FOMB Speaker Bios 2018-2019

Thanks for series support and door prizes to Patagonia, Inc.–Freeport

All talks 7:00pm at Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, unless noted

October 10, 2018
Astronomy 101
Ron Thompson


Ron Thompson, Photo: Ed Friedman

Ron Thompson lives in Yarmouth and is a Director and Treasurer of the "Southern Maine Astronomers". ." http://www.southernmaineastronomers.org/ He has been interested in Astronomy since Sputnik went into orbit in October of 1957. Ron enjoys the night sky with just his eyes or Binoculars or a telescope. He studies the Sun, our very own star, and tries to keep up with all the many aspects of Astronomy; the technology advancements, spacecraft and all the new discoveries being made. Ron has been working with "Cornerstones of Science", in Brunswick, modifying telescopes for libraries, and providing workshops for the librarians and patrons. This is his fourteenth school year at Cape Elizabeth High School, helping the science teachers with their Astronomy programs. Ron enjoys seeing people open up and discover Astronomy, ultimately learning and enjoying the night sky.

Ron will give participants the tools needed to enjoy the night sky. First, you'll get a brief overview of what astronomy is all about, discover where to find resources and use "Sky Maps", or star charts, and learn how to use your eyes and charts to navigate the night sky. You will learn to "read", identify and highlight the current Constellations for the month, using a sky map. There are many "objects" in the night sky. Some you can see with your eyes, some with binoculars and some you would need a telescope to see. If time allows, Ron will describe the library telescope and identify the different parts.

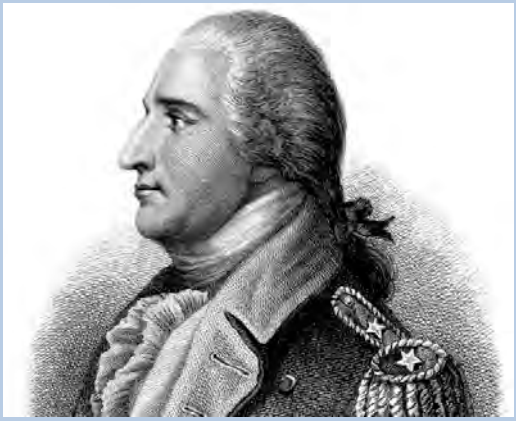
Below is a link for the Sky Maps we'll be using in October. They are not available until after the first of the month. Attendees should download and print them for the meeting and bring something to write or mark the charts with. The skymaps are the most important part of the presentation. There also may be copies at the library as they do this every month for their patrons.

Skymaps provide something to look at and "study" before the meeting AND they stimulate questions. Ron welcomes audience participation. Previous skymaps are available to download for comparisons with the current sky. http://www.skymaps.com/downloads.html

November 14, 2018

The 1775 Quebec Expedition and Its Passage Through Merrymeeting Bay

Stephen Clark

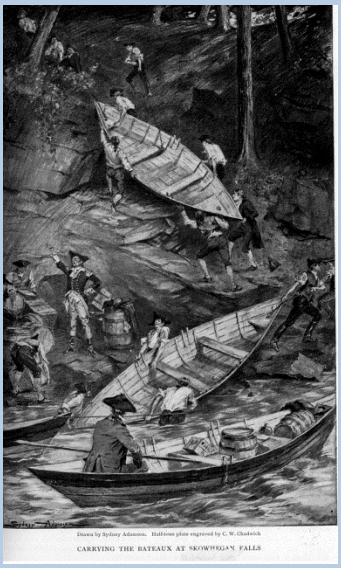


Benedict Arnold, U.S. National Archives & records Administration

Stephen Clark, noted Maine author and historian is current VP of the Arnold Expedition Historical Society. He has written a history and guide book of the Expedition entitled: ***Following Their Footsteps***.

The presentation will describe the epic march of a the fledgling American army which in 1775 attempted to drive the British out of Canada and have that Provence join in the battle for independence. About 1100 soldiers led by then Col. Benedict Arnold left Cambridge, MA attempting a 350 mile journey through a wilderness to capture th British stronghold of Quebec.

Arnold's army began its journey on 11 small schooners and sloops passed through Merrymeeting Bay on its way up the Kennebec River and the wilderness northward. Its passage through the Bay will be highlighted. Many know of this event through Kenneth Roberts' famous historical novel, *Arundel*." Recent archeological discoveries along the route will also be discussed.



Portage at Skowhegan Falls

December 12, 2018

Invasive Worm, Oh My!

Gary Fish

Gary Fish, state horticulturist, judges the Maine Stonework garden display at the 2018 Maine Flower Show. Staff photo by Brianna Soukup, Press Herald

Gary Fish is the State Horticulturalist at the Main Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. He is a past coordinator of the Maine YardScaping Partnership and manager of the Pesticide Control Board. He has a B.S. in Forest and Wildlife Management from the University of Maine, College of Forest Resources and has been a licensed professional forester since 1985. An aspiring landscape and nature photographer, he attributes his love of plants to his mother and her beautiful rose and rock gardens.

Most earthworms present in the northeast are considered exotic. They were introduced in the 18th & 19th centuries via early settlers or through trade of soil and horticultural materials transported from Europe and Asia. New ones are continuing to be introduced spreading through fishing bait, compost and gardening supplies and plant exchanges.

In annual systems earthworms seem to enhance soil fertility through rich castings, soil porosity facilitation, and enhanced nitrogen and carbon cycling. In perennial ecosystems such as forests they pose an ecosystem health threat. They consume the organic top (duff) layers of soil. The loss is linked to the reduction in biodiversity often observed in invaded forests. This layer includes most of the nutrient exchange networks involving mycelium and roots. It is also where many seeds germinate. The change in forest floor structure and plant diversity also diminishes the habitat for other species such as ground nesting birds, mammals, invertebrates, and woodland salamanders.

Worms-Invasive Species https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/horticulture/crazyworms.shtml
Do not buy or use crazy worms for composting, vermicomposting, gardening, or bait
Do not discard live worms in the wild, but rather dispose of them (preferably dead) in the trash
Check your plantings-know what you are purchasing and look at the soil
Buy bare root stock when possible
Be careful when sharing or moving plantings, cocoons may be in the soil
Map it! Please visit the DACF iMap Invasives web page for more information

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/index.shtml
www.yardscaping.org
www.gotpests.org

January 09, 2019 (Cram Alumni House, Bowdoin Coll., 83 Federal St., 6pm Potluck, 7pm Presentation)

Women of the Dawn

Bunny McBride

A writer with a Masters in Anthropology (Columbia University, 1980), Bunny McBride writes often on cultural survival and wildlife conservation themes. She is the author of ***Women of the Dawn*** (Friends of American Writers Literary Award winner, University of Nebraska Press, 1999), ***Molly Spotted Elk: A Penobscot in Paris*** (University of Oklahoma Press, 1995), ***Our Lives in Our Hands: Micmac Indian Basketmakers***(Tilbury House and Nimbus, 1990), and coauthor of ***Indians in Eden*** (Downeast Books, 2010). In close collaboration with Native American communities, she curated exhibitions at the Abbe Museum based on these books, as well as the exhibition ***Journeys West: The David & Peggy Rockefeller American Indian Art Collection***.

McBride is also co-author of ***The National Audubon Society Field Guide to African Wildlife*** (Knopf, 1995), ***Asticou's Island Domain: Wabanaki Peoples at Mount Desert Island 1500-2000*** (National Park Service, 2007), and several editions of four major introductory textbooks: ***The Essence of Anthropology***;***Cultural Anthropology: The Human Challenge*** and ***Evolution and Prehistory: The Human Challenge***, and a combined 4-field volume ***Anthropology: The Human Challenge.***

From 1978-88 McBride wrote regularly for ***The Christian Science Monitor***, publishing nearly 100 articles in that international newspaper from far-flung points around the globe. She has contributed to many other papers and magazines and has chapters in a dozen books, including ***Sifters: Native American Women's Lives*** (T. Perdue, ed., Oxford University Press 2001), ***Reading Beyond Words*** (J.S.H. Brown & E.Vibert, eds., Broadview Press 2003), and ***Northeastern Indian Lives*** 1632-1816 (R.S. Grumet, ed., University of Massachusetts Press, 1996).

McBride has been an adjunct lecturer of anthropology at Kansas State University since 1996, and from 1981-2002 taught as a regular visiting lecturer of anthropology at Principia College in Illinois. She has also taught at the Salt Institute for Documentary Field Studies in Portland, Maine.

From 1981-1991 McBride and her husband, Dutch anthropologist Harald Prins(KSU professor), did historical research and community development work for the Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians in Maine-resulting in legislation by US Congress granting the band federal recognition and funds to buy back aboriginal land. In 1999 the Maine state legislature gave McBride a special commendation for her research and writing on the history of Native women in the state-an honor initiated by tribal representatives in the legislature.

Currently McBride is completing ***From Indian Island to Omaha Beach*** (coauthored with Harald Prins). In 2009-2010 she has served as board member and Vice President of the **Women's World Summit Foundation**, based in Geneva, Switzerland.

McBRIDE BOSTON GLOBE PROFILE

SAMPLES OF NEWSPAPER/MAGAZINE CLIPS

ABBREVIATED CV and SELECTED PUBLICATIONS LIST

February 13, 2019

Cobboseecontee: On the Edge of Restoration

Steve Brooke

Photo: Beth Brooke

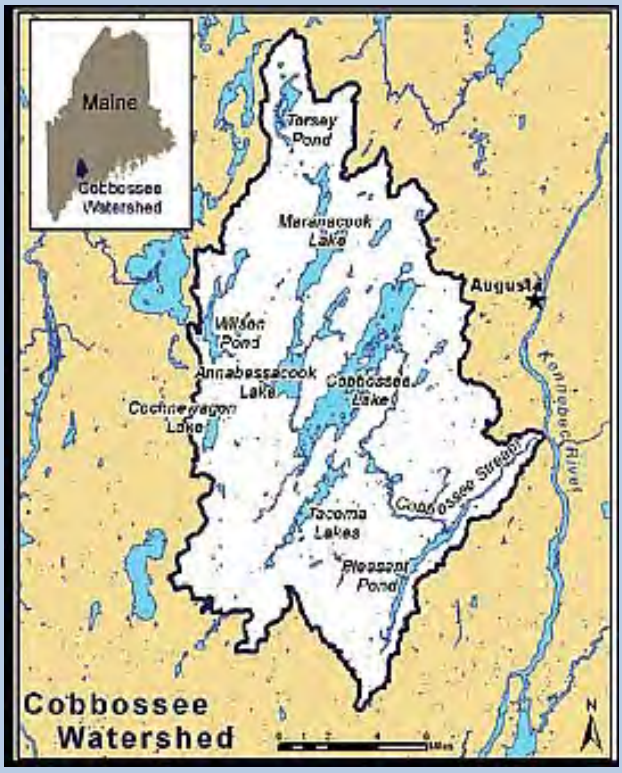
Steve Brooke served as Project Coordinator of the Kennebec Coalition during the decommissioning and removal of the Edwards Dam in Augusta on Maine's Kennebec River. After retiring from the State Planning Office, he works with "Upstream", a Gardiner, Maine group working to return river herring to the Cobbossee watershed.

Dammed at its head of tide in 1761, Cobbosseecontee Stream is the largest coastal watershed in Maine which still remains impassable to native migratory fish. A tributary of upper Merrymeeting Bay, the Cobbosseecontee watershed includes the communities of Gardiner, West Gardiner, Litchfield, Richmond, Winthrop, Manchester, Monmouth, Readfield and Hallowell. It contains 20.3 square miles of lakes and ponds, the largest being Cobbosseecontee (Gumscook), Maranacook and Annabessacook.

Working from 1998-2004, a consortium of local citizens, citizen conservation groups, and state and federal agencies secured $125,000 in funding for the necessary engineering studies, legal permits and construction contracts to breach and remove the first dam on the watershed, the 180-year-old Gardiner Paperboard dam in downtown Gardiner, Maine. After the hired contractor failed to perform the dam removal project in autumn 2004, the dam and adjoining property were subsequently sold to several entities, the most recent of which has declined interest in re-inititiating the dam removal project. Options available for securing passage for native fish on Cobbosseecontee Stream include cooperative public/private efforts by willing

dam owners to provide fish passage; invocation of the State of Maine's fishway law; and use of the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) for endangered anadromous Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) native to the watershed.

Photo: Point of View Helicopter Services



March 13, 2019
The Fascinating Life Cycle of Native Plants
Heather McCargo


Heather McCargo, Photo: Wild Seed Project

Heather McCargo, founder and executive director of Wild Seed Project, is an educator with 30 years of expertise in plant propagation, landscape design, and conservation. She was the head plant propagator at the New England Wildflower Society's Garden in the Woods during the 1990s, worked at several landscape architecture/planning firms specializing in ecological design, and has been a contributor to several research projects with USAID, the National Gardening Association, and MOFGA. She has lectured nationally and is widely published in journals and magazines such as *Horticulture* and *American Nurseryman*. More locally, Heather designed the master plan for the medicinal gardens at Avena Botanicals in Rockland and was the creator and lead teacher for the Bay School's Agricultural Arts program. Heather has a B.A. in plant ecology from Hampshire College, and an M.A. from the Conway School of Landscape Design.

Understanding the Fascinating Life Cycle of Native Plants

Flowering, pollinators and seed dispersal-

In this slide talk, Heather will show you the fascinating reproductive life cycle of different types of New England native plants and explains how we can change our landscape practices to support wild plant reproduction, pollinators, and other wildlife. Heather will explain simple outdoor seed sowing that anyone can do to help increase native plant populations. Growing native plants from seed is a great way to protect the genetic diversity of our native flora and to produce an abundance of plants inexpensively. Be part of a grassroots movement to sow native seeds!

Wild Seed Project is a Maine-based nonprofit that works to increase the use of native plants in all landscape settings in order to conserve biodiversity, encourage plant adaption in the face of climate change, safeguard wildlife habitat, and create pollination and migration corridors for insects and birds. We sell seeds of locally-grown native plants and educate the public on seed sowing so that a wide range of citizens can participate in increasing native plant populations. We also have an interactive website, www.wildseedproject.net, and publish an annual magazine, *Wild Seed*.

April 10, 2019

Dresden Falls-Kennebec Life 1776-9,000 Years BP

Arthur Spiess & Leith Smith

Art Spiess

Leith Smith Photos: Ed Friedman

Arthur Spiess is Senior Archaeologist at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Art received a PhD in Anthropology from Harvard University in 1978. Since 1978 he has been employed by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission as an archaeologist. The Commission job involves locating, identifying and protecting significant archaeological sites, including nomination of sites to the National Register of Historic Places. Review of development projects and requiring archaeological survey, legislation and regulations, and land conservation and land planning are all major parts of his job. For about 30 years Spiess has been on the Board of The Maine Archaeological Society, and he serves as the Editor of Archaeology of Eastern North America for the Eastern States Archaeological Federation.

Leith Smith is the historic archaeologist at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. He received his doctorate from Syracuse U. with a dissertation entitled: *Archaeological Survey of Settlement Patterns in the Banda Region, West-central Ghana: Exploring external influences and internal responses in the West African frontier from 1400 to 1935.* Smith's archaeology interests include: African American archaeology, West African Iron Age and Late Stone Age archaeology, Culture change among African Diaspora populations, Eastern North American colonial history and archaeology, Industrial archaeology, Landscape archaeology, Ceramic use-wear analysis, Public archaeology and compliance legislation. Besides extensive work in West Africa, Smith has worked on the third Harbor Tunnel Project in Boston and in some of the fact-filled privies of MA.

The Dresden Falls Archaeology and Conservation site lies along the Kennebec River just upstream from what was during post-glaciation lower rivers levels a serious rapid or falls. This feature created an impediment to migratory fish passage but their loss was the gain of Native Americans who used the site for thousands of years to catch the fish. This site combines one of the most significant prehistoric archaeological sites in the state, a historic archaeological site of Revolutionary War vintage, the largest Merrymeeting Bay area rare plant stand of spongy arrowhead and Highest Value Wildlife Habitat as mapped by USFWS. "I can think of no site that remotely approaches its importance for the study of this early period (5,000-8,500 years ago) of Maine's prehistory." [Bruce Bourque, Retired Archaeologist, Maine State Museum].

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May 08, 2019
Wireless, Wildlife & You
Blake Levitt


Photo: Blake Levitt

B. Blake Levitt is an award-winning journalist who has specialized in medical and science writing for three decades. She has researched the biological effects of nonionizing radiation since the late 1970's. A former *New York Times* freelance contributor, she has written widely on medical issues for both the lay and professional audience. Her work has appeared in numerous national publications and has been translated into Russian and Chinese.

She is the editor/contributing author of *Cell Towers, Wireless Convenience? or Environmental Hazard? Proceedings of the "Cell Towers Forum" State of the Science/State of the Law* (Safe Goods/New Century Publishing edition, 2001; iUniverse Back-in-Print edition, 2011). She is also the author of *Electromagnetic Fields, A Consumer's Guide To The Issues And How To Protect Ourselves* (Harcourt Brace edition, 1995; iUniverse Back-in-Print edition 2007), for which she won an Award of Excellence from the New England Chapter of The American Medical Writers Association. In addition, Ms. Levitt is the author of *50 Essential Things To Do When The Doctor Says It's Infertility* (Penguin, 1995), and the co-author of *Before You Conceive, The Complete Prepregnancy Guide* (Bantam, 1989), for which she also won an Award of Excellence from the New England Chapter of the American Medical Writers Association.

Ms. Levitt is also the author of a chapter in *Electromagnetic Environments and Health in Buildings* (Spon Press, Taylor&Francis Group, London and New York, 2004) edited by Derek Clements-Croome, entitled "Moving Beyond EMF Public Policy Paralysis."

Ms. Levitt earned two Bachelor of Arts degrees cum laude from Quinnipiac University with subsequent postgraduate work in essay writing at Yale University. She is a former member of the American Medical Writers Association, the New York Academy of Sciences, and the Bioelectromagnetics Society, and a current member of the National Association of Science Writers, as well as the Authors Guild. She has been listed in *Who's Who of American Women, Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in Science and Engineering,* and *Who's Who of International Writers and Authors.*

Ms. Levitt's work is referenced in numerous government publications and other resources on EMF. She has appeared in four documentaries; has helped several congressional offices write legislation for energy research appropriations and land-use issues pertaining to antenna and

tower siting. At the invitation of U.S. Senators Patrick Leahy, James Jeffords and other legislators, she has participated in congressional briefings on the environmental effects of ambient energy exposures in 2000 and 2007. In May 2002, she was an invited speaker at the Royal College of Physicians, London, UK, on the environmental effects of nonionizing radiation.

Ms. Levitt's primary focus and expertise are on how technology affects biology, including non-human species. She lectures widely on the subject of environmental energy issues and consults for municipalities considering telecommunications regulations, as well as 'smart' technology. She is currently working on a book on the health/environmental effects of the smart grid and the unintended consequences of the "Internet-of-Things."

http://www.blakelevitt.com/