD 99 that will bring the Androscoggin and St. Croix rivers up to the same standard as the other Maine rivers. The legislative Public Hearing before the Natural Resource Committee was held on May 4th. It may or may not have had a work session [the next step] or been sent to the floor for a vote when you receive this. Regardless, your input to legislators is needed [encouragement or thanks if they supported it and disappointment if not] and below are some things you should know. The unedited version complete with current LD status and various statistics on discharges is available in the “Cybrary” section of our web site at: [www.link75.org/mmb/](http://www.link75.org/mmb/) or that of the Androscoggin River Association at: [www.cleanandroscoggin.org](http://www.cleanandroscoggin.org). “Facts” are courtesy of Androscoggin River Association and Maine. Rivers.

Ed Friedman

## Androscoggin River Facts

**The River is still one of the dirtiest in the state.** It is far from cleaned up. Gulf Island Pond, the 14-mile stretch of slow moving water above Lewiston/Auburn, fails to meet even the state’s lowest water quality standards. According to DEP, there have been no significant improvements in water quality in the last decade in Gulf Island Pond.

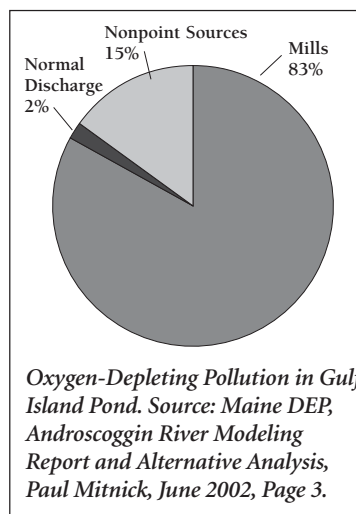
**The pollution problems in the River limit the number and type of fish that live there.** By law, cold water fish, like brook trout and landlocked salmon, should be able to live in Gulf Island Pond, but they can’t because it’s too polluted. This is the crux of the so-called “dissolved oxygen” issue: Fish and other aquatic creatures need oxygen to breathe, which is why it is important. Clean water holds more oxygen than polluted water, so the stricter the oxygen standard, the cleaner the river must be.

**The mills on the River are by far the largest causes of the pollution.** According to DEP they account for 83% of the oxygen depleting pollution entering the pond and 77% of the phosphorus pollution to the pond. Phosphorus is a nutrient pollutant that causes algae blooms (green slime on the river) and depletes oxygen in the water. The phosphorus causes enormous algae blooms, rendering the water unusable for swimming. The algae blooms and heavy BOD load also cause non-compliance with the state’s lowest dissolved oxygen (DO) standards, making the river unfit for cold water fish species.

For years, the paper companies on the river have sought exemptions from environmental laws and standards to avoid making fundamental changes in their processes that would clean up the river. As far back as the 1980’s, the legislature bowed to the will of the industries and exempted Gulf Island Pond from *all* water quality standards. However, the US Environmental Protection Agency rejected this move as a violation of federal law.

Mill owners, such as International Paper, have the money to invest in upgrading their Androscoggin mills. In the last year alone, IP spent \$300 million on Eastern European operations, and over \$100 million in South Carolina at one of its most efficient plants. In addition, IP is considering a \$1.2-\$1.3 billion investment in South America.

**The longevity of the mills, and mill jobs, will be enhanced by investment.** The 2004 “Indicators of Health” report, issued by the Governor’s Steering Committee on Natural Resource-Based Industries, states that: *“Increasing or maintaining capital investment in Maine’s pulp and paper mills would indicate industry-wide optimism and would reflect commitment to maintain or enhance the future competitiveness of Maine’s existing infrastructure. To stay viable in today’s global marketplace, mills must increase productivity by investing in technology. Most Maine paper mills compete for investment dollars to improve their facilities with mills in other regions owned by their parent corporations. If a mill cannot attract capital investment, the mill eventually falls behind in competitiveness, and may eventually close.”*



In the fall of 2003, Maine commissioned a study by a world-renowned paper industry expert that showed that the Androscoggin mills could invest in modern pollution prevention technology that would both lower manufacturing costs and allow them to meet water quality standards. That study, known as the McCubbin Report, included the following statements:

*“There are many technologies and operating practices that have been in use for some time in profitable, operating mills which can potentially be used to reduce the discharges of pollutants that affect the Androscoggin River. These include personnel training, improved process control for phosphorus addition, correction of weaknesses in existing waste treatment systems, recovery*

*of unplanned mill process losses, oxygen delignification and replacement of aeration tanks in the mills’ waste water treatment plants.*

*Mills such as Glatfelter in Spring Grove, PA, and several mills in Finland, that consistently exceed the industry average return in capital invested make extensive use of most of the technologies suggested herein as being useful for reducing phosphorus and BOD discharges, demonstrating that they are not unrealistic economically. These mills rely on a combination of appropriate manufacturing processes and effluent treatment to achieve low discharges cost effectively.”*

## Snapping Turtles and Fish and Wild Rice, Oh My!

The summer field season is about to begin for the Bowdoin College Merrymeeting Bay research team. This summer seven students will be collecting a variety of data on the biological, physical, chemical and geological components of the Bay. Senior, Lucy Van Hook will be returning to the muddy tidal flats in search of snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*). Lucy, along with lab instructor Jaret Reblin spent last summer tracking the movement of five snapping turtles outfitted with radios in the Bay. This summer they will focus their work on juveniles; in particular they will study locations of nests, nest predation, and hatchling mortality.

Newcomer, Mary Kate Wheeler will be contributing to an ongoing study of plant dynamics in the Bay. This will be the third year Bowdoin will look at the distribution and productivity of wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*), the dominant plant species in Merrymeeting Bay. Wild rice is an important annual grass species because thousands of migrating ducks and geese depend on the rice fields for forage in the fall. Mary Kate's work will continue a time series database describing wild rice establishment, survival, growth, seed production, seed predation, and seed rain.

Also new to our research crew this year is Mark Burton. Mark will be spending some early mornings on the Androscoggin studying the spawning habitat of Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*). A special net has been constructed and with the help of Mike Brown from the Department of Marine Resources shad eggs will be carefully counted to determine the optimal type of substrate and flow regime for shad spawning grounds.

We also have four other students working in the Bay this summer; they will all be out there all hours of the day and night and through rain and the summer heat. So honk or wave if you see a bunch of muddy, tired students working in the Bay this summer!

Heather Caron

## Don't Eat the Fish!

*We suggest that sensitive populations (pregnant and nursing women, women who may soon become pregnant, and children under 8) avoid consumption of all fish caught in Merrymeeting Bay.*

*Did you know the Maine Bureau of Health has set the level of "safe" fish consumption at ZERO MEALS PER YEAR for the Kennebec River from Augusta south to the Chops!*

Visit <http://www.maine.gov/dhs/ehu/fish/2KFCA.shtml> for more detailed listings.

As we have since 1996, FOMB continues our posting of fish consumption advisories around the Bay as part of a statewide effort by the Maine Toxics Action Coalition [MTAC] of which we are a member organization. The brightly colored signs have been posted at various fishing and boating access points surrounding the Bay. While we were recently successful in achieving a classification upgrade on the Kennebec from a "C" to a "B", the classification system is only based on dissolved oxygen and coliform bacteria levels. This system has really no relevance as to whether or not one can safely eat the fish that may contain a host of contaminants regardless of classification level.

Mercury, dioxin and PCB contamination of fish continues to be a problem as are the sources of these contaminants ["Clean Skies Initiative" notwithstanding]. FOMB continues to proactively work towards the elimination of these extremely dangerous toxins.

These three chemicals are exceptionally dangerous substances. Mercury is found throughout fish tissue and cannot be avoided. Exposure to dioxin, PCBs and other fat-loving organochlorines can be somewhat minimized by avoiding the oils and fatty portions of fish. For health reasons FOMB suggests catch and release.

Interestingly, the National Academy of Sciences backed up our position years ago, the other national agencies are slowly catching up, and the Maine state agencies-Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, DEP, Bureau of Health, and Department of Marine Resources all still do not post advisory signs.

Ed Friedman

### 2005 Digs

This summer's archaeology dig dates are August 10-14. We will be working three sites on the Abbagadasset River in Bowdoinham. Most of the digging will be at the head of tide pond. We will probably also spend a day or so doing survey test pits at a site where the Abby meets Beals Stream just south of Rt. 24. A couple of folks might give the pros a hand surveying or mapping building foundations on the site of the original Carding Mill by Abby Falls, about three miles above head tide. We will be working with Art Spiess and Lee Cranmer's crew from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission on parcels FOMB lead the protection efforts for (now owned by the state and managed by Inland Fisheries & Wildlife). We can use a maximum of four volunteers for each morning and afternoon session. See *Coming Up in Merrymeeting* on back page for registration information.

## Endangered Species Status for Kennebec Atlantic Salmon Requested

“Section 4. Be it further enacted, That every person who shall drift or drag any net or seine in the waters of Kennebec River, at Merry-meeting bay, or in the Amareskoggin River, emptying into the same, so as to scrape the bottom, disturb or destroy any of the spawn or young of the salmon, shad or alewives, at any season of the year, he or they, so offending, shall forfeit and pay a fine of ten dollars for each and every offense, and shall moreover forfeit the net or seine and boat so used, to be disposed of according to the law passed on the twenty-second day of February, seventeen hundred ninety-four.”

From: 1818 Massachusetts Laws. Chapter CXXI. "An Act in addition to the several acts now in force for the



*For fish that read. Sign mounted on the Ridgewood Power Dam in Gardiner.*

*Photo: Ed Friedman*

preservation of Salmon, Shad and Alewives within the Counties of Cumberland, Lincoln, Kennebec and Oxford.”

Years later, the Kennebec population of Atlantic salmon being on the verge of extinction, FOMB has joined with the Maine Toxics Action Coalition, Timothy Watts and Douglas Watts in filing a petition [authored by Douglas] to the Departments of Interior and Commerce, requesting that Kennebec salmon be given protection under the Endangered Species Act.

To see the full petition, please visit the Cybrary section of our website <http://www.link75.org/mmb/> and look for *Petition to List the Kennebec River Population of Anadromous Atlantic Salmon as an Endangered Species*.

*Ed Friedman*

### Heron Returns the Gift

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into the junk pile with her bill. Master Frog gave a tiny squeak, and passed out. But Heron wasn't stabbing him. She was picking and jabbing and yanking away at the litter entangling him. Tossing branches one way and gobs of grass the other. When Frog was free, Heron gently grasped him in her beak and flew to shore. Heron laid the unconscious amphibian on the bank and stared down at him. Heron stood in thought.

It was a long spell before Frog awoke. The sun was high and the clearing wind had done its work. Master Frog lay in a puddle of sunlight. It was the warmth that woke him. He opened his eyes, squinting to focus them against the glare, and saw Heron towering over him.

“So you give me Life?” Frog said, his voice only quavering slightly.

“I wanted to hear your song,” Heron replied.

Master Frog sighed. He sat silently for a long moment. Then he hitched himself up onto his haunches. Took a deep breath. And he sang. Slowly and quietly

(and a little sadly) at first, taking long breaths between verses. Then louder and louder and more joyfully. Heron swayed back and forth to the melody, and began to step lightly in time. Then, as Frog's tune began to jump, so did Heron. Faster and faster they went, until they sang and danced themselves into a frenzy — and collapsed in a gale of laughter. Heron lay on her back in the mud and flailed her feet in the air.

Needless to say, that was the end of any personal enmity. Master Frog rested up and made his way back upriver to await the coming of the New Frogs. Heron tried his best not to eat every juicy tadpole wriggling by. And the days grew longer.

Not long after, on a mild and humid morning, when the swamp gas was especially ripe, and the sound of the interstate particularly loud, Heron was standing knee-deep in meditation at the mouth of the river. Sunlight was dabbling in the morning mist and dancing on the water. Heron had her head down, as usual, staring at the whorls around her legs.

Just then she heard a familiar piping.

Heron threw back her head, just in time to see the whole bank of fog surrounding her turn into an encircling rainbow. A chorus of frog voices filled the air with music. It was magic.

In that instant, Heron knew she was even with the Golden Carp. He had given her his Life. Himself. And she had returned the gift of Life. And now that gift had lifted her head to see this glory. And hear this ridiculous music.

Heron didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Instead she threw back her head, stretched out her neck, and began fluting a wild and wicked tune. The frogs all joined in.

“Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.” They sang together in the sunlight.

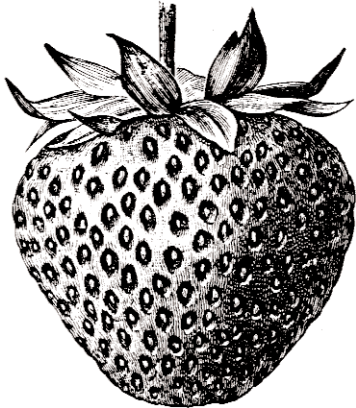
And even the snide Crows in the willows began cawing the tune.

Which is why Heron now and then raises her head up, as though listening to a distant tune. And why you have to stick your neck out to find your gift.

*Bryce Muir*

# Trackers Wanted

We need several teams to help radio track and retrieve drifters in our study of Bay currents. A team will consist of one boat operator and one tracker. If you can access the central and lower part of the Bay quickly by motorboat or if you would like to conduct the actual tracking from someone else's boat please contact Ed Friedman at 666-3372 or edfomb@gwi.net. For more information about the study, please visit our website at: <http://www.link75.org/mmb/fomb/page/s/currentstudy.htm>.



## Send us your email address!

We have two email lists to keep you more informed about ways to help protect and enjoy our beautiful Bay.

One is used for notices of events and volunteer opportunities (maximum 2-4 emails/month).

The other is used to alert you when action is needed to support our advocacy work. We may suggest that you call your legislators, or write a letter to the editor. There is no obligation on your part — you can follow through as time and interest permit. (maximum 1 email/month, depending on season).

Please send a note with your email address to [fomb@gwi.net](mailto:fomb@gwi.net) if you would like to be added to either of these lists. FOMB will not exchange your email with any other organizations.

## FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY

### Steering Committee

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

### Committee Chairs

- Conservation and Stewardship
- Andy Cutko . . . . .666-3162
- Membership and Fundraising
- Will Everitt . . . . .671-1315
- Research and Advocacy
- Ed Friedman . . . . .666-3372

- Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator
- Bill Milam . . . . .443-9738

### Executive Coordinator

- Sarah Wolpov . . . . .721-0941
- 45 Page St. Brunswick ME, 04011

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



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

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\$7.00 enclosed for a copy of Conservation Options:  
A Guide for Maine Landowners.  
(\$5 for the book, \$2 for postage)

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

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay  
P.O. Box 233, Richmond, ME 04357  
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## OUTSIDE 2005!

All events are free and open to the public • Pre-registration required. To register or for questions, please contact Bruce Trembly at 737-4352 or boatshop@gwi.net (unless otherwise noted)

### Rocks, Mud plants, Archaeology & More!

#### Shoreline Clean-up

Leaders: Piers Beirne, Andy & Kate Cutko  
Bowdoinham • *Sunday, May 29 10:30 – 2:30 PM*

#### Art & Music on the Sands

Leader: Bryce Muir  
Bowdoinham • Transportation to the Sands provided on Bryce's boat. Space limited to 12. All participants should bring art supplies OR a musical instrument.  
*Wednesday, June 8 @ 9 AM*

#### Archaeology Dig on the Abbagadassett River

Contact Ed Friedman for questions (666-3372) or Liza Nelson to register (725-2937) • *August 10 -14*

#### Merrymeeting Bay: 600,000,000 Years of Geologic Clues

Leader: Ruth Deike  
Meeting place TBA\* • *Saturday, August 13, 9 AM – 12 noon*

#### Mud plants of Merrymeeting Bay

Leader: Arthur Haines  
Topsham • *Sunday, August 28, 2-4 PM*

History of Swan Island Leader: Bruce Trembly  
Richmond • *Sunday, September 11 @ 2 PM*

### Paddles

Participants must bring own boat (canoe or kayak OK) and have at least beginner-intermediate paddling skills. Life jackets required.

#### Paddle to Little Swan Island

Leader: Warren Whitney  
Richmond • *Tuesday, June 21st @ 6 PM*

#### Bird Island and Beyond

Leader: Anne Hammond  
Bath • *Sunday July 17 @ 8:30 AM*

#### Source to the Sea Trek: Brunswick to Bath section

(experienced paddlers only)  
Leader: Ed Friedman (666-3372 for questions and to register)  
Brunswick • *Saturday, July 23 @ 5 AM*

#### Paddle Chop Creek

Leader: Paul Dumdey  
Woolwich • *Wednesday, August 3 @ 4 PM*

Additional details will be posted on our website as they become available: [www.link75.org/mmb/fomb/fomb.html](http://www.link75.org/mmb/fomb/fomb.html)

Contact Sarah Wolpow (721-0941 or fomb@gwi.net) for more information. Participants attend at their own risk.