

FOMB Speaker Bios & Zoom Programs, 2024-2025

All talks 7:00pm on 2nd Wednesday of each month, October-May

Check www.fomb.org home page prior to each presentation for log in link detail.

October 09, 2024

Blinded by the Light-Perils & Pitfalls of LED's

Mark Baker, Founder & President: Soft Lights Foundation



Mark Baker

Mark Baker has a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He was a computer programmer for 20+ years and a middle school math teacher for over 10 years. Mark has been involved in the effort to protect people from LED light since 2016 and founded the [Soft Lights Foundation](http://www.softlights.org) as a 501(c)(3) non-profit registered in the state of Oregon in 2021. This foundation is now one of the world's leading advocacy groups protecting people from the harms of Visible Light radiation emitted by Light Emitting Diodes and for the protection of the natural night as a resource.

Mark's presentation covers the topic of electromagnetic radiation and the impacts of Light Emitting Diodes on human and environmental health. He will discuss the physics of LEDs, the impacts of artificial light on biological systems, the reports of harm from exposure to LED light, and the legal and regulatory structure for LED products. You will learn what makes this type of lighting different as well as blinding, why claims of LED efficiency are misleading and why this light causes most of us to at least avert our eyes and for some of us, even stimulates seizures.

Most recently, on September 23rd 2024, Baker, filed a lawsuit against the US Food and Drug Administration and US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for failing to protect the public from hazardous and dangerous LED headlights. (https://www.softlights.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Mark-Baker-v-FDA-NHTSA_Filed.pdf)

Over 60,000 individuals have signed a public petition to ban blinding headlights. (<https://www.change.org/p/u-s-dot-ban-blinding-headlights-and-save-lives>). Members of the public have submitted over 200 pages of comments to NHTSA describing the debilitating and often life-threatening impacts of LED headlights. (<https://www.softlights.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Petition-Comments-2024.pdf>). Mr. Baker's lawsuit seeks to compel the FDA and NHTSA to collaborate and cooperate, as required by law, to address the LED headlight crisis.

November 13, 2024

James Madison Kendall's Wonderful Water Wheel!

Bud Warren, Raconteur & Co-founder, Tide Mill Institute



Bud Warren (at 90)

Bud Warren is a popular lecturer, raconteur and co-founder and former president of the [Tide Mill Institute](#) which now has a subcommittee studying this evening's peculiar bit of Maine's coastal industrial history. A former resident of the mid-coast, he now will be coming to us live from the wilds of Millinocket.

It was huge. It was unique. It operated successfully for decades at the Cathance River Bridge in Bowdoinham. Today there's little trace of it left. It was the creation of James Madison Kendall, born in 1816 to a milling family in Fairfield and dying in 1905 at 88 in Bowdoinham. It's the tale of an unusual tide mill, enhanced by historical documents and photographs.

See also: Bowdoinham's Cathance River Bridge

<http://cybrary.fomb.org/pages/Bowdoinham%20Cathance%20River%20Bridge-Steen%202021-The%20Bowdoinham%20News%20Vol19%20-%20Issue%207.pdf>

Tide Mills of Maine & Beyond

<http://cybrary.fomb.org/pages/Tide%20Mills%20of%20Maine%20and%20Beyond%20George%20Carleton%20Sr.pdf> Page 14

December 11, 2024

Our Town! Adventures in Richmond History

Piti Theatre Co. & Marcia Buker Elementary School 4th Graders, 2023-2024



Working in the Mill

This program premieres the "living history" streaming theatre-meets-documentary work FOMB and Piti Theatre did in early 2024 with 4th grades of the Marcia Buker elementary school in Richmond. The project looks at historical, cultural and social roots of our contemporary environmental challenges here in Merrymeeting Bay and around mid-coast Maine through the lens of local history-in this case ice harvesting, dairy farming, ship building and spinning mills, topics chosen by the students. In collaboration with [Piti Theatre Company](#) (via a one week residency and more), the program produced film, songs, script, and research becoming a resource for local schools, colleges, libraries, historical societies and conservation groups.

Similar examples are Piti's "*Dexter and the Dinosaurs*" theatre-meets-film project produced in Greenfield, MA <https://vimeo.com/655731683>. (Note the kids in this production all regularly attended acting classes.) and closer to home, a program we did with approximately 80 Bowdoin Central School students in 2021-2022, premiering in May 2023, (see [2023 FOMB newsletter](#) pages 2 & 3) and that may be viewed at the bottom of this page:

http://www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org/fombnew/pages/what_we_do/education/OurTown/Our_Town.htm The FOMB [2024 Spring newsletter](#) (pages 2 & 3) shows we are off to a good start in Richmond.

January 08, 2025

[Getting to Know Rachel Carson: Best-Selling Author, Scientist, Conservationist & Advocate](#)

Barbara Vickery, Director of Conservation (Retired), The Nature Conservancy, ME



Barbara Vickery

Barbara St. John Vickery-After serving as rare plant botanist with the Maine Critical Areas Program. Barbara joined the staff of The Nature Conservancy Maine in 1983 as Director of Science and Stewardship and later served as Director of Conservation Programs until retirement in 2017. After his death, she worked with a team to edit her husband Peter Vickery's life work, [Birds of Maine](#), published in 2020. She now serves on the Maine Board of Environmental Protection and Forest Society of Maine board, is an active member of the Citizen's Climate Lobby Midcoast Maine chapter, and is a member of six local organizations (including Friends of Merrymeeting Bay), who have helped conserve trails she uses regularly.

Rachel Carson was famously one of the essential sparks in the environmental movement and, although lacking the usual scientific credentials, a major force in national scientific debates. Yet she was a shy, retiring and humble person. How did she come to have such an important influence? What roles did her writing and her ties to midcoast Maine play? And what can we learn from her that would inform our current debates on climate, conservation, and pesticide use?

February 12, 2025

Adapting to Green Crabs in Coastal Maine

Marissa McMahan, Senior Director of Fisheries, Manomet



Marissa McMahan

Marissa McMahan, Ph.D, is the Senior Director of Fisheries at [Manomet](#). Her research focuses on restoring ecosystem productivity and strengthening and diversifying fisheries resources through diverse stakeholder partnerships, community engagement, and knowledge co-production. She also works to advance adaptive fisheries co-management and elevate the importance of stakeholder participation in decision-making processes. Prior to becoming a scientist, she worked as a commercial fisher for many years.

Green crabs have wreaked havoc on native species and habitats worldwide and are thriving in the Gulf of Maine as climate change causes rapid and unprecedented ocean warming. This talk will provide an overview of green crab monitoring, management, and adaptation efforts led by Manomet and partners since 2017.

1. **Green Crab Monitoring:** The European green crab is a harmful invasive species that has caused major disruptions to ecosystems worldwide. Observations of green crab population dynamics over time and space are essential for predicting and managing the ecological and economic impacts of this harmful invasive species. Since 2018, Manomet has conducted monthly monitoring of invasive green crabs at several locations along the Maine coast. Many research partners, students and community scientists contribute to this work. Our green crab data is proving useful in a wide range of applications including ecological research, conservation efforts, mitigation strategies, and fishery development, as well as educational outreach purposes. This data are open-access and available through the Environmental Data Initiative's [data repository](#)
2. **Green Crab Fishery Development:** Manomet is working throughout coastal New England to develop fisheries and markets for green crabs to provide an adaptive fisheries diversification strategy for coastal communities. This requires fishers to catch and identify pre-molt green crabs that will molt and be sold as lucrative soft-shell crabs to restaurants. We are also working with partners to develop value-added products like fermented green crab sauce that can be used by restaurants and home chefs.

March 12, 2025

Rosalie Edge (1877-1962): Hellcat of Conservation

Dyana Furmansky, Author



Dyana Furmansky

Dyana Furmansky wrote for The New York Times, Audubon, High Country News, Sierra, and other publications as a journalist. Her series on water issues in the West with a small team of writers from High Country News won the prestigious George Polk Award, the first given for environmental writing in 1985. In addition to the Colorado Book Award winning '[Rosalie Edge, Hawk of Mercy: The Activist Who Saved Nature from the Conservationists,](#)' Dyana wrote '[These American Lands,](#)' which is a history of public lands. She lives in Colorado and Arizona.

Rosalie Edge, 1877-1962) once famous, then forgotten, and becoming famous again, is the godmother of the modern environmental movement. She was the 'Hellcat' who turned the conservation movement upside down. From her earlier activities in the women's suffrage movement and after learning about the corruption amongst directors of the National Association of Audubon Societies--including their collusion with commercial wildlife harvesters--Edge, along with [Irving Brant](#) and Willard Van Name, created the Emergency Conservation Committee (ECC) to reform the Audubon Association. As part of her work for the ECC, of which she was chair for thirty years, she campaigned to preserve 8000 acres of sugar pines on the southern edge of Yosemite National Park, campaigned for the creation of Olympic and Kings Canyon National Parks, and created a wildlife sanctuary at Hawk Mountain in eastern Pennsylvania. Founders of organizations like The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society and EDF were inspired by her. Rachel Carson needed data from Edge's Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania to demonstrate the decline of birds of prey during their migration. Edge biographer [Dyana Furmansky](#), will talk about the rise of Rosalie Edge, her numerous accomplishments in conservation, and her disappearance from history.



"The time to protect a species is while it is still common," Rosalie Barrow Edge, 1877-1962;
Photo credit: HawkMountain.org

April 09, 2025

[BNAS & its Superfund Legacy](#)

David Page & Suzanne Johnson, Brunswick Area Citizens for a Safe Environment



Suzanne Johnson



David Page

Suzanne Johnson is President of [Brunswick Area Citizens for a Safe Environment](#) (BACSE), a nonprofit formed to represent the community in environmental matters arising before and after closure of Naval Air Station Brunswick. She is also citizen Co-Chair of the NASB (or BNAS) Restoration Advisory Board or RAB. Suzanne is a versatile lawyer and sole practitioner at her own firm, [Johnson Legal, LLC](#). She has a sophisticated knowledge in several areas of law including estate planning and probate administration and also federal workers compensation (longshore) with particular emphasis on workers exposed to asbestos at the workplace.

These intersecting areas of law means that for several decades she has assisted families with estate planning (both before and after injuries) and end of life discussions, probate planning as well as ensuring an injured worker achieves all benefits to which they and their family members are entitled. Suzanne has recovered substantial settlements for her clients and their family members, including shipyard and paper mill workers who suffer from workplace [Asbestos Exposure](#) and [Longshore](#) claims. She also is a registered claimant representative for [Social Security Disability](#) claims, appearing at hearings throughout the State of Maine.

Suzanne is admitted to practice law in the jurisdictions of Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Massachusetts and Maine, as well as the Federal District Court of Maine and the First Circuit Court of Appeals. She has been recognized as one of the [National Trial Lawyers](#) Top 100 Trial Lawyers as well one of the Nation's Top 100 Injured Workers' Attorneys by the [Worker's Injury Liability Group](#) (WILG).

Johnson was born and raised outside of Chicago, Illinois. She earned her undergraduate degree with honors from Duke University and her Juris Doctor from Vanderbilt School of Law. Long active with non-profit and professional organizations, Suzanne is currently and for the past 15 years serving as co-chair of the BNAS Restoration Advisory Board to advocate for the ongoing clean-up of toxic waste at the former Naval Air Station Brunswick. She has also served as a Board Member of the College Guild (offering free non-traditional correspondence courses to prisoners); a Member of the Maine Board of Bar Overseer's Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection and has served as President of the Lincoln County Bar Association as well as the President of and legal counsel for many years to the Damariscotta River Association and the Medomak River Land Trust furthering their charitable conservation work, Given her experience with representing

victims of occupational disease she strives to ensure the health and beauty of the Maine landscape remains for all succeeding generations. Suzanne has raised her children and continues to reside with her husband and pets in Brunswick, Maine.

David Page is professor emeritus of chemistry and biochemistry at Bowdoin College and has authored and co-authored more than [130 professional publications](#), most dealing with various aspects of the fate and effects of petroleum and other pollutants on marine environments. David is Secretary of BACSE and sits on the RAB. He has conducted interdisciplinary studies with Dr. Edward Gilfillan on the fate and effects of oil spills on natural communities of animals and plants including ways in which to measure sublethal pollutant stress on plants and animals. Because oil spills occur in real-world environments, the presence of other natural and human factors have resulted in studies of the fate and effects of additional pollutants such as heavy metals and alkyltins. Major oil spills studied include those from the following vessels; **Tamano**, **Zoe Colocotroni**, **New Concord**, **Amoco Cadiz**, **Exxon Valdez**, and many other smaller spills. Dr. Page has had extensive experience fingerprinting petroleum samples from over 75 mystery oil spills. He has served as a testimonial expert in a variety of oil spill-related cases involving environmental damages including the **Zoe Colocotroni**, **Amoco Cadiz**, and **Exxon Valdez**, (State and Federal) litigations. David holds a BS in Chemistry from Brown University and PhD in Physical Chemistry from Purdue University.

[Brunswick Area Citizens for a Safe Environment](#) (BACSE) has effectively represented the local community during the over 30-year process of remediation (still on-going) and redevelopment of the former Naval Air Station in Brunswick, Maine. The recent spill of PFAS-laden aqueous fire-fighting foam (sixth largest AFFF spill in the country) from Hangar 4, represents the tip of the toxic iceberg BNAS has to offer. BACSE has kept the public informed on the progress of the proposed remediation at the former base and has been an advocate for visible and effective institutional controls since the early days of site closure. BACSE has operated continuously for over 34 years with the purpose of keeping the public informed on the status of the [CERCLA \(Superfund\) investigations](#) and remediation at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station. BACSE provides community input to the U.S. Navy and to the U.S. EPA and Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on CERCLA-related investigations, reports and proposed remedial actions at the former military base. BACSE is a volunteer, non-profit environmental organization and funded, in part, by a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The NAS Brunswick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) has been actively involved in the cleanup program at the facility since 1995. RAB members include the Navy, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and various community representatives who provide coordinated direction to Installation Restoration Program (IRP) activities at the former NAS Brunswick. A community co-chair and a Navy co-chair lead the group's participation and input for the ongoing cleanup program at the former NAS Brunswick. It's the responsibility of the RAB to conduct regular meetings to discuss restoration efforts, discuss key issues, provide transparency and allow public involvement. The RAB serves as a resource to help the community better understand the environmental restoration program as well as review and provide comments on current and future projects.

[Town of Brunswick-Executive-Airport-AFFF Spill](#)

Maine DEP Updates: [MDEP AFFF Spill Updates](#)

MRRA website [MRRA AFFF Spill Updates](#)

Brunswick Topsham Water District: [BT Water District](#)

<http://cybrary.fomb.org/chemical.cfm> FOMB scroll down to PFAS section

May 14, 2025

[Gulf of Maine Coastal Program-Past & Future!](#)

Chris Meaney, Director, USFWS Gulf of Maine Coastal Program



Chris Meaney

Chris Meaney is the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Gulf of Maine Coastal Program Project Leader located in Falmouth Maine. The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program (GOMCP) works to protect and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats within the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem. Chris works to foster and advance new and existing voluntary conservation efforts with a diverse set of partners including State, Federal, and municipal agencies, non-government organizations, academia, and private landowners. Prior to joining the USFWS, Chris served as the Deputy Division Chief of the Habitat Protection Division in the National Oceans & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Office (formerly National Marine Fisheries Service or NMFS) of Habitat Conservation in Silver Spring, MD and served as an Advisor to the NOAA Administrator in the NOAA Program Coordination Office and NOAA Office of Policy in Washington, DC. He is a National Conservation Leadership Institute Fellow and Peer Coach and a Knauss Sea Grant Fellow Alumnus. Chris has a Masters in Environmental Management from the Yale School of the Environment and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Conservation from the University of New Hampshire. He enjoys spending time with his wife and two children and friends biking, camping, skiing, and enjoying time on the waters of Casco Bay.

Since 1991 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program has worked with a diverse array of partners to help conserve important habitat for fish and wildlife resources within the Gulf of Maine watershed. Chris will talk about the evolution of the Program, current priorities, and future challenges and opportunities. Attendees will gain a perspective on how a federal agency works with a diverse set of partners to advance conservation

and have the opportunity to share their ideas on future conservation needs within the Gulf of Maine.

The End

Thanks for Coming!